

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plaza Premium Group's Song Hoi-see named Business Person of the Year at the Sin Chew Business Excellence Awards 2017



Mr. Song Hoi-see (5th from left) received the Business Excellence Person of The Year Award from the guest-of-honour YB Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, Finance Minister II of Malaysia (4th from left) and Mr. Francis Tiong, Executive Director and Group Chief Executive Officer, Media Chinese International Limited (3rd from left) at the award ceremony

22 November 2017, Kuala Lumpur – Mr. Song Hoi-see, Founder and CEO of Plaza Premium Group, was bestowed the prestigious *Business Person of the Year Award* at the Sin Chew Business Excellence Awards 2017, organised by the Sin Chew Media Group, Malaysia and its subsidiary, MCIL Multimedia Sdn Bhd at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam, Malaysia recently. Plaza Premium Lounge Malaysia also emerged triumphant from the adjudication by winning two other awards; the *Business Service Excellence Award* and the *CIMB – Sin Chew Regional Excellence Award*.

Mr. Song Hoi-see, who legendarily transformed the airport hospitality industry by establishing the world's first pay-in airport lounge network for all travellers regardless of their airline or class of travel, created the business and the entire independent airport lounge industry from his poor travel experience. Commenting on the awards, "I am extremely humbled to be the recipient of the revered *Business Person of the Year Award*. And it is a great honour indeed that Plaza Premium Lounge Malaysia is acknowledged as the recipients of the *Business Service Excellence Award* and the *CIMB – Sin Chew Regional Excellence Award* at the same time. This is truly a testament to the company and my team. These awards are very much attributed to their dedication. Plaza Premium Lounge would not be what it is today without their full support and faith in sharing my vision." he remarked.



Ms Kimberly Wong, Country Manager - Malaysia and Cambodia (centre) received the Business Service Excellence Award from the guest-of-honour YB Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, Finance Minister II of Malaysia (2nd from left) and Mr. Francis Tiong, Executive Director and Group Chief Executive Officer, Media Chinese International Limited (far left) at the award ceremony



Mr. Song Kok Full, Director - Malaysia and Cambodia (5th from left) received the CIMB – Sin Chew Regional Excellence Award from the guest-of-honour YB Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, Finance Minister II of Malaysia (4th from left), Mr. Francis Tiong, Executive Director and Group Chief Executive Officer, Media Chinese International Limited (3rd from left) and Encik Ahmad Shazli Kamarulzaman, Deputy CEO, Group Commercial Banking, CIMB Bank Berhad (2nd from left) at the award ceremony

The judging process was conducted in three phases by an independent panel comprising 23 distinguished personalities with senior industry-standing from various trade associations, business federations, national councils and top management representatives from Sin Chew Media Group and CIMB Group Malaysia, who is the award sponsor for the fifth year. Apart from a site visit to KL International Airport (KLIA) during the judging process to view the operations procedures, corporate structure, milestones and achievements, management philosophy and disciplines of Plaza Premium Lounge Malaysia, the details and nomination report was audited by Grant Thornton Malaysia, one of the world's leading organisations of independent assurance, tax and advisory firms.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Song shared how he struggled to work effectively while on-the-go as an economy class traveller, after his career in investment banking where he previously enjoyed the first and business class facilities and services at the airports. Driven by a heartfelt desire “to do something for the majority”, he launched the world’s first independent airport lounge network in KLIA and Hong Kong International Airport in 1998. Through his initiative and vision, Mr. Song broke the stereotype that airport lounges are for premium travellers only. After 19 years of dedication and hard work, he continued to be personally involved in implementing new initiatives and driving innovation. *“In this business world, I’d say change after change will survive, change with change will succeed, but companies that cause change will lead.”* In his speech, he also encouraged younger generation to pursue their own dreams in fulfilling their aspirations. *“[By winning this award,] I hope to inspire the young entrepreneurs and also bring pride to our Malaysian businessmen with my story; as long as you have a unique idea, courage, vision and passion, the world is your oyster,”* he said.

Since 1998, Plaza Premium Lounge has evolved substantially into Plaza Premium Group, a global service brand offering premium airport services, with over 4,000 employees in more than 160 locations across 37 international airports, serving over 12 million passengers around the world annually.

####

NOTE TO EDITORS:

About Plaza Premium Group

Headquartered in Hong Kong, Plaza Premium Group is the pioneer and industry leader in providing Premium Airport Services in over 160 locations of 37 international airports across the world, with a collective goal of 'enhancing your airport experience'. The Group comprises four core airport services, Airport Lounge, Airport Transit Hotel, Airport Meet & Greet Service, and Airport Dining.

The Group currently employs over 4,000 staff and serves over 12 million passengers around the world annually. The Group is dedicated to providing quality services and possesses proprietary knowledge in airport hospitality industry. By continuously surpassing travellers' expectation, the Group's network is rapidly growing across major international airports around the world.

About Plaza Premium Lounge

Plaza Premium Lounge, the world's first largest independent airport lounge network, gives travellers a haven away from the hustle and bustle of the airport, a home away from home, by providing a space with top-notch services and facilities for travellers arriving, departing and transiting at major airports including Abu Dhabi, Brisbane, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, London Heathrow, New Delhi, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Toronto and Vancouver.

Comfortable seating, enticing food and beverage selection, showers with amenities, private resting suites, VIP rooms, recharging stations, Wi-Fi, computer workstations are but a few of the services offered to enhance the airport experience.

As the first airport lounge network to achieve ISO 9001:2008 certification, we are committed to providing consistently quality services and continual improvement for valued customers. By putting into action, the best ideas and practices from across the network and around the world, we focus on innovative and quality products and services.

On top of the sublime and opulent independent airport lounges that are in operation, we also manage lounges for leading airlines and alliances including Cathay Pacific Airways, China Eastern Airlines, Lufthansa Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, SkyTeam, Star Alliance and American Express.

About Sin Chew Business Excellence Awards 2017 (SCBEA 2017)

Organised by the Sin Chew Media Group, SCBEA 2017 is one of the most prestigious business Awards programmes in Malaysia with emphasis on strategic management approaches. It is also an authentic testimony and recognition of the business excellence and distinction in the ever changing environment for even greater success in the local and global business landscape. It also enables more companies to learn from the success stories of the winners and to benchmark themselves against the best to pursue further excellence in their organisational growth and sustainability.

In its fifth year, the categories of awards presented at SCBEA 2017 were: *Lifetime Excellence Achievement Award, Business Excellence Person of The Year Award, SCBEA Top 5 Award, Business Sustainability Excellence Awards, CIMB – Sin Chew Regional Excellence Awards, Retail Excellence Awards, Product Excellence Awards,*

Business Service Excellence Awards, Manufacturing Excellence Awards, Digital and Technology Business Excellence Awards, CSR Excellence Awards, Property Excellence Awards, Young/Emerging Business Excellence Awards.

For more information, please contact:

Plaza Premium Group

Mr. Edward CHENG
Senior Manager, Corporate
Communications – Global
Tel: +852-3960-1323
Email: edward.cheng@plaza-network.com

Ms. FOO Siew Lin
Head of Marketing Communications –
Malaysia
Tel: +6012-981-0548
Email: siewlin.foo@plaza-network.com