



July 16, 2014

THE INNOVATION GROUP RECOMMENDS BEST SUNSHINE LTD. TO DEVELOP US\$2 BILLION SAIPAN INTEGRATED RESORT; NAMES KOTARO FUJIMOTO AS STRATEGIC PARTNER IN JAPAN

Engagements Advance The Innovation Group's Established Consulting Presence in Asia & The Pacific

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Denver, CO)

SAIPAN INTEGRATED RESORT DEVELOPER SELECTED

The Innovation Group - the world's leading advisory firm for gaming, entertainment and hospitality for more than two decades - recommended the preferred developer, Best Sunshine International, who was selected today by the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) government for license consideration to develop a US\$2 Billion Integrated Resort on the island of Saipan. This marks the latest inroads made by the consultancy in expanding its practice throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Earlier this year, The Innovation Group was retained by CNMI to advise its Lottery Commission regarding the examination of casino resort development proposals received in response to its RFP to develop a \$2 billion integrated resort in Saipan. Senior executives from The Innovation Group and its specialists in feasibility and design and construction were called on to work alongside the CNMI Lottery Commission to evaluate the bids.

The applicants provided detailed proposals including development and business plans, financial structure and financing capability, experience in hospitality and gaming, and benefit to the local Saipan community. The Innovation Group assessed the market's long term potential and established evaluation criteria, and over the course of the two-month engagement recommended Best Sunshine as the preferred developer. Best Sunshine was selected over competitor Marianas Stars; both companies are China-based businesses with far reaching gaming exposure in Asia.

The Innovation Group's President Michael Soll commented, "We were honored that the CNMI government recognized our expertise and unique added value in assisting public bodies as they considered the complex requirements for a commercially successful resort that maximizes communal benefits. After acceptance of the final evaluation report, the CNMI Lottery Commission publicly expressed its gratitude to The Innovation Group for its service."

JAPAN DEVELOPMENTS

In another important advancement for the firm, The Innovation Group recently announced a strategic partnership with Japan-based advisory expert Kotaro Fujimoto. Mr. Fujimoto is an Osaka-based professor that has long been recognized as the preeminent casino and Integrated Resort research and specialty advisor in Japan. He currently serves as a Lead Researcher at the Institute of Amusement Industry Studies at the Osaka University of Commerce, offering his guidance to both local governments and the private sector. Mr. Fujimoto has been working alongside The Innovation Group throughout the past several months to secure several strategic government and commercial advisory contracts, and along with The Innovation Group's Steve Rittvo and David Rittvo, is successfully expanding initiative's joint development and advisory team.

Fujimoto contributed, "I am thrilled to be partnering with The Innovation Group as we lend our combined expertise to the legislative and development stakeholders in Japan. Together we have fostered a knowledgeable team that can provide value added services to assist Japan with its growth into the Integrated Resort Market."

Long established in Asia research with notable assignments in such jurisdictions as Macau, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Philippines to name a few, The Innovation Group has invested significantly throughout the past several years in Japan specifically, helping secure its position as the most sought after advisor in the region as legislation continues to be debated regarding the liberalization of gaming. The firm, with Fujimoto as its strategic local partner, has already solidified numerous assignments at the federal, prefecture and local government level. Osaka has been an area of particular advancement for The Innovation Group to date.

The Innovation Group has ranked among the most sought after global advisory firms for public and private sector assignments in gaming, entertainment and hospitality. The firm works side-by side with governments, operators, developers and banking institutions globally. Advancements in the Asian marketplace are moving so rapidly and have proven so successful to date, The Innovation Group has hired permanent staff from large-cap operators in Macau and Singapore, and is planning to open its first international office in Asia within the next two quarters, potentially in Japan."

For more information regarding The Innovation Group's insights regarding the integrated resorts planned for Japan, please [click here](#) to see a recent article published in Global Gaming Business Magazine.

###

About The Innovation Group

Throughout the past two decades, The Innovation Group has evolved into a multi-disciplined team that provides consulting services for the gaming, entertainment and hospitality industries to a signature, worldwide client base. The Innovation Group has been associated with more than \$75 billion in investment decisions specific to the gaming, entertainment, hospitality and leisure sectors for the past 20 years, and our group

has helped bring many of the world's largest entertainment and hospitality developments to fruition, having been exposed to industry best practices across six continents and 78 countries. With an inventive, forward-looking staff of professionals, The Innovation Group is recognized throughout the industry for accurate analyses and forecasts, and a timely response to client needs. Our diverse services include feasibility studies, market assessments, economic impact studies, strategic and financial planning, economic diversification, legislative and government advisory, litigation and expert witness and iGaming strategy/research. Additional services are available through the affiliates and specialty practices of The Innovation Group of Companies.

For more information, contact:

Michael Soll

President

The Innovation Group

msoll@theinnovationgroup.com

407.702.6648

www.theinnovationgroup.com