

Newsbites



MARIONNAUD CONCEPT STORE

FRANCE Marionnaud has unveiled an elegant test concept store in Rungis, France. Designed by French architect Philippe Kauffmann, the store conceptualises beauty, well being, elegance and pleasure, using a new logo and modern colour codes. Marionnaud also sponsored the famous French trotting race Prix d'Amérique-Marionnaud. **R**



First for Cite

TAIWAN Cite Publishing, TOM Group's publishing arm, is expanding its business to include an electronic platform. The company is developing a digital Chinese language book content search engine with Google Book Search, the first of its kind in the market.

TOM Group has also acquired a leading social networking Website, Pixnet Digital Media, which offers blogging, photo and online community services in Taiwan. **I**

Absolutely Dental

HONG KONG As part of its festive programmes, Wonderful Worlds of Whampoa invited one of "China's 10 Most Extraordinary Men", Guo Guozhi from Chongqing, to make his debut performance in Hong Kong. His spectacular act of using his teeth to lift 12 benches weighing more than 30 kilogrammes stunned the audience. **H**



ROYAL VOTE OF THANKS

NETHERLANDS Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands thanks A S Watson Group Managing Director Dominic Lai for drugstore Kruidvat's EUR2.25 million (HKD23.4 million) donation to the Groningen Expert Center for Kids with Obesity. One out of 10 children in the Netherlands is overweight. **R**

Irish Victory

IRELAND 3 scored a PR victory over O₂ by ambushing its rival's sponsorship of the rugby union international between Ireland and England in Dublin. Guerilla tactics included beaming a massive projection of the 3 logo on buildings, using clean graffiti logos all over town and providing 3 merchandise for Irish rugby supporters.

Rachel Channing, Head of PR for 3 Ireland, said, "3 was behind the Irish team all the way whilst O₂ hedged their bets with sponsorship of both Ireland and England. 3 made great inroads into winning Irish hearts and minds on the day and also generated some great publicity and word of mouth." **T**



Taking the Initiative

HONG KONG Hutchison Port Holdings (HPH) has endorsed the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Co-chaired by the governments of the United States and Russia, the initiative leverages public-private partnerships to deter the shipment of nuclear materials and weapons through the global transportation supply chain, especially the maritime shipping network.

"The Global Initiative is a perfect example of how public-private partnerships can make the world's supply chain more safe from the threat of nuclear terrorism," said John Meredith, Group Managing Director of HPH. "The fact that 13 countries, including Russia, China, the United Kingdom and the United States, are actively working together in this initiative is a testament to its importance." **P**

SPORTING CHANCE

HONG KONG The A.S.

Watson Group Hong Kong Student Sports Awards recognised a

total of 768 talented student athletes who will be offered the chance to attend two leadership-training workshops; 30 outstanding students will be selected for an exchange tour to Beijing to learn more about the 2008 Olympics. **R**



METRO CELEBRATES

HONG KONG Metro Finance celebrated its sixth anniversary by staging a brand award presentation ceremony to recognise leading brands in different industry sectors. Metro Finance also announced that it was teaming up with Shanghai CBN Radio to broadcast a new financial programme called HK-SH Market Update. **I**



Spirit of 3



The Spirit of 3

AUSTRALIA 3 Australia has launched its new community programme, "Spirit of 3", to help staff make a difference to four charities – Cystic Fibrosis, Youth off the Streets, SANE Australia and the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. Staff can volunteer to help, donate money straight from their pay packets or put spare change into Priscilla the Pig. **T**



CONGRATULATIONS!

3 UK's Window's Live Messenger™ service won the Best Mobile Messaging Service award at the prestigious 3GSM Awards.



BUSINESS BOOST

HONG KONG The Kowloon Hotel has completed the renovation and upgrading of its business centre. Computers with new LCD monitors,

wireless broadband Internet access with full VPN support, interpretation, translation and secretarial services are now available. The hotel is also offering a popular 10 pm to midnight supper buffet to better serve the late crowd. **H**

WHITE ROSE BLOOMS

CANADA Husky Energy is increasing production at the White Rose oil field, 350 kilometres southeast of St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The company has received regulatory approval for production rate increases at the oil field from the current reservoir capacity of 125,000 barrels per day to 140,000 barrels per day.

