

Awards reveal the changing face of hedge funds in Asia

A strong line-up of new names join the race with more established players to pick up top prizes at this year's *AsiaHedge Awards* to be held in Hong Kong on 20 October

The *AsiaHedge Awards*, to be held for the fourth time in Hong Kong on 20 October, looks set to once again throw up a series of close races between well-established major players in the region and a refreshingly strong line-up of newer names.

Previous winners in line again for nominations this year include Kuroto, Knight, PM Capital, Basis Capital and BGI – and there are also a strong list of other big names including Boyer Allan, Ward Ferry and Sloane Robinson that also look well-placed to feature when we confirm the list of final nominations next month.

But in contrast with the last two years, in which the awards were heavily dominated by Tower K1, there are few obvious contenders yet for Fund of the Year overall – nominees for which will be kept under wraps until the night of the event.

For the Japan award, this time we look certain to have a new winner, with the current list of contenders (based on data

for the first 11 months to be counted from October 2004) including FM Japan Pragmatist, Melchior Japan and PK Japan. Among the strong crop of newer funds, others who look likely to feature for the first time include Cantillon Pacific in the Asia inc Japan category, and both Hayberry and Monterrey in Australia.

A couple of firms look likely to secure at least two nominations, including the huge Platinum group from Australia, as well as Phil Mathews, who has posted stunning returns this year on both his established Sabre fund and on his new Tomahawk fund.

The methodology is unchanged from last year, with nominees for the main categories decided on the basis of the Sharpe ratio over the year, with the eventual winners being the fund with the best returns – so long as they are within 25% of the best Sharpe. Qualification for each category is also restricted by minimum asset criteria – with a strategy

requiring at least \$100 million to qualify for the Japan award, at least \$50 million for each of the Asia inc and Asia ex Japan categories, and \$30 million for each of the other awards. The only exceptions, as before, are for the two New Fund awards – where, given that the funds are newer, no minimum asset level is required.

The only small change to previous years is a slight broadening of the criteria for the Fixed Income award, where this year we will also be considering high yield and distressed players. Rather than create another very small category, this now throws up one very strong list of contenders, including the Avenue Asia and Asian Debt distressed strategies.

The event is once again proving very popular, with tables selling fast. To book your place for one of the few remaining please contact Hannah Leverton on our events team at: hleverton@asiahedge.com

The provisional nominations – AsiaHedge Awards 2005

Asia Ex-Japan

Contenders include: GAM Asian Hedge, Knight Thai Strategic Investments, Platinum Asia

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Asia Inc-Japan

Contenders include: Cantillon Pacific, Kuroto, LG Asian Plus, Tantallon

Presented by



Japan

Contenders include: FM Japan Pragmatist, Melchior Japan, PK Japan

Presented by



Australia

Contenders include: AMP Australian Equity Long/Short, BGI Australia Absolute Equity, Hayberry Australian Equity, Monterrey Merlin

Presented by



Single Country

Contenders include: CITIC Capital Greater China Active, India Capital Fund, Korea International Investment Fund, Three Kingdoms Korea Fund

Arbitrage & Market Neutral

Contenders include: BGI Japan Market Neutral, Lionhart Global Appreciation Asia, Venus Arbitrage

Presented by



International

Contenders include: Mathews Capital Sabre Fund, Platinum International, PM Capital Enhanced Yield, Swordfish Fund

Presented by



Fixed Income, High Yield & Distressed

Contenders include: Asian Credit, Asian Debt Fund, Avenue Asia Investments, Basis Yield Fund, Basis Capital Aust-Rim

Presented by



New Japan Fund

Contenders include: Akamatsu, Hachiman Japan, Moon Light G-04

Presented by



New Fund Excluding Japan

Contenders include: ASTMAX Commodity Fund, Contango Absolute Return, Mathews Tomahawk Fund, Monsoon India Inflexion Fund

Presented by



Fund of the Year

Nominees to be announced on the night

Presented by

