



## Australian hotelier heads to India

- Judy Maxwell (Assistant Editor)

StayWell Hospitality is building three Leisure Inn hotels in India. They will open in 2013 and 2014.

StayWell Hospitality Group of Sydney, Australia, is developing three new hotels in India, its first step in its plan to increase its India portfolio to 50 hotels in the next four years. The properties will fly StayWell's Leisure Inn brand flag. They are an 82-room hotel in center of Hyderabad city, which is to open in May; a 192-room apartment-hotel in Greater Noida, to open in early 2014; and a 99-room hotel in Raipur, which is part of a retail mall development and is expected to open in 2014.

StayWell has hotels in Southern Asia and China, and long-established Leisure Inn and Park Regis hotels in Australia, Singapore, Dubai and the UK.

Simon Wan, CEO of StayWell said the group's expansion into India expansion has been part of the company's expansion strategy for some time.

'We are thrilled to further expand our portfolio into one of the biggest emerging markets in the world. Our growing reputation and brand presence in India will place us well for further property developments in the region – of which we currently have four more deals in Jaipur, Goa, Mumbai and NCR nearing finalization. Based on our current business plan, we aim to increase our portfolio in India to a total of 25 hotels by the end of 2014 and 50 hotels by 2016,' he said.

Rohit Vig, managing director for Staywell in India, said the country is a high-growth market for mid to upper scale hotels as India's domestic traveler population is 650m a year. The country has 'one of the largest growing middle class in the world, meaning opportunities for accommodation providers are very apparent,' said Vig. '

The three new hotels will bring StayWell Hospitality Group's portfolio to 35, including the near-future launch of properties in Bali, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai.

StayWell Hospitality Group's head office is based in Sydney, Australia, with regional offices in India, Singapore, Dubai and Shanghai, as well as global sales offices in London, Munich and Hong Kong.