

Notes to Editors

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The Mission Hills Group

Founded in 1992 and owned and operated by the Mission Hills Group, Mission Hills is recognised as the leading golf brand in the world and has been the major driving force for the sports and leisure industry in China.

It comprises three world-class integrated leisure and wellness resort destinations in the heart of China's Pearl River Delta and on its tropical island of Hainan, sprawling across a combined total area of over 40 square miles.

Mission Hills' resorts include 22 championship courses designed by renowned players and architects from five continents, five-star resorts, award-winning spas and volcanic mineral springs, an international convention centre, golf academies and Asia's largest tennis facility. Mission Hills is also the official training headquarters of China's tennis and golf associations.

Mission Hills Shenzhen and Dongguan, located in rolling hills 30 minutes north of Hong Kong, is home to 12 signature golf courses designed by Jack Nicklaus, Pete Dye, Greg Norman, Nick Faldo, Annika Sorenstam, Ernie Els, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh, David Leadbetter, Jumbo Ozaki and Zhang Lian Wei, as well as the latest addition, the new Rose-Poulter match play course, the 12 courses offer golfing expertise from five different continents. In 2004, Mission Hills was accredited as the World's Largest Golf Club by Guinness World Records.

Eight years later, in 2012, Guinness World Records recognised Mission Hills Haikou as the World's Largest Spa and Volcanic Spring Resort. Spanning a vast lava rock-strewn landscape of undulating terrain and sweeping wetlands, its offerings include 10 championship courses, 518 guest rooms and suites, 29 spa villas, a three-storey clubhouse, state-of-the-art meeting facilities, 12 world-class restaurants, a fully-equipped sports and recreation centre, Hainan's only aquatic theme park, therapeutic volcanic mineral springs showcasing centuries-old bathing philosophies from five continents, a spa oasis of sustainable bamboo and volcanic rock architecture and a shopping arcade.

The Group's "golf and more" leisure philosophy has catalysed its tourism-related business expansion. The latest development projects include the 500,000 square-metre Mission Hills Centreville shopping, entertainment, hotel and residential complex in Shenzhen and the 330,000 square-metre Mission Hills • Lan Kwai Fong • Haikou. Opening in September, this family-friendly metropolitan leisure destination and low-carbon town centre will feature international hotel brands Ritz-Carlton, Renaissance and Hard Rock Hotel, integrated shopping, entertainment and leisure centres including 1,000-plus renowned anchor brands, leading luxury retailer DFS Galleria, restaurants, cafes and bars as well as IMAX cinemas, ice skating rinks, bowling alleys and simulation racing.

The new Mission Hills • Huayi Brothers • Feng Xiaogang Movie-Themed Town opens in June and is set to become a major entertainment and commercial district in Haikou. The 930,000sq m site will showcase six professional movie studios, as well as dining, entertainment, shopping, cinema, cafe, bar and hotel facilities, with 24-hour dining and shopping districts.

The Chu Family

The Mission Hills Group is run by a family dynasty that began with its founder, the late Dr David Chu – a visionary remembered as “the Father of Golf in China” – and continues today with his sons Dr Ken Chu, Chairman and CEO, and Tenniel Chu, who is Vice Chairman.

It was Hong Kong-born David Chu who masterminded Mission Hill's astonishing growth to become the premier golf and leisure brand in Asia, in the process building the world's largest global golf club and putting China firmly on the global golfing map. Already a successful businessman and philanthropist, he became one of the earliest entrepreneurs from Hong Kong to invest in mainland China before the country's economic reform.

After falling in love with golf, he transformed a barren wasteland in Shenzhen, just north of the border with Hong Kong, into Mission Hills Golf Club. Construction began in 1992 and its first course, designed by 18-time Major winner Jack Nicklaus, opened in 1994. The following year Dr Chu brought the World Cup of Golf to Mission Hills, the first time China had hosted an internationally-televised, top golf tournament.

Mission Hills expanded to five golf courses, all designed by legends of the game, and in 2001 Dr Chu brought Tiger Woods to China for the first time to take part in the Tiger Woods Mission Hills China Challenge. The same year, China achieved another landmark when Beijing was chosen to host the 2008 Olympic Games. Dr Chu was the sole Strategic Advisor for the XXIX Beijing Olympiad appointed by the city and his contributions were recognised by both the IOC and Chinese leadership as instrumental to the bid's success.

Besides serving as Chairman of Mission Hills Group and as Vice Chairman of the China Golf Association, he applied his vision to many other sports, serving as Vice Chairman of the China Football Association, China Volleyball Association, China Tennis Association and the China National Sports Foundation as well as advising the China Cycling Association and served as Chairman of Happy Valley Sports Association in Hong Kong. He was also involved with many other non-sporting organisations and committees, and promoted China and Hong Kong to the world through business, culture, and sports.

Dr Chu was a firm believer in cross-cultural education programmes for academic advancement and generously supported many tertiary institutions in Mainland China, Hong Kong and overseas. He was an Advisory Committee Member of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, a Board Member of Upper Canada College in Canada and an Honorary Advisor for Asia Region of the University of Toronto. He also played active roles in many tertiary institutions, such as Honorary Professor of Nankai University, Honorary Chairman of Shenzhen University and Honorary President of the Physical Education & Sports Science School at the South China Normal University.

He received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the University of Toronto and an "Order of Letters and Arts" from France. Taking a step further to nurture the younger generation, he founded the Dr David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto along with the David Chu Scholarship, which rewards students with outstanding academic results in the Faculty of 21st Century Asia Pacific Research.

