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Top in investor relations

MIRA AWARDS: CIMB Group bags four titles for successfully embracing best IR practices

KUALA LUMPUR

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, and Steven Tan Chek Chye for best IR professional. The group also clinched the best IR website award.

AirAsia's Tan Sri Tony Fernandes won best CEO for IR while the airline's Benyamin Ismail won best IR professional title.

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 10 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 participate.

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 (Best company for IR for the small cap category), CB Industrial Product CEO (Best CEO for IR — small cap), while best IR for an IPO company 2011 went to Bumi Armada.

The 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.



MIRA chairperson Audrey Ho (left) and Securities Commission chairman Datuk Ranjit Ajit Singh with winners of the Best CEO for IR (third from left) CIMB Group CEO Datuk Seri Nazir Razak, AirAsia CEO Tan Sri Tony Fernandes and CB Industrial Product Holdings MD Lim Chai Beng.