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RHB research head quits to start own fund

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JUN 3, 2015 5:50 AM

Singapore

TERENCE Wong, the head of research at RHB Research in Singapore and best known for his expertise in small-cap companies, will leave the firm after June 5 to set up his own fund.

BT understands that Ong Kian Lin, RHB's current real estate analyst, will take over the reins after Mr Wong leaves.

Mr Ong could not be reached for comment.

"We acknowledge Terence's significant research capabilities and his leadership skills in developing an award winning RHB research team," regional head of research Yap Huey Chiang said. "The team of strong and dynamic research analysts has achieved high rankings in independent research polls for oil and gas, technology, consumer, mining and small caps. And importantly, the analysts are highly regarded by clients of RHB for discovering new and interesting stocks in the market.

"The group has a succession plan in place and will execute a smooth handover of responsibilities to the potential successor."

Mr Wong has been a stock analyst since 1999.

He joined RHB when it was still known as DMG & Partners in 2007 after a stint at Sias Research.

"I vividly remember my first day on the job back in 1999," he wrote in an email to colleagues.

"I was so elated that I was practically skipping to work. Till today, 16 years and 10 kilogrammes later, my heart still skips when I head to work. It was a job that seemed to be created for me as it married all my passions - meeting people, digging for info, fiddling with figures, penning and presenting to eager crowds. And it has truly been a rewarding time."

During his time at RHB and DMG, his research team established itself as a specialist in smaller companies. Mr Wong was named Asiamoney's best small-cap analyst in 2014, while DMG was named the best small-cap research house in 2013 and 2012.

Mr Wong will set up his own South-east Asia-focused equity fund, he said in reply to queries from The Business Times.

"I see a lot of opportunities, particularly in Singapore, which has lagged the region over the past five years . . . For me, the best part of the job is stock picking and running the mock fund. With the newly established fund, I will be able to concentrate on just that," he said.

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