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JNA Awards 2017 applauds industry trailblazers

HONG KONG, 14 September 2017 – The sixth annual JNA Awards, one of the most prestigious international awards in the jewellery industry, successfully held its gala event at the InterContinental Hong Kong on 14 September.

Thirty-five Honourees or shortlisted candidates that serve as shining examples of the best that the gemstone and jewellery sector has to offer were proudly recognised while Award Recipients across 10 categories were revealed in an exclusive ceremony attended by key industry decision-makers and influencers. The gala celebration, one of the most important events on the annual jewellery trade calendar, received the full support of business leaders and various government representatives.



The JNA Awards honours industry leaders who represent excellence, innovation and success

Organised by UBM Asia, the JNA Awards champions best business practices in the jewellery and gemstone community by recognising and promoting companies and individuals that demonstrate brilliant leadership, innovative thinking, and successful sustainable and socially responsible strategies.

Firmin Robert Wan, the “Pearl Emperor of Tahiti,” and Jacques Branellec, a pioneer in the cultivation of the golden South Sea pearl, were the recipients of the 2017 JNA Awards’ highest accolade, the Lifetime Achievement Award. This also marked the first time that the awards programme presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to two individuals.

Wan, founder of the Robert Wan Group, is widely credited for bringing the Tahitian pearl at the forefront of the fine jewellery industry. Branellec, who co-founded Jewelmer with





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Filipino entrepreneur Manuel Cojuangco, is known for his groundbreaking work in the cultivation of golden South Sea pearls.

The 18 Award Recipients across 10 categories are:

1. Brand of the Year – Retail

Goldendew Co Ltd – South Korea
Tanaka Kikinzoku Jewelry K K – Japan

2. Retailer of the Year (450 outlets and below)

SK Jewellery Pte Ltd – Singapore

3. eSupplier of the Year

Kela – China
Shree Ramkrishna Exports Pvt Ltd – India

4. Manufacturer of the Year – Jewellery

KGK Group – Hong Kong
Shenzhen Ganlu Jewelry Co Ltd – China

5. Outstanding Enterprise of the Year – ASEAN

Phu Nhuan Jewelry Joint Stock Company – Vietnam

6. Outstanding Enterprise of the Year – Greater China

HIERSUN – China
Shenzhen Ideal Jewellery Co Ltd – China

7. Outstanding Enterprise of the Year – India

Kiran Gems Pvt Ltd – India

8. Industry Innovation of the Year

3D Jewellery Company Ltd – China
Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd – Hong Kong
Gübelin Gem Lab Ltd – Switzerland
Shenzhen Lingchengben Technology Co Ltd – China





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9. Sustainability Initiative of the Year

PANDORA Production Co Ltd – Thailand

10. Young Entrepreneur of the Year (Age 40 and below)

Mr Zhang Guo Tao, Shenzhen Darry Jewelry Co Ltd – China

Mr Chau Tsankwan, Shenzhen Batar Investment Holding Group Co Ltd – China

Letitia Chow, Chairperson of the JNA Awards, Founder of *JNA* and Director of Business Development – Jewellery Group at UBM Asia, commented, “Our Honouree companies and individuals this year have all demonstrated extraordinary leadership, and serve as brilliant examples of what can be achieved if one is bold enough to break new and innovative grounds. Every single company or individual who participated in this year’s Awards has shown the core values that make our industry great, and for that, they truly deserve our most heartfelt congratulations.”

Kent Wong, Managing Director of Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd, remarked, “Being a JNA Awards Headline Partner for six consecutive years, we are guided by our unwavering commitment to drive the jewellery industry forward. Together with our fellow Partners, I believe that we can foster the sustainable development of the jewellery industry by upholding best business practices and encouraging creativity and innovation.”

Lin Qiang, President & Managing Director of the Shanghai Diamond Exchange, added, “SDE is very proud to have been a solid partner of the JNA Awards since its inception six years ago. We believe our industry becomes stronger when we work together to achieve our common goals. The JNA Awards provides a great showcase of these common goals by recognising excellence, promoting high standards and upholding best business practices. These are the key elements to keeping the jewellery industry robust and prosperous.”

In addition to the Headline Partners, KGK Group, Rio Tinto Diamonds, Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange, and Guangdong Land Holdings Limited supported the JNA Awards 2017 as Honoured Partners.

For more information, visit <http://www.JNAawards.com/> or contact:

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Notes for Editors:

1. About the Headline Partner

1.1 Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Limited (www.chowtaifook.com)

Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Limited is a world-class leading jeweller listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in December 2011, and has become the largest jeweller listed in Hong Kong by market capitalisation.

The iconic brand “Chow Tai Fook” of the Group has been widely recognised for its trustworthiness and authenticity, and renowned for product design, quality and value. The acquisition of Hearts On Fire, an internationally acclaimed US luxury diamond brand, in August 2014, has further underpinned the Group’s stature as a diamond expert in the industry.

The Group boasts an extensive retail network comprising over 2,400 Chow Tai Fook and Hearts On Fire stores spanning more than 500 cities in Greater China, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and the United States, as well as a strong and fast growing e-tail network operating through its Chow Tai Fook e-Shops and various e-tail accounts on other online shopping platforms.

The Group’s sophisticated vertically integrated business model provides it with an effective and tight control over the entire operation chain, from raw material procurement, design, production, to marketing and sales through its extensive POS and e-tail channels.

