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CIMB, AirAsia win big

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THE second Investor Relations Awards yesterday saw CIMB Group Holdings win big, followed by AirAsia Bhd.

CIMB bagged four awards under the large cap category, followed by AirAsia Bhd with two major awards under the mid-cap category.

CIMB won best company for investor relations (IR), Datuk Seri Nazir Razak for best CEO for IR, Steven Tan for best IR professional and best IR website.

AirAsia won best CEO for IR for Tan Sri Tony Fernandes while Benyamin Ismail won best IR professional.

Organised by the Malaysian Investor Relations Association (MIRA), the event gave recognition to individuals and companies that have successfully embraced best IR practices.

A total of 20 awards under ten main categories were presented and the companies were polled under large-, mid- and small-cap based on

company size or market capitalisation, referenced against the basket of companies under the FTSE Bursa Index series.

Four new categories were introduced this year to recognise the diversity and development trends in IR, MIRA said in a statement.

They were best IR for an IPO 2011, business knowledge & insights of IR team, most improved service from IR team, quality of annual reports/formal disclosure and quality of one-on-one meetings.

Over 800 buy-side and sell-side investment professionals globally were invited to take part in the study.

Votes were only verified and accepted from legitimate investment professionals investing in or covering Malaysia. A total of 181 qualifying responses from 52 organisations were included in the results.

Securities Commission chairman Datuk Ranjit Singh and Bursa Malaysia Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Tajuddin Atan were present at the event.

Other winners were TSH Resources as best company for IR for the small-cap category, CB industrial product CEO for best CEO for IR (small-cap), while best IR for an IPO company 2011 went to Bumi Armada.

Best CFO for IR awards went to Chang Siew Yen from Public Bank (large-cap) and Faizal Mansor from Malaysia Airports Holdings (mid-cap), and best IR professional for a small-cap company went to Frederick Tan of TSH Resources.

Meanwhile, Ranjit called on companies to voluntarily widen access to information to stakeholders.

This could be done by observing transparent practices and transmitting complete, meaningful and timely disclosure of information, he said in a separate statement.

As a regulator, Ranjit said, the SC would prefer not to introduce more rules or regulations.

However, it would closely scrutinise these practices and disclosures and make it a priority to level the playing field by ensuring that investors have easy and timely access to information.

--Business Times

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