Boustead Singapore Limited - Boustead: Receives "Most Transparent Company Award" At SIAS Investors' Choice Awards 2009

PEC Ltd - PEC: Wins Most Transparent New Issue Award In SIAS Investors' Choice Awards 2009

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SIAS to boost financial literacy

BT reporters win at SIAS awards
Boustead Singapore Limited is pleased to announce that it has received the "Most Transparent Company Award" Runner-Up in the Construction Category at the Investors' Choice Awards 2009 held at the Raffles City Convention Centre. The Awards Event gave special recognition to SGX-listed corporations which excelled in corporate governance and transparency, as well as to the best financial journalists. Boustead's selection as the recipient of the Award was based on nominations received from analysts, fund managers, financial journalists and retail investors represented by SIAS...
PEC Ltd is pleased to announce that it has won the "Most Transparent Company Award 2009" in the New Issue Category in the SIAS Investors' Choice Awards 2009. The "Most Transparent Company Award" was created to encourage public listed companies to be more transparent so as to help investors make informed decisions on their investments. This annual Award, which is one in a series of SIAS Investors' Choice Awards, has various industry categories and an open category award, the Golden Circle Award...

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Announcements
Boustead Singapore Limited - Boustead Receives "Most Transparent Company Award" At SIAS Investors' Choice Awards 2009

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SIAS to boost financial literacy

Emilyn Yap
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THE Securities Investors Association of Singapore (SIAS) will be kept busy with a series of new initiatives to promote financial literacy.

Its work comes as Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam calls upon financial institutions and advisers to make risks in investment products clear to retail investors.

At the association's 10th anniversary dinner yesterday, SIAS president and CEO David Gerald announced the formation of the SIAS Youth Chapter. The group - comprising members from the four universities' investment clubs - will reach out to students in junior colleges and polytechnics.

'With the reduction of the age limit for trading from 21 to 18, SIAS believes that young investors should be educated on financial literacy from an early age,' Mr Gerald said. The chapter will also keep the SIAS membership base current and relevant, he added.

SIAS will also launch the first annual Financial Literacy Week campaign at the end of the first quarter next year.

NRA Capital executive chairman Kevin Scully is supportive of more financial literacy programmes. But he highlighted that investors need to keep abreast of the latest financial concepts.

The programmes should have 'sufficient depth' and they should be part of an 'ongoing process to be effective', Mr Scully told BT.

SIAS will also continue to build its web portal into a financial education and information hub. There will be information such as interest rates on savings and fixed deposits, and yields and price-earnings ratios of products and listed companies.

'These indicators will provide investors with more tools to assist them in evaluating their investment decision,' Mr Gerald said.

Apart from implementing these projects, SIAS has also begun selecting and grooming a new generation of leaders. This will ensure that SIAS stays relevant to all stakeholders, Mr Gerald added.

Mr Tharman, who was guest of honour at the event, said that there is more work ahead in educating more retail investors and in deepening their knowledge.

Every investor should be guided by simple and universal principles of investing - for instance, higher returns will almost always entail higher risks, he said.

'It is incumbent on financial institutions and advisers to make the downside risks perfectly clear and simple to the retail investor when selling any investment product,' he underlined.

Mr Tharman added that there is room to improve corporate governance standards in Singapore. He shared that Singapore Management University's Centre for Corporate and Investor Responsibility has developed a corporate governance index, and there is positive correlation between the index and firms' performance.

SIAS also held the Investors' Choice Awards presentation ceremony yesterday. To commemorate the association's 10th anniversary, Straits Times Press has published a book, Dare to Challenge!, documenting some of SIAS's work in shareholder activism.

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Top Print Edition Stories

BT reporters win at SIAS awards

Felda Chay
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SPH again wins Most Transparent Company award

(SINGAPORE) Two journalists from The Business Times were recognised at yesterday's 10th Investors' Choice Awards organised by the Securities Investors Association of Singapore.

Lynette Khoo, 26, snagged the prize for Most Promising Journalist of The Year. And colleague Teh Hooi Ling took home the Investor Education Journalist of The Year Award - one of three awards given out for the first time this year.

Ms Khoo said: 'I'm sincerely grateful for this nomination and the opportunities I've been given. At the end of the day, I hope readers will benefit from my work.

'While some may find the subject matter dull and serious, I find there's meaning in telling the story behind the numbers and presenting relevant facts to readers. The sequence of events over the past year has clearly demonstrated that in the financial markets, there can be interesting twists to the plot.'

Commenting on Ms Khoo's win, BT editor Alvin Tay said: 'Lynette is a driven and committed journalist. She will not rest easy if there is no story to pursue, and her willingness to chase down every lead is highly commendable.'

For Ms Teh, winning the award is an affirmation of the work she has done on financial literacy, which she says is 'one of the key life skills everyone should possess'.

Her 'Show Me The Money' column was described by Mr Tay as 'one of the best-followed investment columns in town.'

Ms Teh, who clinched a Special Award in 2005, said: 'I'm glad to be able to play a role - however small - in imparting some financial knowledge to readers of BT. I myself still learn new things, glean new insights every time I do my research. The minute we stop learning, we stop growing.'

The Best Financial Journalist of the Year Award went to Francis Chan of The Straits Times Money Desk.

ST editor Han Fook Kwang said: 'I'm told Francis is nicknamed 'Mr Minibond' in investor circles - and that is a moniker well-earned. He stayed on top of the story throughout the year, never letting go of it.'

ST assistant money editor Lee Su Shyan bagged the Financial Story of The Year Award for her coverage of businessman Oei Hong Leong taking Citigroup to court over $1 billion of losses from foreign exchange and US treasury bond transactions.

A special award was given to Frederick Lim, deputy editor at Channel NewsAsia.

Singapore Press Holdings won the Most Transparent Company award in the non-electronics manufacturing category - for a sixth straight year.

SPH chief executive Alan Chan said: 'SPH is proud to have won the trust of our investors and stakeholders once again. This is an endorsement of our consistency in meeting SIAS's key criteria for the award.'

Mr Chan also congratulated the four SPH journalists who won awards, saying it is 'testament to the quality journalism we consistently deliver'.

SIAS gave out a special award - for Most Admired Financial Institution - to Great Eastern Life. In July, Great Eastern Life offered to buy back at full value some structured investment products it sold to policyholders.