

# Travel Weekly *Asia*

Asia Business TravelWeekly News Emag - Thursday 27 January, 2011 - www.travelweekly.asia

## CG | Cinnovation merge with InVision Hospitality to launch Zinc | InVision Hospitality



traveller, Zinc City Greater Noida (near New Delhi) is scheduled to open in 2012. Two additional Zinc City hotels are scheduled to open in India in 2013 at Cochin and Surat. The first GLOW STUDIOS is now open in Bangkok with five more to come online in Thailand, Cambodia and India by 2012 and Nepal by 2013. Zinc Edge deluxe hotels are scheduled to open in Dubai, Nepal and Pattaya in 2013. The first SOMA resort is scheduled to open in Malaysia in 2012. Two Zinc Journey cultural heritage resorts are already open in Sigiriya and Negombo, Sri Lanka. Five more are scheduled to open by 2012 in China, Thailand and Sri Lanka. The Farm, a Touch by Zinc spa and wellness retreat, is already open in the Philippines. A second property is scheduled to open in Nepal in 2011. Zinc Living properties for long-stay travelers and residential living are scheduled for Bangkok (2011), Dubai (2012) and Pattaya (2013).

THAI - CG / Cinnovation together with InVision Hospitality announced the merger of their companies and the launch of Zinc / InVision Hospitality. Zinc / InVision Hospitality aims to open 30 hotels in Asia by 2013. The growth will be financed in part by Z-I Capital Partners, which is the investment fund set up by the current Zinc / InVision Hospitality partners and fortified by other investors. For the value conscious urban

## Philippine gov't eyes tax cuts for foreign airlines

PHI - The Philippine government is studying the reduction of airline tax rates to make the country a cheaper destination and attract more foreign airlines to fly to the country, thus resulting in increased competition in the country's air travel market. But as with other policies aimed at developing the industry, tax perks will only be given to airlines from countries that do the same for carriers from the Philippines. The government earns an estimated 3.2 billion pesos (US\$72.3 million) by imposing a 3-per cent common carriers tax on gross receipts and a gross Philippine billings tax of 2.5 per cent.

## India aims to become golf tourism destination

IND - The tourism ministry of India aims to position India as a golfing destination. Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture, India, said that this would not only showcase India's beautiful golf courses but also the diverse tourism attractions that the country has for any tourist. This move is also

deemed to increase tourist arrivals in the off-season months of October to March. Golf experts consider the promotion of golf as a niche tourism product as an effective way of attracting international tourists to the country.



## The 5% growth of the World Tourism in 2011

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), 2011 tourism recovery is slower than 2010. UNWTO forecasts international tourist arrivals from 4-5% in 2011. In 2010, the World Tourism developed strongly and contributed to the global economic growth. A total of 935 million international

tourist arrivals was recorded, an increase of 7% as compared to 2009. Of which, Asia was the first region which recovered from the crisis and developed strongest in the increase of 13%. In Europe, there was only 3% increase but the number of international tourist arrivals was 471 million.

## Australia passes consumer law

AUS - Australia has passed the Australian Consumer Law set to empower travellers against unfair airline or car hire practices. This has been deemed to be a once-in-a-generation reform to consumer law. It has a 'fairness test' that will be used to assess the conditions enforced by companies and determine whether these are fair to the consumer. David Howarth, strategic policy officer, Choice, said that consumers could now challenge the companies' terms; more importantly, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

is now able to also take class actions. Companies found to be guilty of breaching the fairness test could be summoned for court action.



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Best Western Signs on Siem Reap Resort as First Hotel in Cambodia

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## Shanghai to get high-speed metro trains

CHN - New high-speed trains will be introduced to Shanghai's Metro network from November 2011, local media has reported. The new trains will run at speeds of up to 160kph - more than three times faster than the existing 50kph services. The trains will initially run

on the city's new Line 22, connecting Shanghai South Railway Station with the suburban district of Jinshan on a 56km route. Shanghai is planning to extend its Metro network from 400km to 600km by 2015.

## Lao Airlines's new hangar under construction



LAO - The Lao Airlines has agreed to hire the China Yunnan Construction Engineering Group for US\$ 16.7 million to build a hangar and maintenance and training centre. "This project is very important and

necessary, technologically and economically for the development in the airline sector. It is vital for the flagship carrier.

