



香港投資者關係協會
Hong Kong Investor Relations Association

6th HKIRA IR Awards 2020 Now Open for Nomination

Hong Kong (4 February, 2020) – Hong Kong Investor Relations Association (HKIRA) is pleased to announce that public nomination is now open for the 6th HKIRA IR Awards 2020 (the Awards). In their sixth consecutive year, through the Awards, HKIRA looks forward to recognizing the efforts of more Hong Kong-listed companies to encourage excellence and best practices in investor relations.

Dr Eva Chan, Founding Chairman of HKIRA, said, “Building on the success over the past five years, we are thrilled that the HKIRA IR Awards are entering their sixth year. I would like to express our gratitude to our partners, including, but not limited to, member IROs, advisors, regulators, sponsors as well as all the participants and voters during the past five years, for their long-term support and contribution. We are glad to see the remarkable improvement in the overall standards of investor relations in Hong Kong in recent years, and we certainly look forward to another amazing year ahead”.

Dr Chan continued, “To honour outstanding performance across a broader range of IR aspects, this year, we have added three new award categories for nomination and voting, namely ‘**Best ESG (E)**’, ‘**Best ESG (S)**’ and ‘**Best ESG (G)**’, to recognise collective excellence of listed companies in environmental, social and governance efforts respectively. The ‘**Grand ESG Award**’ is also a new accolade added this year. The winner of the ‘Grand ESG Award’ will be selected by the judging panel to honour companies’ overall performance in the above three areas of ESG. In view of the increasingly significant role that ESG plays in listed companies at a strategic and operational level, we believe exceptional ESG practices should be properly recognised, thus we have introduced this award”.

Last year, the Awards enjoyed widespread support from the investment community with 161 entries from listed companies received. In addition, over 700 eligible voters and over 330 voting institutions cast a total of more than 599 votes for 46 award winners in different categories. The volume of polling testifies to the wide recognition of the IR Awards and appreciation of their role among listed companies and within the investment community. Among the winners, **Link Real Estate Investment Trust (stock code: 823)**, **Champion Real Estate Investment Trust (stock code: 2778)** and **Far East Consortium International Limited (stock code: 35)** were awarded Overall Best IR Company by company size – Large Cap, Mid Cap, and Small Cap – respectively.

The 6th HKIRA IR Awards 2020 are once again honoured to have **Professor Louis Cheng, Director of the Center for Economic Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Finance, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**, as the Chairman of the Judging Panel. In 2018, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has produced a research paper entitled “**Relative Valuation Effects of Local and International Analysts’ Voting: The Case of Investor Relations Awards**” using the proprietary data from the online voting for the HKIRA IR Awards. Based on the final voting data consisting of 418 nominated firms with total valid votes of 18,172 during the three-year period,

Professor Cheng has found a **positive effect** on the stock valuation of awarded firms when the announcements of IR awards are released. **Trading volume has significantly increased** for the awarded firms. Moreover, **the level of transparency** suggests that the **nominated but not awarded firms** show **significant improvement** in transparency when comparing pre- and post-event periods.

Public nomination for the 6th HKIRA IR Awards 2020 is now open to Hong Kong-listed companies. Nominated individuals and companies will be placed on the online voting list upon confirmation of their participation. The investment community, including buy-side and sell-side analysts and fund managers, are eligible to vote. Nominees with the highest votes (weighted) in each award category become the award winners. They then undergo a final assessment by the judging panel for the Most Progress in IR, the Overall Best IR Company Awards and the Grand ESG Award. Facilitating a fair and balanced evaluation, the judging panel comprises academics, representatives from professional associations and the investment community.

The 6th HKIRA IR Awards 2020 scheme has a total of 15 award categories honouring best IR practices of individuals and companies. Among these awards, 12 categories are open for nomination and voting, while the other 3 awards are selected by the judging panel. The award winners are to be announced at a ceremony to be held in Hong Kong in May/June 2020. For more information, please visit www.hkira.com/awards.

Strategic Public Relations Group is once again proud to be the Official Public Relations Partner and the Diamond Sponsor for the HKIRA IR Awards this year. Please find key dates relating to the Awards with its categories and criteria for selection listed in the Appendix.

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About HKIRA

Founded in 2008 with over 900 members mostly working for companies primarily listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Investor Relations Association (HKIRA) is a professional association in investor relations (IR), comprising IR practitioners and corporate officers, who are responsible for communications between corporate management and the investment community. HKIRA is dedicated to advocating the setting of international standards in IR education, advancing the best IR practices and catering for the professional development needs of those who are interested in pursuing a professional career in IR. HKIRA's members are from a wide spectrum of professions including IR, finance, accounting and company secretarial to corporate investment and hold positions at different corporate levels, including top executives responsible for IR and management of listed companies. For more information about HKIRA details, please visit our website <http://www.hkira.com>

About the IR Awards

Since debuting in 2015, the annual campaign of the HKIRA Investor Relations Awards has been encouraging, recognising and rewarding excellence in local investor relations practices by individuals and companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through the presentation of the IR Awards.

The Awards ceremony, consisting of a conference in the morning and a presentation programme in the afternoon, is a significant gathering of IR specialists and industry professionals that applauds and publicises the year's most outstanding achievements in the dynamic IR field in Hong Kong. For details of the Awards and online nominations, please visit <http://www.hkira.com/awards>.

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Appendix

Key Dates (Subject to final changes.)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Nomination period | 31 January – 2 March 2020 |
| Online voting period | 9 March – 15 April 2020 |
| Judging Panel Meeting | Mid April 2020 |
| Award Conference cum Presentation Luncheon | May/June 2020 |

Award Categories

| Award Categories | Recognition | Selection Method |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Best IR Company | Company's Achievements | Open for nomination and online voting |
| Best IR Team | | |
| Best ESG (E)* | | |
| Best ESG (S)* | | |
| Best ESG (G)* | | |
| Best Investor Meeting | | |
| Best Investor Presentation Material | | |
| Best Annual Report | | |
| Best IR Company for an IPO** | | |
| Best IR by Chairman/CEO | Individual's Achievements | Selected by Judging Panel |
| Best IR by CFO | | |
| Best IRO (Investor Relations Officer) | | |
| Most Progress in IR | Demonstration of the most progress in IR in the above areas during 2019 | Selected by Judging Panel |
| Overall Best IR Company Awards | Outstanding and all-round excellence in the above areas | |
| Grand ESG Award | Overall excellence in all the three areas across ESG | |

* New Awards

** Companies which were listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in 2018 and 2019 are eligible to be nominated for this award.

Remarks: All awards will be further categorised by company market capitalisation into Large Cap, Mid Cap, and Small Cap, except Best IR Company for an IPO, Most Progress in IR Awards and Grand ESG Award.

Judging Panel (Arranged in alphabetical order of last name)

| Name | Title | Firms / Organizations |
|---|--|---|
| Professor Louis Cheng (Chairman of Judging Panel) | Director | Centre for Economic Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Finance, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University |
| Mrs Amy Donati | Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer | EDICO Holdings Limited |
| Ms Ashley Khoo, CFA, CPA | Immediate Past President | The Hong Kong Society of Financial Analysts |
| Mr Bruno Lee | Chairman | Hong Kong Investment Funds Association |
| Mr Andrew Look | Independent Non-Executive Director | CITIC Resources Holdings Limited |
| Ms Victoria Mio, CFA, CPA (US), FRM | Co-Head Asia Pacific Equities and CIO China | Robeco Hong Kong Limited |
| Ms Helen Zee | Vice Chairman | The Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies |