

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E   新 闻 稿



## **SHANGRI-LA HOTEL NINGBO HAS SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED THE FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL MAHJONG TOURNAMENT**

**Ningbo, China, 24 October 2016** – Supervised by Mahjong International League, *Shangri-La Cup* Mahjong Mind Sport Asian Elite Invitational 2016 was successfully held by Shangri-la Hotel Ningbo at Ningbo Grand Ball Room from Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The two-day event has attracted over 30 international Mahjong champions from Asia and Europe who battled against contestants from China, Japan, France, Singapore, Russia and Chinese Taipei, altogether 200 players.

Rooted in Lausanne, Switzerland, with founding members from over 30 countries, Mahjong International League (MIL) has been committing itself to formulate the competition systems and rules that suitable for the whole world and to promote Mahjong into a standard, professional global mind sport. This time, its Commission of High-level Players cordially invited world-class Mahjong champion players to participate in this tournament for a rich cultural exchange experience and also for making Mahjong join the world sports family as early as possible.

“This is the first ever Mahjong Competition Rules International Elite Invitational,” said Mr. Wenlong Li, the Secretary-general of MIL, “30 international Mahjong champions here to show how competitive Mahjong is. They are all qualified based on very strict selection principles and they all present the current highest Mahjong skills from different associations, regions and countries. ”

*Shangri-La Cup* Mahjong Mind Sport Asian Elite Invitational 2016 not only adopted the International Mahjong Rules, but also first ever implemented Ningbo Rules in celebration of the birth place of Mahjong and in promotion of standardization of local rules. According to the historical study of Mahjong, Chen Yumen was the first introduced Mahjong game in 1864 and he was from Ningbo. The Mahjong Exhibition

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Hall, located in Ningbo's Tianyi Pavilion, features his life and achievements. In the Song and Yuan dynasties, there were regular routes between Ningbo and Japan that resulted Mahjong has spread across Japan and the world. Today it has become one of the most popular intellectual sporting activities that are widely welcomed by various nationalities.

“As the original birth place of Mahjong, no other place is better than Ningbo to host an international Mahjong tournament”, said Mr. James Xi, the General Manager of Shangri-La Hotel Ningbo. “We would also like to promote the Ningbo rules and turn Ningbo Mahjong into a globally recognized game, so that more Ningbonese would love Mahjong and experience the joy of the mind sport in the future”.

This two-day event saw each contestant competing in eight games, with the highest-scoring player crowned the champion. Finally, Mr. Bo Tang, from Shao Yang of China and Mr. Lizhe Zhang, from Ningbo of China were crowned champion for accumulating the most points in China Mahjong Competition Rules and Ningbo Competition Rules, respectively. And Mr. Bo Tang also won the champion of 1st World Mahjong Sports Games (Individual Duplicate) in 2015. Both champions described the competitions as fierce and considered themselves being intensive trained and highly skilled to win the games.

Apart from the tournament, Mahjong has plenty of elements to ignite the imaginations of Shangri-La Hotel Ningbo to create a wonderful opening ceremony to impress the guests. Carefully crafted reception banquet harbouring an opulent selection of delicacies vividly reflected Mahjong culture. The ceremony was also built around various exquisite entertainment programs such as Taiji performance and 4D dances.

Besides, guests were also pampered by Shangri-La's traditional hospitality from the heart as well as the hotel's flexible function space and luxury facilities. Upon entering the lobby, Shangri-La guest relations officers clad in a traditional Chinese cheong sam greet with a warm smile. Guests were then whisked to their well-appointed rooms or suites

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宁波香格里拉大酒店  
**Shangri-La hotel**

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with a commanding view of where the rivers converge. They also experienced the largest meeting and banqueting facilities in the city including 2,000 sqm column-free Grand Ballroom with eight-metre-high ceiling featuring state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. Now, with Shangri-La's deluxe Mahjong service added, together with other health & leisure facilities, such as Shangri-La's signature CHI, The Spa, a fully equipped gym, the largest hotel indoor swimming pool in Ningbo and two outdoor floodlit tennis courts will make the hotel more flexible to meet leisure guest or MICE group's requirements. Mr. Kimito Kugimiya, the Chairman of MIL High-level Players Commission, paid his extravagant compliments on the event organization and the hospitality provided by Shangri-La Hotel Ningbo, "We believe this tournament will become the most remarkable example for any other international Mahjong invitational in the future".

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## **About Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts**

Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts currently owns and/or manages more than 95 hotels under the Shangri-La brand with a room inventory of over 38,000. Shangri-La hotels are five-star deluxe properties featuring extensive luxury facilities and services. Shangri-La hotels are located in Australia, Canada, mainland China, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sultanate of Oman, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. The group has a substantial development pipeline with upcoming projects in mainland China, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka. For more information and reservations, please contact a travel professional or access the website at [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com).

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NINGBO

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For digitised pictures of the group's hotels, please go to  
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