

NEWS/ BUSINESS/ FINANCE/ LIFESTYLE EDITORS
[For Immediate Release]

Finalists of the 2017 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Awards Announced

Hong Kong, 6 April 2017 – Community Business, a leading not-for-profit organisation advancing responsible and inclusive business practices in Asia, today announces the finalists for its **2017 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Awards**. Over 34 nominations were received for these 5 awards and three finalists have been shortlisted for each award. The final winners and Top 10 Employers for LGBT+ Inclusion will be announced at the Gala Dinner to be held on 17 May 2017 at the Island Shangri-La Hong Kong Hotel, in commemoration of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT).

The 2017 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Index, first launched in 2015, is Asia's first benchmark on corporate policies and practices for creating inclusive workplaces for LGBT+ employees. The Index is offered every two years, while the Awards are made on an annual basis. This year, 51 multinational corporates and local SMEs have participated in the Index across 10 different industries including legal, financial services, recruitment, consulates, technology and media.

In addition to benchmarking performance and providing a ranking of top performing organisations, the Index includes five LGBT+ Inclusion Awards, celebrating corporate efforts to promote LGBT+ equality and inclusion in the Hong Kong workplace and community. The award nominations have been assessed based on the extent to which they are strategic, proactive, impactful and sustainable.

“The finalists in each award category have all demonstrated outstanding performance, going above and beyond in raising the profile of LGBT+ inclusion, engaging key stakeholders and impacting change. We invite the Hong Kong community to join us in congratulating each and every one of them for the work they are doing to make Hong Kong a more open and inclusive society.” said **Fern Ngai, CEO of Community Business**.

LGBT+ Ally Award sponsored by Credit Suisse

To recognise an individual who does not identify as LGBT+ and who has demonstrated personal passion and commitment to promoting LGBT+ inclusion in Hong Kong - in the workplace and beyond.

Finalists (listed in alphabetic order by first name)

- **Allan Wardrop**, Partner, **Hogan Lovells**
- **Kent Wasson**, Managing Director, **Goldman Sachs**
- **Lynne Barry**, Global Head of Learning and Development, **Telstra**

LGBT+ Executive Sponsor Award sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills

To recognise a senior executive sponsor based in Hong Kong who has spoken up and used his/her influence to promote LGBT+ inclusion - in the workplace and beyond.

Finalists (listed in alphabetic order by first name)

- **James Tong**, Managing Director and Head of Global Shipping and Logistics Asia Pacific and Japan, **Citibank**
- **Kevin R Martin**, Group General Manager, Regional Head of Retail Banking & Wealth Management Asia-Pacific, **HSBC**
- **Nicholas Collins**, Director, Global Sales Operations, **Telstra**

LGBT+ Inclusion Champion Award *sponsored by HSBC*

To recognise an LGBT+ individual who has demonstrated personal passion and commitment to promoting LGBT+ inclusion in Hong Kong - in the workplace and beyond.

Finalists (listed in alphabetic order by first name)

- **Robert Ronneberger**, Associate, Corporate Strategy, **BlackRock**
- **Steven Xavier Chan**, Managing Director & Regional Head, Regulatory, Industry and Government Affairs, Asia Pacific, **State Street**
- **Wally Suphap**, Vice President, Legal and Compliance, **Morgan Stanley**

LGBT+ Network Award *sponsored by Goldman Sachs*

To recognise an employee network that has played a proactive role in promoting LGBT+ inclusion and demonstrated strong engagement with an commitment to local Hong Kong LGBT+ employees.

Finalists (listed in alphabetic order by company name)

- **Credit Suisse's Hong Kong LGBT+ Open Network**
- **HSBC's Pride HK**
- **J.P. Morgan's PRIDE Hong Kong**

LGBT+ Community Impact Award *sponsored by Goldman Sachs*

To recognise a community-based LGBT+ initiative that has had a significant positive impact in promoting LGBT+ inclusion in Hong Kong.

Finalists (listed in alphabetic order by community organisation)

- **LGBT Triple Zero by AIDS Concern**
- **Pink Season**
- **Inclusion Recruitment Conference by Queer Straight Alliance**

For details about the finalists, please visit:

http://www.communitybusiness.org/hklgbtindex/2017_Index/2017_Award_Finalists.html

To assist with the selection of the final winner for each award, Community Business convened a [judging panel](#) comprising of an external expert in the relevant field, a senior executive from the award sponsor and two judges from Community Business. The final winners for each award will be announced at the prestigious Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Gala Dinner where over 300 guests will celebrate and acknowledge leadership and commitment to LGBT+ inclusion.

Community Business is delighted to have Gigi Chao, Executive Vice-Chairman of Cheuk Nang, to be the guest speaker at the Gala Dinner. Gigi is an active contributor to community organisations including BigLove Alliance, whose mission is to cultivate an all-inclusive society and to advocate for equal rights for sexual minorities. She was recently honoured as the highest-ranked LGBT executive in the 2016 Leading LGBT & Ally Executives by OUTstanding and the Financial Times.

To commemorate IDAHOT, guests are encouraged to wear purple or a touch of purple with their business or formal attire. Seats at this event are limited, and those interested in sponsoring a table or purchasing individual tickets can contact [Jessica Boyle](#) for more information.

For details about the 2017 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Index and the associated Awards, please visit:

http://bit.ly/2017_GalaDinner

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Media Contact:

Lam Cho Wai (林祖偉)

PR Manager

Tel: +852 2152-1889 +852 2201-1810 (Direct)

Email: chowai.lam@communitybusiness.org

Delorian Ko (高子盈)

Marketing & Communications Associate

Tel: +852 2152-1889 +852 2201-1822 (Direct)

Email: delorian.ko@communitybusiness.org

About Community Business

Community Business is a not-for-profit organisation (Hong Kong Charity Number 91/6560) whose mission is to lead, inspire and support businesses to have a positive impact on people and communities. A recognised leader in advancing responsible and inclusive business practices in Asia, Community Business facilitates networks, conducts research and events, leads programmes and campaigns and provides training and consultancy. Our focus on responsible business is aligned to 5 mission-led themes:

- Building responsible leadership
- Investing in local communities
- Tackling workplace inequality
- Ensuring employee wellbeing
- Promoting social inclusion

Founded in 2003 and based in Hong Kong with a presence in India and the United Kingdom, Community Business works with companies of all sizes and from diverse industries across Asia, harnessing the power of business to drive social change. For more information, please visit www.communitybusiness.org.