



Absolute Return Investments wins hedge fund award

OMIGSA Absolute Return Investments has won the **Hedge Fund Provider of the Year 2011** award at the POA awards dinner on Monday, 6 June 2011.

The Principal Officers Association (POA) teamed up with UK-based publisher, Global Pensions to host the **Imbasa Yegolide Awards for 2011**. These awards give Principal Officers the chance to acknowledge those service providers who have provided their funds with excellent service.

The Absolute Return Investments (ARI) boutique focuses exclusively on providing risk-managed investment offerings. This highly experienced team has a distinguished long-term track record for delivering absolute returns for their clients, irrespective of market conditions.

“We are honoured to receive this award”, says Boutique Head, Tom Connell. “We believe that hedge funds play an important role in an investment portfolio, providing differentiated, uncorrelated sources of return to a fund.”

The wide range of hedge funds OMIGSA ARI boutique manage include:

- Three local derivative-based hedge funds (Volatility Arbitrage Fund, Caerus Fund and Aristeia Opportunities Fund) providing a range of risk-return profiles and totaling R1.2bn in assets under management.
 - The Old Mutual Multi-Strategy Hedge Fund (R1.4bn in size), which has delivered market-leading returns through providing liquid access to private equity.
- A range of offshore fund of hedge funds, managed in conjunction with Larch Lane and totaling US\$460m, as well as a direct offshore euro-denominated hedge fund.

“We pride ourselves on our careful, disciplined approach to managing downside risk, using our proven quantitative and derivative strategies where appropriate, while at the same time always seeking to maximise returns,” says Connell.

This approach is clearly appreciated by their clients. Principal Officers play a key role in supporting boards of trustees and can be instrumental in successful fund management and good board governance.

The Imbasa Yegolide (meaning “Golden Trophy”) Awards are in their third year and aim to create a credible platform for service providers in the retirement industry to showcase their service excellence to funds. Teaming up with Global Pensions, an international magazine targeting the institutional pension fund industry, the POA further aims to highlight the importance of global reach and interaction.

The judges for this year’s awards ceremony included amongst others Marc Ashton of Finweek; Stephen Cranston of the Financial Mail; Allan Greenblo of Today’s Trustee and Nicolas Firzli, Founder of the World Pensions Council.

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