

RIKHIPAL SINGH THAKRAL

Commonly Addressed As	Rikhi Thakral
Date of Birth	23rd April 1963
Place of Birth	Singapore
Nationality	Singaporean / PR of Thailand / OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India)
Languages Known	English, Thai, Hokkien, Malay, Punjabi, Hindi, Japanese
Website	http://www.rikhithakral.com/
Honorary Doctorate	<p>Conferred an 'Honorary Doctor of Humanity' from University of Cambodia in July 2004, for his "compassion and enthusiasm for helping the less fortunate in the field of education , health and in creating new means of livelihood".</p> <p>Conferred 'Honorary Doctor' from Vietnam National University in Nov.2013, 'in recognition of valuable contribution to the development of cooperative linkages and friendship with Vietnam National University, Hanoi'</p> <p>Conferred 'Honorary Doctor in Philosophy' from Academic Board of Preah Sihanouk Raj Buddhist University in March 2015, 'in recognition of immense contribution in the field of education and supporting the less fortunate'.</p>
Honorary Title	<p>Bhai Sahib' - The highest honour for a Sikh by Sri Harmandir Ji Patna Sahib, 'in honour of his services to the Sikh Community' (15th June 2012)</p> <p>'UC Distinguished Professorship in Humanities', by University of Cambodia for 'the humanitarian work done in the field of education' (29th August 2019)</p>
Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Global thinker with strong marketing , business development and technology experience● Highly motivated , energetic , positive team player with a "roll-up the sleeves" attitude.● Powerful and influential contacts in Developing / International Markets● Creative problem solver with the ability to develop visionary solutions to complex business and technical challenges● Proven ability to gain the confidence of customers, business associates, employees, and senior management● Excellent communication , negotiation, personnel, project management abilities and entrepreneurial abilities

Experience & Achievements

Joined the Family Business on 1st Dec 1979 at the age of 17 and has been at the desk for more than 41 years.

(1) THAKRAL GROUP OF COMPANIES

Executive Director

- The Multi Billion Dollar Thakral Group, established in 1905 in Bangkok, Thailand, consists of 1 main listed company in Singapore and a number of privately held family-owned companies.
- With offices in more than 25 countries around the globe and a strength of more than 9,000 people worldwide, the group's activities range from Distribution of Consumer Electronic Products, Textiles, Watches, Photographic Products, Manufacture of Textiles, Assembly of Consumer Electronic Products, Hotel Management and Investment, Real Estate Development and Investment, Financial Consultancy Services and Software Development and Consultancy.
- In 1995, THAKRAL won the First Place in the first ever 'Enterprise 50 List' a ranking of the top 50 most enterprising privately owned enterprises in Singapore, compiled by Anderson Consulting and the Business Times, in collaboration with Economic Development Board.
- In 1996, the Chairman of the Thakral Group, Mr. Kartar Singh Thakral, was honoured with the prestigious 'Singapore Businessman of the Year'; which was presented by Dr. Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore.
- Mandated by Mr. Kartar Singh Thakral (Chairman), responsible for the designing, development & management of the Group properties globally, such as:

A S\$180 Million upmarket residential condominium, developed on a 13,500 sq mtr site in Singapore. Developed 87 units in total.

The condominium "The Sovereign" received the "Best Buildable Design Award". Managing Director of Thakral Land Pte Land from 1989 to date.

(2) THAKRAL (INDO-CHINA) PTE LTD

Chief Executive Officer / Managing Director

- Founded, developed and directed the operations in Indo-China countries Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos (total population : 200 million)
- Honoured to accompany founding father Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Emeritus Mr. Goh Chok Tong, H.E. Mr. Lee Hsein Loong, followed by reciprocal visits by head of states to Singapore
- Pioneer to the frontier of Indo-China markets in the 80s and 90s
Started with first point of sales in Vietnam in 1986, Cambodia in 1994
Myanmar and Laos in 1996
- In 2019 - after 33 years, established more than 300 showrooms and Points of sales with agency for World Renowned Brands - Omega, Breitling, Zenith, Rado, Mont Blanc, Baume & Mercier, Traser, Seiko, Pulsar, Caran d'Ache, Wolf, Scatola, Bergeon, Boegli, Morellato.
- Established state-of-the-art Showrooms and Service Centres for the above brands in Indo-China, serving as models for the industry. Also authorised to service Cartier and Chopard.
- Considered one of the most successful companies throughout Indo-China.
- Added another developing market in 2018 - Indonesia for Rado

