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Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA)

“Indonesia’s Corporate Governance Standing”

Presentation by

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KNKG & RSM AAJ Conference, Bali

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# Agenda

Focus on corporate governance:

1. Elements of sound corporate governance
2. Rating corporate governance in Asia
3. Assessment of Indonesia
4. Recent developments
5. Some recommendations

# Introducing ACGA

- The Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA) was formed in 1999 following the Asian Financial Crisis. Our goal is to help promote the implementation of effective corporate governance in Asia. Our scope of work covers research, advocacy and educational events in 11 Asian countries. We work with regulators, companies and investors.
- ACGA is incorporated in Hong Kong as a non-profit limited liability company. It is an independent association funded by a membership base of 85 mostly private-sector corporations, including financial institutions, listed & unlisted companies, law and accounting firms, and tertiary institutions based in Asia and around the world. Assets under management of our institutional investor members is US\$10 trillion.

# 1. Elements of sound corporate governance

Classical criteria (in Asia circa early 2000s):

- A culture of integrity and ethical practices
- Transparent financial reporting
- A balanced board with independent directors
- Board committees for audit, nomination, and remuneration
- Adoption of international accounting standards
- A clean audit
- Fair treatment of shareholders
- (Variable) Awareness of stakeholder issues and “corporate social responsibility” (CSR)

# Expectations and needs evolve

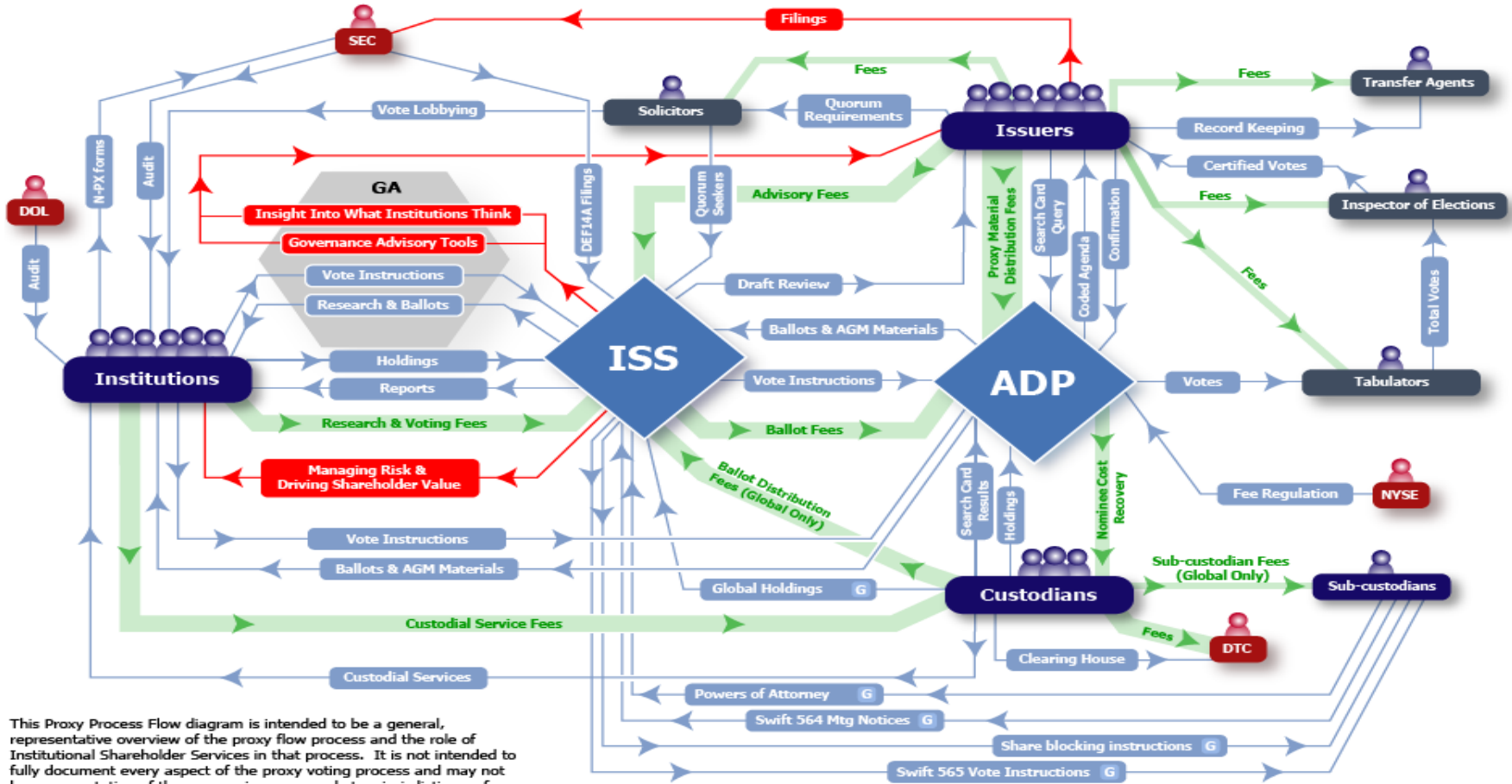
New and additional criteria (in recent years):

- Faster, more frequent financial reporting
- Greater emphasis on “non-financial reporting”
- Independent directors with business nous and understanding of minority shareholders
- More specific focus on shareholder rights, especially regarding: shareholder meetings and proxy voting; pre-emption rights; takeovers; voluntary delistings; cross-shareholdings; related-party transactions; etc
- Deeper focus on stakeholder issues (“ESG”)

# Theme

- Corporate governance reform continues to be a dynamic process, not yet complete.
- Standards steadily evolving in response to changing: global economic pressures and opportunities, market news and scandals, investor behaviour and expectations, and political pressure on regulators.
  - A function of complex economic and regulatory structures
- Listed companies find this frustrating, yet all aspects of business are dynamic. Corporate governance is no different.

