



Kandaya: A different world

A family's labor of love may soon become northern Cebu's most famous world-class resort destination

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PHOTOGRAPHS: WIG TYSMANS

Kandaya Resort is so remarkable, we were a bit surprised that it isn't famous. You may be excused for not having heard of Kandaya, as it's only been open a few months (since December 2014), and it has not started marketing itself in earnest. Nevertheless, it is impressive, and by "impressive," we mean Kandaya's environment, the architecture and design, the landscaping, the attention to detail, the service, the food and drink, and the overall feeling that someone has thought of you and what you might like.

That "someone" is the Yeung family, who owns the resort. The story of Kandaya is the story of the Yeung family, in many ways. Carlos and Mariquita Yeung are a Hong Kong and Cebu family with three adult children, Carla, Martin, and Jewelle. Mariquita, née Salimbangon, grew

up in nearby Medellin, Cebu, population about 50,000, a place known for its sugarcane plantations and small refinery.

Mariquita went to visit her sister-in-law in Hong Kong, and met Carlos, who describes himself, modestly, as a "struggling businessman" at the time. "She is my lucky charm," he says. Indeed, after they married, his business, in diamonds, blossomed, and he found great success. He has since branched out to several other pursuits, including property development.

Carlos and Mariquita are thoroughly modern parents who have given their children an excellent education, and have let them pursue their own directions in life. Carla, their eldest, married a British man and lives in London with their grandchildren. Martin works in the diamond business and at Kandaya, which is his special project. Jewelle, who recently completed her

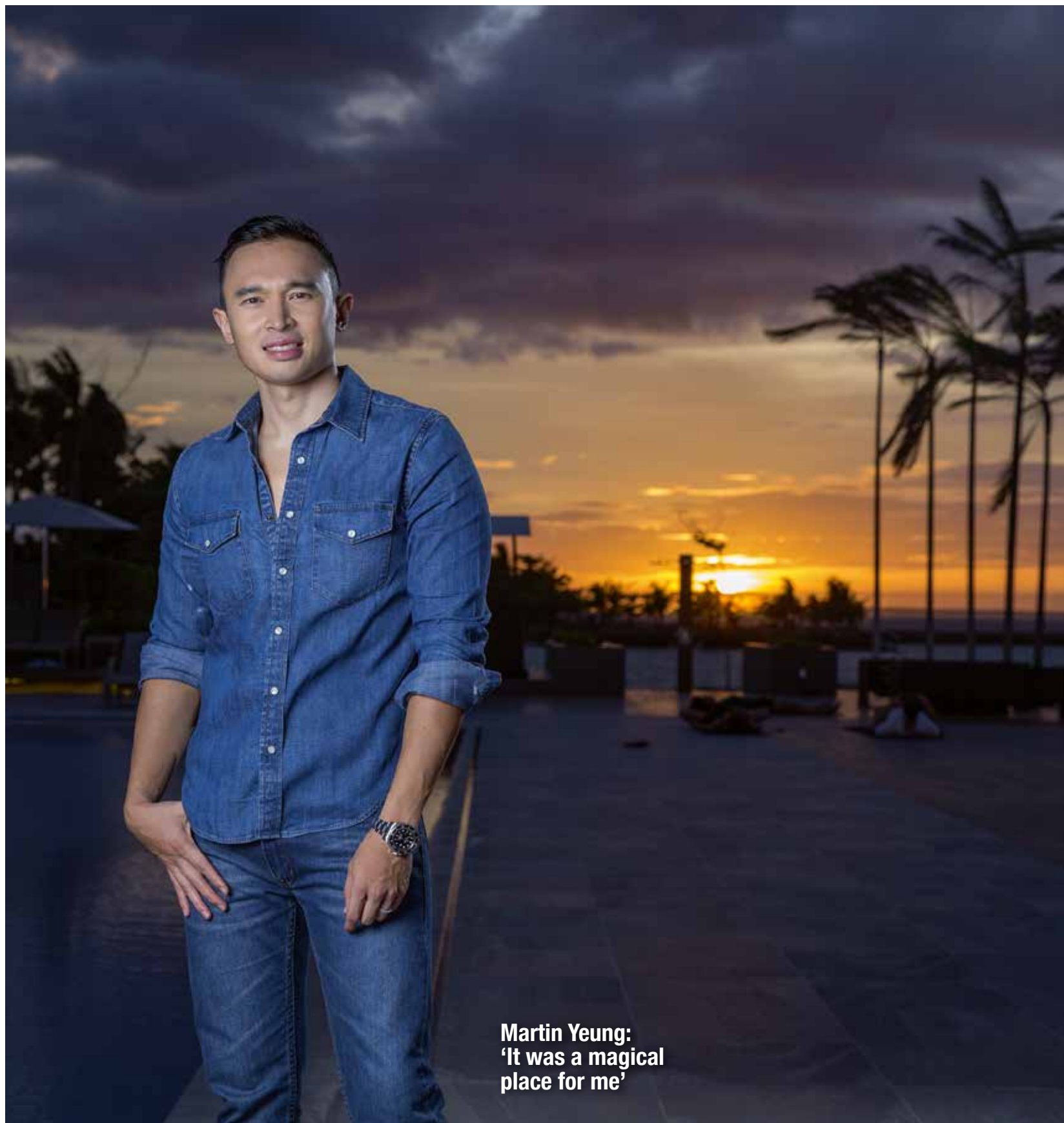
studies in London, is an accomplished painter.