(3) THAKRAL HOLDINGS LTD
(Public Listed Company in Australia)
Director Oct 1996 - Oct 2012

- Thakral Holdings Limited was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange from 1994-2012 and over 40% of its shares were held by the Thakral Family. On 13th Oct. 2012, Thakral Holdings Limited was privatized.
- Actively participated in the development of the company , during formation / post listing , which consistently generated substantial profits year after year .
- Instrumental in the acquisition of Sofitel Brisbane
- Visited Australia more than 200 times in last twenty years, know the terrains intricately and in depth knowledge of the real estate market
- With presence in almost all the states in Australia, the company owned hotels comprising of 3000 rooms (including the All Seasons Premier Menzies Hotel in Sydney , the Novotel Melbourne on Collins)
- Apart from the hotel investments, the company owned and managed four shopping centres, two office buildings and a commercial car park.
- The total assets of the company exceeded A\$1.3 billion as at 31st Dec'08
- The company had a development base with approx A\$500 Million worth of development projects under construction, in which he participated actively.
- Held an Alternate Director post from 1994-1996 and director since 1996
- Remained a member of the Remuneration Committee
- Remained a member of the Audit Committee
- Remained a member of the Investment Committee

(4) THAKRAL JAPAN PROPERTIES PTE LTD (DIRECTOR)

- Thakral Japan Properties Pte Ltd (TJP) is an indirect subsidiary of Thakral Corporation Ltd (TCL), and is a joint venture investment vehicle, established in Japan for the acquisition of the Dai-ichi Jyuken Yotsubashi Building and Yotsubashi Nakano Building in Osaka, Japan, and Hotel Oaks Reaze Tsukamoto in Osaka. Portfolio of 5 Billion Yen.

(5) THAKRAL CORPORATION LTD www.thakralcorp.com
Advisor to the Investment Committee

- Thakral Corporation Ltd (TCL) is listed on the Singapore Exchange since December 1995.
- It has two core divisions - Investment Division and Lifestyle Division

(6) THAKRAL LIFESTYLE PTE LTD (NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

- Established in July 2012, Thakral Lifestyle Pte Ltd is a lifestyle & home solution provider across Asia and other countries

GOD's WORK

Founding Trustee

- "IN SEWA FOUNDATION LTD", (www.insewafoundation.org), a charity organization, actively involved in humanitarian and social activities in south east Asia and other parts of the world. These activities, though done out of the public eyes, have significantly helped the society. Some of the main objectives include, renovation of schools in villages with provision of proper hygiene and sanitation facilities, support to orphanages, school of blind & flood victims, donation of rice and free medical supplies to the needy, donation of mosquitoes nets in malaria prone areas , support towards temples , donations of computers to universities and other institutions, scholarships to students with Merit-cum-Means. Contributed millions of dollars in the last 30 years of humanitarian works, positively impacting the lives of over 60,000 Children in Indo-China.

Board of Advisor

- Is a member of the Board of Advisors at University of Cambodia.

Philanthropy / Religion (Singapore)

Life Memberships (Singapore) :

- Ramakrishna Mission
- Central Sikh Gurudwara Board
- Singapore Khalsa Association
- Silat Road Gurudwara Board
- Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha, Katong
- Pardesi Khalsa Dharmak Diwan

Member (Singapore) :

- Singapore Sikh Education Foundation

Memberships / Society (Singapore)

Life Memberships (Singapore) :

- Anglo Chinese School Old Boys
- Certified "Life Saver" , Red Cross
- Automobile Association
- Philatelic Society

- Numismatic Society
- Friends of the Zoo
- Night Safari
- River Safari
- Feather Friends
- Nature Society
- SPCA



Personal Philosophy

- Integrity and honesty above all
- Filial piety to parents and God's grace is the greatest gift of all
- To spend some time each day to think of those who are less fortunate than us

