

**KWIH proudly sponsors the inaugural performance
of “*The Chinese Orphan*” 《趙氏孤兒》
presented by Opera Hong Kong**

**A grand original opera by
National Centre for the Performing Arts of China
debuts in Hong Kong**

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**Promotes fusion of Chinese and Western cultures
bolsters local cultural and artistic development**

(Hong Kong, 24 March 2012) – **K. Wah International Holdings Limited** (“KWIH” or the “Group”) (stock code: 173) is proud to be the title sponsor of “*The Chinese Orphan*” 《趙氏孤兒》, which makes its debut in Hong Kong at the iconic Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre today. This splendid event is produced by National Centre for the Performing Arts of China (“NCPA”) and presented by Opera Hong Kong (“OHK”). KWIH is keen on supporting collaboration between Hong Kong and Mainland China in art and culture. As the title sponsor of “The Chinese Orphan”, the Group hopes to promote this distinctive art form to the community, manifesting Hong Kong’s stature as an international cosmopolitan city, and enrich the lives of residents in town.

Ahead of the opera’s premiere, a memorable toasting ceremony at the cocktail reception was officiated by Tung Chee Hwa, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, **Dr Che-woo Lui, Chairman of KWIH, and Mrs Lui**, Francis Lui, Paddy Lui, together with Chen Ping, President of NCPA; Edward Ho Sing Tin, Chairman of OHK; and Warren Mok Yao Hong, world renowned tenor and also the dominant cast of the show. A host of distinguished guests including York Chow, Secretary for Food and Health; Elsie Leung, Deputy Director of HKSAR Basic Law Committee; Walter Kwok, Non-Executive Director of Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited and Pansy Ho, Managing Director and Executive Director of Shun Tak Holdings Limited also joined the event.

As part of opening remarks during the opulent cocktail reception, **Dr Lui** said, “KWIH is honoured to be the title sponsor of this national-level masterpiece. The Group has always been committed to promoting development of local arts and culture and this includes enhancing the popularity of opera and encouraging more people to appreciate and be inspired by this elegant art form. We are therefore greatly delighted that OHK brings “*The Chinese Orphan*” as originally produced by NCPA to Hong Kong. This is truly a significant artistic and cultural exchange between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Presentation by this accomplished opera troupe in Hong Kong will not only allow local audiences to enjoy their brilliant performance, but also gain a greater appreciation of the spirit and value of traditional Chinese culture expressed through the medium of a Western opera, which is truly an innovative cultural convergence. Such is the reason why KWIH fully supports this marvellous presentation.”

"The Chinese Orphan" is one of the greatest stories themed with traditional Chinese culture, which has been enjoyed by readers of past and present. As produced by NCPA and presented in Hong Kong by OHK, the opera takes on a unique fusion of Western theatre and Eastern aesthetics which are splendidly revealed through the story and its characters. The production made its global premiere in June 2011 at the NCPA in Beijing and received overwhelming positive response from audiences. Within six months, *"The Chinese Orphan"* was performed on three occasions, which is unusually frequent for an original NCPA production. During this time, the opera received critical acclaim from aficionados around the world.

Dr Lui concluded, "KWIH is keen to introduce a variety of outstanding art and cultural activities to the community in order to provide a resplendent stage for artists to dream, aspire and take inspiration. It is my fondest wish to see still more world-class operas presented, and even produced in Hong Kong in the near future."

K. Wah Group has always been keen to promote development of arts and culture in the city. The Group has sponsored such outstanding and renowned operas as "Aïda" and "Turandot" in Hong Kong. The Group also partnered with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to present "K. Wah 50th Anniversary New Year's Gala Concert" in celebration of the Group's half century of service. In addition, the Group sponsored "The Three Families Alley" at the Shanghai Oriental Art Center in June 2011, helping promote and nurture Chinese opera in Eastern China.

