

The N. Asia Young Leaders Group Inaugural China Event

On Sept 24th, 2009 in Shanghai, the ULI Young Leaders Group (“YLG”) held their first event in mainland China. The event was a ‘by invitation only’ leadership evening including a property tour, discussion and dinner hosted by Mr. Vincent Lo, CEO and Chairman of Shui On Land and Trustee of the Urban Land Institute. The event marked the launch of the YLG initiative in mainland China.

Fifteen Young Leaders from Hong Kong and China began the evening with a property tour of Shui On’s iconic and award winning (ULI Award for Excellence recipient in 2003) Xintiandi development which was lead by Albert Chan, Director of Planning and Development for Shui On Land. Using a model of the Taipingqiao redevelopment area, Mr. Chan explained the master plan which to the surprise of many participants is far more than the Shanghai Xintiandi retail and entertainment area. The 52 hectare master plan, of which approximately 40% is complete, will be comprised of office, residential, retail, entertainment and cultural properties including a school (not yet completed) and a man-made lake, Taipingqiao Lake which is runs along Hubin Road.

The group toured the newly opened museum at Xintiandi which is a re-creation of a ‘Shikumen’ style courtyard house, an architectural style unique to Shanghai during the late 19th and 20th century. Getting a sense of how middle class Shanghai residents lived at the turn of the century helped the group understand the architectural inspiration for the Shanghai Xintiandi project.

After the property tour the group convened at One Xintiandi, the private clubhouse at Xintiandi for a candid discussion and dinner with Mr. Lo. During this exclusive dinner, YLG members asked Mr. Lo about Shui On’s activities outside of Shanghai as well as his vision for the company. Mr. Lo reflected on the success of Xintiandi and some of the challenges that have been faced along the way. As a sought after event speaker and well known figure throughout the region, the opportunity for each YLG member to have their specific questions addressed by Mr. Lo certainly memorable experience.

The event was an overwhelming success and will serve as a catalyst for a more active Shanghai and Beijing based Yong Leaders Groups. The ULI Young Leaders Group is open to all real estate professionals under 35 years of age. If you or a member of your team is interested in being a part of the mainland China YLG steering committee, please email ULI Asia at jlam@ibl.hk.

For more information, please contact Brandon Sedloff, Asia (ex Japan) Young Leader Chair at bsedloff@glgroup.com or ULI North Asia.