Kandaya is the core of the Yeung family. It was originally the site of their beach house, where the family would spend their Philippine vacations as their children were growing up. Because the Salimbangons are a typically large family, this beach house grew to include 13 rooms, with different themes. The Yeungs shared many happy years together at Kandaya, when the children were young. When the children went off to schools abroad, their time at Kandaya was cut back to one visit a year.

After graduating from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, Martin Yeung, who is named after his maternal grandfather, proposed to the family that they consider developing the property into a resort. The original buildings, made largely of wood, had deteriorated over time, and had to be rebuilt anyway. The issue was whether



Mariquita Yeung, and husband Carlos, built Kandaya from the family beach house.



Martin Yeung:
**'It was a magical
place for me'**



A gorgeous dinner table setting

they would rebuild to the original function, as a private but expansive beach house, or completely transform the place into a world-class resort.

“When I was younger, we spent pretty much all our holidays here,” says Martin. “That included summers, Christmas, and Chinese New Year.” Martin speaks fluent Cebuano as a result of those years. “It was a magical place for me. Hong Kong is a vibrant city, but also a concrete jungle. When we would come here, it was all nature. I experienced a totally different world. We were right by the sea, we built a tree house, we had a little farm. We would go out fishing and cook what we caught. It was a wonderful time, growing up, and I wanted to share that magic.”

Indeed, from a philosophical point of view, what else do we want our life to be about, but our most precious experiences? Creating those expe-



Carlos Yeung plays host to 'Asian Dragon' EIC Apa Ongpin.

periences is the core goal of Kandaya, and the magic shows in the details.

One of the most outstanding aspects of Kandaya is undoubtedly the design, which was the result of a deliberate thought process. Martin says the family wanted something different from existing resorts: traditional Filipino culture and style, but expressed in a modern approach, by which he means purity of line, simple and functional. The Yeungs contracted Manila architect Arlen P. de Guzman, who Martin thinks did a fantastic job. "It's not easy, putting the client's ideas on paper, and making them real. He made it modern, but with a really homey feel."

De Guzman is an alumnus of the University of Santo Tomas. He first worked for L.V. Locsin and Partners, where he worked on such landmark projects as the Philippine Plaza Hotel, The Philippine Center for International Trade Exhibitions (Philcote), the National Arts Center, and the renovation of the Manila Hotel. He later



The beachfront villa is ideal for honeymooners and beach lovers.



A beautiful group of friends who were in Kandaya that weekend (from left): Len Olbes, Jemellie Gonzales, Mariquita Yeung, Hera Geriene, Ann Ong, Mayenne Carmona and Linda Ley



The infinity pool is easily accessible from the hotel.



Kandaya Spa is a must for relaxing massages.

worked for Dale Keller & Associates and Hirsch/Bedner Associates in Hong Kong, then returned to Manila in 1995 to start his own firm.