Recognition of Dr. Chu's contribution to golf, sports in general and society came with various awards and distinctions. In 2004, the Purple Mountain Observatory in China named the No. 4988 asteroid in his name. In 2009, the PGA Tour's Board of Directors established an award in his name to honour golf's most significant contributors and announced him as its first recipient. In 2011, Dr Chu and his eldest son, Dr Ken Chu, were named in fourth place globally – and first among non-Americans – in the "Most Powerful People in Golf" rankings compiled by *Golf Inc* magazine.

Dr Ken Chu joined Mission Hills Group in 1995 to carry on the work of his father. It is continuing to expand under his leadership, and his commitment to the promotion of golf and acknowledgement of him as a pioneer and leader in China's burgeoning tourism sector led to him being named among the top 10 of *Golf Inc's* 2013 ranking of the most powerful people in the world and in first place for its inaugural list in Asia.

Actively involved in Hong Kong and China charity and community services, he takes particular interest in youth groups and activities, believing it is crucial to nurture future generations to create a better tomorrow for China and the world. In concert with his passion for youth causes, he is also dedicated to helping fellow countrymen in need. Over the years, the Mission Hills Group programmes have donated over RMB 500 million to various charitable endeavours.

Today, Mission Hills Group has achieved many milestones and become the pre-eminent conglomerate in the sports, tourism, leisure and entertainment industry under Dr Chu's leadership. He is spearheading the next breakthrough in the group's evolution to bring its branding and golf management services to other destinations in China and beyond.

Tenniel Chu joined the family business in 2001 to work alongside his father and brother. Having graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Toronto in Canada, he pursued his passion for golf by studying professional golf management at Humber College. On completing his studies, he worked at US PGA TOUR headquarters and underwent a unique management training programme in the departments of golf operations, PGA tournament event organisation, golf maintenance, golf shops, and merchandising control.

Tenniel has played an important role in international tournament bids as well as attracting golf's biggest stars to Mission Hills, beginning with Tiger Woods' first visit to China in 2001 – and again in 2011 – followed by the Dynasty Cup (Asia's Ryder Cup) in 2003 and the Goodwill Trophy in 2005. Since then, Mission Hills has staged four editions of the World Cup of Golf, two editions of the World Ladies Championship and two editions of the World Celebrity Pro-Am, a ground-breaking event for Asia featuring elite male and female golf professionals together with stars from entertainment and sports.

In November 2012, Mission Hills welcomed the WGC-HSBC Champions to the Olazabal Course at Mission Hills Dongguan. The occasion marked the first time a World Golf Championships event had been staged in the Pearl River region of southern China. Then in October 2013, golfing icons Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy faced off in a special 18-hole challenge, The Match at Mission Hills, on the Haikou resort's signature Blackstone Course. By the end of 2013, Mission Hills had hosted over 100 tournaments and most of the world's best golfers.

As well as elite professional tournaments, Mission Hills has, under Tenniel's leadership, developed a diverse portfolio of competitions for amateurs, juniors and seniors. In 2004, he created the Golfathon golf marathon, in celebration of Mission Hills' formal recognition as the World's Largest Golf Club. With the successful completion of the 10th edition last year, there have been tens of thousands of participants from over 20 countries competing in the multi-course competition. In 2006, Mission Hills hosted the Asia Pacific Open Amateur Championship for three consecutive years. In 2010, the European Senior Tour ISPS Handa Senior World Championship was held at Mission Hills – the first ever Senior Tour event in China. Mission Hills was also selected to be the host venue of the 26th Universiade in August 2011.

Tenniel has spearheaded Mission Hills' industry-leading emphasis on junior golf development. He is active in creating opportunities and nurturing the region's next generation of champion golfers through initiatives such as the Mission Hills Golf Series Junior Tour, the Faldo Series Asia, the Mission Hills Jack Nicklaus Junior Championship and the first-ever female junior-only tournament in China – the Mission Hills Annika Junior Girls Championship. These events provide opportunities for Chinese and Asian youth to have closer contact with golf and help them develop their game to an elite level. He also brought the world's leading golf instructors and touring professionals to Mission Hills, bolstering the club's reputation as a "university of golf". Today, Mission Hills Academies are burgeoning in Shenzhen, Dongguan and Haikou, offering world-class facilities, equipment and renowned golf instructors.

Assuming a golf ambassadorial role, Tenniel was appointed by OneAsia as Secretary-General with a brief to help develop relations with national and international golf bodies. He is currently the organisation's Deputy Commissioner. He was also appointed president of the Guangdong Golf Association and he established the provincial junior team's training base at Mission Hills in 2009. Tenniel has also shared his views and visions for Mission Hills at many golf conferences and tourism trade exhibitions. These include the highly-respected KPMG Golf Business Forum, the Asia-Pacific Golf Development Summit, the *Golf Inc* Conference and International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) events. In 2011, inspired by Tenniel and with his assistance, IAGTO established its first office in China, located in Haikou, with Tenniel as Chairman. Tenniel was also the first Chinese national to become a member at the historic Royal and Ancient Golf Club based at St Andrews – the “Home of Golf” – in Scotland.

In addition to his duties with Mission Hills, Tenniel remains actively involved in multiple Hong Kong and Mainland China community organisations while his charitable work has included the United Nations Charity Golf event and the “Golfers 5.12 Fundraising Campaign” (recognized by the Guinness World Records as the largest single-day golf tournament ever held). Tenniel was also a torchbearer for both the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the 2011 Universiade in Shenzhen.

Tenniel's drive, vision, influence and leadership in the sport he loves were given formal recognition in September 2013 when he and his brother, Dr Ken Chu, the Mission Hills Chairman and CEO, were named the Most Powerful People in Asian Golf by *Golf Inc*. The brothers were also named in the top 10 in the magazine's global ranking.

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