

HD Herbert Smith Freehills wins Asia Pacific **Energy** Law **Firm** of the Year; Hilary Lau takes title as Asia Pacific **Energy** Lawyer of the Year

CR Distributed by Contify.com

WC 572 words

PD 6 March 2014

SN Hong Kong Government News

SC ATGVHK

LA English

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Hong Kong, March 6 -- Herbert Smith Freehills has been recognised as Asia Pacific's leading **energy** law **firm**. The **firm** was presented with the Asia Pacific **Energy** Law **Firm** of the Year award at the The Asian Lawyer All Star Legal Awards on 05 March 2014.

In addition to the accolade, **Hong Kong**-based partner Hilary Lau also took an individual title as **Energy** All Star Lawyer of the Year at the ceremony, a significant achievement only awarded to two **energy** specialists in Asia Pacific. Hilary was the youngest honoree amongst a total of 18 All Star Lawyers who were selected across nine separate sectors including Infrastructure, TMT, Real Estate, Life Sciences and Investments Funds.

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With more than 220 **energy** lawyers in Greater **China**, Southeast Asia, Seoul, Tokyo and Australia, Herbert Smith Freehills has one of the largest dedicated specialist **energy** teams based in Asia Pacific. Over the past 18 months, the **firm**'s Asia Pacific **energy** group has advised on a many multi-**billion** dollar cross-border **energy** transactions. These include CNPC's US\$4.2 **billion acquisition** of interest in a gas field in Mozambique, Sinopec's US\$1.5 **billion acquisition** of Talisman **Energy** Inc's UK North Sea business and CNOOC's US\$1.93 **billion acquisition** of major interests in the Queensland Curtis LNG project in Australia.

Asia **Energy** Practice Head David Clinch commented:

"Our Asia Pacific and global **energy** practice has had a stellar year having helped many of our clients successfully close their major deals around the world. Over the past 18 months, we have advised on many of the world's largest and most prominent **energy** transactions. Our overall performance both in deal value and volume has again been exceptional and our merger has given us even greater worldwide depth and coverage. We are absolutely delighted with this award."

Hilary commented:

"It is a great honour to be recognised as one of the top **energy** lawyers in Asia Pacific, and I share this milestone with my whole team. We will continue to leverage off the synergies within our Asia Pacific network, especially between our Asia and Australian offices. We hold an excellent reputation in providing innovative legal advice which spans the full **energy** and natural resources value chain."

The Awards was held at the Conrad Hotel in **Hong Kong**, and marks The Asian Lawyer's first gala event. The Asian Lawyer is sister publication to The American Lawyer magazine, run by ALM Media, one of the world's largest legal media publishers.

Herbert Smith Freehills' **energy** group is widely recognised as a top-tier practice. The teams in Greater **China**, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan and Australia are ranked Band 1 by major legal directories including Chambers and Partners, and Legal 500.

Other major **energy** transactions closed in 2013 that Herbert Smith Freehills has advised on:

- * A\$3.2bn **purchase** of a 30% **stake** in Gina Rinehart's Roy Hill project

- * Woodside **Energy** Limited's first two **oil** and gas exploration deals in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

- * PetroChina's **acquisition** of a 25% **stake** in phase one of the West Qurna field

* Japan Petroleum Exploration Co.'s **acquisition** of a 10% interest in an integrated shale gas development and LNG project in British Columbia, Canada

CO freeho : Freehills

IN i835 : Legal Services | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE austr : Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania

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AN Document ATGVHK0020140307ea360008l