

Asia's best companies

Our annual poll of investors once again uncovers
the region's top companies

BY *FinanceAsia Research*

FinanceAsia's sixth annual Best Companies poll received 253 responses from 15 countries. Once again, professionals were kind enough to share their opinions on the region's finest firms.

We asked investment professionals and financial analysts to rank companies in 10 Asian countries on the basis of overall management, corporate governance, investor relations, and their commitment to strong dividend payments. We also requested that respondents once again rate the best CFO in their designated country or in some cases, countries.

In most markets, we found that the incumbents of 2005 were voted repeat winners in the best managed companies stakes – but there was less continuity in other categories.

In North Asia, winners of the primary awards consisted of two technology firms, one oil refiner and a consumer-goods outfit. South Korea's Samsung Electronics and Taiwan's TSMC notched substantial victories and maintained their respective locks on the best managed company awards. In China, CNOOC bounced back to the top of this country's table, beating last year's winner PetroChina. In Hong Kong, consumer exporter Li & Fung returned to the summit after posting its inaugural win in 2004.

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ASIA'S BEST COMPANIES 2006

Southeast Asia's winners remained largely the same as in previous years. SingTel maintained its dominance in the Lion City with respondents voting Southeast Asia's largest telecommunications company the nation's best for the third year running. PTT, Thailand's largest market cap stock, also repeated its 2005 showing, winning another best managed company award.

Voters for Indonesia again heaped praise on Astra International – albeit in a close race. In Malaysia, BAT (Malaysia) returned to the winner's circle, dethroning Public Bank from the top spot.

Elsewhere in the region, India's Infosys

Technologies was again easily the top choice, besting its Indian peers in virtually every category. Incumbent telephone operator PLDT also made it three in a row, taking the award for the best managed company in the Philippines.

The scope of the survey was not limited to specific countries, with investors and analysts also invited to vote for the best companies in several individual sectors. Those companies residing in Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea dominated this portion of the survey.

On the property front, Hong Kong's Sun Hung Kai Properties was the resounding choice as the region's best real estate stock for the third time. Likewise, CLP

Holdings once again scooped the award for Asia's best power company.

In Singapore, SingTel scored highly as Asia's best telecommunications firm, and Singapore Airlines claimed the best transport company award.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics prevailed in the best technology company category, beating off strong opposition from TSMC and Infosys Technologies. In the industrials stakes, Hyundai Motors was a clear winner in the minds of respondents.

Our congratulations go out to all the winners, as does our gratitude to all that took the time to vote. ■

Top companies around the region



BEST REGIONAL COMPANIES

SECTOR	COMPANY	VOTES
Real Estate	Sun Hung Kai Properties	33
Telecom	SingTel	33
Technology	Samsung Electronics	24
Transport	Singapore Airlines	23
*Industrials	Hyundai Motors	16
Power	CLP Holdings	32

*Including Automobiles

BEST MANAGED COMPANIES POLL



CHINA

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. CNOOC	19
2. Lenovo	15
3. PetroChina	14
4. China Resources Enterprise	12
4. China Construction Bank	12
6. Bank of Communications	9
7. China Mobile	7
7. Baoshan Iron & Steel	7
9. Huaneng Power International	5

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. CNOOC	21
2. China Mobile	17
3. PetroChina	16
4. Lenovo	9
5. China Resources Enterprise	7
6. Bank of Communications	6
6. Baoshan Iron & Steel	6
8. China Construction Bank	5
9. Li Ning	4
9. China Merchants Bank	4
9. China Shenhua Energy	4

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. Lenovo	25
2. CNOOC	21
3. PetroChina	11
4. China Mobile	8
5. Bank of Communications	7
6. Sinopec	6
6. Shanghai Electric	6
8. China Merchants International Holdings	5

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. PetroChina	24
2. China Telecom	12
3. CNOOC	8
4. Zhejiang Expressway	7
5. China Construction Bank	6
5. China Overseas Holdings	6
5. Huaneng Power International	6
8. Lenovo	5
8. China Mobile	5
8. China Merchants International Holdings	5

BEST CFO

1. Yu Yali, Bank of Communications	10
2. Mary Ma, Lenovo	6



HONG KONG

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. Li & Fung	25
2. CLP Holdings	23
2. Hang Seng Bank	23
4. Esprit	21
5. Hutchison Whampoa	20
6. Sun Hung Kai Properties	19
6. Swire Pacific	19
8. Cheung Kong	12
9. Solomon Systech	10
10. Cathay Pacific	9

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. CLP Holdings	30
2. Li & Fung	29
3. Hang Seng Bank	25
4. Swire Pacific	17
5. Hutchison Whampoa	13
5. Sun Hung Kai Properties	13
7. Esprit	10
8. Solomon Systech	6

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. Li & Fung	23
2. Esprit	20
3. Techtronic	19
4. CLP Holdings	17
5. Hang Seng Bank	16
6. Cheung Kong	13
7. Sun Hung Kai Properties	10
8. Hutchison Whampoa	9
8. MTRC	9
8. Solomon Systech	9

