

INTERCONTINENTAL GRAND STANFORD PLAYS HOST TO CHINESE OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS

Hong Kong, 22 August 2008. The InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong will play host to China's Olympic gold medalists next week as the Mainland's largest ever group of gold medal winners visits the territory to celebrate with its Hong Kong fans.

More than 100 athletes, coaches and government officials are expected during the three-day visit to Hong Kong, led by the General Administration of Sport of China.

"We are honored to be home for these great athletes when they are in Hong Kong," said Peter Pollmeier, general manager of InterContinental Grand Stanford, which was also the hotel host of the Chinese gold medalists of the 2004 Olympics.

During their Hong Kong visit, the Chinese gold medalists will meet with fans and admirers and play at demonstration events including diving, badminton, table tennis and gymnastics at Hong Kong stadium.

Pollmeier said the 578-room, five-star property in Kowloon had spent weeks preparing for the visit and that a host of special touches awaited the group. The list includes extra-long beds for some athletes, Olympic-inspired amenities, Hong Kong-themed souvenirs and many more.

"Our award-winning chefs have also dreamed up an amazing menu of Chinese dishes and will be on duty 24 hours to make sure the athletes will have a taste of home anytime they want it," he said.

On room arrangements, the hotel expects to delight the athletes with a panoramic view of Hong Kong's iconic skyline from its harbour view rooms, reputed to have one of the best views among Hong Kong hotels. Those staying in city view rooms will enjoy the sights, colors and buzz of the vibrant streets of Tsim Sha Tsui.

"For some athletes who are visiting Hong Kong the first time and with a limited length of stay, the view from their hotel room is important in getting a good impression of the city," said Pollmeier.

Hosting the 2008 Olympic gold medalists is an exciting challenge for the hotel staff, many of whom were also in the thick of preparations during the visit of the 2004 Olympics.

"We are confident that the athletes will have a comfortable sleep and an enjoyable stay, says Aouda Tam, Director of Housekeeping who also led the team that prepared the rooms for the 68-strong delegation in 2004.

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