

DIRECTORS'
CONFERENCE 2008
Directorship in the 21st Century

**The Hong Kong Institute of Directors Presents
First “Directors’ Conference” in Hong Kong**

Themed Directorship in the 21st Century

Hong Kong, 4 March 2008 – An initiative of **The Hong Kong Institute of Directors** (HKIoD), the first “Directors’ Conference” in Hong Kong will be held on 9 April 2008 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. The theme of the Conference “Directorship in the 21st Century” responds to the need of corporate leaders to be effective in delivering their responsibilities in the ever-changing business world filled with opportunities and challenges.

Mr Peter S H Wong, Chairman of HKIoD, said, “The business landscape worldwide has changed dramatically in the last century and at an accelerating pace. A director of a corporation in the 21st century needs to keep learning and enhancing professional knowledge and skills in order to fulfill director’s roles and responsibilities effectively. HKIoD has been active in organising activities to promote corporate governance in different organisations, business or otherwise, and assist companies in developing or adopting global corporate governance standards and practices, and the Directors’ Conference is such an activity. Tailored for directors and senior executives, it will also make a valuable avenue for sharing of experience, exchange of views and networking.”

The Directors’ Conference will feature an opening address by The Honourable Donald Tsang GBM, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and a closing address by Professor K C Chan SBS JP, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. Among other keynote speakers and participants of plenary discussions are Mr Andrew Brandler, Chief Executive Officer of CLP Holdings Limited, The Honourable Bernard Chan, President of Asia Financial Group and Mr Eddy Fong SBS JP, Chairman of Securities and Futures Commission.

The Conference will cover topics including external challenges in the 21st century that directors have to face, the corporate governance trend to come in the region, regulation and global competition, and the role of directors in board meetings, etc. And the proposed topics for the discussion sessions include how an effective board can contribute to the transformation of a family-owned enterprise into a global business and insights of independent non-executive directors on building a “happy” Board.

Dr Moses Cheng GBS OBE JP, Hon President of HKIoD and Chairman of Organising Committee of Directors’ Conference, said, “Decisions made by board members of a company have critical bearing on the company’s performance, hence command professional directorship. The Conference gathers renowned leaders, top scholars and industry experts to explore and evaluate crucial corporate governance issues and share with participants their winning strategies and success stories. It is a unique event designed to cater for the professional interest of directors and facilitate interaction among

participants. To strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre, we need governing boards of enterprises here to be of the highest professional standard, and this is what the Conference and HKIoD wish to contribute to."

HKIoD is the host of Directors' Conference 2008. The Co-Organisers of the event are Financial Services and Treasury Bureau, Securities and Futures Commission and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited. T G Gold Investment Company Limited is the Lead Sponsor of the Conference.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours may be claimed by members of professional institutions who attended the Conference. Such institutions include Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and International Association of Registered Financial Consultants.

Dr Carlye Tsui BBS MBE JP, CEO of HKIoD, concluded, "Directors need to be visionary in addressing various issues, from sustaining entrepreneurial development and enabling the business to triumph in the face of adversity, to meeting challenges of competition, formulating growth and development strategies, business expansion into the global horizon and acquiring the necessary competencies to fulfill their roles. The Conference welcomes participants from not only listed companies, but also private companies including SMEs as well as public and non-profit organisations. The roles, responsibilities, principles and spirit of directorship apply universally to all types of companies and businesses."

Dr Carlye Tsui also expressed gratitude to all supporting parties for making the Conference possible.

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About The Hong Kong Institute of Directors

The Hong Kong Institute of Directors (HKIoD) is Hong Kong's premier body representing professional directors working together to promote good corporate governance and to contribute towards advancing the status of Hong Kong, both in China and internationally. A non-profit organisation, the Institute is committed to its mission through providing directors with educational programmes and information service and establishing an influential voice in representing directors. HKIoD organises a variety of programmes that have been well received by the audience, such as speaker meetings, seminars and the annual project Directors Of The Year Awards. Website: <http://www.hkiod.com>

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