

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **IREKA'S GROUP GM, LEONARD YEE, HONOURED IN ASIA PACIFIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS 2009**

*Kuala Lumpur, 20 August 2009:* **Ireka Corporation Berhad's** Group General Manager, **Leonard Yee** was declared as one of the winners in the **Most Promising Entrepreneurship Category**, under the prestigious **Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards (APEA) 2009 Malaysia**. The prestigious Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards is a world-class award recognising and honouring business leaders who have shown outstanding performance and tenacity in contributing to the growth of their organisation and their employees.

Leonard Yee, aged 45, has been a dynamic and effective force within Ireka since joining the Group in 2000. The Board's confidence in Leonard is reflected in his extensive portfolio within the Group which includes being Senior Vice President of Strategy and Operations for Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd as well as CEO of two IT subsidiaries, Ireka iCapital Sdn Bhd and i-Tech Network Solutions Sdn Bhd.

Leonard was one of the key drivers behind the listing of Aseana Properties Limited on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange in April 2007 – a first, for a Malaysian property developer. This has paved the way for Ireka to further develop and expand its brand and business interests internationally. Leonard's working experiences in the business environments of both London and New York have sharpened his leadership abilities to work successfully and seamlessly in both the Western and Asian cultures.

Another of Leonard's achievements for the Group is the setting up of i-Tech Network Solutions Sdn Bhd ('i-Tech'), because he saw a potential in the market to provide IT networking solutions. This diversification was a departure for a construction and property development company like Ireka. Since its inception in 2003, i-Tech has achieved many awards and honours under the leadership of Leonard.

Staff development, investment in people and maximisation of individuals' potential within Ireka are Leonard's determined passions. For the first time in the company's history, he initiated and set up the maiden Ireka Toastmasters Club\* in June 2008 and had since led the Club to achieve numerous recognitions and successes. For this, Leonard was recognised for his role as the President of the Toastmasters Club 08/09 recently by Toastmasters International Division W Governor 2008-9, Dr Sharon Tong, ACB, ALS.

*\* Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organisation that operates clubs worldwide for the purpose of helping members improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills through tailor-made programmes.*

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According to Ireka's Group Managing Director, Mr Lai Siew Wah, *"Staff members in the Group have always valued Leonard as an inspirational team member who is not afraid of challenge and learns through being challenged himself. I am well aware of and pleased to note that the Toastmasters Club has instilled confidence in many of its members, employees of Ireka, particularly for those whom English is not their preferred language. The forming of friendships and bonding between staff from different divisions is also an immeasurable result."*

In his acceptance speech during the award presentation on 20<sup>th</sup> August, Leonard says, *"I am truly humbled by this award because to attain peer and industry recognition is the ultimate accolade for me. I could not have achieved this without the dedication and hard work of my Ireka colleagues, to whom I am indebted and I would like to take this opportunity to pay my personal tribute to them."*

The Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards have been organized in Malaysia for three years. Besides Malaysia's Ministry of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development (MECD), the Awards are also supported by the Malaysia International Chamber of Commerce (MICC), the Bankers Institute Malaysia (IBBM), New Straits Times Press, NTV7, SME Magazine and Focus Media as media partners. Panel of Judges for APEA consists of an Advisors and International Advisory Panel, made up of prominent leaders in Asia Pacific, industry leaders in the government and in the corporate sector.

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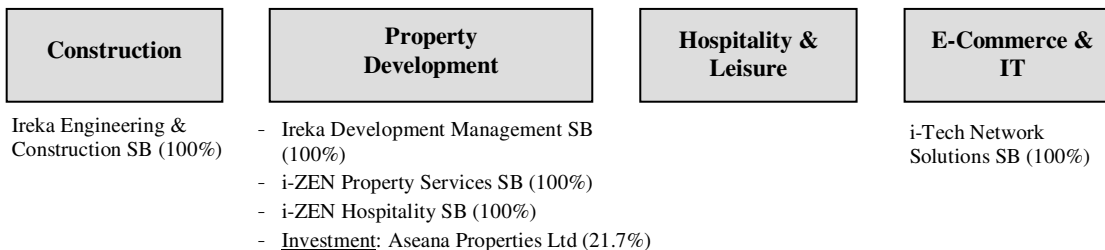


