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

## **HKIRA 7<sup>th</sup> IR Awards 2021 Now Open for Nomination**

**Hong Kong (7 April 2021) – Hong Kong Investor Relations Association (HKIRA)** is pleased to announce that public nomination is now open for the HKIRA 7<sup>th</sup> IR Awards 2021 (the ‘Awards’). In its seventh consecutive year, 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, “2020 was a challenging year for many sectors, especially for IR teams when needing to communicate with the investment community during the COVID outbreak. Crisis communication is an important function for IR professionals. We would like to once again recognize the efforts of senior management and IROs for their continuous efforts in upholding the best corporate governance and transparency during these difficult times, and we certainly are looking forward to a better year ahead.”

**Dr Chan** continued, “Asset managers and analysts expect companies to provide critical information about its financial and business status in an efficient manner during the COVID-19 outbreak. More importantly, forward-looking perspectives should be provided to stakeholders so that better valuations can be achieved. Voters of the award will put all these issues under their consideration when they choose their winners, making the IR Award more meaningful for the year of 2020.”

Last year, the Awards enjoyed widespread support from the investment community with 168 entries from listed companies received. In addition, over 670 eligible voters and over 310 voting institutions cast a total of more than 9800 votes for 43 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, **Xiaomi Corporation (stock code: 1810)**, **Fortune Real Estate Investment Trust (stock code: 778)** and **Sa Sa International Holdings Limited (stock code: 178)** were awarded Overall Best IR Company by company size – Large Cap, Mid Cap, and Small Cap – respectively.

The HKIRA 7<sup>th</sup> IR Awards 2021 are once again honoured to have **Professor Louis Cheng, Dr. S H Ho Professor of Banking and Finance, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong**, as the Chairman of the Judging Panel. In 2018, 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 a 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 HKIRA 7<sup>th</sup> IR Awards 2021 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 HKIRA 7<sup>th</sup> IR Awards 2021 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 August/September 2021. For more information, please visit [www.hkira.com/awards](http://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**

Hong Kong Investor Relations Association (HKIRA) is a non-profit professional association comprising investor relations practitioners and corporate officers responsible for communication between corporate management and the investment community. HKIRA advocates the setting of international standards in IR education, advances the best IR practices and meets the professional development needs of those interested in pursuing the investor relations profession.

HKIRA is dedicated to advancing the practice of IR as well as the professional competency and status of its members. To date, HKIRA has over 1000 members most of whom are working for companies primarily listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong. About 60% of the Hang Seng Index Constituent Stock companies are currently members of HKIRA. HKIRA's members are from a wide spectrum of professions including IR, finance, accounting, 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**

The HKIRA Investor Relations Awards (the "IR Awards") is an annual campaign that aims to encourage, recognize and reward the excellence in investor relations practices by individuals and companies listed in Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Since the launch in 2015, each year the Awards seeks out and highlights the incredible achievements of individuals and companies with high standards in investor relations through their role modelling to the investment community.

The Awards ceremony, consisting of a conference in the morning and presentation in the afternoon, is a spectacular gathering of IR specialists and industry professionals that applauds and publicizes the year's achievements in investor relations. For details of the Awards and online nominations, please visit <http://www.hkira.com/awards>.

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Website: [www.hkira.com](http://www.hkira.com)

## Appendix

### Key Dates

Nomination period	30 Mar – 4 May 2021
Online voting period	10 May – 18 Jun 2021
Judging Panel Meeting	Jun / Jul 2021
Award Presentation	Aug / Sep 2021

### Award Categories

Award Categories	Recognition	Selection Method
<b>Best IR Company</b>	Company's Achievements	Open for nomination and online voting
<b>Best IR Team</b>		
<b>Best ESG (E)</b>		
<b>Best ESG (S)</b>		
<b>Best ESG (G)</b>		
<b>Best Investor Meeting</b>		
<b>Best Investor Presentation Material</b>		
<b>Best Annual Report</b>		
<b>Best IR Company for an IPO*</b>		
<b>Best IR by Chairman/CEO</b>		
<b>Best IR by CFO</b>		
<b>Best IRO (Investor Relations Officer)</b>		
<b>Most Progress in IR</b>	Demonstration of the most progress in IR in the above areas during 2020	Selected by Judging Panel
<b>Overall Best IR Company Awards</b>	Outstanding and all-round excellence in the above areas	
<b>Grand ESG Award</b>	Overall excellence in all the three areas across ESG	

\* Companies which were listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in 2019 and 2020 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 and Most Progress in IR Awards.

### Judging Panel (Arranged in alphabetical order of last name)

Name	Title	Firms / Organizations
<b>Professor Louis Cheng</b> (Chairman of Judging Panel)	Dr. S H Ho Professor of Banking and Finance Director of Research Institute for Business	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
<b>Mr Daryl Choy</b>	Chief Marketing Officer	Tricor Services Limited
<b>Mrs Amy Donati</b>	Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer	EDICO Holdings Limited
<b>Ms Ashley Khoo, CFA, CPA</b>	Past President and Board Director	CFA Society Hong Kong
<b>Mr Bruno Lee</b>	Past Chairman Regional Head of Retail Wealth Distribution, WAM Asia	Hong Kong Investment Funds Association Manulife Investment Management (Hong Kong) Limited

<b>Mr Andrew Look</b>	Independent Non-Executive Director	CITIC Resources Holdings Limited
<b>Ms Victoria Mio, CFA, FRM</b>	Director, Asian Equities	FIL Investment Management (Hong Kong) Limited
<b>Mr Wilfred Yiu</b>	Managing Director and Head of Markets	Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited
<b>Ms Helen Zee</b>	Past Vice Chairman Managing Director	The Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies Luk Fook Capital (HK) Limited