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Pacific Pension Institute Presents Leadership Awards to Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr., Ambassador Linda Tsao Yang and H. Lawrence Hull, Jr.

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Pacific Pension Institute (PPI) announces its inaugural Leadership Awards presented to Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr., Ambassador Linda Tsao Yang and Lawrence H. Hull, Jr. in recognition of their significant professional contributions and enthusiastic support of PPI and its programs. Pacific Pension Institute is a member-driven, nonprofit educational organization and knowledge leader, assisting primarily public pension fund executives and other institutional investors in understanding the investment environment in Asia and the Pacific Rim.

"The award was conceived by the Board of Directors to honor individuals for their long-standing commitment to PPI as well as significant professional achievement in their respective careers. Moving forward, the award will carry the name of the founder of PPI – The Larry Hull Leadership Award," says Christopher Ailman, Chief Investment Officer, California State Teachers' Retirement System and Chair, PPI Board of Directors

Mr. Ailman added "With this award, PPI firmly establishes its legacy of leadership. It's important for an organization to recognize its history and roots as it grows into its future."

According to Dr. Marsha Vande Berg, PPI chief executive officer, "PPI is a knowledge leader on issues related to North American investment in Asia thanks in a large part to the collective wisdom of these three leaders. Each has had a profound impact on the life and programs of PPI over the past 14 years."

Award winners are:

Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr., *Chairman, Projects International, Inc.*

- Honored for generously sharing his extensive geopolitical and Asia knowledge from the start of PPI right up through today as a frequent speaker and commentator on global issues. Today, Chas continues to offer wise counsel as well as suggestions for speakers and programs, drawing on his vast experience and influential network. His wife, Margaret Carpenter was the organization's first executive director. Chas has served on the PPI Board of Directors and currently is a member of the Advisory Council.

Chas Freeman Jr. is Chairman of Projects International, Inc., a three decade-old transnational business and investment development firm. He is also President of the Middle East Policy Council. He is co-chair of the U.S. China Policy Foundation, vice chair of the Atlantic Council, trustee of the Institute for Defense Analyses, director of the American Academy of Diplomacy and a member of several other boards. During 30 years of public service, Ambassador Freeman negotiated on behalf of the United States with over 100 foreign governments in Africa, East and South Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. He served as the principal American interpreter during President Nixon's 1972 visit to China and was the recipient of numerous honors and awards for international negotiation and policy innovation. He was also the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during the first Persian Gulf War. Ambassador Freeman is a member of the Advisory Council of the Pacific Pension Institute.

Ambassador Linda Tsao Yang, *Chair, Asian Corporate Governance Association*

- Recognized for her significant role as an early intellectual bridge between PPI's work in North America and the Institute's interests in Asia. In her capacity as U.S. executive director of the Asian Development Bank, an appointment she received from President Clinton, Ambassador Yang facilitated PPI's first educational program in Asia on best practices and pension fund governance. The PPI Leadership Award also recognized her work on behalf of sound corporate governance -- a value PPI embraces. Today, Ambassador Yang continues to be an effective spokesperson on behalf of Asian participation in PPI programs, relying on her extensive network in Asia as well as North America. She is a former member of the PPI Board of Directors and currently serves on the Advisory Council.

Ambassador Linda Tsao Yang chairs the Asian Corporate Governance Association, a non-profit, member-supported organization based in Hong Kong. She is a Non-Executive Independent Director on the Board of the Bank of China (Hong Kong). Previously, she served as the U.S. Ambassador and Executive Director to the Board of the Asian Development Bank in Manila. Ambassador Yang received U.S. Treasury's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her key role at the bank in providing assistance to Thailand, Indonesia, and South Korea during the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis. Ambassador Yang, a former member of the PPI Board of Directors, serves on the PPI Advisory Council. She is a trustee of The Asia Foundation and a director on the board of The Committee of 100. She earned her B.A. in Economics from St. John's University in Shanghai and a Masters degree in Economics from Columbia University.

H. Lawrence Hull, Jr., *President, Larco Advisors, Inc.*

- Recognized for founding the organization and for his ongoing support and inspiration of the Institute's mission, goals and objectives. From the beginning, PPI has served as a convener of experts alongside public pension investment officers for the purpose of exchanging views and learning about growth and investment opportunities as well as challenges in Asia. Mr. Hull was the inspiration for establishing the forum and the informality that has characterized its ongoing emphasis on dialogue, learning and collegiality. Mr. Hull is fond of reminding participants that all should know one another by their first names. He is a member of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council.

Larry Hull is President of Larco Advisors, Inc., a financial consulting company. He is also a senior advisor to Lombard Investments, Inc. He has more than 30 years of experience in the pension fund investment business as a consultant to pension advisors and plan sponsors with a focus on developing and structuring international alternate asset investment programs. He is the founder of the Pacific Pension Institute and a member of the PPI Board of Directors. Mr. Hull earned a B.A. in Business Administration at the University of Oregon and is a graduate of the Air War College. He is a retired Air Force Colonel.

The award ceremony took place at Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia during PPI's Summer Roundtable. The theme of this year's Summer Roundtable focused the discussion on "the global competition for natural resources spurred by the rise of both China and India as economic powers." Participating in the discussion throughout the roundtable were pension and endowment investment officers and other global investment practitioners as well as experts in international finance, investment and global affairs.

The Institute's educational programs address by extension the requirement that all institutional investors, but particularly those investing public funds, do so prudently and with sufficient understanding so as to make prudent investment decisions. To that end, PPI's educational programs in North America and in Asia convene experts from around the world on geopolitical and macro-economic topics of import to the investment environment in Asia and the Pacific Rim.

Membership in the organization includes public pension funds and endowments in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia as well as corporate-level members with parallel interests in the Asia and Pacific Rim investment arena.

Contacts