The family was intimately involved in the design process. After articulating their basic design objectives with the architect, they browsed mood boards to specify forms, colors, finishes. The architect then generated renderings to show how the buildings would look like. There were, of course, tweaks during the building process itself. Some attention was paid to energy efficiency and resource planning. The designs create enough shade to reduce heat load, and other innovations to shrink the overall carbon footprint.

The design works out on many levels. The

main building features a grand lobby, which is spectacular, but in many ways, it is the human-sized details which are most impressive. In particular, the villas are built around expansive bathrooms that define luxury. Overall, though, the design is all about restraint. It is durable and concrete without being blocky and cold. The buildings are set back from the beach and surrounded by nature, not built practically up to the waterline, like the worst parts of Boracay and Puerto Galera. Above all, the scale is people-sized, not palatial, which infuses the place with a family atmosphere.

Kandaya offers a wide variety of activities and amenities, from water sports to a beautiful

herb garden, and one of the standouts is the extensive gym, with a boxing ring. “Mixed martial arts is one of the fastest-growing sports, in part because it is the best workout,” says Martin, an MMA enthusiast.

The food at Kandaya is excellent and promptly served, as well as potentially healthy. I said potentially, because you can also have *lechon kawali* and other delights, but generally, the menu is quite wholesome. The chef is a Thai national who worked at Amanpulo, and the healthy influence must be that of Kandaya General Manager Michael Di Lonardo, who previously worked at wellness resort The Farm at San Benito. Di Lonardo, a personable American emigré (he now calls Italy home), specializes in delicious but healthy cuisine, and even wrote a book of recipes.

Another key element of Kandaya is the service. It is discreet, but always available. The minute one needs something, a staff member appears to make it happen. This is quite remarkable, considering the resort has only been in operation for about four months.

“Our goal is to make everything *right*. It’s really about creating a memorable experience for the guests,” says Martin. “It’s not easy. Sometimes, I’m pulling my hair out. But the staff is great. Even if they aren’t that well-trained, you can see they want to help, they want to succeed. The majority of our staff are local, not from the city. They don’t have any experience, they’re very fresh, but they want to learn, and they do. I’m really proud of all the guys here, to see the way they handle guests, what they’ve been able to achieve.”

Part of the reason the Yeungs chose to put so much into Kandaya is to help develop the northern part of Cebu province, which has been static and sluggish, compared to the south. The rise of Bogo Port nearby has helped, but apart from Kandaya, there has not been a lot of tourism-related developments.

“We want to give back,” says Martin. “We want Kandaya to help spur the development of the area. The concept of establishing something new in the north is an opportunity for more, different types of businesses to be introduced here. We want investors to realize what we have here. We have beautiful islands [Malapascua and Bantayan, to name two- Ed.]. We want a lot more traffic to come through here.”

Kandaya is certainly a progressive start. We predict it will be on everyone’s lips in less than a year, and it will live up to the hype. If only all Filipino resorts were this good. **AD**



Breathtaking sunset view



All kinds of water sports are available to try.



Kandaya：一個不同世界

一個家庭愛的努力不久可能成為宿務北部最著名的世界級度假勝地

Kandaya度假村是非常出色的，我們很驚訝它完全不出名。但你沒聽過Kandaya情有可原，因為它才開張幾個月（2014年12月開張），而且還未開始推銷自己。雖然如此，它已經辦得有聲有色，在這裏，我們是指Kandaya的環境、建築和設計、園藝設計、注重細節、服務、飲食和整體能感受到某人是為你以及你所需要的著想。

我們指的「某人」就是擁有該度假村的楊家。從多方面來講，Kandaya的故事就是楊家的故事。楊國慶（Carlos Yeung）和太太Mariquita是一個香港與宿務家庭組合，他們育有三名已成年的子女，Carla、楊承宇（Martin）和Jewelle。Mariquita Salimbangon出生於人口只有5萬人的宿務省Medellin社，那裏以甘蔗種植園和一

家小型煉糖廠而聞名。

Mariquita到香港探望嫂子時遇到楊國慶，他形容自己當時是一名「掙扎中的商人」。他說：「她是我的幸運符。」確實，他們結婚後，他的鑽石生意開始有起色並獲得巨大成功。他後來更擴充到其他領域，包括房地產開發。