In another development, Husky has reached an agreement to pay Valero Energy USD1.9 billion for a refinery in Lima, Ohio. Marking Husky's expansion into the US, the refinery will help it process oil-sands crude. **I**



Great Gifts

HONG KONG Nuance-Watson (HK) has introduced an innovative promotion concept, The Gift Avenue, at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). The concept was introduced to promote the revamped food and souvenir section at its mega department store, The Plaza.



Meanwhile, Nuance-Watson (HK) and La Prairie officially unveiled the brand's travel retail flagship counter at HKIA's premier beauty megastore, Temptation Duty Free. An elegant treatment cabin allows travellers to pamper themselves with a range of complimentary travel treatments. Hans Roth, the Consul General of Switzerland, attended the opening. **R**



Indonesia Debut

INDONESIA Hutchison Telecommunications International Limited (HTIL) has launched its mobile operation in Indonesia. PT Hutchison CP Telecom, a partnership with the Charoen Pokphand Group, provides mobile services under the 3 brand in Indonesia. **T**

Done Deal

INDIA HTIL has completed the sale of Hutchison Essar to Vodafone. The pre-tax gain from the sale is expected to be approximately USD9 billion (HKD70 billion) and the board has declared a special dividend of HKD6.75 per share.

HTIL Chairman Canning Fok thanked the management and staff at Hutchison Essar and other partners in India for their contribution over the years to building the company into a world-class enterprise. **T**



TECH HEAVEN IN VEGAS

UNITED STATES The 2007 International CES Exhibition in Las Vegas is the world's largest consumer technology tradeshow, attracting more than 140,000 people and 2,700 exhibitors. i.Tech, the technology division of Hutchison Harbour Ring, took the opportunity to showcase its new models of user-friendly Bluetooth headsets, such as Clip D (a headset with OLED display) and Clip Radio (a Bluetooth stereo headset with built-in FM radio function). **I**



OMAN CELEBRATION

OMAN Oman International Container Terminal (OICT) celebrated the opening of its Terminal B, Phase I at the Port of Sohar, Oman. OICT is a joint venture between Hutchison Port Holdings, the Government of Oman, Steinweg of the Netherlands and three other Omani investors. Terminal B, Phase I has a total quay length of 285 metres and a depth alongside of 16.5 metres. **P**

Health Tonic

NETHERLANDS Kruidvat, the first chain in the Netherlands to offer health insurance products, has taken the concept a stage further by introducing a Standard Health Insurance policy and supplementary packages. **R**



Going Global

HONG KONG PARKnSHOP International, a new concept designed to celebrate the international flavours of everyday life, has opened in Happy Valley. The one-stop store is packed with items from every corner of the world, offering the very best from East and West and everywhere in between. The store offers more than 1,000 environmentally friendly and organic products, including breakfast cereals, vegetables and snacks. **R**



VIPs' Delight

CHINA Chongqing Cape Coral, a new residential project featuring Italian landscapes, held a party called "Italo Fiesta" that attracted about 1,000 VIP guests. The event included a fashion show featuring leading brands DKNY, Swarovski and Alexandre, and a talk show with famous models and former Miss Hong Kong Ada Choi. **H**

GOING WELL

CHINA The Greenwich, Xian has received a warm response from property buyers during its VIP launch. Phase one of the Hutchison Whampoa Property Group's flagship project in the city comprises medium-rise apartments and deluxe townhouses. **H**



NEW STORES

AUSTRIA Customers helped to celebrate the opening of two new 3Stores in Austria, one in Vienna and the other in Villach. **T**



Network Online

UNITED KINGDOM 3 UK has announced a groundbreaking partnership with social networking gateway provider Inter-casting that allows users access to a selection of well-known online communities from their mobile handsets.

