

# UOL channel

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Winning entry of "Your PARKROYAL on Pickering Photo Connection" photo contest

**PARKROYAL ON PICKERING OPENS** ▸

# UOL POSTS COMMENDABLE SET OF RESULTS FOR FY 2012

UOL held its full-year results briefing on 28 February 2013 at the Pan Pacific Singapore. Senior management of the group led by Group Chief Executive Mr Gwee Lian Kheng, presented the FY 2012 results to analysts and journalists.

During the briefing, Mr Gwee reported that Group revenue fell 42 per cent to \$1.15 billion for the financial year ended 31 December 2012. The decline was largely due to the completion of several residential projects. However, the Group's recurring income streams from property investments, that is, rentals from our portfolio of office and shopping malls, as well as from fair value gains from investment properties, lifted the bottom line. Net attributable profit rose 19 per cent to \$807.7 million. The Group's directors have proposed a first and final dividend of 15 cents a share.

Mr Gwee said: "Our FY 2012 results reflect our strategy of deploying capital into investment assets that can generate recurrent income streams to smooth out the lumpiness of earnings from property development. Over the recent years, we have committed nearly



[Left to right] Pan Pacific Hotels Group (PPHG) Chief Financial Officer Mr Neo Soon Hup, PPHG President and Chief Executive Officer Mr Amedeo Patrick Imbardelli, UOL and PPHG Group Chief Executive Mr Gwee Lian Kheng, UOL President (Property) Mr Liam Wee Sin and UOL Chief Financial Officer Mr Wellington Foo

\$1 billion in recurrent income projects in Singapore, which should start contributing to the bottom line in the next two years.

"The recent cooling measures and the latest property tax changes by the government in Singapore will dampen overall demand and moderate prices. We remain cautious and selective in our land acquisitions and will continue to reinforce our recurrent income streams and focus on improving the performance of our property investments and hospitality," added Mr Gwee.

For the year ended 2012, UOL's shareholder funds increased 16 per cent to \$6.14 billion. Net tangible asset per ordinary share rose to \$7.94 from \$6.84. The Group's gearing ratio also improved to 0.28 from 0.35.

The annual briefing is part of the Group's commitment to foster strong long-term relationships with key stakeholders in the investment community and to keep them informed about the Group's activities in an accurate and timely manner.

## ENGAGING OUR PEOPLE THROUGH TOWN HALL SESSION



UOL President (Property) Mr Liam Wee Sin sharing the latest UOL financial results

UOL is committed to engaging our people through different channels to ensure that they are kept abreast of our Group's performance, achievements and future directions.

What better way to do this than through a Town Hall Session? A total of 120 staff attended our first Town Hall Session of the year at the newly opened PARKROYAL on Pickering on 6 March 2013.

Our President (Property) Mr Liam Wee Sin briefed on the FY 2012 results, sharing that property development remains our key revenue contributor. He said that higher revenues were also recorded from investment properties due to higher occupancy and rental rates.

In 2012, UOL also won the coveted Best Developer (Singapore) and Best Developer (South East Asia) awards conferred by South East Asia Property Awards, which recognise our strong brand name in



Enjoying the hotel's signature drink - Limenade

Singapore and the region. Mr Liam, however, highlighted the need to continue to innovate and focus on our core competencies. He added that we should also continue to monitor our cost efficiencies and continue to strengthen our recurrent income portfolio.

Ms Sofia Koh, Deputy General Manager of Human Resource, then briefed on the Workplace Health Promotion Programme and elaborated on the changes in the staff medical benefits.

At the Town Hall Session, Mr Liam also presented five-year and 10-year Long Service Awards to seven staff for their dedicated service to the Group.

Finally, the staff were invited to tour the hotel and chill out at the relaxing pool deck that overlooks the Hong Lim Park.

## WHEELIE! BUNNY HOP! POWER SLIDE! THRILLS TAKE ON A NEW MEANING AT VELOCITY@NOVENA SQUARE

Here's another first at a UOL shopping mall – an adrenaline-pumped, action-packed cycling obstacle competition staged indoors over two weeks right within a busy shopping mall!

The competition, held at Velocity@Novena Square from 8 to 24 March 2013 required agile cyclists on their two-wheelers to clear obstacles within the shortest possible time.

