

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 December 2013

**THE PENINSULA HONG KONG CELEBRATES HER 85th ANNIVERSARY
IN SPECTACULAR STYLE WITH A MAGNIFICENT GALA NIGHT**

Exactly 85 years to the day of her 1928 launch, The Peninsula Hong Kong celebrated another milestone in convivial style with an evening of splendid entertainment and refined *joie de vivre* on Wednesday, 11 December 2013. And, despite her advancing years, Hong Kong's "Grande Dame" had never looked better as she welcomed the great and the good of Hong Kong and beyond for a gala celebration that will live long in the memory of all who attended.

The much-anticipated day was the culmination of a year of celebrations at The Peninsula to commemorate the hotel's eight and a half decades of superlative hospitality. The day began with a spirited lion dance in the morning, and The Hon. Sir Michael Kadoorie, Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited then gave a short but heartfelt speech before presenting cheques to four charitable organisations. Receiving HK\$ 1 million each, the grateful beneficiaries of the hotel's year-round philanthropic endeavours were Make-A-Wish® Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Hereditary Breast Cancer Family Registry, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and St James' Settlement Funeral Navigation Service.

Following the cheque presentation, Sir Michael was joined on stage by Mr Clement Kwok, Chief Executive Officer and Mr Peter Borer, Chief Operating Officer of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, and Ms Rainy Chan, Regional Vice-President, The Peninsula Hotels and General Manager, The Peninsula Hong Kong for the cake-cutting ceremony and Champagne toast.

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As the sun set on Victoria Harbour and the Grande Dame who has watched over it since 1928, the 2,000 invited guests began to arrive, greeted in true Peninsula style with caviar and Champagne. The ceremony to officially celebrate the hotel's milestone and formally kick off proceedings then began in the forecourt, where a vintage Maharaja Rolls-Royce, a nod to The Peninsula's famed fleet of the luxurious British cars, took pride of place.

Sir Michael extended a warm welcome to all guests and delivered a touching speech in which he talked about The Peninsula's landmark opening party, as well as how the hotel has changed and improved in the past 85 years. Sir Michael also highlighted the contribution of the staff who have helped make the hotel a standard bearer for first-rate hospitality.

“One factor has always remained constant, and that is our commitment to the highest standards of hospitality for the thousands of guests who have made The Peninsula their home away from home for the past 85 years,” said Sir Michael. “The success of the hotel is due in large part to The Peninsula family of our management and loyal staff. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of our employees at The Peninsula, who have committed much time and effort in maintaining the hotel at the forefront of Hong Kong's hospitality industry.”

Sir Michael then directed the gaze of the crowd upwards, to where the evening's greatest surprise began to unfold: a dazzling animation using the classic façade of the hotel as its expansive canvas. Featuring the illustrations of renowned Hong Kong artist Mr Lee Chi Ching, the animation charted not only 85 magnificent years of The Peninsula but also acknowledged the important role of Hong Kong and its people in the hotel's incredible story.

The beautifully detailed work, which was set to music that had been specially composed for the occasion, took the audience on a charming journey through time, beginning in the days when Kowloon was a sleepy backwater.

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Guests then witnessed captivating interpretations of significant events, such as the construction of the railway station, the landing of PanAm's China Clipper, the first passenger flight linking Asia and North America, and, of course, the construction of The Peninsula. Finally, the animation caught up to the modern day, adding The Peninsula's now familiar 30-storey tower extension and the magnificent skyline of Hong Kong, the city The Peninsula is proud to call home, before a breathtaking fireworks display brought the show to an end, to the enthusiastic crowd's sheer delight.

Without the help from artistic partners The Hong Kong Arts Centre and Public Art Hong Kong, the hotel's illuminated, animated spectacle could not have been possible. To allow the whole of Hong Kong to share in Mr Lee's creation, this show will be on display nightly, at 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm, from 12 to 14 December 2013.

The opening segment of the evening was then brought to an illustrious close as Sir Michael was joined on stage by his wife, Lady Kadoorie, and Mrs Regina Leung, wife of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as Mr Clement Kwok, Mr Peter Borer and Ms Rainy Chan, to complete the cake-cutting ceremony and raise a Champagne toast to Hong Kong's Grande Dame on her 85th anniversary.

Following on from this extravagant reception, guests were welcomed inside, where delightful entertainment and the finest food and refreshments were on offer throughout the hotel. The Lobby had been transformed into a picturesque rose garden where the music transported guests through time as the evening progressed, starting with the genteel era of the 1920s and 30s, through the swinging sounds of the 50s, 60s and 70s, courtesy of The Tony Carpio Big Band, to the classic hits of the 80s and 90s from DJ Andrew Bull, the resident DJ during the 1970s at The Scene, The Peninsula's nightclub which opened in 1966 as Hong Kong's very first discotheque.

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But this was still only the beginning, and more wonderful surprises awaited on the first floor. In The Bar, guests were able to enjoy the talents of pianists Pierre Eugene and Howard McCrary, and also to watch “Tradition Well Served”, a new documentary film produced by filmmaker Elaine Forsgate Marden that charts the history of not only The Peninsula Hong Kong but also her sister hotels around the world.

Those looking to sample The Peninsula’s famous dining establishments, meanwhile, were spoiled for choice. Japanese gastronomy was given free rein at the hotel’s renowned Imasa restaurant, while moreish Swiss delicacies were the order of the day at the much-loved Chesa. Those with a sweet tooth found it hard to stray from The Verandah, which had become a dessert oasis for the evening, but perhaps most popular of all was the nostalgic Cantonese street food being served up at Spring Moon, where the Moon Band provided the perfect soundtrack.

Up on the seventh floor, The Sun Terrace offered sumptuous views and a Caribbean theme, with music from the Latino and Mariachi bands, while The Garden Suite played host to the Davidoff Dominican Cigar Lounge, where guests were able to enjoy the hand-rolled work of an expert cigar maker. And last but definitely not least, the iconic Philippe Starck-designed restaurant and bar Felix hosted an evening of decadent disco fever as DJ Jul & Co from Paris and DJ eYe from Tokyo turned the 28th floor into a boogie wonderland.

The festivities continued well into the night until the guests reluctantly but appreciatively departed and made their way out into the crisp winter air. A party 85 years in the making; it was worth every moment.

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About The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited (HSH)

Incorporated in 1866 and listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (00045), HSH is the holding company of a Group which is engaged in the ownership, development and management of prestigious hotel, commercial and residential properties in key locations in Asia, the United States and Europe, as well as the provision of transport, club management and other services. The hotel portfolio of the Group comprises The Peninsula Hotels in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, Bangkok and Manila; while The Peninsula Hotels in Paris and London are under construction. The property portfolio of the Group includes The Repulse Bay Complex, The Peak Tower and The Peak Tramways, St. John's Building, The Landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Thai Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Winvy Lung

Director of Public Relations

The Peninsula Hong Kong

Salisbury Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Telephone : +852 2696 6608

Fax : +852 2696 6633

E-mail : winvylung@peninsula.com

Website : www.peninsula.com

Digital Photo Library : www.peninsula.com/pdl

Broadcast Video Library : www.thenewsmarket.com/thepeninsulahotels

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