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KWIH Proudly Sponsors the Hong Kong Premiere of "The Chinese Orphan" Presented by Opera Hong Kong
24 March 2012

Photo caption 1:



Dr Lui Che-woo, Chairman of KWIH, and Mrs Lui (Right 3 & 2), Francis Lui (Right 1), Paddy Lui (Left 2); Tung Chee Hwa, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (Right 4); Chen Ping, President of NCPA (Left 3), Edward Ho Sing Tin, Chairman of OHK (Left 4); and world renowned tenor Warren Mok Yao Hong (Left 1) gathered at the cocktail reception.

Photo caption 2:



"The Chinese Orphan" globally premiered in June 2011 at the NCPA in Beijing and received overwhelming praise from the media. Warren Mok plays the leading role Zhao Wu in the opera (Right in the photo)

About K. Wah International Holdings Limited (stock code: 173)

K. Wah International Holdings Limited, listed in Hong Kong in 1987, is the property flagship of K. Wah Group. KWIH aims at establishing a position of large-scale integrated property developer and investor in the Greater China region. With a property portfolio encompassing premium residential developments, Grade-A office towers, retail spaces, hotels and serviced apartments, KWIH has a presence in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Southeast Asia. Driven by a keen market sense and a versatile strategy, and backed by strong financial capability, KWIH has built up a sizeable and prime land reserve in major cities of China, and thus a strong foothold for future growth. KWIH has received several international accolades for its outstanding quality and service. Awarded Business Superbrands in the property development sector in 2006, KWIH was selected as of the High-Flyer Outstanding Enterprises in two consecutive years.

Company website: <http://www.kwih.com>

About Opera Hong Kong

Formed in July 2003 as a non-profit organisation, Opera Hong Kong is the first opera company established in Hong Kong. Since its inception, Opera Hong Kong has become a pillar of Hong Kong's cultural scene. To enhance the international image and cultural quality of society in Hong Kong, as well as cultivate local artists with potential, it aims to make opera enjoyable and easy to understand for the general public, especially the young, through a programme of educational and outreach activities.

About National Centre for the Performing Arts of China (NCPA)

National Centre for the Performing Arts of China is situated in Beijing and was completed in September 2007. The performances staged in NCPA include opera, ballet, symphony, Chinese traditional music, chamber music, solo, drama, Chinese traditional operas and large-scale singing and dancing show, etc. These performances are high in artistic value, diverse and highbrow. With the standpoint and pursuit of emphasising sophisticated arts as well as the mainstream cultures, In the past four years, NCPA has produced 21 resident repertoires, to name a few, including Peking Opera, western and Chinese opera, drama and dance drama.

About "The Chinese Orphan" produced by National Centre for the Performing Arts of China

"The Chinese Orphan" is a traditional story of Chinese opera which has been staged in performances since ancient times. This original opera is based on a story in the Spring and Autumn Period (BC 770-476), during which the evil high-ranking official Tu Angu manipulated the King into killing the loyal minister Zhao Dun and his whole family clan totalling some 300 people. "The Chinese Opera" produced by NCPA premiered at National Grand Theatre in Beijing in June 2011 to the acclaim of opera aficionados. It has been produced in a western opera form while presenting this famous traditional story with the essence and aesthetics of the Chinese spirit.

Media Enquiries:

K. Wah International Holdings Limited

Shelly Cheng	Tel:(852) 2880 1853	Email: shellycheng@kwah.com
Gloria Lam	Tel:(852) 2880 8264	Email: glorialam@kwah.com
Fax: (852) 2811 9710		

Strategic Financial Relations Limited

Iris Lee	Tel: (852) 2864 4829	Email: iris.lee@sprg.com.hk
Maggie Au	Tel: (852) 2864 4815	Email: maggie.au@sprg.com.hk
Roby Lau	Tel: (852) 2114 4950	Email: robby.lau@sprg.com.hk
Samantha Yeung	Tel: (852) 2114 4953	Email: samantha.yeung@sprg.com.hk
Fax: (852) 2804 2789		