"The future hangar of the Lao Airlines is being built on 14,548 sq m. The construction started in last November and is expected to be completed before the Lao New Year April 2012," said said Director General of the Lao Airlines state enterprise Somphone Douang-mala.

The new hangar is designed to accommodate two Boeing-737s or A320s aircraft.

## Best Western Signs on Siem Reap Resort as First Hotel in Cambodia

CAM - The agreement heralds the arrival of the globally recognised Best Western name to Siem Reap the location of UNESCO's World Heritage Site of Angkor temple complexes, including the Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom.

Suites And Sweet Resort Angkor enjoys an ideal location, less than a 10-minute drive from both Siem Reap town and the main entrance to the famous Angkor Wat temple complex, offering 18 stylish suites housed in nine villas, each with their own private pool and terrace. Featuring an enchanting Khmer-style design and décor, they are nestled among tropical gardens around an ornamental lake in a picturesque setting similar to a typical Cambodian floating village.

Tentatively set to complete its rebranding in Q1 of 2011, the resort offers a restaurant serving delicious Khmer and French cuisine, a bar perfect for meeting with friends and a traditional massage service.

Also a destination of colonial and Chinese architectural styles, craft shops, silk farms, fishing villages and Apsara dance performances, Siem Reap in northwest Cambodia is served by direct flights from regional points like Bangkok, Vientiane, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul and Taipei, as well as the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh. Tourists can also reach Siem Reap overland from Phnom Penh and Thailand.

## New Vientiane hotel opens

### its door for business

LAO - Daokham Hotel and restaurant opened its doors in response to the growing number of visitors to Vientiane and to cater to the growing trend of wedding parties taking place in hotels.

The hotel is located in Khounta village, Sikhottabong district. Construction began in November 2009 and finished this month at a total cost of US\$3.9 million.

The hotel comprises 41 rooms including 11 special rooms and 10 VIP rooms. The restaurant can cater for a party of 1,500 people. Its facilities also include a large car park, conference facilities, a karaoke bar and a performance stage.

## Bring the World into your Home



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## Etihad launches 'Essential Abu Dhabi' Campaign



ABU DHABI - Etihad Airways has designated 2011 as "the year of Abu Dhabi" with the launch of its "essential abu dhabi" destination marketing campaign. Designed to enhance Abu Dhabi's

place as a top tourist and MICE destination, the campaign will see Etihad unveil a number of exciting promotional activities across the globe. For the first time, all the major

tourism operators in the emirate of Abu Dhabi have come together under one showcase umbrella to promote the very best UAE's capital has to offer. Hotels, tour operators, dining outlets, shops, adventure parks, cultural attractions and sports facilities are providing a range of offers, to entice tourists and business travellers alike, to spend time in Abu Dhabi with a wide range of fantastic discount offers and deals. Please [click here](#) to see more.

## Neak Loeung Bridge's Construction to Begin Next Month

CAM - The construction site of Neak Loeung Bridge will be opened on Feb. 12, 2011, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said.

The construction of Neak Loeung Bridge will be financed by the Japanese government at an estimated cost of US\$130 million, and it is expected to complete by 2015, the Cambodian premier said. Once finished, the bridge will become the biggest and longest bridge in Cambodia, said Samdech Techo Hun Sen, adding that the bridge will provide a lot of benefits not only to Cambodia, but also to the Great Mekong Sub-region and ASEAN as a whole.



## TCEB new campaign for MICE growth

THA - Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) plans to launch a domestic division to promote the country's MICE market. With its main focus on the ASEAN Economic Community, the campaign aims to promote events and set the country as a MICE destination by 2015. According to the bureau's president Anusak Intraphuvasak, 2011 will be an exceptional year for Thailand's MICE market, expecting to receive up to 720,000 MICE visitors.

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## The Ritz-Carlton, Shenzhen Wins Voyage "Top Business Hotel" Award For 2010



CHN - The Ritz-Carlton, Shenzhen was named "Top Business Hotel" at Voyage magazine's 2010 Hotel and Resort Best Value Awards in Beijing earlier this month. "We are truly delighted to have been recognized with such a prestigious award," The Ritz-Carlton, Shenzhen's General Manager Iwan Dietschi said. "We are all excited that our product and services have been voted as among the very best in China, and I

must say that this is because of the dedication of our Ladies and Gentlemen, all of whom work together to create excellence for every guest." Winners of the Hotel and Resort Best Value Award are chosen by a panel of judges including hospitality industry experts, business professionals, members of the press and ordinary individuals over a period of deliberation lasting several months.

