

# BIG

*Asia Tatler spotlights the movers and shakers that have made a mark on the region in the past 12 months. From philanthropists to captains of industry, these are the people to know*

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## Kwek Leng Beng

### SINGAPORE

With a take-charge attitude and remarkable business acumen, Kwek Leng Beng has led City Developments Limited to become Southeast Asia's second-largest listed property developer. As its executive chairman, Kwek leads the international real estate conglomerate that has a market capitalisation of US\$8.5 billion. Even at 69 years old, Kwek shows no signs of slowing down. Today, the CDL portfolio in Singapore is bulging with 22,000 luxurious homes and is a major landlord, owning more than 4.2 million square feet of office, industrial, retail and residential space. Its London-listed subsidiary Millennium & Copthorne Hotels currently owns, asset-manages or operates more than 120 hotels, with plans to expand in the Middle East and China. In 2010, CDL launched its newest boutique hotel in Singapore, Studio M Hotel, as well as The Residences at W Singapore Sentosa Cove. Currently in the works is the US\$3 billion South Beach, a development that Kwek envisages as being one of CDL's most iconic projects.

## Kamala Sukosol

### THAILAND

Kamala Sukosol is a businesswoman and hotelier who has the heart of an artist. For the past three decades she has single-handedly run her group of three hotels – two in Pattaya and one in Bangkok, with plans for another underway. She has also raised four talented children, who have inherited her gift for singing and performing. Her annual charity concerts have raised many hundreds of million baht for the less privileged and have earned her a place on the *Forbes* list of Asia's 48 Heroes of Philanthropy in 2009.

Although in her early 70s, she is tireless and even those half her age struggle to keep up with her. She may have handed over some of the day-to-day responsibilities to her children, but she remains very much in charge. This darling of the international diplomatic corps is high on the list of those to know for incoming ambassadors, most of whom will at some time or other be entertained at her home. These events, catered by her Siam City hotel, will usually end with a performance by Kamala and members of her family.

From top businessmen to politicians and aristocrats, they all consider her a friend. And not just in Thailand. She is also president or past president of international associations such as the Thai-Moroccan Friendship Association, Advisory Board of the Spanish Alumni Association and American University Alumni Association.

