

**For Immediate Release**

19 May 2006  
Phuket, Thailand

## LAGUNA PHUKET FAREWELLS MD JAMES BATT

**Phuket, 19 May 2006** – After ten successful years of service at Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Company Limited (LRH), Managing Director, James Batt, will depart at the end of this month to take up a new position in San Diego, California.

During his speech delivered at the company farewell celebration held this week, Laguna Resorts & Hotels' Chairman, Ho Kwon Ping commented that "since he joined us in 1995, James has been instrumental in turning Laguna Phuket into a popular travel destination. He has my deepest gratitude as one of the long-serving directors of Laguna Phuket, sharing a common vision to turn a deserted tin mine into the vibrant property that is Laguna Phuket today. We will miss his familiar presence and firm guiding hand, but we wish James and his family all the best in this new and exciting chapter of their life."

Mr. Michael R. Ayling has been appointed as Mr. Batt's successor. Mr. Ayling is currently Deputy Managing Director Laguna Phuket and Vice President – Finance, as well as an Executive Director on LRH's Board of Directors and a Director of all of LRH subsidiaries.

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**(From left) Laguna Resorts & Hotels' Surapon Supratya, Group Managing Director; Michael Ayling, Deputy Managing Director - Laguna Phuket; Patricia Ayling; Claire Chang, Managing Director Banyan Tree Gallery; Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman; James Batt, Managing Director - Laguna Phuket; Angie Batt and Ho Kwoncjan, Managing Director- Design Services, at a farewell party for James Batt at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.**

High resolution image available at <http://www.lagunaresorts.com/~ftpdm/Pictures/Farewellparty.jpg>.

**Note to the Editor**

Laguna Phuket is Asia's finest destination resort 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.