## Complexity: The Global Proxy Voting Process



This Proxy Process Flow diagram is intended to be a general, representative overview of the proxy flow process and the role of Institutional Shareholder Services in that process. It is not intended to fully document every aspect of the proxy voting process and may not be representative of the process in every market or jurisdiction or for every situation.

Source: International Shareholders Services Inc. 2006 (courtesy of PGGM)

## 2. Rating corporate governance in Asia: “CG Watch”

| Market          | 2004 <sup>1</sup> | 2005 <sup>2</sup> | 2007 <sup>3</sup> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Hong Kong    | 67                | 69                | 67 ↓              |
| 2. Singapore    | 75                | 70 ↓              | 65 ↓              |
| 3. India        | 62                | 61 ↓              | 56 ↓              |
| 4. Taiwan       | 55                | 52 ↓              | 54                |
| 5. Japan        | -                 | -                 | 51                |
| =6. Korea       | 58                | 50 ↓              | 49 ↓              |
| =6. Malaysia    | 60                | 56 ↓              | 49 ↓              |
| 8. Thailand     | 53                | 50 ↓              | 47 ↓              |
| 9. China        | 48                | 44 ↓              | 45                |
| 10. Philippines | 50                | 48 ↓              | 41 ↓              |
| 11. Indonesia   | 40                | 37 ↓              | 37                |

1. Introduced a detailed survey and scoring methodology in 2004.
2. Made the methodology more rigorous in 2005.
3. Enhanced the methodology further in 2007. (No survey in 2006.)

Source: “CG Watch”, a joint report by ACGA and CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets

## Why scores in “CG Watch 2007” were lower

- Methodology became more rigorous
- “The more we looked, the less we found”
- Varying degrees of regulator, issuer and investor complacency in booming markets
  - “The job is done, we now just need to refine the rules”
- Political paralysis (eg, Korea) or upheaval (eg, Thailand)
- Accounting + auditing standards & practices lagged international norms more than expected (in many markets)

# “CG Watch 2007” category scores

| Market          | CG Rules & Practices | Enforcement | Political/<br>Regulatory | IGAAP | CG Culture | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. Hong Kong    | 60                   | 56          | 73                       | 83    | 61         | 67    |
| 2. Singapore    | 70                   | 50          | 65                       | 88    | 53         | 65    |
| 3. India        | 59                   | 38          | 58                       | 75    | 50         | 56    |
| 4. Taiwan       | 49                   | 47          | 60                       | 70    | 46         | 54    |
| 5. Japan        | 43                   | 46          | 52                       | 72    | 49         | 52    |
| =6. Korea       | 45                   | 39          | 48                       | 68    | 43         | 49    |
| =6. Malaysia    | 44                   | 35          | 56                       | 78    | 33         | 49    |
| 8. Thailand     | 58                   | 36          | 31                       | 70    | 39         | 47    |
| 9. China        | 43                   | 33          | 52                       | 73    | 25         | 45    |
| 10. Philippines | 39                   | 19          | 38                       | 75    | 36         | 41    |
| 11. Indonesia   | 39                   | 22          | 35                       | 65    | 25         | 37    |

Source: “CG Watch 2007”, ACGA & CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets

Figures in %

### 3. Assessment of Indonesia (in 2007)

- No shortage of rules and codes, but many standards were not comparable to regional or global norms
- Regulatory enforcement seen as weak; limited private enforcement by investors
- Political and regulatory institutions less robust than other countries; corruption a big issue
- Accounting/auditing standards closer to international norms
- Culture of governance within listed companies also seen as weak (some blue chips excepted)

# Rules and standards

- Where Indonesia scored relatively well:
  - Speed of releasing audited annual accounts (3 months)
  - Mandatory quarterly reporting
  - Content of code of corporate governance (ie, key principles addressed)
  - Strict controls on pre-emption rights and private placements

# Rules and standards

- Where Indonesia scored less well:
  - Overall quality of financial and non-financial reporting
  - Speed of disclosure of substantial ownership stakes (5%)
  - Speed of disclosure of director and commissioner share dealings
  - Effectiveness of controls on insider trading
  - Disclosure of detailed agendas for AGMs and method of vote counting
  - Disclosure of executive compensation

## 4. Recent developments

- Note: ACGA is now working on “CG Watch 2010”
- On the positive side of the ledger:
  - Bapepam has improved rules relating to internal audit in listed companies, and conflicts of interest in related-party transactions.
  - Bapepam has sought to enhance its enforcement capabilities.
  - Governance institutions seem more open in recent years to discussing corporate governance and changing perceptions of Indonesia’s standing.
  - Continued training of directors and commissioners.

# Recent developments

- On the negative side of the ledger:
  - Revised takeover rule (June 2008): caused consternation among global investors; little apparent consultation by Bapepam.
  - New rules on share buybacks in a “market crisis”: overriding of shareholder rights without apparent consultation
  - Bumi Resources: announced three questionable acquisitions in one week in January 2009. Investors concerned about price, rationale and ownership issues.
  - Reduced powers for KPK and suspension of deputies
  - Resignation of Sri Mulyani Indrawati

## 5. Recommendations

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