



## JNA Awards 2018 draws record number of entries

127 submissions across 12 categories from 16 countries and regions

HONG KONG, 24 May 2018 – The seventh edition of the JNA Awards, one of the most rigorous and prestigious awards programmes in the international jewellery and gemstone industry, is proud to announce that a record-breaking number of 127 entries across 12 categories had been received. Fifty-six of those submissions were received from companies participating the Awards for the first time.

Organised by UBM Asia, the JNA Awards recognises, celebrates and encourages best business practices, excellence and innovation in the international jewellery and gemstone industry.

Entries from 16 countries and regions, namely Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Vietnam were received.

The categories with the most number of entries were the Industry Innovation of the Year with 34 entries, and Brand of the Year – Retail with 16 submissions.

Wolfram Diener, Senior Vice President of UBM Asia, shared, “We are delighted that the Awards has been drawing the participation of some of the most talented individuals, teams and enterprises within the trade. Our mission has always been to elevate our industry by showcasing companies that have grown their businesses through best practices.”

Letitia Chow, Chairperson of the JNA Awards, Founder of *JNA*, and Director of Business Development – Jewellery Group at UBM Asia, remarked, “This is yet another record-breaking year for the JNA Awards. This year, impressively, more than 40 percent of the entries were submitted by first-time entrants. We are also glad to see past honourees continue to challenge themselves and participate in the Awards’ seventh edition with new ideas and innovations.”

The JNA Awards 2018 is supported by Headline Partners Chow Tai Fook and the Shanghai Diamond Exchange, together with Honoured Partners KGK Group, Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange, and Guangdong Land Holdings Limited.

The Honourees or shortlisted entrants will be announced on 21 June 2018 at the June Hong Kong Jewellery & Gem Fair.

For more information, visit <http://www.JNAawards.com/> or contact:

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## Notes for Editors:

### 1. About the Headline Partner

#### 1.1 Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Limited ([www.chowtaifook.com](http://www.chowtaifook.com))

Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Limited (the "Group"; SEHK stock code: 1929) was listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in December 2011.

Founded in 1929, the Group's iconic brand "Chow Tai Fook" has been widely recognised for its trustworthiness and authenticity, and is renowned for its product design, quality and value. The success of the Group and its iconic brand is rooted in innovation, craftsmanship and heritage. The Group also holds other jewellery brands including CHOW TAI FOOK T MARK, Hearts On Fire, MONOLOGUE and SOINLOVE, which are the first examples of a long term multi-brand strategy rollout.

The Group's commitment to sustainable growth is anchored in its "Smart+" strategy, which is in place to promote long term innovation in the business, in people and in culture. Another asset underpinning sustainable growth is a sophisticated vertically integrated business model. This supports the Group by fostering excellence and extending opportunities along the entire value chain to communities and industry partners.

With an extensive retail network in Greater China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and the United States, and a fast-growing e-commerce business, the Group is implementing effective online-to-offline ("O2O") strategies to succeed in today's omni-channel retail environment.

#### 1.2 Shanghai Diamond Exchange ([www.cnsde.com](http://www.cnsde.com))

Authorised by the State Council, the Shanghai Diamond Exchange (SDE) is the only diamond exchange in China and provides diamond dealers a fair and safe transaction venue under close supervision. It also enjoys a favourable taxation policy and is operated in accordance with international best practices of the diamond industry.

Established in 2000, the SDE is a non-profit, self-regulating membership organisation and a member of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses.

### 2. About the Honoured Partners

#### 2.1 KGK Group ([www.kgkgroup.com](http://www.kgkgroup.com))

The KGK Group was founded in 1905 by Kesrimal Kothari and Ghisilal Kothari of Jaipur (India), with the humble task of trading gemstones between India and Burma. With a global presence across 19 countries today, the privately held group has evolved into one of the most preferred brands in the gemstone and jewellery industry, with a





vertically integrated operation that spans the entire supply chain from mines to brands. KGK is one of the few conglomerates covering the entire spectrum of mining, sourcing, manufacturing and distribution of coloured gemstones, diamonds and jewellery for over a century. KGK Group has a resilient team of 12,000 employees with operations and offices in Asia, Australia, North and South America, Europe and Africa. Having achieved an impeccable reputation in the gemstone, diamond and jewellery trade, the group has recently diversified into real estate.

