

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Esplanade CEO Benson Puah Chosen As Chair-Elect Of ISPA

Puah will be first Asian to head the International Society for the Performing Arts

SINGAPORE, March 27, 2006 – The Esplanade Co Ltd announced today its CEO Benson Puah has been chosen to serve as Chair-Elect of the board of directors for the International Society for the Performing Arts Foundation (ISPA), the international organisation founded in 1949, comprising over 600 performing arts professionals from over 50 countries around the world.

A member of the ISPA board of directors since 1999, Puah will serve as Chair-Elect for 2006/2007. His term began at the close of the 2006 Annual Congress in New York. At the same time, the former Chair-Elect Martha Jones, President & Executive Director of Celebrity Series of Boston Inc, began her term as Chair of ISPA.

"Having Benson Puah serve as Chair-Elect during my tenure gives me great comfort," said Jones. "Benson and I share similar leadership styles, and he is also a man of great personal and professional integrity, which I believe is integral in running an international association such as ISPA. I look forward to working with him over the next two years."

Puah was the first Asian elected to an executive position on ISPA's board of directors. He was elected Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee in 2002, and Secretary in 2004. He is currently Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and Chairman of the Programme Committee. Upon confirmation, he will be the first Asian to head the board.

As CEO of Esplanade, one of the world's busiest performing arts centres, he is responsible for the overall development, management and programming direction of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Under his leadership, Esplanade opened to international acclaim on 12 October 2002, and has attracted more than seven million visitors in the past year, and hosted more than 1,800 performances in the same period.

Puah also chairs the Association of Asia Pacific Performing Arts Centres (AAPPAC), an association comprising 39 arts centres and arts organisations from 16 countries that is focused on establishing the Asia-Pacific Region as a leading force in the performing arts. Esplanade is a founding member of AAPPAC, and has been actively contributing to the society from its inception. In 2004 the AAPPAC Secretariat moved from Sydney, Australia to Singapore, and is now based at Esplanade.

Puah is a frequent consultant to arts centres in the region and to arts leaders seeking a perspective on the industry in Asia. He is also a member of various Boards and committees, including the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, SISTIC, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Urban Redevelopment Authority's programme for Architecture-Urban Design Excellence and the Sports Hub Advisory Panel. He chairs the Singapore Internationale Advisory Panel, and is a strong advocate of education - he is actively involved in a number of educational institutions and is a member of the Ministry of Education's Arts Education Council.

A former hotelier, Puah entered the arts after 20 years in hospitality and the public sector. He has pioneered projects for leading hotel companies in the major US, European and Asian cities, and was Chief Executive of Sentosa Development Corporation. Prior to joining Esplanade, he was Chief Executive of Temasia Health.

About Esplanade – Theatres On The Bay

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is one of the world's busiest arts centres, officially opened on 12 October 2002. This architectural icon with its distinctive twin shells, is sited within Singapore's civic district, just by Marina Bay at the mouth of the Singapore River.

Esplanade aims to be a performing arts centre for everyone, and its programmes cater to its diverse audiences. Its programme line-up spans all genres to encompass music, dance, theatre and visual arts, with a special emphasis on Asian culture.

Esplanade houses world-class performance spaces, supported by a comprehensive range of professional support facilities and services. Its two main venues are the 1,600-seat Concert Hall, with acoustics by Russell Johnson of ARTEC Consultants, and the 2,000-seat theatre, an adaptation of traditional European opera houses in horseshoe form.

In the past year, Esplanade has welcomed over seven million visitors and presented more than 1,800 performances.

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