



The Asset Triple A Investment Awards 2009, Part II

Investors and Wealth Managers Awards

ASSET ASIAN AWARDS 2009 TRIPLE A

SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND OF THE YEAR

China Investment Corporation

In September 2009, China Investment Corp (CIC) celebrates its second anniversary. Despite its youth compared to the more established sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) in the world, CIC has displayed admirable maturity in conducting its affairs. It has embraced a high level of transparency – what took some SWFs decades to achieve. While the fund was launched at a time of unprecedented market turbulence, making its début a challenging one, it has since applied the right amount of caution and risk aversion, thus containing the setbacks from its earlier investments. When compared to the more experienced SWFs, CIC's achievement in the past 12 months has certainly shone through.

PENSION FUND OF THE YEAR

National Pension Service, Korea

The world's fourth largest pension fund and the country's largest institutional investor has always employed a dynamic approach to investing. It has been highly responsive to the changing market conditions and the restructuring of its management has resulted in an even more engaged and efficient organization that is held out as an example for other pension funds in the region.

ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR

J.P. Morgan Asset Management

As one of the largest local investment managers in Hong Kong, it manages US\$19 billion locally and almost US\$71 billion (as of 31 March 2009) of funds across the Asia-Pacific region. It is the leading provider of award-winning unit trusts and mutual funds and offers over 75 funds in Hong Kong.

ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, COUNTRY AWARDS

HONG KONG

J.P. Morgan Asset Management

The group is among the most respected asset management companies in Hong Kong in terms of the quality of its fund managers and its product offerings.

CHINA

China Asset Management Company

The largest fund management company in China has delivered many of the best-performing funds sold to Chinese investors over the years. It has more than 120 investment professionals, making it one of the largest investment and research teams in China.

INDIA

Birla Sun Life

Admired for providing a wide array of mutual fund products that are highly popular and relatively safe for investors, the group also delivers in terms of performance. While other mutual fund management companies were consolidating their operations during the award period, the group invested strongly to reach out and service more customers. In the last 18 months it had nearly doubled its distributor base to over 26,000 points and increased its branch network by 47%.

PHILIPPINES

BPI Asset Management

The group retains a dominant market share of the asset management business in the Philippines, managing over 380 billion pesos (US\$7.83 billion) in assets, representing a 22% industry share among 38 market players. Its vast pool of institutional and retail clients consists of 835 institutional accounts, including several government institutions and top corporations in the Philippines and 46,000 individual clients.

HEDGE FUND MANAGER OF THE YEAR

PMA Investment Advisors

The group has delivered strongly based on the performance of the different hedge funds that it manages in what has been a cataclysmic year for hedge funds. Its track record of keeping daily NAVs (net asset values) since 2002 has given it unparalleled transparency in an otherwise opaque industry, allowing it to keep investor confidence intact at a time when investors were fleeing other hedge funds.

PROPERTY INVESTOR OF THE YEAR

No winner

GREEN INVESTOR OF THE YEAR

RBS

As an institution, the bank believes being green is not only good, but can be a sound business as well. RBS was active in offering green investment products in 2008 despite challenging investment conditions. The group structured and distributed over US\$1 billion of green investment products to retail investors, making it a stand-out among its peers.

BEST PRIVATE BANKS

ASIA

Credit Suisse

With one of the strongest capital ratios in the industry, it has certainly benefited from the problems facing rivals as flight to quality dominated private clients' minds. The bank added 340 relationship managers during the year and opened 12 new branches. Its franchise remains solidly profitable despite dark clouds hovering over the industry. Client testimonies underscore its value as a private bank – in being not just a repository of wealth but also a trusted adviser, especially at a time during the past 12 months when trust seemed to be in short supply.

CHINA

China Merchants Bank

Its private banking arm might only be two years old but China Merchant Bank (CMB) has already demonstrated that with the right attention and focus, there is so much energy that can be unleashed from China's under-served private banking market. As of end 2008, CMB Private Bank has increased its client base by over 35% with assets under management increasing by 34%. The team employs over 238 trained staff to service clients. The average size of client account is almost four times that of the average level for banks across the country.

HONG KONG

J.P. Morgan Private Bank

J.P. Morgan Private Bank has established a no-nonsense reputation in the rarefied private banking business in Hong Kong. The bank earns the recognition for its responsible attitude toward clients and has been one of the few private banking institutions that earned the goodwill from the strong level of integrity it has demonstrated with regards to highly leveraged and risky structured products.

KOREA

Hana Bank

Hana Bank always stands out because of its pragmatic approach in its private banking business. No private bank has been immune from the criticism that they might have ill-advised clients about their investments in equities, fixed income and structured products, but the quality of its relationship managers is remarkable in the competitive private banking arena. Third party surveys show it remains Korea's most respected private banking institution.

MALAYSIA

Citi

Citi remains one of the best private banks in the region and in the Malaysian market this is no exception. While local banks might still dominate in terms of the size of their asset base, Citi has shown itself a worthy competitor serving ultra high net worth clients in this country.

SINGAPORE

Credit Suisse

Credit Suisse remains one of the most respected private banking institutions in Singapore and across Southeast Asia. The quality of its business is reflected by the breadth of the relationships it has built among the country's high net worth individuals.

WEALTH MANAGEMENT HOUSE, COUNTRY AWARDS

CHINA

Bank of Communications

The bank's wealth management services continue to gain strong accolades from its emerging ranks of high net worth customers. Its wealth management products have been thoughtfully brought together to be highly competitive, and importantly, suited to the needs of clients.

HONG KONG

HSBC

HSBC has earned a solid reputation as the wealth management house of choice in Hong Kong. No bank comes quite close as yet in terms of the breadth and depth of its offering.

PHILIPPINES

BDO Private Bank

BDO Private Bank's reputation as a wealth management house is in consonance with the rise of the banking group as the most dynamic in the country. With a dedicated private banking team, distinct from the group's other financial services activities, BDO has blazed a new trail with BDO Private Bank offering its high net worth customers a credible alternative to the foreign banks operating in the space.

KOREA

Samsung Securities

Samsung Securities has always maintained an aggressive stance in its wealth management business in Korea, delivering the most exciting private banking product to the growing ranks of affluent Koreans.

TAIWAN

Taipei Fubon Bank

A strong focus on risk management has burnished Taipei Fubon Bank's reputation as the private bank of choice for wealthy Taiwanese clients.