Influence

- Teachings and beliefs of the Sikh Religion have largely influenced the structure of thinking .
- Mr.Kartar Singh Thakral, Beloved Mother, and Late Mr.Harbans Singh Thakral are primarily responsible for current profile.
- Mr.Ted Harris, a dynamic and influential leader, has played a major role in introducing him to the corporate world

Inspiration

- Has derived immense inspiration from the lives and achievements of 3 great personalities (In Alphabetical order):
- King of Siam
 - Lee Kuan Yew
 - Mother Theresa

Hobbies & Interests

- Profound passion for Timepieces
- Study of the rare species of Birds and Fish, Rare Coins, Philatelic First Day Covers , Gems and Antiques. Interest in having a small collection.
- Enjoying parenthood of 5 loving children and a supporting wife .

National Service

- Has completed 2 years of National Service at Singapore (1981 - 1983).

- Awards**
- Vietnam **Badge of Ho Chi Minh City'**, An Honorary Citizenship Award, by The Chairman of People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City for 'support towards the physically and mentally challenged children of HCMC, Vietnam' and for 'strengthening friendship and co-operation with the people of HCMC, Vietnam' (7th March 2008)
- MOLISA 'Badge'** from the Government of Vietnam for humanitarian work in Vietnam (4th November 2008)
- Medal of MOLISA'** by Minister of MOLISA , Vietnam , ' for outstanding contribution to the cause of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs' (25th May 2009)
- Medal of Friendship'** by the President of Vietnam, for his positive contributions to the social protection and humanitarian activities in VIETNAM and to the friendship between the Socialist Republic of VIETNAM and the Republic of SINGAPORE' (30th March 2011).
- Medal for the Development Cause of Vietnam National University Hanoi'**, from Vietnam National University (6th Dec.2013)
- 'National University Trophy'** by Vietnam National University, 'in recognition of his contributions to Vietnam education' (26th Feb. 2016)
- 'VNU Remembrance Medal' (Medal of Merit)** by Vice President of Vietnam National University, Hanoi, "for the cause of development of Vietnam National University, Hanoi, through valuable contribution of Scholarships" (19th September 2017)
- Cambodia **Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Monisaraphon'** from His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni (23rd September 2008).
- Certificate of Appreciation'** by The President of the Cambodian Red Cross (23rd Sep 2011)
- Royal Order of Sahametrei'** with the rank of Mohasereiwath from King of Cambodia (9th Dec 2011)
- Lifetime Distinguished Fellow'** of University of Cambodia (Nov 2016)
- Laos **Cross of Development Medal'** by Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic (23rd Nov 09)
- Award of Development Medal (Level 3)'** of Laos (14th July 2011)
- 'Development Medal-II'** and **'Certificate of Merit'** by Lao People's Democratic Republic(18thDec 2014)
- 'Development Medal-First Class'** by the Lao People's Democratic Republic(27th March 2019)
- Myanmar **Certificate of Acknowledgement'** for 99 Schools by Ministry of Education, Republic of Union of Myanmar (30th 2019)

India **'Award of Honour'** by Educational Committee of Chief Khalsa Diwan Charitable Society, Amritsar (presented by Hon. Chief Minister of Punjab), at the 65th World Sikh Educational Conference at Tarn Taran,Punjab (India) for making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate people (16th Nov.2014).

Bharat Shiromani Award'

by Shiromani Institute , New Delhi, India (13th April 2019)

References

- Mr.(Ted) Harris , FID , FAIM , FAICD

- Mr.Natarajan Subramaniam
Independent Non-Executive Chairman of the Board of Thakral Corporation Ltd.
& Lead Independent Director of the Company

- Mr. David Baffsky , Chairman of Accor Asia Pacific

- Mr.Tsutomu Mitome, President and CEO, Seiko Watch Corporation, Tokyo

- Mr. Graeme Samuel A.C, LL.M 1977
Chairman , Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

- Mr. Nguyen Hau
Chief of Cabinet and Economic Advisor
Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, Vietnam

- Mr. Nguyen Quang Tien
General Director of Saigon General Service Company (SAVICO)

- Dr.Sachchidanand Sahai
Advisor APSARA Authority, Kingdom of Cambodia
Recipient of Padma Shri award in 2012
Recipient of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award in January 2012