The route that they negotiated was narrower than usual and very challenging. A participant first had to manoeuvre his fixie bike over two ramps in the Mall's atrium, before proceeding on to a roller coaster outdoors near the taxi stand and then ending up in the clam shell at the Mall's open air court.

The fastest participant blasted through this challenging track in just 22 seconds! Most participants were game about participating again next year, despite a track that was challenging, narrow and within the confines of a shopping mall!

Shoppers were also treated to other exciting and heart-pumping activities like biking, bar spin, dress up and track stand. In drift biking, riders cycle from the starting line, pull up the bike and balance on one rear wheel. In the bar spin, cyclists span the handlebar to rotate a full 360 degrees. In the track stand, riders had to maintain their balance while remaining stationary. The spectacle and the feats were made more colourful with all riders dressed up in fancy cycling gear.

Shoppers who spent \$60 in the Mall also got a 'hands-on' experience with a 10-minute fixie bike trial with the help of instructors who were on site to guide them over two ramps. A fixie bike is typically used for bike stunts, and is brakeless and gearless with a fixed wheel bike.



Clearing the last obstacle in the Mall's open-air court



Cyclists performing the track stand

## NEW EATERIES AT UNITED SQUARE

United Square boosted its range of food and beverage (F&B) offerings with the opening of Extra Virgin Pizza (#01-14) and The Ice Cream Gallery (Level 2 outside Toy 'R' Us) in late March.

Extra Virgin Pizza's new outlet has an open kitchen concept where diners can see the chefs prepare the artisan pizzas. Baked in brick ovens, the pizzas are made with imported ingredients of the highest quality.

For those with a sweet tooth, the Ice Cream Gallery is definitely a tantalising treat.

The homemade ice cream brand carries flavours fine tuned to the local palate. The ice creams are made in small batches in the shop premises to ensure freshness. Some interesting local flavours include D24 Durian, Avocado Gula Melaka and Teh Halia.

That's not all. Two more restaurants – Wee Nam Kee Chicken Rice and Sikkell Korean Grill BBQ – will open in the next few months, adding to the Mall's stable of over 30 F&B outlets. These new eateries are set to tickle the taste buds of diners at United Square.

## THOMAS THE TRAIN COMES TO LIFE AT UNITED SQUARE!



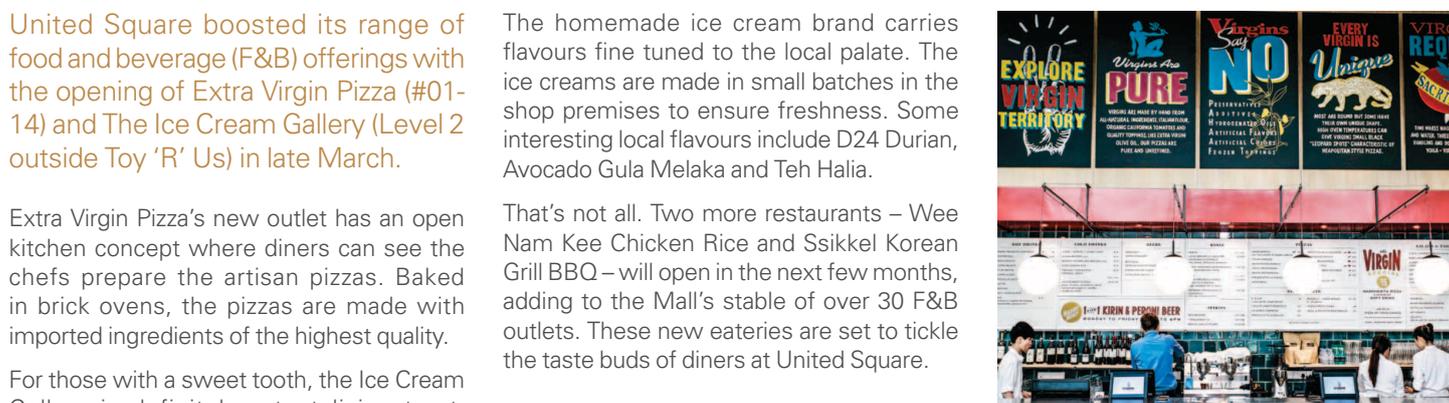
For the first time in Singapore, young children got to take a ride on Thomas the Tank Engine.