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. Hang Seng Bank	47
2. CLP Holdings	28
3. Esprit	12
4. Swire Pacific	8
4. Li & Fung	8
6. Sun Hung Kai Properties	7
7. Hongkong Land	6
7. Hong Kong & China Gas	6
7. Hong Kong Electric	6

BEST CFO

1. Frank Sixt, Hutchison Whampoa	30
2. John Poon, Esprit	11
3. Frank Leung, Li & Fung	7



INDIA

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. Infosys Technologies	65
2. Bharti Televentures	16
3. Reliance Industries	15
4. ICICI Bank	14
5. HDFC Limited	10
5. Wipro	10
7. HDFC Bank	9
8. Tata Consulting Services	8
9. Tata Steel	7
9. Hindustan Lever	7

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. Infosys Technologies	75
2. Bharti Televentures	18
3. HDFC Bank	12
3. Tata Steel	12
5. ICICI Bank	9
6. HDFC Limited	8
6. Reliance Industries	8
6. Wipro	8
6. Hero Honda	8
10. Tata Consulting Services	6

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. Infosys Technologies	63
2. Bharti Televentures	19
3. HDFC Limited	17
4. ICICI Bank	10
5. Wipro	9
6. Tata Steel	8
7. Reliance Industries	6
7. Hindustan Lever	6
9. Mahindra & Mahindra	5

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. Hindustan Lever	28
2. Infosys Technologies	22
3. Hero Honda	10
4. HDFC Limited	9
5. Wipro	8
6. Reliance Industries	7
6. India Oil Company	7
8. HCL Technologies	6
8. Tata Tea	6
8. Great Eastern Shipping Company	6

BEST CFO

1. Mohandas Pai, Infosys Technologies	27
2. Akhil Gupta, Bharti Televentures	7



INDONESIA

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. Astra International	31
2. Unilever Indonesia	28
3. Telkom Indonesia	17
4. Bank Central Asia	14
5. Indosat	13
6. Ramayana Lestari Sentosa	10
7. HM Sampoerna	9
7. Bank Mandiri	9
9. Bank Danamon	7
9. INCO	7
9. Excelcomindo	7

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. Astra International	29
2. Unilever Indonesia	21
3. Indosat	17
4. Bank Central Asia	16
5. Bank Danamon	13
6. Telkom Indonesia	12
7. HM Sampoerna	11
8. Bank Mandiri	10
9. Ramayana Lestari Sentosa	9
10. Aneka Tambang	8

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. Indosat	29
2. Astra International	26
3. Bank Mandiri	18
4. HM Sampoerna	16
5. Ramaayana Lestari Sentosa	14
6. Telkom Indonesia	11
7. Bank Danamon	8
8. Bank Central Asia	7
8. Aneka Tambang	7
10. Bank Rakyat Indonesia	6

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDENDS

1. Telkom Indonesia	37
2. Unilever Indonesia	21
3. INCO	16
3. HM Sampoerna	16
5. Bank Central Asia	12
6. Aneka Tambang	7
6. Gudang Garam	7
8. Ramayana Lestari Sentosa	6
8. Bank Danamon	6

BEST CFO

1. Simon Mawson, Astra International	18
2. Rinaldi Firmansyah, Telkom Indonesia	13

BEST MANAGED COMPANIES POLL



SOUTH KOREA

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. Samsung Electronics	43
2. POSCO	29
3. LG Electronics	12
4. Shinsegae	11
5. Hyundai Motors	9
6. Korea Telecom	6
6. KTF	6
6. Shinhan Financial	6
6. NHN Corporation	6

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. POSCO	42
2. Samsung Electronics	38
3. LG Electronics	14
4. Daewoo Shipbuilding	13
5. KT&G	9
6. Shinhan Financial	6
7. KTF	4

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. Samsung Electronics	46
2. POSCO	34
3. Hyundai Motors	14
4. LG Electronics	10
5. Kookmin Bank	6
5. Kia Motors	6
5. Shinhan Financial	6
5. Samsung Fire & Marine	6
9. KT&G	5

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. KT&G	24
2. Korea Telecom	15
2. POSCO	15
4. Dongkuk Steel	12
5. Samsung Electronics	10
6. KEPCO	9
7. SK Telecom	6
8. S1	4

BEST CFO

1. Choi Doh-seok, Samsung Electronics	15
2. Lee Dong-hee, POSCO	8



MALAYSIA

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. BAT	30
2. Maxis Communications	27
3. Public Bank	18
4. Malayan Banking	13
5. Tanjong PLC	12
5. MISC	12
7. Genting	8
7. Telekom Malaysia	8
9. Air Asia	7
10. IOI Corporation	6

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. BAT	29
2. Maxis Communications	24
3. Public Bank	23
4. Tanjong PLC	15
5. Nestle Malaysia	11
6. Malayan Banking	8
7. SP Setia	7
7. Tenaga Nasional	7

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. Tanjong PLC	24
2. Maxis Communications	19
3. BAT	18
4. Public Bank	14
5. Malaysian Airlines System	12
6. Scomi Group	10
6. SP Setia	10
8. MISC	7
9. Malayan Banking	6
9. Nestle Malaysia	6

