

MAJOR MIDDLE EAST AND ASIAN COMPANIES BAG TOP HONOURS AT 2017 INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AWARDS



International Finance presented its fifth annual awards ceremony, in cooperation with Oman Oil Company Exploration & Production (OOCEP) at a glittering gala in Dubai's Jumeirah Emirates Towers on January 18th, 2018. The ceremony honoured the most illustrious and successful companies across industries for their achievements in 2017. Shortly after, the organization felicitated winners from Asia at its second Asia Pacific awards ceremony in Singapore



As International Finance entered its fifth year, Middle East continued to stack up big across multiple industries. Some of 2017's winners included **Oman Oil Company Exploration & Production, Sharjah Asset Management, Emirates NBD Egypt, Emaar Economic City and Kuwait Aviation Services.**

There were some fitting contenders for individual awards as well such as **Khaled Al Sughair of Kuwait Aviation Services Company** for his *Outstanding Contribution to Management Excellence*, while **Telephone Systems International (Afghan Wireless Communication Company)'s Dr. Ehsan Bayat** walked away with the award for the *Best Media & Telecom CEO*. **Ms. Jehad Al Humaidhi** from **Ahli United Bank Kuwait** emerged the *Woman Entrepreneur of the Year for IT, Banking & Finance* and **Faisal Al Haimus** was named the *Best Banking CEO* in Iraq.

Other winners included **Dubai Islamic Bank** for *Fastest Growing Bank in UAE*, **Bupa Arabia** for *Best Investor Relations*

in Insurance & Best Medical Insurance Company, Al Ahli United Bank of Kuwait for *Fastest Growing Bank in Egypt* and **Emirates NBD SAE** for *Best Digital Bank in Egypt.*

Jin Lei, economic & commercial counsellor, Consulate General of China in Dubai; Weiyun Deng, consular attache, Economic & Commercial Section, Consulate General of China in Dubai; and Nathan Hunter, acting director of business development at the Department of Economic Development Ras Al Khaimah were the guests of honour.

Shortly after the successful awards ceremony at Jumeirah Emirates Towers in Dubai, the International Finance hosted the Asia awards at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore on January 26, 2018.

The gala event was a celebration of the most successful and enterprising businesses in Asia. Some of this year's big award winners were from major Asian economies such as China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Srilanka.

The special guests of honour for the

night were Mr. Jeremy Tan, Honorary Secretary & Singapore Enterprise Chapter Chairman, SGTech and CEO, Liquid Group Pte Ltd. and H.E. Dr. Mohamed Omar A. Balfaqeh from Embassy of the United Arab Emirates to Singapore.

Vietnam and Malaysia emerged big winners taking more than 20 awards together. Some of the companies that took home the honours included **Bac A Bank, Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Group, Asia Commercial Bank, PVcom Bank, Nam Long Investment Corporation, Sun Life Vietnam, Home Credit Vietnam and CMC Telecom.** Malaysia's big wins included **Max Capital Management Holding, Maybank, Aspen Group, Hong Leong Assurance, Sunlife Malaysia, Kuwait Finance House, MRCB Quill REIT and Pelaburan Hartanah Berhad.**

The Philippines' **Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority** walked away with the award for **Fastest Growing Free Trade Zone in Asia**, Indonesia's **Pt Bank Ganesha Tbk** won two awards for **Best Small Bank** and **Best Emerging Banking CEO**, bagged by **Surjawaty Tatang.**

Significant leadership victories were **Bac A Bank's Thai Huong** for **Most Inspirational CEO of 2017** and **Max Shangker** for **Best CEO in Real Estate Management Sector.**

After a leisurely exchange of pleasantries and introductions over *hors d'oeuvre* and drinks, the guests mingled and enjoyed the award ceremony, presented by Phil Blizzard, UAE's leading radio presenter. The magical evening was made even more spellbinding by renowned magician Stefan Ebinger.