The atrium of United Square Shopping Mall was transformed into Sodor, home of Thomas the Tank Engine and the Fat Controller during the recent March school-holidays, with a "rail" load of fun activities and shopping treats.

For the first time in Singapore, kids could take a ride in the Thomas the Tank Engine ride through Thomas Land, which was decked out with Steamwork House, Trees and everything else one would expect to find in Sodor.

Our young participants also had great fun working on crafts such as 3D Miniature Train, Pop-out Train, 3D Jigsaw Puzzle and colouring Pop-out Art. Free photo momentos taken with their favourite characters – Thomas and the Fat Controller were also given out.

The event was a resounding success with all train ride passes fully redeemed by our shoppers.



Extra Virgin Pizza also provides takeaway options, with forthcoming delivery service by June 2013.

# PARKROYAL ON PICKERING OPENS



[Left to right] Pan Pacific Hotels Group (PPHG) Executive Director (Asset Management) Ms Wee Wei Ling, PPHG President and Chief Executive Officer Mr Amedeo Patrick Imbardelli, PARKROYAL on Pickering's LIME restaurant chef, UOL and PPHG Group Chief Executive Mr Gwee Lian Kheng and PARKROYAL on Pickering General Manager Mr David Sullivan.

Pan Pacific Hotels Group, the hospitality-arm of UOL Group Limited, unveiled its much-anticipated PARKROYAL on Pickering in Singapore on 16 January 2013. With this addition, PARKROYAL now has 14 hotels, serviced suites and resorts across Asia Pacific.

The 367-room PARKROYAL on Pickering, conceptualised by UOL and designed by internationally-acclaimed Singapore architectural firm WOHA, features a stunning hotel-in-a-garden concept with energy-saving elements incorporated throughout its building. Its 15,000 square metres of lush sky gardens, planter terraces, waterfalls and cascading vertical greenery comprise twice its land area. The hotel's green features include rainwater harvesting, automatic sensors to regulate energy and water usage, and solar cells that power landscape lighting.

For its innovative and sustainable design, the \$350-million PARKROYAL on Pickering has received the BCA (Building and Construction Authority) Green Mark Platinum Award, Singapore's highest rating for green buildings, and the Solar Pioneer Award for being one of the first in the country's hospitality sector to use a solar energy system.

The 16-storey hotel is also home to LIME, an all-day dining restaurant with an open-kitchen concept; a dedicated wellness floor with an infinity pool, a fitness centre, a 300m garden walk and the award-winning St Gregory spa; as well as the exclusive Orchid Club Lounge on the top floor that offers spectacular 360-degree views of the city skyline.

To generate greater interest, a photo contest "Your PARKROYAL on Pickering Photo Connection" was held from 13 December 2012 to 28 February 2013 for photo enthusiasts to capture inspiring images of this stunning hotel-in-a-garden.

A total of over 300 submissions were received. Our panel of distinguished judges – eco activist Nadya Hutagalung, photographer Justin Ng and Microsoft's Southeast Asia Photo Editor Lim Wui Liang, selected the best 10 entries.

Featured on the cover of this newsletter, the top winning entry was submitted by Jeff Lee, a freelance Creative Designer. He visited the hotel with a group of photo enthusiasts during a joint event organised by PARKROYAL on Pickering and Singapore Instagram in January. On his inspiration for the picturesque photo, he said: "It is refreshing to see a stylish hotel

consisting of unique symmetry of shapes and lines with beautiful mirrored surfaces in the heart of Chinatown. The incorporating of nature and the infinity pool gives us the sense of relaxation and freedom amidst the fast paced city life. This image captures a passing pigeon with the cage-like gazebo at the infinity pool, illustrating the freedom we experience when staying at PARKROYAL on Pickering." He walked away with the Grand Prize of a five-day four-night trip for two at our upcoming PARKROYAL Serviced Suites Green City in Shanghai and a three-day two-night weekend getaway at PARKROYAL on Pickering.

Prizes for the four runner-ups and five consolation winners included weekend getaways at PARKROYAL on Pickering and \$100 LIME restaurant dining vouchers. Please visit the PARKROYAL on Pickering's Facebook page to view the other winning pictures.



The team at PARKROYAL on Pickering