

# **NSW Chapter Hong Kong Connect September Issue**

## 2015 HKABA NSW Chapter Business Awards and YPA Award Gala Dinner

The Hong Kong - Australia Business Association (HKABA) NSW Chapter held its annual HONG KONG-NSW BUSINESS AWARDS and YPA AWARD Gala Dinner on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The Business Awards celebrated its sixteenth year anniversary. The Awards recognizes NSW companies that excel in all aspects of international trade between NSW and Hong Kong SAR, China. It is also the first time that we have hosted the YPA Award together with the Business Awards, which aims to



provide and facilitates networking opportunities, personal development and professional development for young professionals of all industries.

The Awards, widely regarded as a prestigious badge of honor, were presented to winners at a ceremony held the evening at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney in attendance of around 300 guests.

This year's Business Awards were awarded to the most outstanding amongst the following four categories' winners:

- Export of Goods/ Services
- Import of Goods/ Services
- Business Development
- Business Excellence

#### The Independent Judging Panel

The Independent Judging Panel was chaired by Ms. Bonnie Shek, Director of Australia and New Zealand, Hong Kong Trade Development Council. The panel comprises the representatives of the NSW Government with other professionals and industry heads which includes Mr. Bernard Lo, Deputy Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Government of the HKSAR, The Hon Ernest Wong, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary of the Opposition



Leader, Ms Annie Lee, Business Banking Executive from National Australia Bank Limited, Mr. Heath Baker, State Director, NSW & ACT of Austrade, and Mr. Peter Sinn, National President of Hong Kong Australia Business Association.

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The entrants were judged according to various criteria including business involvement with Hong Kong, professional approach to business practice, proportion of import/ export turnover, contribution to industry and society, standard of marketing strategies, presentation, level of innovation and creativity and consumer/ environmental contribution of products/ services.

The companies that received the Hong Kong-Australia Business Association's (HKABA) NSW Annual Awards for 2015 were:

## Young Professionals Alliance Award

# Winner: Ms Linh Podetti, CEO & Founder of: Red & Black Solutions, Outsourcing Angel, and Monkey Video Production

Linh Podetti was born in Vietnam in 1983 and moved to Australia when she was nine years old. She graduated with a distinction average from the prestigious RMIT University where she studied international business.

This proved to be time well spent later on in her career, but first she spent three years working for a large corporation in supply- chain management. However, Linh Podetti soon realised that the path towards becoming a business millionaire did not involve the role of 'employee'; it was clear to her that ownership was the most expedient route towards entrepreneurial success.

Linh Podetti founded several online businesses based on her passion for outsourcing and now hires dozens of full-time employees and hundreds of part-time staff around the world. This large team is necessary for smooth operations as her companies serve the needs of hundreds of clients world-wide. Because she has professionals from all around the world, Linh's businesses are truly 24/7 operations.

The success and freedom provided by outsourcing has also enabled Linh to focus on helping developed countries. She has major ambitions to expand and hire vast numbers of talented staff from places like Vietnam, Philippines and Pakistan among others. It is her dream to enable men and women in these nations and others to earn a high- quality living without being forced into harsh labour or exploitations.

Linh Podetti lives in Sydney with her two kids, another baby on the way and husband Phillip, who is also another successful entrepreneur.

#### **Export of Goods/ Services Award**

#### Winner: University of Wollongong

With a vision to be a leader in ideas and solutions, a global community of campuses and partners where discovery,



learning and technology connect to transform people and the world we live in; the University of Wollongong (UOW) is well equipped to achieve these goals.

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UOW is a Five-Star rated powerhouse of learning and teaching excellence and asserts its standing as a significant research-intensive university. Currently ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world, UOW aims to offer an empowering learning experience which enriches our communities through a strong and connected presence.

Having formal connections with more than 150 overseas institutions the University is truly international, with links around the world. The University's global reach also extends to our research collaboration, student and staff exchange, study abroad and off-shore and international program delivery.

Together with its global standing we have also been recognised for our transnational activities including the university in Dubai, where for over 20 years we have delivered high quality educational programs, and development of key relationships in Asia, earning the University a number of business awards as well.

UOW has a long and proud history of engaging with communities at a global and regional level to enrich and enhance the student experience and make a positive impact to the broader community.

With this record and our purpose to nurture quality graduates, who are experts in their fields and who can work anywhere in the world, we can produce tomorrow's leaders, mature well-rounded individuals who will return a contribution to society.

## Import of Goods/ Services Award

#### Winner: JIA Films

JIA Films is a production company originally founded by producer and director Cindy Li in Shanghai, China. Cindy relocated to Australia in 2012 and established JIA Films (Australia).



The core business of JIA Films is filmmaking and media production. JIA films has produced hundreds of hours of broadcast television and films and has worked on many international co-productions. In 2012, JIA films joined forces with film industry professionals in Australia to develop a film and television production model to enable the delivery of screen content across a range of international markets, channels and languages.

