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Axiata, Gamuda and United Plantations recognised

for Best CR Initiatives

BY CINDY YEAP

KUALA LUMPUR: Leading food and beverage behemoth Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd is the winner of the coveted The Edge Billion Ringgit Club (BRC) Company of the Year award, while Khazanah Nasional Bhd managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar has been named this year's Value Creator for his contribution to Corporate Malaysia and for being an outstanding chief executive officer (CEO).

The awards were presented at a gala dinner here yesterday, where Nestle was among 29 companies that scooped up a total of 34 company awards recognising the performances of Malaysia's biggest listed companies in terms of highest profit growth, return on equity, and total shareholder returns (capital gains plus yield) over three years.

Nestle Malaysia managing director Alois Hofbauer received the award from The Edge Media Group publisher and group CEO Ho Kay Tat, who presented the awards alongside OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd CEO Ong Eng Bin, Mercedes-Benz Malaysia president and CEO Dr Claus Weidner, Qatar Airways country manager for Malaysia and Brunei Datuk Muzammil Mohamad, and The Edge Malaysia editor-in-chief Azam Aris.

The company of the year was also presented RM55,000 worth of airline tickets, equivalent to two business-class tickets to New York, by Qatar Airways.

Meanwhile, the year's value creator was presented with the Duomètre Unique Travel Time timepiece by

Maxence Kinget, Jaeger Le-Coultré's managing director of Southeast Asia and Oceania, and Ho.

Last year, Tenaga Nasional Bhd was named Company of the Year. Dutch Lady Milk Industries Bhd was the award recipient in 2014. Prior to that, it was DiGi.Com Bhd (2013), Genting Bhd (2012), QL Resources Bhd (2011) and Supermax Corp Bhd (2010).

There are 176 The Edge BRC members this year, 10 more than last year, but just below the 178 recorded in 2014. To qualify as a member of The Edge BRC, the Bursa Malaysia-listed company must have at least RM1 billion market capitalisation as at March 31, 2016. The awards is in its seventh instalment this year.

"BRC companies have grown, created jobs, rewarded shareholders, paid taxes and contributed to the economic development of the country. [This year's] 176 BRC members commanded a total market capitalisation of RM1.51 trillion or 90.7% of the total market cap of Bursa Malaysia as at March 31, 2016. This is below the RM1.54 trillion combined market cap of BRC companies in 2015 and RM1.54 trillion in 2014, which is perhaps an indicator of market conditions," Ho said in his welcome address.

"The combined revenue of BRC 2016 member companies in FY15 was RM724.8 billion, up 2.4% from RM708.8 billion in 2014 and RM665 billion in 2013. Total pre-tax profit was down RM4 billion to RM115 billion in FY15 from RM119 billion in 2014. BRC companies are major taxpayers and they paid an estimated RM28.1 billion in 2015 compared

with RM31 billion in 2014. This is about 25% of the RM112 billion direct taxes collected by the Inland Revenue Board in 2015," Ho added.

Apart from financial performance, The Edge BRC awards also recognise corporate responsibility (CR) contributions. Axiata Group Bhd won the Best CR Initiatives Award for Super Big Cap companies with market capitalisation of over RM40 billion, while Gamuda Bhd came in top for the Best CR Initiatives for Big Cap Companies with a market capitalisation of RM10 billion to RM40 billion, and United Plantations Bhd bagged the Best CR Initiatives Award for companies with market capitalisation below RM10 billion.

"It is very inspiring to witness the commitment of the corporates in consistently achieving outstanding profitability while reaching out and giving back to society through meaningful social responsibility endeavours. Congratulations to this year's winners for being an inspiration to others. OCBC is pleased to be involved once again in recognising the success of these true performers," said OCBC's Ong.

OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd is the main sponsor of The Edge BRC for the seventh consecutive year. Other partners for The Edge BRC are Jaeger Le-Coultré (supporting sponsor), Mercedes-Benz (official car partner) and Qatar Airways (official airline partner).

Details of The Edge BRC members and award winners will be published in a special supplement in the Aug 22 issue of *The Edge* weekly in Malaysia, out this Saturday.

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Azman (front row, ninth from right), Hofbauer (front row, 10th from right), Ho (front row, 11th from right) and Azam (back row, 10th from right) with other winners at The Edge BRC Corporate Awards 2016 yesterday. Photo by Suhaimi Yusuf

WINNERS OF THE EDGE BILLION RINGGIT CLUB CORPORATE AWARDS 2016

VALUE CREATOR

MALAYSIA'S OUTSTANDING CEO

Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar

Managing Director Khazanah Nasional Bhd

COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd

SUPER BIG CAP COMPANIES

COMPANIES WITH MORE THAN RM40 BILLION MARKET CAPITALISATION

Highest return on equity over three years

Maxis Bhd

Highest growth in profit before tax over three years

Public Bank Bhd

Highest returns to shareholders over three years

Tenaga Nasional Bhd

BIG CAP COMPANIES

COMPANIES WITH RM10 BILLION TO RM40 BILLION MARKET CAPITALISATION

Highest return on equity over three years

DiGi.Com Bhd

Highest growth in profit before tax over three years

MISC Bhd

Highest returns to shareholders over three years

Hap Seng Consolidated Bhd

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Highest return on equity over three years

Hock Seng Lee Bhd

Highest growth in profit before tax over three years

IJM Corp Bhd

Highest returns to shareholders over three years

Muhibbah Engineering (M) Bhd

Highest growth in profit before tax over three years

Kulim (Malaysia) Bhd

Highest returns to shareholders over three years

Kim Loong Resources Bhd

PROPERTY SECTOR

Highest return on equity over three years

KSL Holdings Bhd