## Fiji resorts make Pacific's top 10

FIJ - Two of Fiji's resorts have made the top ten Bargain Hotels in the South Pacific, according to the Travellers Choice Hotel Awards 2011. They are Yasawa-based Nanuya Island Resort which has simply being termed 'Paradise' and

Nakia Resort & Dive on Fiji's garden island of Taveuni. Nakia has been described as 'absolutely Eco-friendly and amazing'. The winners are normally determined from ratings by over 20 million travellers from around the world.

## Giong Festival received certification as a World Intangible Cultural Heritage

VIE - Head of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi Katherine Muller-Marín on January 22 granted the organisation's certificate recognising the Giong Festival as the World Intangible Heritage. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on the same day launched a National Action Program on preservation and promotion of the Giong Festival

for 2011-2015. Accordingly, preferential policies will be developed to encourage people perform the festival in the districts of Soc Son, Tu Liem, Gia Lam, Dong Anh, Thuong Tin and Long Bien, with the aim to fully restoring the festival. The program also aims to raise the quality of Giong Festival education in secondary schools and universities.

Journeys to  
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WSDE Sport Tourism Expo 2011 and iSC announce Social Media Partnership

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## ITB Berlin eTravel World - added value for the boom industries mobile travel services and social media

GER - Market segment expands with arrival of new exhibitors – eTravel specialists discuss social media and mobile strategies for business travel and tourism industry  
With leading new names partici-

pating and innovative topics on the agenda the Mobile Travel Services section is repositioning itself with the eTravel World Forum at ITB Berlin from 9 to 13 March 2011 as a trend-setting platform for mobile travel services and social media. In Hall 7.1c trade visitors at the ITB representing the business travel and tourism industry can find out about the latest mobile computing, augmented reality and social media trends from lectures due to be held on the eTravel stage. At the eTravel Lab opinion-formers and practitioners will invite visitors to workshops and seminars for an in-depth exchange of views about the mobile solutions of tomorrow. Please [click here](#) to see more.



## AIME gearing up for the industry's networking event of the year



AUS - AIME organisers are encouraging attendees to the show to conduct business on and off the show floor through its dedicated networking events. The unrivalled networking opportunities, which kick off with the renowned Welcome Reception at 6pm on Monday 14th February, are considered a key benefit of attending the event. AIME's Welcome Reception, organised by the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau (MCVB), will be held at the St. Kilda Sea Baths in Melbourne. It is one of the industry's most talked about events and last year attracted over 2,200 AIME attendees from over 50 countries. The creative concept, staging and design for the AIME 2011 Welcome Reception, showcases the best in event production and is executed with the assistance of key event sponsors Atlantic Group, Solution Red and Explore Engage. Please [click here](#) to see more.

## World Travel Market 2011: Travel Industry Optimistic for 2011

GBR - WTM's Meridian Club buyers positive about 2011  
The travel and tourism industry is extremely optimistic 2011 will see it leave the global financial downturn behind, reveals a survey of World Travel Market's Meridian Club – the industry's most senior buyers.  
Almost eight out of ten (78%) Meridian Club members polled say they are optimistic for the industry's prospects in 2011.  
Furthermore, more than half

(54%) of the 330 senior buyers polled say the industry will perform better in 2011 than in 2010, with 37% believing the industry's performance will be on par with 2010. Nearly 70% of the members believe their company will perform better in 2011 than it did in 2010 with a mere 4% expecting their organisation to perform worse this year than it did last year.  
Please [click here](#) to see more.



## WSDE Sport Tourism Expo 2011 and iSC announce Social Media Partnership

THA - Sports business portal iSportconnect.com has agreed a social media partnership with WSDE Sport Tourism Expo 2011 which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand - Asia's Sport Tourism Gateway - from 27th - 29th September 2011.

iSportconnect.com combines social networking, the latest sports business news as well as events

and jobs listings. Bringing together sports professionals, iSportconnect.com provides a community where all the essential components of the industry can be found and utilised.

The platform will act as a virtual meeting room, so that Expo participants can interact before, during and after the event in a secured way, thanks to the site's

Strict Door Policy.

WSDE's own community group will feature event-related news updates, interviews and multimedia enabled features. The event page will facilitate a great level of communication for both Event participants and enthusiasts. Please [click here](#) to see more.