

[For immediate release]

**Dr Lui Che Woo, Chairman of K. Wah Group
is honoured with Grand Bauhinia Medal
by the HKSAR Government**

(Hong Kong, 30 June 2012) The HKSAR Government today announced that Dr Lui Che Woo, Chairman of **K. Wah Group** (“the Group”), is awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal (GBM), in recognition of his long and distinguished community service and philanthropic affairs, particularly his significant and generous donations in the areas of medical care, arts and culture, disaster relief and other charitable causes. Dr Lui is supportive of education, and has contributed extensively to the enhancement of tertiary education in hotel management.

Dr Lui Che Woo, Chairman of K. Wah Group, heartened by the accolade from the Government, said, “This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR; hence, I am grateful for and honoured to gain recognition from the Government at this time. Looking back over the past five decades, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in the development of Hong Kong and to grow along with the Territory. All of the people of Hong Kong have also helped turn this city into a prosperous and stable society, having experienced the economic ups and downs together. While upholding the passion and perseverance of Hong Kong people, we have sought to continuously achieve progress and reach new heights even during the worst of times. I have to say that I have spent the most wonderful and unforgettable days of my life in Hong Kong, and am proud to have contributed to its prosperity and stability.”

Dr Lui rose from poverty to become a successful entrepreneur. He established the first K. Wah company in 1955 and participated in various large-scale land reclamation projects at Kwun Tong district (covering Sau Mau Ping, Lok Fu, Lam Tin and Yau Tong), leading to the regions development into a light industrial hub. Dr Lui won the exploitation rights for the Anderson Road Quarry in the 1960s. He then applied machinery in the labour intensive quarrying industry and opened a new era of highly effective, safe and mechanised operation. Though faced with extremely difficult conditions at the time, Dr Lui made great contributions to the economic development and rise of a post-war Hong Kong. He also led K. Wah Construction Materials to grow into a large scale one-stop construction material supplier in Hong Kong.

A pioneer in the hotel and tourism industry, Dr Lui's contributions to raising the local industry' status, by enhancing service quality and nurturing talents, has been enormous. As early as the 1970s, he realized there was a pressing need to bring world-class quality hotels to the city to parallel local economic development. As a leader in the industry, he sought cooperation with Holiday Inn through franchising, subsequently adopting modern management systems gained from the international hotel chain and introducing them into his first five-star hotel in Tsimshatsui East – the present InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong. Moreover, Dr Lui introduced the Hotel Star Rating System – an international practice – into Hong Kong, thus spurring local hotels to be on par with international standards. He founded and has been chairing the Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners. Under his chairmanship, he contributed significantly through offering proposals relating to the sustainable development of Hong Kong's hotel and tourism industry to the Government. Among Dr Lui's efforts, they have included advocating the concept of MICEE – the last "E" standing for Entertainment. This is an extension of original MICE acronym, which stands for Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions, encompassing entertainment, culture, hotel, catering, transportation and retail industries. The aforesaid proposal along with many others has proved invaluable to the long-term development of Hong Kong.

Dr Lui commits whole-heartedly to nurturing management professional for the local hotel and tourism industry. He strongly advocated and contributed to the establishment of the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at The Chinese University of Hong Kong along with the planning and construction of a teaching hotel by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His efforts have subsequently led to increased international recognition of Hong Kong's tertiary education, with respect to hospitality and tourism. Through Dr Lui's generous support, the two universities have enjoyed benefits ranging from the construction of academic buildings and establishment of scholarships to research and development programmes subsidy and facilities improvement. He has also encouraged the School of Hotel and Tourism Management of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University to keep abreast of technological and social development by opening creative modules such as hotel branding management and China hotel brand development. Today, the faculty is ranked second in the world, training countless talents that have gone on to contribute to the local industry.

Dr Lui is also highly concerned about information technology development. Since Hong Kong's early steps into the technology age, he established and chaired the China Association (H.K.) for Science and Society Limited, with the prime objective to serve as a platform for Hong Kong, China and international information technology communication and cooperation, thus facilitating economic and social development of Hong Kong and China.

While Dr Lui continues to develop his business, he has never forgotten to give back to the society, whether in Hong Kong or Mainland China. Over the past decades, he has embraced the principle of “What comes from the community is to be used for the community”, which he coined, and can be defined as serving the community by building a stable and prosperous society. He firmly believes that education is the key to building a strong nation, which explains why he is concerned about education in all its levels. For years, he has made generous donations to advancing education in Hong Kong and Mainland China, including supporting the Ministry of Education of the PRC to establish and renovate 122 primary and secondary schools; building the Lui Che Woo Law Library at The University of Hong Kong; opening various facilities at Fudan University, China Europe International Business School and University of Macau; and implementing initiatives aiming at enhancing campus facilities.

Dr Lui concluded, “Today, K. Wah Group has extended its business to major cities in Mainland China and overseas, yet Hong Kong remains our home – an important foundation for supporting our further growth. We therefore have utmost confidence in Hong Kong’s future. Moving forward, we will continue to make every effort towards fulfilling our commitment to society and to building a better tomorrow for the citizens of Hong Kong.”

