



Marina Bay Sands unveils a bouquet of attractions

Marina Bay Sands recently organised a bash to celebrate the opening of its key lifestyle and entertainment attractions, including the world's first ArtScience Museum, the premier Wonder Full light and Water Spectacular, seven celebrity chef restaurants, and the upcoming opening of the much-anticipated Broadway musical, *The Lion King*. Singapore Prime Minister, Lee

Hsien Loong, participated in the opening ceremony along with Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp., Sheldon G. Adelson. The ceremony was held at the entrance of ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, an iconic structure located on the Marina Bay waterfront.

Wonder Full aims to infuse state-of-the-art technological mastery with Singapore's very own talents. Audiences will be treated to a 13-minute spectacle of full-colour laser systems, special effects, including dynamic lighting of the iconic architecture and captivating music composed by celebrated Singapore composer Iskandar Ismail. The show is best viewed from the Event Plaza, but its effects can also be enjoyed from the 3.5-kilometre circumference of the Marina Bay. It is free of charge.

The public can now have their first glimpse of the 50,000 square feet ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which features a permanent exhibition as well as major international touring exhibitions from the most renowned collections in the world. Tickets provide access to four opening exhibitions, including 'ArtScience: A Journey Through Creativity', 'Travelling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World', 'Genghis Khan: The Exhibition' and 'Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds'.

Marina Bay Sands is a ten-minute walk from the Promenade MRT Station. Guests travelling on the North-South Line can alight at the Marina Bay MRT Station and take public buses (SBS 133, SBS 97, SBS 97e, SMRT 106) from the bus stop opposite the station.



Xn Hotel Systems expands its service network

Xn Hotel Systems, who offer business applications and electronic booking services to the global hotel industry, entered the Indian hospitality technology market in 2008 through its Delhi-based subsidiary, Xn

Hotel Systems (India) Pvt Ltd. To address the growth of its client base, the company is now in the process of expanding its service network, with additional staff and a service presence also planned for Southern India.

"In India, we have recently signed our fifth centralised, multi-property PMS contract. Each group has been moving ahead with its planned expansion. Our initial client, Lemon Tree Hotels and associated Red Fox Hotels today have 13 operating properties using the Protel Multi-Property Edition," said Greg Spicer, Chief Executive



Greg Spicer

Officer, Xn Hotel Systems. "We are also pleased to announce an in-principle agreement with Movenpick Hotels, with the first installation planned for their upcoming

maiden India hotel in Bengaluru," he added.

Xn's main product line is Protel Multi-Property Edition (MPE) from Dortmund-based protel hotelsoftware gmbH. Protel's hotel management systems are now installed in 60 countries in more than 5,500 hotels. Among its global clients include leading brands, such as Travelodge group, Vibe Hotels, Medina Apartment Hotels in Australia, Barcelo Hotels UK, Q Hotels UK, Emirates Hotels and Resorts, Rocco Forte Collection and Virgin Limited Edition.



Sanjay Verma

Speaking on the initial success of the India operations, Sanjay Verma, Country Sales Manager, Xn Hotel Systems India, said, "We are very happy to see the emergence of young, fast-growing hotel chains in India adopting Xn Hotel Systems applications. We plan to continue to grow our brand and client base by providing good service and business advantage, with solutions tailored to suit each chain's particular requirements."

"Xn is particularly pleased with the signing on of the Mumbai-based Citrus group, which already has properties operational in five major cities and has plans to add 2,000 rooms in the coming years," he added.

Courtyard by Marriott, Mumbai International Airport completes a year



Courtyard by Marriott, Mumbai International Airport is celebrating its first year throughout the month of April with numerous offers, ranging from free surprises to discounts, etc.

Sanne Emborg, General Manager, said, "We are extremely proud to celebrate our first birthday. It seems only yesterday that we were hosting our opening party. We are extremely pleased to include our guests in our celebrations. They have supported us throughout the year gone by and we are happy to announce a host of surprises for them. The last year has been a time for establishing the brand in Mumbai and we enthusiastically look forward to the coming year and the exciting plans we have in the pipeline for the hotel."

More Visa Application Centres in India for Malaysia

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Bin Hj Mohd Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, began his official visit to India at Mumbai recently by interacting with a high-level delegation from the travel and tourism sector at the Malaysia Visa Application Centre. The occasion was the announcement of new Visa Application Centres (VACs) by VFS Global, the outsourcing and technology service provider for diplomatic missions and governments, worldwide. Seven new VACs will soon come up under the auspices of the Malaysian Government, adding to the existing two centres at Mumbai and Hyderabad.

Travellers will be able to avail Malaysian visas from New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Kochi. These new centres shall be active during the first quarter of 2011. The new VACs will further enhance the image of Malaysia as a 'round-the-year destination' for all travel segments in India—tourist, business, MICE market, honeymooners, first-time travellers, bargain-hunters or shoppers as well as a preferred stopover for onward travel.

Growth of outbound travel from India to Malaysia has seen a steady increase over the last few years. Travellers can look forward to an enhanced level of service, with features including extended reach, comfortable office premises, extended submission duration, convenient modes of payments, faster turnaround time, passport delivery and many more value-added service initiatives.

Paul John, Director, VFS Global, said, "VFS Global is privileged to receive Tan Sri Muhyiddin Hj Mohd Yassin on his visit to India. His visit to the Malaysia Visa Application Centre in Mumbai shows the commitment of the Malaysian Government towards this initiative and other innovative steps in ensuring the smooth travel between the two countries. VFS Global shall soon launch similar services in several important cities of India for the convenience of the Indian traveller to Malaysia. The focus is on the superior relations of India and Malaysia, and we are confident that this would greatly help in achieving it."



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Hj. Mohd Yassin cutting the ribbon during his visit at the Malaysia Visa Application Centre in Mumbai