

Biography



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Ho Kwon Ping

Chairman, Wah-Chang Group, Thai Wah Plc and Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc

Ho Kwon Ping is the founder of Laguna Phuket. It was his vision, imagination and determination that converted the ravaged wasteland of a disused tin mine into Asia's most successful integrated resort with a string of environmental awards to its credit.

Mr. Ho was born in Hong Kong and spent his childhood in Thailand. He later studied at Tunghai University, Taiwan; Stanford University in California and the University of Singapore, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1978.

After graduation Mr. Ho became a television news producer for the then Singapore Broadcasting Corporation. He then took up the position as Singapore correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. After four years he was promoted to Economics Editor and Bureau Chief of the magazine in Hong Kong. In 1980 he joined Wah-Chang Hong Kong as Vice President and in 1981 he transferred to Wah-Chang Singapore as Executive Director and Senior Vice President.

Mr. Ho has since become Chairman of the Wah-Chang and Thai Wah Groups and the publicly listed Laguna Resorts & Hotels. Mr. Ho leads the diversification program that has established the companies as regional conglomerates with operations and interests throughout Asia Pacific. Through Mr. Ho's leadership, the group is now one of the leading investors in the leisure/tourism industry in the Asia Pacific region.

Mr. Ho has various academic and cultural interests and affiliations in the arts, environment, education, economics, finance, trade and industry. He has co-authored several books dealing with economic development of the ASEAN and other Asia Pacific countries.

Mr. Ho is Chairman of Singapore Management University, Board Director of Singapore Airlines Limited and Main Board Director with the Standard Chartered Bank Plc. He is also Member of the Asia Pacific Council (The Nature Conservancy), Board Member of Singapore Tourism Board and Member of the INSEAD International Council, among others.

Mr. Ho shares his many interests and achievements with his family – wife Claire Chiang and his two sons and daughter. Ms. Chiang is involved in the family business as Executive Director of Banyan Tree Gallery, the retail arm of the Banyan Tree Group.

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Note to the Editor

Laguna Phuket is Asia's leading resort destination comprising five deluxe hotels: Banyan Tree Phuket, Dusit Laguna Resort, Laguna Beach Resort, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket and Allamanda Laguna Phuket, which all share 600 acres of tropical parkland and three kilometres of beach frontage with the Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Canal Shopping Village, Banyan Tree Spa, four Angsana Spas, Laguna Wedding Chapel and Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure, a leading corporate training and outdoor recreation facility.