

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, after 14 years in Macau we've finally taking taken the show on the road. Put your hands together for a brand new Power 50 host country – the Philippines!

I'd like to welcome you all to our 15th annual Inside Asian Gaming Power 50 Black Tie Gala Dinner and I'm absolutely delighted to see you all here tonight.

It's become a tradition that every year on the first Friday in November, the whole industry puts aside our day-to-day competition and comes together as one to celebrate this event.

Supporting this event tonight we have all four Entertainment City IRs, all six Macau casino concessionaire companies, the sports betting concessionaire from Macau, and several major Asian and global gaming equipment suppliers.

But there's something very special about tonight. This event represents a major power shift not only for Power 50 but for our gaming industry as a whole.

Tonight's theme is "New City, Fresh Beginnings". And that is very apt.

Because, while tonight's event will have many aspects consistent with years gone by since the Power 50 started in 2008, it's also a fresh start for us all.

As everyone in our industry knows, the Macau IRs are in a world of hurt. There's close to 100 people who would have been here tonight, if they could have left Macau.

But, Macau's loss is Manila's gain, and while our industry colleagues from Macau will be missed tonight, it affords a wonderful opportunity for creating new friendships and new business and social connections.

Because sitting in the chairs that would normally have been occupied by executives from Galaxy, MGM, Sands, SJM and Wynn, are a host of interesting business men and women, socialites and other members of Manila high society.

So please take the opportunity tonight, especially in the breaks and at the After Party, to mingle amongst the entire range of guests here tonight.

If you see an unfamiliar face, say hello, share a drink, and you never know where that may lead. It could even lead to a new fresh beginning.

There are a lot of companies I must thank tonight. First and foremost, our wonderful venue sponsor City of Dreams Manila for their extraordinary efforts.

Many of our friends from City of Dreams are on tables 17 and 18 tonight.

So to Property President Geoff Andres and the rest of his team, please accept an extremely heartfelt thank you from me, and the rest of the IAG team.

Next, I must thank our wonderful Welcome Cocktail sponsors Bloomberry Resorts Corporation and of course their flagship property Solaire, and you can find them on tables 6 and 7.

This is their fourth year sponsoring the Welcome Cocktails and for the past two of those years they have continued to support despite not being able to travel to Macau because of the pandemic.

So we're eternally grateful to Chairman and CEO Enrique Razon Jr. and President and COO Tom Arasi for their fantastic support.

I'd also like to thank Okada Manila who are on tables 3 and 5. Okada Manila are our Official After Party sponsor this year and I'd like to express my appreciation to President Byron Yip for his support of the event.

I had dinner with Byron last week and he sends his apologies as he had an important family matter long-scheduled for tonight but he promises me he'll be here next year.

Next to thank is Newport World Resorts, our Farewell Gift Bags sponsor this year who are on tables 8 and 9. Please make sure you collect your Farewell Bags at the end of the dinner, you won't want to miss those.

Many thanks to Newport World Resorts President and CEO Kingson Sian and COO Hakan Dagtas.

Attending the Power 50 for their second year is Bobadilla Group Macau, also known as BGM. They are our official Entertainment Sponsor and thank you to Laranja Vera Carter and all her team on table 16.

This year we have four Platinum Sponsors – all leading gaming supply companies.

On table 2 we have platinum sponsor Angel playing cards. Thanks to J.Y. Teo and the rest of the Angel team.

On table 15 we have platinum sponsor Aristocrat, thanks to Lloyd Robson and the rest of the crew at Aristocrat for their consistent support over the years.

On table 10 you will find platinum sponsor IGT. A big thank you to Michael Cheers and all the team at IGT for supporting so many IAG events over the years.

On table 19 we have platinum sponsor Light & Wonder, formerly Scientific Games. Thank you to Ken Jolly and the rest of the L&W crew, very long-standing supporters of IAG.

One of the things I'm so happy about is that each year all six Macau concessionaires support this event, and even though we are in Manila, and even though they're doing it very tough in over in Macau right now, all six have supported once again.

Of course, Melco is venue sponsor this year but the other five are all gold sponsors, so thank you once again to Galaxy Entertainment Group, MGM China, Sands China, SJM Resorts and Wynn Macau for their unified support.

Macau's sports betting concessionaire, Macau SLOT, is also a gold sponsor this year, as they have been in the past.

Reflecting the growth in the Asian gaming industry we have three additional Gold Sponsors, all joining the Power 50 for the very first time.

The first of this trio is Avantage Entertainment who are currently entering the Asian gaming market with their Avantage baccarat product.

We also have Hann Casino Reort from Clark right here in the Philippines, and you can find them on table 20.

And last but certainly by no means least we have Mega Fortris, a Malaysian company who are a leading supplier of security seals to our industry. Mega Fortris is very ably represented by the lovely Olivia Lee. You'll find Olivia and her team on table 28.

I must also thank the Power 50 judging panel for the incredibly difficult task they take on every year in ranking the Power 50.

It is a thankless task that starts each year in July and takes many, many, hours to complete.

So thank you to Ben Blaschke, Grant Bowie, David Green, Desmond Lam, Melina Leong,
Rui Pinto Proença and Michael Zhu.

There are so many other people who make up a night like this.

There are chefs, servers, photographers, videographers, models, AV and lighting teams, construction crews, graphic designers, event management staff, and even the media who promote the event, just to name a few.

That list of people goes on and on – in fact there were and are a total of around 170 people who contributed to bringing tonight's event to life.

But there is one group of people I especially want to name and thank, and that is all the team at IAG.

I particularly want to thank two people at IAG, who form the heart and soul of our business and they are IAG's Managing Editor Ben Blaschke and our AVP of Sales and Business Development, Jadeson Ho.

Ben and Jadeson have both been with IAG for nearly a decade and during that time have been integral to our company's growth.

Thanks too to Deputy Editor Oscar Guijarro, Commercial Projects Director Rita Pun, Finance Director Sue Liang, Client Relationship Manager Caroline Iao, Graphic Designer Ailsa Tang, my EA Ana Fan, Chinese Editor Pierce Chan, IT Administrator Wing On Koo and especially to our Director of Events Dorothy Loi who has worked tirelessly on tonight's event.

Finally a very warm thank you to new friends we have met in Manila, our Event Production Partners Marex Events, especially Marex Gaba and Jessica Villanueva.

So now all that remains is for me to wish you all a wonderful evening.

You're amongst the beautiful people here tonight, the movers and shakers of our industry, and some leading lights of Manila society, so enjoy the opportunity to network and to make new friends.

So enjoy the exquisite food and beverage, the great entertainment, the beautiful surroundings, the fine company and the Power 50 countdown from number 50 to number 1.

Eat, drink and be merry, and have a great night! Thank you very much!