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Press Release

Aravinda Perera and Sampath Bank win CEO Leadership Achievement and Best Managed Bank in Sri Lanka Awards

Singapore's OCBC Bank, Hong Kong's The Bank of East Asia, and Indonesia's Bank Central Asia also amongst 12 banks picked out for this triennial assessment of leadership and management capabilities of Asian banks

- Sampath Bank achieved impressive financial performance among key competitor banks.
- Perera led the bank to successfully resolve a gold-backed loan crisis.
- All winning banks scored well in six criteria.
- Awards presented by former United States Congressman Barney Frank.

Hanoi, Vietnam, May 10th 2016 – Aravinda Perera and Sampath Bank received the CEO Leadership Achievement and Best Managed Bank in Sri Lanka Awards at the prestigious Asian Banker Leadership Achievement Awards held at JW Marriott Hanoi on 10th May 2016.

The awards were presented to Perera by Congressman Barney Frank, former chairman of the US House Financial Services Committee. Also present were Nguyen Thi Hong, deputy governor of State Bank of Vietnam; and Cesar Virata, a member of the advisory council that decides on the award, and the former prime minister of the Philippines.

Under Perera's leadership, several strategic initiatives were undertaken to resolve the "pawning" or gold-backed loan crisis. By the time it was fully settled in 2015, the bank was able to reverse a sizable portion of the impairment provisions made in 2013 and 2014 and achieved an impressive pre-tax profit growth of 35%.

Over the years, his vision of making the bank the most future-friendly bank has led it to become more customer-centric. The bank achieved best asset quality, returns on capital, and funding profiles among key competitor banks in 2015.

Perera has nearly three decades of experience in the banking and finance industry. He was appointed executive director in November 2008 and managing director in January 2012.

The full list of winners of the Leadership Achievement Awards includes:

Leadership Award and Best Managed Bank in Sri Lanka

- Aravinda Perera, Managing Director, Sampath Bank, Sri Lanka

Leadership Award and Best Managed Bank in Singapore and Asia Pacific

- Samuel N. Tsien, Group Chief Executive Officer, OCBC Bank, Singapore

Leadership Awards and Best Managed Banks and Retail Banker of the Year

- Jahja Setiaatmadja, President Director, Bank Central Asia, Indonesia

Leadership Awards and Best Managed Banks

- Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Managing Director, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Bangladesh
- Chao Chin Tung, Chairman, CTBC Bank, Taiwan
- Bantoon Lamsam, Chairman and CEO, Kasikornbank, Thailand
- Le Cong, CEO, Military Commercial Joint Stock Bank, Vietnam
- Salah Jassim Murad, CEO, Ahli Bank, Qatar
- Ala'a Eraiqat, Group CEO, Executive Director, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, United Arab Emirates

The Best Managed Banks

- Blom Bank
- Shinhan Bank

The William “Bill” Seidman Award for Lifetime Achievement in Leadership in Financial Services Industry and Best Managed Bank in Hong Kong

- David K.P. Li, Executive Chairman and CEO, The Bank of East Asia, Hong Kong

The press releases for each country’s winners are being issued separately.

Photographs of the awards presentation are attached with this press release.

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, Beijing and Dubai 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

For further information on the collaterals for winning banks, please contact:

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