楊國慶和Mariquita完全是現代化家長，他們給子女最好的教育，並讓他們決定自己的前途。他們的長女Carla嫁給一名英國人，現在和孫子們住在倫敦。楊承宇在鑽石生意和Kandaya中幫忙。後者更是他的特別項目。Jewelle不久前剛從倫敦完成學業，是一名有成就的畫家。

Kandaya是楊家的核心。它原本是他們的海灘度假屋，孩子們還小的時候，這裏作為他們家庭在菲律賓的度假場地。由於Salimbangon家族人丁

興旺，這個海灘度假屋被擴充到13個房間，每個房間有不同主題。楊家在孩子們小時，在Kandaya度過了許多歡樂時光。當孩子們分別出國留學後，他們在Kandaya的時間被減至一年一次。

楊承宇從洛杉磯佩珀代因大學（Pepperdine University）畢業後，提出把這塊物業開發成度假村。原來的建築物是木造的，已經破爛不堪，必須拆除重建。問題是他們要根據原來的基礎，將它改建成遼闊但私人性質的海灘度假屋，還是完全轉變成世界級的度假屋。

楊承宇說：「較年輕時，我們基本上所有假日都是在那裏度過的。這包括暑假、聖誕和農曆新年。」由於多年在當地居住，楊承宇能講一口流利的宿務話。「這裏對我來說很神奇。香港是充滿活力的城市，但同時

也是水泥叢林。我們來到這裏，看到的全是大自然。我體會到完全不同的世界。我們就住在海邊，我們建造了一個樹屋，也有小塊農田。我們會出海捕魚，並烹煮漁獲。那是非常美好的時光，成長時期，我想要分享那份神奇。」

的確，從哲學角度來講，我們一生所求的，莫不是我們最珍貴的經驗？Kandaya的核心宗旨就是製造那些經驗，而神奇可見於這些細節中。

Kandaya最傑出的一點，無疑是設計，這是經過細心考慮後的成果。楊承宇說，家人希望建造有別於其他度假村的設計：一個包含菲律賓傳統文化和風格，但以現代化手法呈現出來的建築，他的意思是線條簡樸實用。楊家聘請馬尼拉設計師Arlen P. de Guzman，楊承宇認為他的工作很出色。「將想法寫在紙上和實現這些想

法並不容易。他設計得很現代化，但又不失在家的感覺。」

De Guzman畢業於聖托馬斯大學。他起初在L.V. Locsin and Partners設計所工作，他參與設計了一些地標項目如菲廣場大旅社、菲國際貿易展覽中心（Philcote）、國家藝術中心及翻新馬尼拉大旅社。他後來在香港的戴凱樂設計公司（Dale Keller & Associates）及赫希貝德納聯合設計顧問公司（Hirsch/Bedner Associates）工作，於1995年回到馬尼拉自己開公司。

楊家積極參與設計過程。在向建築設計師說出他們的基本設計目標後，他們瀏覽了多個情緒板（mood board），並挑選樣式、色調和飾面。之後由建築師畫出建築物的設計圖。當然在建造過程中會作出一些調整。他們也考慮了節能和資源規劃。



Kandaya also offers Mix Martial Arts in their studio, with a trainer for hire.



The entrance lobby of the Hotel building, which boasts 22 suites.



Martin Yeung and lovely wife, Claudia



The hotel's Junior Suite with balcony

設計時加入了足夠的遮陽措施來減少熱源，以及引入其他創新技術來減少整體碳排放。

這個設計在多層面上都很成功。主體建築包括一個寬闊的大堂，非常壯觀，但在很多情況下，卻是一些微小的細節令人印象深刻。值得一提的是，度假別墅圍繞著豪華的寬闊洗手間。整體來講，該設計講究節約。它結實耐用，但不會予人龐大但冷冰冰的感覺。建築物的背景是海灘，四周圍繞著大自然，但不像長灘島（Boracay）和海豚灣（Puerto Galera）的最糟糕部分一樣，建在大海邊緣。首先，這裏的比例是以人體衡量的，而非富麗堂皇，這予人一種家庭氣氛。