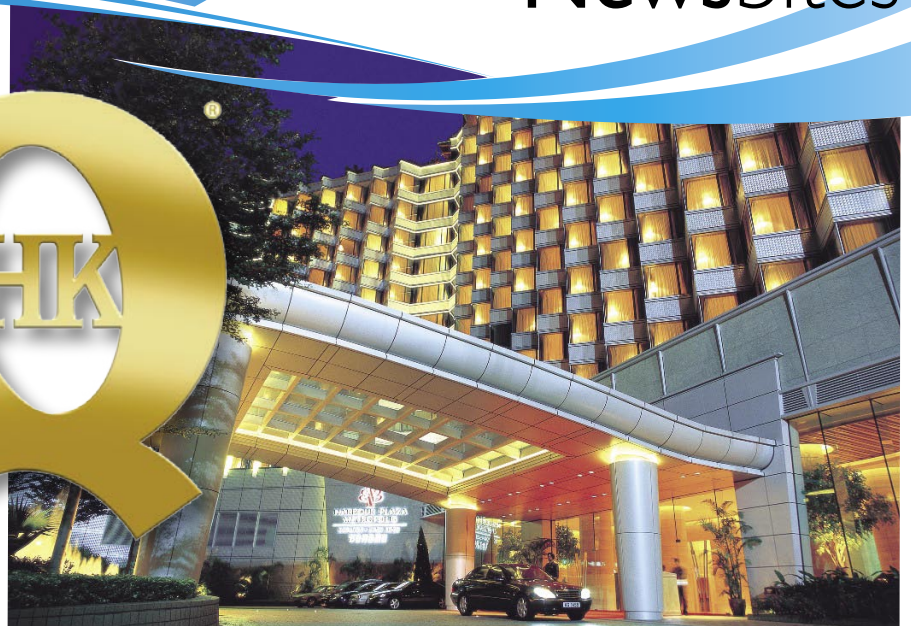
3 UK has also launched a range of free-to-access content for customers on its Planet 3 portal. The new service is supported by personalised advertising from major brands and free video content includes a selection of news, comedy, celebrity gossip, animations and film. **T**



QUALITY EXCELLENCE

HONG KONG Harbour

Plaza Metropolis has been certified under the Hong Kong Q-Mark Service Scheme by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries in recognition of its high service standards and management systems that comply with international standards. 




APPLAUSE!


Fortress and Watsons Your Personal Store have received the Hong Kong Merchants of Integrity Award from the *Guangzhou Daily* for the fourth and fifth consecutive year, respectively.



Tennis Aces

HONG KONG Top-class tennis was again on display in Hong Kong at the **Watsons Water** Champions Challenge. The biggest names in world tennis – including Maria Sharapova, Kim Clijsters, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Nicole Pietrangeli, Elena Dementieva, Patty Schnyder, Caroline Wozniacki, Zheng Jie and Yan Zi – thrilled the crowds at Victoria Park. Ms Clijsters dethroned Ms Sharapova in the Gold Group while Ms Wozniacki defeated Ms Yan in the Silver Group. 

SUPERDRUG VISIT


UNITED KINGDOM **Superdrug** welcomed Andy Burnham MP, UK Minister of State for Delivery and Quality at the Department of Health, to its Oxford Street store. Mr Burnham was briefed on the new Healthy Heart computer check programme and enjoyed a complimentary high-tech mole check. Mole clinics currently operate in three London stores. The minister was also updated on Superdrug's campaign to cut VAT on children's sun-care products. 

Caring Campaign

HONG KONG **Hongkong Electric** volunteers hosted a special Chinese Lantern Festival party for members of the Hong Kong Single Parents Association. The event was part of the company's "Caring, Always" programme to care for the needy, particularly during major festivals. 



VIETNAM DEAL

VIETNAM **Hutchison Port Holdings** has agreed to construct and operate a new container terminal in southern Vietnam. The new container project, 100 kilometres from Ho Chi Minh City, is expected to come on stream in 2011 and will have a quay length of 730 metres, with depth alongside of 14 metres. 



HIT Helps Out

HONG KONG Hongkong International Terminals donated HKD1 million to the Hong Kong Cancer Fund to help establish the newly-opened Cancer Patient Resource Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital. **P**



POWER PLAY

CHINA Cheung Kong Infrastructure's new RMB6 billion (HKD6 billion) extension to the Zhuhai Power Plant joint venture is now operational, making it one of the largest coal-fired power plants in Mainland China. **I**

X Marks the Spot

WORLDWIDE The X-Series, the service that brings the best of the Internet to the mobile phone for a flat fee, made a successful launch in Australia, Austria, Denmark, Hong Kong, Italy and Sweden, subsequent to its global debut in the UK in late 2006. The exciting new product received a positive reception from both the public and the media in various markets. **T**



YEAH!

HWL was 176th in the latest *Forbes* Global 2000 corporate rankings.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

ITALY 3 Italia has launched the lightweight 3 Pocket TV, the first DVB-H product of its kind in the world. It allows customers to watch 12 digital mobile DVB-H channels on the 4.3-inch (10.7-centimetre) wide screen.

To promote the brand, 3 Italia also teamed up with the Honda Gresini motorcycling team for the MotoGP world championships. A customised 3 logo has appeared on star rider Marco Melandri's bike throughout the championships. **T**