1.2 Shanghai Diamond Exchange (www.cnsde.com)

Authorised by the State Council, the Shanghai Diamond Exchange (SDE) is the only diamond exchange in China and provides diamond dealers a fair and safe transaction venue under close supervision. It also enjoys a favourable taxation policy and is operated in accordance with international best practices of the diamond industry.

Established in 2000, the SDE is a non-profit, self-regulating membership organisation and a member of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses.

2. About the Honoured Partners

2.1 KGK Group (www.kgkgroup.com)





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The KGK Group was founded in 1905 by Kesrimal Kothari and Ghisilal Kothari of Jaipur (India), with the humble task of trading gemstones between India and Burma. With a global presence across 19 countries today, the privately held group has evolved into one of the most preferred brands in the gemstone and jewellery industry, with a vertically integrated operation that spans the entire supply chain from mines to brands. KGK is one of the few conglomerates covering the entire spectrum of mining, sourcing, manufacturing and distribution of coloured gemstones, diamonds and jewellery for over a century. KGK Group has a resilient team of 12,000 employees with operations and offices in Asia, Australia, North and South America, Europe and Africa. Having achieved an impeccable reputation in the gemstone, diamond and jewellery trade, the group has recently diversified into real estate.

2.2 Rio Tinto Diamonds (www.riotinto.com/diamondsandminerals)

Rio Tinto is one of the world's leading diamond producers, operating two world-class underground diamond mines in Australia (Argyle) and Canada (Diavik), and a global sales and marketing capability with offices in Antwerp, Mumbai, Singapore and Perth.

For over three decades, Rio Tinto has played, and continues to play, an important role in the international diamond industry, supplying the full range of diamonds, in terms of colours, sizes and qualities, to all established and emerging markets.

Rio Tinto takes an active role in addressing key industry issues related to product integrity and sustainable development. Rio Tinto is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process, an active member of the World Diamond Council, and a founding member of the Responsible Jewellery Council and the Diamond Producers Association.

2.3 The Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange (<http://en.gdgje.com/>)

Founded in February 2016, the Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange is one of two provincial jewellery trading platforms authorised by the People's Government of Guangdong Province.

Aggregating resources from key industrial hubs across Guangdong including Guangzhou, Pingzhou of Foshan, Yangmei of Jieyang and Sihui of Zhaoqing, the Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange joins hands with world-renowned jewellery brands in setting up an international supply chain integrated service platform that offers a secure and convenient trading experience for domestic and overseas jewellers.





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The Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange is set to benefit China's jewellery industry in a variety of areas, such as the promotion of a healthier and more balanced international division of labour, foreign trade development, cross-border resource management and consumer market growth. As part of this effort, it will take full advantage of the base and influence of Guangdong's jewellery industry and the benefits stemming from the Belt and Road Initiative to establish linkages with national and global gemstone and jewellery markets.

2.4 The Guangdong Land Holdings Limited (www.gdland.com.hk)

The Guangdong Land Holdings Limited (GDLAND), with its headquarters in Hong Kong, is listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, and is a subsidiary of GDH Limited, which is Guangdong Province's largest conglomerate operating outside Mainland China.

The principal business of GDLAND is property development and investment, including but not limited to the development and operational management of the innovative commercial real estate, urban complex and industrial business complex. As the strategic arm of GDH Limited, GDLAND engages in the business development of commercial real estate, as well as urban and industrial complex projects.

GDLAND's flagship project, namely the "Buxin Project," is planned to become the biggest and most advanced jewellery mart in the world, including a large-scale jewellery trading and exhibition centre along with other facilities, with a lot size of over 87,000 square metres and a construction scale (floor area) that is projected to exceed 700,000 square metres. The Buxin Project, which is located in the Buxin area of Luohu district in Central Shenzhen, close to the Shuibe Gold and Jewellery Base, is expected to develop the area into one of the most influential gold and jewellery trading and exchange platforms in China and around the world.

3. About UBM Asia (www.ubmasia.com)

Owned by UBM plc listed on the London Stock Exchange, UBM Asia is the largest events organiser in Asia, India and South East Asia. It is also the leading commercial organiser in China. Established with its headquarters in Hong Kong and subsidiary companies across Asia and in the US, UBM Asia has a strong global presence in 25 major cities with 36 offices and over 1,600 employees.

With a track record spanning over 30 years, UBM Asia operates in 11 market sectors with over 290 events, 28 targeted trade publications, 18 round-the-clock online products for over 2 million quality exhibitors, visitors, conference delegates,





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advertisers and subscribers from all over the world. It provides a one-stop diversified global service for high-value business matching, quality market news and online trading networks.

UBM Asia has extensive office networks in China, Southeast Asia and India, three of the world's fastest growing B2B events markets. UBM China has 12 offices in the major cities in mainland China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Guzhou and Shenzhen, where we organise 90 events. In ASEAN, UBM Asia operates from its offices in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines with 70 events in this region. UBM India teams in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai organise over 20 events every year across the country.

UBM Asia was awarded 'Asia's Most Reliable Trade Show Organizer Award' in Hong Kong's Most Valuable Companies Awards (HKMVCA) 2017.

4. **About JNA** (www.jewellerynewsasia.com)

JNA is the flagship market intelligence platform of UBM Asia's Jewellery Group. First published in 1983, the title is the leader in providing up-to-date international jewellery trade news with an Asian insight. It features original, in-depth reports by experienced journalists covering the latest developments in the diamond, pearl, coloured gemstone, jewellery manufacturing, and equipment and supplies sectors.

