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Directors Of The Year Awards 2014 Now Open for Nominations

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Themed “Effective Leadership – Key to Corporate Success”

(Hong Kong, 3 July 2014) – **The Hong Kong Institute of Directors** (“HKIoD”) is accepting nominations for its annual awards – Directors Of The Year Awards 2014. As the first award scheme of its kind in Asia enters its fourteenth year, this year’s Awards have been themed “Effective Leadership – Key to Corporate Success.” The intention is to emphasise the professionalism of directors within a corporation for better corporate governance, ultimately adding value to the corporation in different areas in addition to business development in the long-term.

Dr Kelvin Wong, Chairman of HKIoD, said, “HKIoD has long promoted efforts of directors to enhance governance across different areas of the corporation so as to bring greater effectiveness to its stakeholders. Over the years, we have witnessed an increasing number of companies have taken various initiatives to step up their efforts to improve corporate governance, for effective leadership and the sustainable development of the company. We believe the Board plays a critical role in navigating the healthy development of a company, and an effective leadership can assist a corporation to create greater long-term value.”

Dr Anthony Yeung, Chairman of the Awards Organising Committee, said, “The enhancement of corporate governance codes and shareholder expectations in recent years has increased the need for Boards of directors to demonstrate effective leadership. Directors having the professional skills and knowledge to meet the latest corporate governance requirements shall be able to provide quality decision-making. Moving up to the Board level, a Board of directors with diversified backgrounds and professional knowledge compliments each other when supervising policy formulation and execution within a company, the overall effectiveness of Board leadership can be enhanced.”

Shenzhen General Chamber of Commerce and the Shenzhen Business Elites Union, the lead sponsor of the Directors Of The Year Awards 2014, stated, “The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was the first area to carry out economic reform in China. Since the 1990’s, Shenzhen has been focusing on economic and social development on one hand, and striving to achieve internationalisation of its financial market, adopt international economic practices, implement market mechanisms, etc. The continuous development of Shenzhen is solidifying its connection with Hong Kong, enabling the Shenzhen General Chamber of Commerce and Shenzhen Business Elites Union to realise the benefits of promoting and implementing good corporate governance to companies. We are honoured to be the lead sponsor of Directors Of The Year Awards 2014, through which we hope to advance the professionalism of directors and contribute to the prosperous development of enterprises.”

Dr Carlye Tsui, CEO of HKIoD, said, “There has seen significant enhancement of board practices in recent years. Not only do companies now require an increasing involvement and commitment from directors on the supervision Board decisions, directors are also required to constantly keep abreast with the latest trends in corporate governance and market knowledge to ensure the effectiveness of Board leadership and strategy execution. It has always been our goal to advocate the promotion of Hong Kong as a leading example of corporate governance and nurturing in Hong Kong a talent pool of top class company directors, and ultimately to enhance Hong Kong’s competitiveness as the world’s leading financial market. ”

Directors Of The Year Awards 2014 is organised by HKIoD and co-organised by Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau of HKSAR Government, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. Shenzhen General Chamber of Commerce and the Shenzhen Business Elites Union is the Lead Sponsor of the event. Supporting Organisations include Government bureaus, the media, service organisations, professional institutes and Chambers of Commerce and consultancy firms.

Nomination for the Awards will close on 31 July 2014. The Panel of Judges consists of outstanding business leaders, professionals and regulators in Hong Kong. The Director Of The Year Awards 2014 recognises excellence in the following categories:

| Company Categories: | Director Categories: |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Listed Companies (SEHK – Hang Seng Indexes Constituents) | 1. Executive Directors |
| 2. Listed Companies (SEHK – Non-Hang Seng Indexes Constituents) | 2. Non-executive Directors |
| 3. Private Companies | 3. Board |
| 4. Statutory/Non-Profit-Distributing Organisations | |

The selection criteria for winners in the Individual Director Categories include their effectiveness in performing strategic corporate business functions, contribution to board effectiveness, contribution towards managing change, risk and succession, leadership and other attributes and qualities, including continuing professional development for directors, business ethics and other outstanding achievements. As for the Collective Board Categories, judging criteria include board composition, skill mix and competencies of directors, effectiveness in performing strategic corporate business functions, development and implementation of strategic plans and monitoring of performance, managing compliance and accountability, managing change, risk and succession, development of the board, including continuing professional development for directors, effectiveness of board committees and business ethics as well as any other achievements.

The Awards nomination form and related information are available on The Hong Kong Institute of Directors website at www.hkiod.com.

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About Directors Of The Year Awards

First launched in 2001, Directors Of The Year Awards were the first ever such Awards organised in Asia. The project has now become an annual project of impact in the community. The objectives are to recognise directors and board of directors for outstanding director practices and corporate governance, to publicise the significance of good corporate governance and to promote awareness of good corporate governance and director professionalism in Hong Kong. Nominations are open to the public. As good corporate governance is vital to all types of organisations, and professional director practices are encouraged from directors in all board roles, the Awards recognise excellence in categories by company types, including listed companies, private companies and statutory/non-profit-distributing organisations, and categories by roles, including Executive Directors, Non-Executive Directors and Boards. For more details on the previous years' Awards, please visit <http://www.hkiod.com/dya-awardees.html>

About The Hong Kong Institute of Directors

The Hong Kong Institute of Directors is Hong Kong's premier body representing directors to foster the long-term success of companies through advocacy and standards-setting in corporate governance and professional development for directors. A non-profit-distributing organisation with membership consisting of directors from listed and non-listed companies, HKIoD is committed to providing directors with educational programmes and information service and establishing an influential voice in representing directors. With international perspectives and a multi-cultural environment, HKIoD conducts business in biliteracy and trilingualism. Website: <http://www.hkiod.com>.

Media Enquiries:

Strategic Financial Relations Limited

Heidi SO +852 2864 4826

heidi.so@sprg.com.hk

Cornia CHUI +852 2864 4853

cornia.chui@sprg.com.hk

Beatrice WONG +852 2114 4953

beatricehy.wong@sprg.com.hk

Fax: +852 2527 1196

Directors Of The Year Awards 2014 Enquiries:

The Hong Kong Institute of Directors

Christine WONG +852 2889 4988

christine.wong@hkiod.com

Susan LING +852 2889 9986

susan.ling@hkiod.com

Fax +852 2889 9982