Kandaya提供廣泛的活動和設施，從水上運動到美麗的草藥種植園，還有令人刮目相看的寬大健身房和拳擊台。喜歡綜合格鬥（MMA）的楊承宇說：「綜合格鬥是增長最快的體育項目之一，因為它是最佳運動項目。」

Kandaya的食物既優秀又新鮮，更是潛在的健康食品。我說潛在是因為你也可以點烤乳豬和其他美食，但整體而言，菜單是健康的。大廚是泰國人，曾在巴拉灣的阿曼普羅（Amanpulo）度假村工作，但健康食品的影響來自Kandaya總經理Michael Di Lonardo，他曾在療養勝地The Farm at San Benito工作。Di Lonardo是一名美國人（他現在稱意大利為他的家），他擅長可口但健康的美食，甚至還出版食譜。

Kandaya的另一個關鍵元素是服務。它很隱秘但全天候的。假如你突然需要什麼，一名員工會現身並滿足你的要求。這是非常出色的，考慮到該度假村才開業4個月。

楊承宇說：「我們的目標是將所有事情做對。全部都旨在讓客人擁有難忘的經驗。這並不容易。有時，我會抓狂。但員工們非常優秀。就算他們訓練不足，你可以看到他們會盡力去幫忙，他們想要成功。我們的員工



A TV like no other

Just in time for summer, LG Electronics unveils the country's largest 105-inch curved super ultra HD TV. Globally revealed at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas early this year, this spectacular new model 105UC9 boasts of a resolution of over 11 million pixels (5120 x 2160)—five times more than on a Full HD TV—and CinemaScope 21:9 aspect ratio. These elements deliver a truly immersive viewing experience with ultra-sharp, life-like images all over the 105-inch screen and stunning virtual surround sound. To learn more about the one-of-a-kind LG 105-inch curved Super Ultra HD TVs, visit www.lg.com/ph, like LG's official Facebook page "LG Philippines" or follow @LG Philippines on Twitter and Instagram.



Hoony Bae



The 105-inch CURVED Super ULTRA HD TV boasts of the same aspect ratio as a Hollywood motion picture with its 21:9 CinemaScope screen that recreates the movie experience at the comfort of your own home.

大部分是當地村民而非城裏人。他們沒什麼經驗，他們很新，但願意學習並嘗試去做。我真的為這些員工感到自豪，看到他們待客之道，以及他們的成就。」

楊家之所以在Kandaya投入那麼多的其中一個理由是想幫助開發宿務省北部。這裏與南部相比，經濟一直停滯不前。附近剛建完的Bogo港口也帶來很大幫助，但除了Kandaya，這裏沒什麼旅遊發展。

楊承宇說：「我們想回饋社會。我們希望Kandaya能幫助激發當地的發展。在北部建立新事物將帶來更多機會，包括引入不同類型的商業活動。我們希望投資者明白我們這裏有什麼潛力。我們有美麗的島嶼（Malapascua和Bantayan）。我們希望有更多人來這裏。」

Kandaya肯定是逐步開始。我們預測它在少於一年內將成為家喻戶曉的地點，並會熱鬧起來。也希望所有菲律賓度假村都能這麼優秀。

Reliable power protection

In the age of big data, data centers and industrial applications always need to be up and running to service the most demanding operations in the country's growing industries. Even one minute of downtime could lead to hundreds of thousands of pesos, in losses, hence the need for critical power systems support for data centers. The answer for this demand is Schneider Electric's recent innovation, Galaxy VM.

Galaxy VM is a new three-phase UPS that provides power protection as well as maximum energy efficiency. It also solves major concerns in IT by ensuring uninterrupted and efficient power, as well as reducing energy consumption and its related costs.

For more information about the Galaxy VM, please visit the Power Management Systems product website (<http://www.apc.com/products/family/index.cfm?id=483>) and Schneider Electric TV (<http://tv.schneider-electric.com/site/schneidertv/index.cfm?chnl=Data%20Center&vidType=Product%20Showcase&args=jp/en>) for product showcase videos.



Doy Santos of Schneider Electric Galaxy VM