## Minority Shareholders Rights in Asia The Weak Shall Be Strong

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## **Corporate Governance Initiatives in Asia**

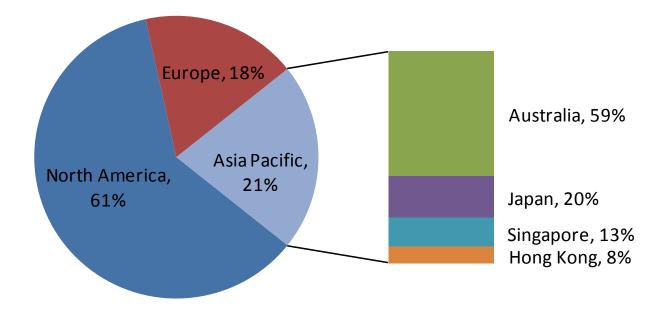
## The CFA Institute Agenda

### Minority shareholder protection

- REITs BUILDING Trust Through Governance
  - Report due to be released in Feb 2011
- Agenda for debate/ research
  - Usurpation of Corporate Opportunity
  - Dilution through Share Issuance
  - Fight for Corporate Control
  - Corporate Disclosures by Issuers



## **Global REIT market**



Source: FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Global Developed REIT Index, at 30 June 2010



# **REITS – conflicts of interests**

Company (Bloomberg code)	Champion REIT (2778:HK)	Regal REIT (1881:HK)	GZI REIT (405:HK)	
Manager	Eagle Asset Management (CP) Ltd, wholly owned by sponsor	Regal Portfolio Management Ltd, wholly owned by sponsor	GZI REIT Asset Management Ltd, wholly owned by sponsor	
REIT Sponsor	Great Eagle Holdings Ltd	Regal Hotels International Holdings Ltd (RHIHL)	GZI Group (principal subsidiary of Yue Xiu)	
Largest substantial unitholder of the REIT	Lo Ka Shui, Chairman, founder and managing director of Great Eagle Holdings Ltd (63.57%)	Lo Yuk Sui, Chairman, son of the founder and CEO of RHIHL (74.5%)	Yue Xiu (36.55%)	
REIT Manager - Board of Directors				
Number (%) INEDs	3 (38%)	3 (33%)	3 (50%)	
Separation of the role of CEO and Chairman	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Is the Chairman a NED, INED or ED?	NED	NED	ED	
Is the Chairman connected to the substantial unitholder/sponsor?	Yes, Chairman is also Chairman and Managing Director of Great Eagle Holdings Ltd	Yes, Chairman is also Chairman and CEO of RHIHL	Yes, Chairman is the vice-chairman of Yue Xiu	

Ownership structure common in REITs in Hong Kong.

- Manager is wholly owned subsidiary of the sponsor
- Sponsor is a large substantial shareholder in the REIT
  - Chairman is not independent



# **Usurpation of Corporate Opportunity**

# Competing business through unlisted vehicles

- Shinsegae
  - Shinsegae Department Store, SDS is a listed entity. The Chung Family set up Gwangju Shinsegae in mid nineties and operated stores using Shinsegae brand.
- GOME
  - GOME, electrical appliance company listed in Hong Kong manages 370 stores owned by Huang Guangyu. Prohibited from operating stores where 370 stores are located. GOME manages those 370 stores owned by Huang, the controlling shareholder.



# **Usurpation of Corporate Opportunity**

## **Non-compete agreements**

 CNOOC was listed in Hong Kong in 2001. It holds exclusive rights to PRC offshore oil and natural gas exploration rights as stated in prospectus when listed. CNOOC called for an EGM in 2005 and sought minority shareholder approval to give consent to parent to engage in competing business.



## Share Issuance – General Mandate Dilutive effect on Minority Shareholders

	Hong Kong	Singapore	United Kingdom
Maximum – issue of shares	20%	20%	5 %
Maximum Discount	20%	10%	5%
Placement with related parties	Shareholder Approval	Shareholder approval	Shareholder approval
Disclosure required for placement	yes	yes	yes

#### renewal required at next annual general meeting.



# Fight for Control – watch this space

### GOME –

- 7 June 2009 GOME issued USD233 million convertible bonds to Bain Capital Glory Limited, at 5 per cent semi annual interest.
- GOME agreed to appoint 3 directors nominated by Bain; and breach of that will trigger redemption at 1.5 times the principal sum.
- 18 May 2010 Huang was sentenced to 14 years jail by mainland court; and Du Juan, received 3.5 year sentence.
- GOME is run by Chairman Chen Xiao, and owns 1.38 per cent of GOME.
- Sept 28 Huang called EGM to remove Chen and Sun as executive directors; appoint Zou (Huang's lawyer) and Huang Yan Hong (sister) as directors.
- The 3 Bain directors will have to stand for election by shareholders.



# Corporate Disclosures and Practices Let the SUNSHINE in

Quarterly Reporting - Form, Format and Substance - Accuracy and Reliability

Side Agreements – Fortis / Parkway -Two directors will vote according to the instructions of Fortis; not disclosed to investors

Allow Non Binding Vote on CEO/ Senior Executive Pay

