

# Family feud: Key players in succession battle

A look at who's who in the Shin family which controls Lotte Group, one of South Korea's largest business conglomerates.



## Shin Kyuk Ho, 92

- Founder and general chairman of Lotte Group. Caught in an ongoing succession battle between his two sons. Born in Ulsan but left to study in Japan in 1942. Started Lotte Confectionery in 1948.



## Shin Young Ja, 73

- Elder daughter of Mr Shin and his first wife, who died in 1951. Chairman of Lotte Welfare Foundation. She is siding with the elder son.



## Shin Dong Joo, 61

- Elder son of Mr Shin from his second marriage to Ms Hatsuko Shigemitsu. Former vice-chairman of Japan-based Lotte Holdings, ousted in January. Ranked 22nd richest man in South Korea this year by Forbes magazine, with a net worth of US\$1.5 billion.



## Shin Dong Bin, 60

- Second son. Chairman of Lotte Group and current head of Lotte Holdings. Ranked 19th richest man in South Korea this year by Forbes, with a net worth of US\$1.7 billion.

## The business empire

Founded by Mr Shin Kyuk Ho, the company had humble beginnings as a chewing gum maker in post-war Japan in 1948. It expanded into South Korea in 1967 and has grown into a 90 trillion won (S\$106 billion) empire with stakes in just about everything from food and beverage to retail, hotel, tourism and even petrochemicals. Here's a look at its more prominent businesses:

### Snack empire

- November 11 is Pepero Day, when Lotte's hit product Pepero is exchanged among young adults in South Korea as a sign of friendship. Other products made by the company include chewing gum, candy, chips and ice cream, of which Choco Pie and Ghana chocolate are among the most popular.



### Retail giant

- The flagship Lotte department store in the main Myeongdong shopping district in Seoul, beside Lotte Hotel, is a huge tourist magnet. The company owns a total of 48 department stores in South Korea and five in China. The Lotte Duty Free is also the world's third largest duty free operator by sales.



### Korea's Disneyland

- The group opened South Korea's first theme park in 1989. Lotte World draws more than eight million visitors a year to its amusement rides, shows and indoor ice skating rink.



### Skyscraper developer

- Its engineering and construction arm founded in 1959 is behind what is expected to be Seoul's first super tall skyscraper and the sixth-tallest building in the world — the 555m-high Lotte World Tower (right). It is scheduled to be completed by the end of next year although it has been plagued by a string of accidents.

