

EVENTS WATCH

Human resources professionals, senior business figures and government officials came together at the Convention and Exhibition Centre on September 20 to celebrate the results of the HR Excellence Awards 2015/16, organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management (HKIHRM).

While the highlight of the evening was to celebrate the winners of the prestigious awards, the much-anticipated event was also a chance to share leading practices that are transforming the industry.

“Today’s HR practitioners are at the forefront of the fast-evolving business world; they are key drivers and the catalyst of change at the core business level,” said David Li, president of the HKIHRM, in his opening speech.

Li further highlighted that the role of HR today has undergone a fundamental shift – from being an administrator to becoming a key strategic business partner that plays an increasingly critical role in decision-making processes and business operations.

For this reason, he added, the awards are an important event that allows HR professionals to benchmark their own HR practices and strategies against those in the market, and to be inspired with new ideas to excel in their profession.

Following Li onstage, Godfrey Leung, the government’s under secretary for commerce and economic development and chairman of the awards judging panel, emphasised that the most important factor in an organisation’s success is the management of its people – so finding the right talent to do the right jobs was key.

He recognised the challenges that HR professionals face, particularly



Award winners joined HKIHRM executives and guests onstage to mark another year of outstanding HR achievements from organisations across Hong Kong. Photos: HKIHRM

Achieving greater heights

HKIHRM HR Excellence Awards 2015/16 recognised inspiring organisations leading the way in the field, writes **Jolene Otremba**

with the role becoming more sophisticated. Not just expanding to include coaching, training and counselling, the role of HR professionals now extends into “the more strenuous territory of assisting or even initiating change to enable business effectiveness in organisational development to meet its challenges”, Leung said.

While congratulating the remarkable achievements of the winners, Leung also noted the difficulty during

the selection process because of the high quality of entries. He added that for him personally, it was a learning experience that truly reflected how the industry is evolving.

A total of 15 awards were presented, with big winners the Hong Kong Police Force receiving the Grand Award of the Year for its efforts towards resourcing and reaching out to the community. The force also picked up the Excellent Employee Wellness Award, the Excellent Resourcing Award and the Excellent Technology Innovation Award.

Winnie Wai-yin Chiu, director of personnel and training at the Hong Kong Police Force, thanked the judges for the awards and said that she believed the wins were because of the force’s genuine focus on its people.

“The people in the force are our greatest asset, and we truly believe that HR excellence will bring better service to the Hong Kong community,” she said. “Hong Kong’s law and

order, and Hong Kong being such a safe city, owes very much to the men and women of the Hong Kong police who work very hard and strive to protect and service the Hong Kong community every day.”

She added that such recognition is also a great motivator to all of the officers within the force who are out on the streets working hard to make Hong Kong one of the safest and most stable societies in the world.

To end the evening, Margaret Cheng, HR director at the MTR Corporation and chairman of the awards’ organising committee, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the winners, noting that these were exceptional accomplishments.

“Every award bestowed tonight is not only a celebration of every HR professional’s success, but a chance to highlight how HR best practices can help business success and growth, and take our profession to greater heights,” Cheng said.

HR EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015/16 WINNERS

GRAND AWARD OF THE YEAR
Hong Kong Police Force

ORGANISATIONAL CATEGORY
Excellent Business Partner Award
Cordis, Hong Kong
Excellent Change Management Award
The Langham Hong Kong
Excellent Employee Wellness Award
Hong Kong Police Force
Excellent Learning & Development Award
New World Development Company
Excellent Resourcing Award
Hong Kong Police Force
Excellent Reward Management Award
Conrad Hong Kong
Excellent Talent Management Award
Hospital Authority
Excellent Technology Innovation Award
Hong Kong Police Force

HR SERVICE PROVIDER CATEGORY
Excellent Employee Wellness Provider Award
Four Dimensions Consulting

SME CATEGORY
Excellent SME Award
OKIAN Optical Company

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY
Excellent HR Professional
Charles Ho Long Chau from MTR Corporation

Elite Winners:
ORGANISATIONAL CATEGORY
Elite Business Partner Award
DBS Bank (Hong Kong)
Elite Employee Wellness Award
Hong Kong Broadband Network

SME CATEGORY
Elite SME Award
Hongkong Storage



David Li

Margaret Cheng

Godfrey Leung