

## Asia's dominance reflected on glittering awards night

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Hong Kong

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THE Lloyd's List Asia Awards returned to its first home, Hong Kong, last night. In the glittering surroundings of the Shangri La Hotel in Kowloon the fully booked event brought together 400 of the region's luminaries for some well-deserved communal back-patting and celebration of a year that has cemented Asia's dominance of the global shipping industry.

Perhaps one of the more popular winners in some years was Hong Kong-based George Sze Kwang Chao, who received the ceremony's most esteemed trophy — the Life Time Achievement Award. Now somewhat frail physically, the shipping veteran of more than 40 years has been an inspiration to two generations of shipping professionals in Hong Kong.

Chairman and president of Wah Kwong, George joined the company in 1966. By 1972 his skill, vitality and drive were rewarded with a directorship before he went on to run the company.

Outside the office, George has been a persistent inspiration to the territory's shipping community for more than 40 years in his various roles as chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association in

1996 and 1997, chairman of Bureau Veritas Asia and Australia Committee, chairman of the Port Welfare Committee of Hong Kong, chairman of the Maritime services Training Board, council member of the Vocational Training Council of Hong Kong and adviser to the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre.