



Coast Hotel chain to change hands for \$210 million



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The Japanese hospitality firm APA Group is buying Vancouver-headquartered Coast Hotels for \$210 million from Okabe Co. Ltd., another Tokyo-based corporation.

The sale is being made by way of a share-transfer agreement, which was completed July 28, and is expected to close in early September, according to press releases issued by both companies.

In total, Coast Hotels has 36 properties under its banner in North America including landmark properties such as the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in Vancouver, the Benson Hotel in Portland and Waimea Plantation Cottages in Hawaii.

APA Group made an offer to purchase the Coast Hotels business, which was accepted by the Canadian firm's parent company, said Coast spokeswoman Sarah Kirby-Yung.

"But (the transaction) needs to go through the legal due diligence process before the sale is formally complete," she said, and "the target closing date is Sept. 6."

The purchase of Coast represents a bigger foray into the North American market for APA Group, Japan's largest hospitality firm.

APA, which stands for Always Pleasant Amenity, entered the U.S. market in November of 2015, the hotel industry news website Hospitality Net reported, by striking a partnership with New-Jersey-based Friendwell Group of Companies to develop the APA franchise in the U.S.

Its first hotel under that partnership is the 200-room APA Hotel Woodbridge, formerly a Hilton property, in Metropark, N.J., which reopened in June following renovations, the company said in its news release.

Okabe is selling its Canadian hotel company to expand its business in making construction materials for seismic upgrading and building earthquake-resistant structures, the company said in its news release. Its plans include building a new factory.

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