**Leonard says, *"I do not have a monopoly on knowledge and I learn a lot from the people around me, so that we work as a team to outgrow individual performance and make success a reality."***

## About Ireka Corporation Berhad

**Ireka Corporation Berhad** ('Ireka') [www.ireka.com.my](http://www.ireka.com.my) was founded in 1967. Ireka was listed on the Second Board of Bursa Malaysia on 12 July 1993, and transferred to the Main Board on 13 June 2002. Currently, the Group's activities are divided into four core businesses; namely **Construction, Property Development, Hospitality & Leisure, and E-Commerce & IT.**

*Note: The diagram below indicates key entities only.*



In its over four decades of operation in the **Construction** business, Ireka has distinguished itself by its involvement in the construction of some of the country's most notable projects; such as the Kuala Lumpur International Airport runway, Kuala Lumpur Middle-Ring Road II, North-South Expressway, Putrajaya Government Administrative Offices, Digi Corporate Office (D'House), Technology Park Malaysia and The Westin Kuala Lumpur.

In the **Property Development** business, Ireka began acquiring landbank in Mont' Kiara since 1990s, which enabled the Group to undertake property development activities throughout 1990s and 2000s. Ireka had successfully initiated the listing of a property company, Aseana Properties Limited ('Aseana') [www.aseanaproperties.com](http://www.aseanaproperties.com), on the London Stock Exchange on 5 April 2007, and injected its two property subsidiaries into Aseana. Ireka currently holds a 19.6% stake in Aseana. This move has allowed Ireka to undertake property development activities in Malaysia and Vietnam through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd ('IDM'), which is the exclusive Development Manager for Aseana. Current property development projects managed by IDM include Tiffani by i-ZEN, One Mont' Kiara, SENI Mont' Kiara, Sandakan Harbour Square (Phase 3 & 4) as well as several developments in Vietnam. Some of the completed projects undertaken by Ireka previously include i-ZEN@Villa Aseana, i-ZEN@Kiara II, i-ZEN@Kiara I, Luyang Perdana (Kota Kinabalu) and Sandakan Harbour Square (Phase 1 & 2).

Building on its much-celebrated **i-ZEN** ([www.i-zen.com.my](http://www.i-zen.com.my)) brand of luxury properties in Malaysia, the Group's property development activities are also strongly supported by its property management arm, through i-ZEN Hospitality Sdn Bhd, which manages completed properties. i-ZEN Property Services Sdn Bhd undertakes sales and marketing as well as leasing services for completed i-ZEN properties.

Within the Group's **Hospitality & Leisure** business, it has previously developed, owned and managed The Westin Kuala Lumpur, an international 5-star award-winning hotel. The Westin Kuala Lumpur was opened in September 2003 and has won many highly coveted awards such as FIABCI Malaysia Property Awards 2005 (*Hotel Development category*), Prix d'Excellence Award 2006 (*Best Hotel & Resort category*) and Hospitality Asia Platinum Awards 2005 – 2006 (*The Award for Excellence – Best New Hotel*). Through The Westin Kuala Lumpur, Ireka has built on its expertise to manage serviced residences in the highest level of standards. The 443-room Westin Kuala Lumpur was sold in early 2007 for a record price of about RM1 million per room.

Ireka's **Information Technology** arm, i-Tech Network Solutions Sdn Bhd (i-Tech) [www.itns.com.my](http://www.itns.com.my), focuses on the provision of IT networking solutions, that enables business operations to be conducted in an efficient and optimum manner. Established since 2003, i-Tech has grown immensely throughout the years and formed strong alliances and partnerships with worldwide-recognised Software and Hardware principals. In recognition of these strategic partnerships, i-Tech has been conferred with numerous "Preferred Partner Award" status. With the support of its vast range of quality products and customer-centric services, i-Tech has also embarked into professional consultancy as the key business driver, providing network and security solutions that are customised to each customer's unique business requirements.