

Press Release

William E. Heinecke Named HOTELS Magazine's Corporate Hotelier of the World 2017

Bangkok, 20 November 2017: HOTELS magazine has celebrated its annual Hotelier of the World Awards, with William E. Heinecke, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Minor International, being named Corporate Hotelier of the World for 2017.

Nominated as one of four finalists in the Corporate Hotelier category, Heinecke proudly accepted the award at a gala event in New York, where HOTELS celebrated both their Corporate and Independent Hotelier of The World award winners.

From humble beginnings in Thailand, Heinecke has spearheaded the growth of Minor Hotels, a hotel owner, operator and investor, which now boasts an impressive portfolio of innovative brands spanning over 150 hotels and resorts in 24 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Africa and the Indian Ocean, with a pipeline already in place to venture into new destinations such as Mauritius, Tunisia, South Korea and more.

In this highly prestigious individual accolade, the self-taught and self-made billionaire was applauded for his life-long accomplishments, his pioneering, competitive and entrepreneurial spirit, as well as his passion of making a difference in Thailand and beyond.

Commenting on the award, Heinecke said, *"I am truly honoured and humbled to receive this award and to have my name added to the incredible list of previous winners, a true roll-call of industry leaders and pioneers. I'm thrilled to play a role in such a dynamic industry. I'm still constantly learning, finding new ways of growing our business and to do it better – I certainly have no plans to hand over the reins at Minor just yet."*

In his acceptance speech to an audience of the industry's elite, Heinecke spoke of how the creation of Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas is the realisation of a life-long dream that reflects his personal appreciation for authentic luxury in unique destinations. Heinecke's private passions are also richly evident in Minor's charitable endeavours, most notably the Heinecke Foundation's educational sponsorship of underprivileged children and the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation's efforts to help Thailand's elephant population, as well as to support wider environmental and community outreach programmes. Minor Hotels' success plays a vital role in the evolution of the hospitality industry on a global platform, and looking to the future, Heinecke lauded the passion and dedication of the people he works with.

HOTELS magazine and www.hotelsmag.com have been one of the leading sources of news and analysis for the global hotel industry for more than 45 years, currently reaching over 90,000 hotel professionals in more than 160 countries. The magazine has been naming its Hotelier of the Year since the early eighties, with the list of previous winners reading like a roll-call of the hospitality industry.

Editor's Notes

About Minor Hotels:

Minor Hotels is an international hotel owner, operator and investor currently with 156 hotels in operation. Minor Hotels passionately explores new possibilities in hospitality with a diverse portfolio of properties designed intelligently to appeal to different kinds of travellers, serving new passions as well as personal needs. Through our Anantara, AVANI, Oaks, Elewana, Tivoli, Four Seasons, St. Regis, Marriott and Minor International properties, Minor Hotels operates in 24 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Europe and South America.

With dynamic plans to expand existing brands and explore strategic acquisitions throughout opportunistic markets, Minor Hotels pursues a vision of a more passionate and interconnected world. For more information, please visit www.minorhotels.com.

About Global Hotel Alliance:

Global Hotel Alliance (GHA) is the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands, bringing together 35 brands with 550 hotels in 76 countries. GHA uses a shared technology platform to drive incremental revenues and create cost savings for its member brands. GHA's award-winning loyalty programme, DISCOVERY, provides nearly 10 million members exclusive opportunities to immerse themselves in local culture wherever they travel. For more information, visit gha.com

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