JIA Films is currently working on several Australian-Chinese co-production films and TV series, many projects which have received considerable financial backing from Chinese investors and is gathering support in Australia with organizations like Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Screen ACT and the Screen Producers Association of Australia.

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JIA films has been actively seeking Hong Kong/Chinese partners who wish to pursue co-productions with Australia to produce feature films and other screen contents. By attending the Hong Kong Film Market 2015, JIA films has established strong connections with Hong Kong film companies and industry professionals. JIA Films signed MOU is with Chinese organizations to form long term partnerships to produce Australian Chinese co-production screen projects for the next decade.

#### Business Excellence

#### Winner: Blackmores Ltd

Blackmores, Australia's leading natural health brand, improves peoples' lives by delivering the world's best

natural health solutions, to become peoples' first choice in healthcare. We achieve this by translating our unrivalled heritage and knowledge into innovative, quality branded healthcare solutions that work. Our high quality products, reliable free naturopathic advisory service and award-winning website are among the many reasons Blackmores is the most trusted name in natural health. For more than 80 years, Blackmores has played an important role in the development of the natural health industry in Australia & other Asia countries. With the recent acquisition of the Bioceuticals in 2012, Blackmores now have a wide range of vitamins & health supplement products for retail & ethical channel customers with more than 500 skus. Blackmores has been in the Hong Kong for over 20 years, entered the China market in July 2012 and has launched successful products including Fish Oil, EPO, Grapeseed Forte etc. in various channels including ecommerce, offline & TV in China. Blackmores also successfully set up the subsidiary in Shanghai Free Trade Zone area in 2014 to fully maximise the consumer demand for quality supplement.

### **Business Development**

#### Winner: CPA Australia Ltd

Innovating today and influencing tomorrow, CPA Australia is a forwardthinking organisation that strives for innovative ways to expand our capabilities.

Founded in 1886, CPA Australia is one of the world's largest global membership organisations with more than 150,000 members and business professionals across 120 countries. CPA Australia is committed to delivering the world's best service standards, broadening our audience and the reach of our brand, providing CPA Program of the highest quality, and protecting and advancing the public interest.

Our core services to members include education, training, knowledge exchange, technical support, networking and advocacy.

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# **BLACKMORES**°







# **NSW Chapter Hong Kong Connect September Issue**

We are determined to support the demand for global accounting and business professionals who can work in multiple jurisdictions. As such, our training, services and programs are designed to change as the market demand for professional accounting services changes and grow in both Australia and abroad.

Our sphere of operations is stretched across several continents. We have 19 offices operating around the world, including all states and territories of Australia as well as in China (including Hong Kong), Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK and Vietnam.

CPA Australia is committed to expand our global reach and to continue to maximise the share of people who want a career built on professional accounting skills as we believe that the work of professional accountants is fundamental to the stability, efficiency and sustainability of individual companies, financial markets and the global economy.

With our comprehensive and advanced CPA Program that is recognised with the ISO 9001 quality management certification; our CPA Program is renowned for producing professionals with expertise in strategy, leadership and international business mindset.

Then work we do is supported by our strong governance and values, our Board of Directors ensures dedicated adherence to the stern principles of good corporate governance.

Our core values are respect, empowerment, accountability, cooperation and honesty. Our employees live by these values as they support the organisation to deliver on its objectives.

#### Judges' Recognition

#### Helen Kaminski Pty Ltd

The Helen Kaminski brand was launched onto the Australian fashion scene in 1983, specializing in innovative women's headwear. Today, the

Helen Kaminski collection includes year-round hat collections, handbags and accessories - all relating back to the brand's roots. A men's hat collection, Kaminski XY, was launched in 2005.

The brand was then launched into the US market followed by the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and other European countries. Asia expansion started with Japan in 1996 culminating in August 2014 with the creation of the Helen Kaminski Japan Corporation, a joint venture with Yagi Tsusho Limited, the renowned Japanese luxury fashion trading company. In 2013 Taiwan and South Korea were launched, and then Singapore in

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HELEN KAMINSKI

AUSTRALIA



2007. In 2013, the brand initiated its China distribution strategy starting with Asia Resorts followed in November 2014 by a pop-up shop in Hong Kong's Pacific Place and then an e-commerce flagship shop hosted on luxury Chinese e-tailer iluxday.com and in June 2015 launched into the prestigious Hong Kong i.t. store in Silverchord, Canton Rd.

With showrooms in Sydney, New York, and Tokyo, the brand is now distributed on 5 continents and in more than 25 countries selling over 179,000 premium hats and bags relating back to the brand's roots in natural-inspiration, quality, fashion, innovation and authenticity.

The company has dedicated branded stores and shop-in-shops in Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Australia including a distribution network across key department stores and luxury boutiques around the world. The brands also have e-commerce flagship shops servicing ANZ, Japan the US and Europe.

For more information, please visit: <a href="http://hkaba-nsw.com.au/">http://hkaba-nsw.com.au/</a>

## JOIN US NOW!

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