

**T.A.B. International Pte Ltd**

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Abdul Wahid Omar wins the Asian Banker Leadership Achievement Award 2013 for Malaysia.  
Maybank is named Best Managed Bank in Malaysia**

- In the period under review, Maybank turned around its financial performance and strengthened its share of the domestic loan business
- Abdul Wahid's took measures to regain shareholder confidence following a sharp drop in net profit in 2009
- Abdul Wahid led the Bank in growing net profit by more than 8 times to RM5.74 billion between 2009 and 2012.

**Jakarta, Indonesia, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013** – Abdul Wahid Omar, **president and CEO of Maybank** has been named the winner of **The Asian Banker Leadership Achievement Award 2013 for Malaysia**. Under his leadership, Maybank Group has also been recognized as **The Best Managed Bank in Malaysia**. **Abdul Wahid** received both awards at the Leadership Achievement Awards.Ceremony held in conjunction with The Asian Banker Summit 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Kuningan in Jakarta, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013.

The Asian Banker and the Council of Advisors for the Leadership Achievement Awards programme were impressed with Abdul Wahid's achievements in the period under review. Under his leadership, Maybank strengthened its share of the total consumer loan segment and continues to lead the market. Abdul Wahid's biggest challenge as CEO of in 2010 when he had to regain shareholder confidence after net profit declined sharply from RM2.93 billion in 2008 to RM692 million in 2009 due to the impairment of acquisition investment in BII and MCB Bank of Pakistan.

Abdul Wahid has since led the Bank in growing net profit by more than 8 times to RM5.74 billion between 2009 and 2012. The improvement came on the back of a Group-wide transformation programme, known as LEAP 30. Abdul Wahid guidance has also led to strong improvement in performance from BII, with rapid profit growth since 2010.

Omar became president, CEO and executive director of Maybank in 2008 after a stint at Telekom Malaysia, a local state-invested telecom group where he was CEO for four years. A chartered accountant, he spent about ten years in the financial industry prior to this, starting his career in banking in 1998

With the remarkable recovery that the bank made under his leadership, Abdul Wahid rightfully wins the Leadership Achievement Award for Malaysia in 2013 and leads Maybank to the Best Managed Bank award win.

The **Leadership Achievement Award** is a recognition programme that is run once every three years to assess the leadership of bank chairmen and CEOs on their respective businesses and the industry as a whole. This is the most important award programme that the Asian Banker runs because it underscores the importance of sound and visionary leadership in directing the future of the industry.

This is the most prestigious award for individual achievement in the banking industry in the Asia Pacific region today. The award plays an important role in cultivating a culture of excellence amongst people in leadership positions.

The selection process behind the award programme is a highly rigorous one. It takes stock of financial performance, the stated vision and strategy of the leaders as well as actual achievements, the feedback

of staff, customers, investors and the industry through various surveys, a study of the management team and finally is validated by an experienced council of advisors.

### **About The Asian Banker**

The Asian Banker is the region's most authoritative provider of strategic business intelligence to the financial services community. The Singapore-based company has offices in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Shanghai as well as representatives in London, New York and San Francisco. It has a business model that revolves around three core business lines: publications, research services and forums. The company's website is [www.theasianbanker.com](http://www.theasianbanker.com)

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## **The Asian Banker Leadership Achievement Awards Programme Background**

## **About the awards**

The Asian Banker leadership Achievement Awards were launched in late 2005 to recognize individual excellence in the financial services industry. Until these awards, most award recognitions were for institutions and the role of leadership in an increasingly complex industry was not sufficiently understood. We know today that the shape and direction of the largest institutions and the smallest processes are dependent on the caliber of the individuals entrusted to them and we recognize them through this award programme.

The programme is anchored by a panel of industry leaders as advisors. The selection process is a rigorous one, completed over several months and involving feedback and interviews with all constituents who are in a position to comment on the candidates. The learnings from the programme are published in an annual report. All of these make this a world-class evaluation programme.

The award ceremony is held in conjunction with The Asian Banker Summit, undisputedly the largest annual gathering of professionals in the financial services industry in the Asia Pacific region. The Summit is held in different Asian cities, and this year it will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Asian Banker Achievement Awards have become undisputedly the highest possible accolade available to professionals in the financial services industry in the Asia Pacific region today.

## **The Board of Advisors and Selection Committee**

The following distinguished personalities served as members of the advisory council for the selection of this year's winners. They bring to bear tremendous expertise and global perspectives to the conduct of the annual meeting.

### Advisory Board

**Mr Ian Johnston**, former chief executive, SWIFT Asia Pacific (Chairman)

**Mr Cesar Virata**, Vice Chairman, RCBC and former prime minister, Philippines

**Mr Paul Chow**, former Chief Executive, Hong Kong Exchange

**Professor Emeritus Alain Chevalier**, Professor of Finance, ESCP, Europe

**Mr Foo Boon Ping**, Managing Editor, The Asian Banker (Secretariat)

## **The Selection Criteria**

The assessment for the awards is made on four inter-related criteria:

- i. **The financial performance of the leader's business under consideration.** Here we look at annual results, or the financial performance of the business under review. Strong bottomline performance is the first determinant of a leader's suitability for consideration for this award.
- ii. **Achievements in the period under review.** We look for either a specific achievement or a series of achievements in the years under consideration. These can be in the form of an IPO, an M&A, strong organic growth, the introduction of a new strategy that works for the institution, a bold investment that turns in dividend and so on. The size and complexity of the achievement(s) are taken into account.
- iii. **Overcoming adversities.** Adversities in the period under review are not considered in a bad light under this programme. We take into account adversaries and the tenacity of the leader to overcoming them.
- iv. **Based on a well-communicated vision.** We require all leaders to have made speeches, given interviews or written reports that provide his or her constituents a clear view of his or her own strategy and direction. These must co-relate to the achievements under consideration. We study

all newspaper articles, speeches and interviews provided in the year under review to determine the consistency and commitment to the vision enunciated.

- v. **360 degree review of peers and the industry.** We run a series of surveys and interviews with staff, investment analysts, as well as an online poll of the public to ensure that there is broad acknowledgement of the leadership qualities of the candidate.
- vi. **Augmented by a good team** around the candidate. In order to distinguish between sustainable leadership and individual leadership, we study the composition and tenancy of the board of directors and/or senior management team around the candidate. We believe that a good candidate for an award in leadership would demonstrate the ability to work with others, inspire them and draw from them to grow the business. This is easier said than done, but we do know those who cut it and those who don't.

### **The Selection Process**

The selection process begins in November and ends in March of the following year, involving a team of about six researchers. Candidates do not apply for the award, although they can be nominated. The initial selection is through a survey and desk research done by the research team at The Asian Banker. The identified candidates are then subject to further scrutiny through interviews with third parties, including local banking journalists and analysts who have had contact with the candidates, peers and third party reviews. The shortlisted candidates are then submitted for a review by the board of advisors, based on a comparative evaluation done by the research team.