## **2.2 The Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange (<http://en.gdgje.com/>)**

Founded in February 2016, the Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange is one of two provincial jewellery trading platforms authorised by the People's Government of Guangdong Province.

Aggregating resources from key industrial hubs across Guangdong including Guangzhou, Pingzhou of Foshan, Yangmei of Jieyang and Sihui of Zhaoqing, the Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange joins hands with world-renowned jewellery brands in setting up an international supply chain integrated service platform that offers a secure and convenient trading experience for domestic and overseas jewellers.

The Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange is set to benefit China's jewellery industry in a variety of areas, such as the promotion of a healthier and more balanced international division of labour, foreign trade development, cross-border resource management and consumer market growth. As part of this effort, it will take full advantage of the base and influence of Guangdong's jewellery industry and the benefits stemming from the Belt and Road Initiative to establish linkages with national and global gemstone and jewellery markets.

## **2.3 The Guangdong Land Holdings Limited ([www.gdland.com.hk](http://www.gdland.com.hk))**

The Guangdong Land Holdings Limited (GDLAND), with its headquarters in Hong Kong, is listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, and is a subsidiary of GDH Limited, which is Guangdong Province's largest conglomerate operating outside Mainland China.

The principal business of GDLAND is property development and investment, including but not limited to the development and operational management of the innovative commercial real estate, urban complex and industrial business complex. As the strategic arm of GDH Limited, GDLAND engages in the business development of commercial real estate, as well as urban and industrial complex projects.

GDLAND's flagship project, namely the "Buxin Project," is planned to become the biggest and most advanced jewellery mart in the world, including a large-scale jewellery trading and exhibition centre along with other facilities, with a lot size of over 87,000 square metres and a construction scale (floor area) that is projected to exceed 700,000 square metres. The Buxin Project, which is located in the Buxin area of Luohu district in



Central Shenzhen, close to the Shuibei Gold and Jewellery Base, is expected to develop the area into one of the most influential gold and jewellery trading and exchange platforms in China and around the world.

**3. About UBM Asia ([www.ubmasia.com](http://www.ubmasia.com))**

Owned by UBM plc listed on the London Stock Exchange, UBM Asia is the largest events organiser in Asia, India and SE Asia. We are also the leading commercial organiser in China. Established with its headquarters in Hong Kong and subsidiary companies across Asia and in the US, UBM Asia has a strong global presence in 25 major cities with 31 offices and over 1,600 employees.

With a track record spanning over 30 years, UBM Asia operates in 11 market sectors with over 290 events, 28 targeted trade publications, 18 round-the-clock online products for over 2,000,000 quality exhibitors, visitors, conference delegates, advertisers and subscribers from all over the world. We provide a one-stop diversified global service for high-value business matching, quality market news and online trading networks.

JNA Awards is organised by UBM plc. UBM is the largest pure-play B2B Events organiser in the world. Our 3,750+ people, based in more than 20 countries, serve more than 50 different sectors. Our deep knowledge and passion for these sectors allow us to create valuable experiences which enable our customers to succeed. Please visit [www.ubm.com](http://www.ubm.com) for the latest news and information about UBM.

**4. About JNA ([www.jewellerynewsasia.com](http://www.jewellerynewsasia.com))**

JNA is the flagship market intelligence platform of UBM Asia's Jewellery Group. First published in 1983, the title is the leader in providing up-to-date international jewellery trade news with an Asian insight. It features original, in-depth reports by experienced journalists covering the latest developments in the diamond, pearl, coloured gemstone, jewellery manufacturing, and equipment and supplies sectors.