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDENDS

1. BAT	40
2. Public Bank	19
3. Malayan Banking	15
4. Maxis Communications	9
5. Tanjong PLC	7
5. Telekom Malaysia	7
7. Guinness Anchor	5
7. Amway	5

BEST CFO

1. Gerard Nathan, Tanjong PLC	16
2. Dato' Yeo How, IOI Corporation	5



PHILIPPINES

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. PLDT/Smart	48
2. Ayala Corporation	24
3. SM Prime	15
4. San Miguel	14
5. BPI	10
6. SM Investments	9
7. Megaworld	8
8. Banco d'Oro	7
9. Pertron	4
9. Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. PLDT/Smart	42
2. Ayala Corporation	37
3. BPI	14
4. Petron	12
5. Globe Telecom	11
5. Megaworld	11
7. SM Investments	8
8. San Miguel	7
8. Banco d'Oro	7
10. Jollibee	5

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. PLDT/Smart	54
2. Globe Telecom	30
3. Ayala Corporation	22
4. Megaworld	12
5. San Miguel	10
6. Banco d'Oro	9
7. SM Investments	6
8. BPI	5
9. Jollibee	4

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. BPI	37
2. PLDT/Smart	30
3. San Miguel	25
4. Ayala Corporation	21
5. Globe Telecom	15
6. SM Prime	11
7. Security Bank	8
8. Petron	5
9. Ayala Land	4
9. SM Investments	4

BEST CFO

1. Delfin "Chito" Gonzalez, Globe Telecom	23
2. Annabelle Chua, Smart	21
3. Christopher Young, PLDT	20



SINGAPORE

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. SingTel	46
2. Singapore Airlines	33
3. DBS	25
4. ST Engineering	12
5. Noble Group	10
6. Keppel Corporation	9
7. Chartered Semiconductor	5
8. CapitaLand	4
8. UOB	4

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. SingTel	45
2. DBS	34
3. Singapore Airlines	22
4. ST Engineering	11
5. Keppel Corporation	10
6. OCBC	9
7. Chartered Semiconductor	7
8. Noble Group	6

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. SingTel	50
2. Singapore Airlines	30
3. DBS	29
4. ST Engineering	10
5. Noble Group	5
5. Chartered Semiconductor	5
7. CapitaLand	4
7. UOB	4

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. Mobile One	20
1. Singapore Press Holdings	20
3. SingTel	14
4. Singapore Post	13
5. ST Engineering	12
6. ComfortDelGro	9
7. Singapore Airlines	7
8. SGX	5
8. DBS	5

BEST CFO

1. Chua Sock Koong, SingTel	18
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BEST MANAGED COMPANIES POLL



THAILAND

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. PTT	44
2. Siam Cement	31
3. Kasikornbank	25
4. Siam Commercial Bank	16
5. Banpu	14
6. Shin Corporation	13
7. Bangkok Bank	10
8. PTTEP	9
9. Total Access Communications	8
9. Thai President Foods	8

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. PTT	37
2. Kasikornbank	25
3. Siam Cement	21
4. Banpu	16
5. PTTEP	9
6. Siam Commercial Bank	8
7. Total Access Communications	6
7. Thai Union Frozen Foods	6
7. Shin Corporation	6

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. PTT	27
2. Banpu	26
3. Kasikornbank	25
4. Siam Cement	24
5. Shin Corporation	13
6. Siam Commercial Bank	10
7. AIS	8
8. TRUE	7
8. PTTEP	7
10. Total Access Communications	6

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. Siam Cement	35
2. Banpu	27
3. PTT	16
4. Bangkok Bank	10
5. PTTEP	8
6. Thai Union Frozen Foods	7
7. Siam City Cement	6

BEST CFO

1. Pichai Chunhavajira, PTT	18
2. Somruedee Sompong, Banpu	16
3. Petter Furberg, Total Access Communications	8



TAIWAN

BEST MANAGED COMPANY

1. TSMC	41
2. Hon Hai Precision	19
3. AU Optronics	9
4. Cathay FHC	8
5. Chunghwa Telecom	7
5. Chinatrust FHC	7
7. Asustek	6
7. Taiwan Mobile	6
9. Lite-On Technology	5
9. UMC	5

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. TSMC	27
2. Chinatrust FHC	14
3. Hon Hai Precision	13
4. Asustek	10
5. Acer	8
6. Quanta Computer	5
6. Taiwan Mobile	5
6. Compal Electronics	5

BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS

1. TSMC	28
2. Chinatrust FHC	13
3. Acer	9
3. Far EastTone	9
3. Cathay FHC	9
6. AU Optronics	8
7. Fubon FHC	6
7. SinoPac Holdings	6

BEST COMMITMENT TO STRONG DIVIDEND

1. China Steel	20
2. Chunghwa Telecom	19
3. TSMC	13
4. Taiwan Mobile	9
5. Mega FHC	8
6. Evergreen Marine	6
7. Fubon FHC	4
7. Delta Electronics	4

BEST CFO

1. Max Cheng, AU Optronics	13
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