

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards Accepts Nominations for 2020

***Stronger corporate governance called for as corporates brace themselves for
unprecedented business challenges***

Covid-19 heightens emphasis on sustainability issues

(Hong Kong, June 23, 2020) The Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards 2020, jointly organized by The Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies (“CHKLC”) and the Centre for Corporate Governance and Financial Policy (“CCGFP”) of Hong Kong Baptist University is open for nomination from now till August 28, 2020.

“Just as Covid-19 is easing in Hong Kong, the rising disparity between China and the US on the political front creates intense tension for our economy, and presents great business challenges to Hong Kong corporates,” said Mr. K.L. Wong, Chairman of CHKLC.

“The Government has forecast negative economic growth of 4-7% for 2020 while the unemployment rate reported on June 16 was 5.9%, a record high in 15 years. Amidst such grim economic sentiments, corporates must work even harder to maintain their business on track, avoid further risks and continue to win the trust of investors, customers and employees. This can only be achieved by sound corporate governance, demonstrated in strong board leadership, robust risk management, solid internal control and high transparency and accountability,” he explained.

“The annual Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards is organised with a view to promote such strong corporate governance and to allow companies with high achievements to showcase success and share experience,” he added.

The Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards recognizes companies that exhibit a holistic approach to corporate governance and sustainability and demonstrate excellent achievements. Nominations for the Awards are open to all companies listed on the Main Board and GEM Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

“Sustainability has risen in importance in the board agenda in recent years. The Covid-19 further rings an alarm bell to all corporates that they must re-define their relationship with the society and the larger stakeholder groups. Only by respecting the environment and public welfare can their

business continuity be ensured. In our judging this year, this will certainly be a key area we pay attention to,” commented Mr. Philip Tsai, Chairman of the Judging Panel.

The Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards has five award categories: 1) Hang Seng Index Constituents Companies, 2) Hang Seng Composite Index Constituents Companies, 3) Hang Seng China (Hong Kong-listed)100 Index Constituents Companies, 4) Others and GEM Board Companies, and 5) Newly-listed Companies, being companies having been listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong within three years prior to the year of nomination and have published at least two annual reports.

As part of the overall assessment in giving Corporate Governance Excellence Awards, the Judging Panel would consider giving an award on Sustainability Excellence to companies whose performance and achievements in sustainability measures achieve an excellent standard. No separate submission is required.

The panel of judges will select the winners using a model of eight key corporate governance and sustainability aspects respectively, developed by the CCGFP. Special attention will be given to companies that demonstrate innovation and significant improvements in corporate governance and/or sustainability made over the last three years; efforts made to internalize and pursue the highest principles of corporate governance and/or sustainability over-and-beyond compliance with requirements; and the ability to show positive business impact of the corporate governance and/or sustainability spirit and practices.

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The Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies

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About the Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies

Incorporated in September 2002, CHKLC is a non-profit organization serving listed companies in Hong Kong. The Chamber strives to promote sound corporate governance, function as an effective communication channel between listed companies and regulatory authorities, strengthen the commercial linkage and foster co-operation among listed companies from Hong Kong and China and uphold Hong Kong’s position as an international trade, commercial and financial centre. Since 2007, the Chamber organises the annual “Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards” jointly with the Hong Kong Baptist University to advocate best practices of corporate governance and recognize excellence.

About the Centre for Corporate Governance & Financial Policy of Hong Kong Baptist University

The Centre aspires to be a “Centre of Excellence” on corporate governance in the region. It promotes quality policy and academic research on corporate governance and related financial policy issues covering Hong Kong, China and the Asia-Pacific economies, with the aim to improve the quality of corporate governance practices. Additionally, the Centre provides professional executive education activities to disseminate knowledge and advance the highest ideals of responsible business leadership. Through consultancy projects, the Centre also assists organizations to design, improve and assess their corporate governance systems and structures.

Notes to Editors:

About the Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards 2020

The Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards are conferred annually since 2007 by the Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies and the Centre for Corporate Governance and Financial Policy, Hong Kong Baptist University and are designed to promote and award excellence in corporate governance of listed companies in Hong Kong. The Awards Programme provides recognition and prestige for listed companies in achieving outstanding commitments to shareholder rights, compliance, integrity, fairness, responsibility, accountability, transparency, board independence and leadership, and corporate social responsibility.

The Awards Programme is supported by China Tonghai International Financial Limited as Gold Sponsor and BDO Limited as Bronze Sponsor. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, HKICPA, The Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association, and the Hong Kong Investment Funds Association are the Supporting Organization of the Awards. In addition, Hong Kong Economic Times is Sole Chinese Newspaper Sponsor; Metro Finance is Exclusive Radio Partner; Quamnet, irasia.com, Moebius Asia, Wisdom Investor Relations and FINET are Online Media Partners; and the Chinese Edition of Bloomberg Businessweek is Print Media Partner.

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