-End-

Profile of Dr Lui Che Woo

GBM , MBE , JP , LLD , DSSc , DBA

Dr Lui Che Woo was born in Jiangmen, China in 1929; originally domiciled in Xinhui, Guangdong. He established the first K. Wah company in Hong Kong in the 1950s. He is currently Chairman of K. Wah Group. Its major member companies include K. Wah International Holdings Limited, K. Wah Construction Materials Limited, K. Wah Properties (Holdings) Limited and Stanford Hotels International Limited. Today, K. Wah Group has developed into a multinational conglomerate involved in construction materials, properties and hospitality, possessing over 200 subsidiaries, more than 20,000 employees globally and business interests around the world.

Dr Lui is a pioneer in the Hong Kong construction materials industry. He has been hailed as the “King of the Quarry”. In the 1960s, he embarked on property investments and set his sights on hotel development in 1980s. In early 1990s, Dr Lui further expanded his business into Mainland China. By 2002, he ventured into Macau’s gaming sector and is now one of six gaming concessionaries in the enclave, and aims to develop world class travel, leisure, shopping, meeting, convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities.

A distinguished philanthropist, Dr Lui has been particularly supportive of medical care, tertiary education, basic education and IT. He was Chairman of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals from 1981 to 1982. In 1996, he was the Chairman of China Association (H.K.) for Science and Society where his main duties included promoting the development and application of new high-technologies in Hong Kong, as well as facilitating technology exchanges and cooperation among Hong Kong, Mainland China and the world. In 1999, Dr Lui provided funds for the Stanford University Medical Centre, leading to the establishment of the Lui Che Woo Research Laboratory. He also holds important posts in various tertiary institutions, including Founding Honorary Patron of The University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development and Research; Member of the Board of Trustees of United College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Honorary Member of the Court of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Member of the Court of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Life Honorary Chairman of Wuyi University Board of Trustees; Honorary Dean of Business Faculty of Yangzhou University; and Member of the Board of Directors of Fudan University. In 2002, the Dr Lui Che Woo Awards for CUHK/Cornell Student Exchange Programme in Hospitality Management was established to facilitate academic exchanges by the School of Hotel and Tourism Management. In 2005, an initiative in support of the reconstruction and refurbishment of 122 schools in underprivileged regions across the Mainland was committed through The Ministry of Education. In 2006, a fund was set up at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for academic research and scholarship for outstanding students. In 2008, donations were pledged in support of Mainland university students in rural areas to complete their four-to five-year degree programmes via Virya Foundation, the building of the Lui Che Woo Building at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the renovation and expansion of a centenary building at Fudan University, and development of a new Beijing campus for the China Europe International Business School. In 2010, donations were made to The University of Hong Kong for the building of a law library in the Centennial Campus and to the University of Macau in support of new campus development in Hengqin, Zhuhai.

In recognition of his exemplary contributions to the community, Dr Lui was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire by The Queen (MBE) in 1982 and was appointed as a Justice of the Peace (JP) in 1986. In 1995, an asteroid discovered by the Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanjing was named "Lui Che Woo Star". Dr Lui was presented with the Outstanding Contribution Award in Guangzhou in 1996. Dr Lui was also awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa by the University of Victoria in 2001; the degree of Doctor of Social Science, honoris causa, by the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2002; an Honorary University Fellowship by the University of Hong Kong in 2002; the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws by Concordia University in 2004; and the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, honoris causa, by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In addition, Dr Lui was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) in 2005. In 2007, he was honoured as the Business Person of the Year in DHL/SCMP Hong Kong Business Awards and presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. In 2011, Dr Lui was presented the Diamond Award by Macau Tatler and the Lifetime Achievement Award by All Leaders Publication Group Limited, both in 2011. In 2012, Dr Lui was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the HKSAR Government for his significant contribution to Hong Kong.

As an outstanding and responsible citizen, Dr Lui was elected Committee Member of the 9th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a member of the Selection Committee for the First Term Chief Executive of the HKSAR, a representative of the Hotel Subsector to elect the First and Third Term Chief Executive and Member of Steering Committee on MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions).

About K. Wah Group

K. Wah Group was founded by Dr Lui Che Woo in 1955 and has been transformed into a multinational corporation. Its core businesses include properties development and investment, mega entertainment and leisure resort, hospitality and construction materials. The Group spans its business presence over Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Southeast Asia and major cities in the US. The Group includes two Hong Kong-listed flagships K. Wah International Holdings Limited ("KWIH"; HK stock code: 0173) and Galaxy Entertainment Group Limited ("GEG"; HK stock code: 0027). Other major subsidiaries include Stanford Hotels International Limited and K. Wah Construction Materials Limited and, for the US businesses, Stanford Hotels Corporation, Cresleigh Homes Corporation and Cresleigh Properties. To date, the Group has over 200 subsidiaries and 20,000 staff members worldwide.

Media Enquiries:

K. Wah International Holdings Limited

Dionne Kung Tel:(852) 2880 8271

Shelly Cheng Tel:(852) 2880 1853

Fax: (852) 2811 9710

Email: dionnekung@kwah.com

Email: shellycheng@kwah.com

Strategic Financial Relations Limited

Iris Lee Tel: (852) 2864 4829

Maggie Au Tel: (852) 2864 4815

Roby Lau Tel: (852) 2114 4950

Fax: (852) 2804 2789

Email: iris.lee@sprg.com.hk

Email: maggie.au@sprg.com.hk

Email: robby.lau@sprg.com.hk