HKVCA Private Equity Advanced Course 2019 - Directorship





Robert Petty, Co-Founder Clearwater Funds / Co-CEO and Co-CIO Fiera Capital (Asia)

Rob Petty is Co-Founder of the Clearwater Funds and Co-CEO and Co-CIO of Fiera Capital (Asia). Since founding the Clearwater Funds in 2001, Rob and his partner Amit Gupta have invested profitably across cycles, sectors and geographies, building an Asia-focused business that is one of the largest credit investing firms in the region today. Over his career, Rob has focused on Asia-dedicated credit investments, with broad expertise in direct lending, secondary credit and special situations strategies.

Rob's principal responsibilities at Clearwater encompass portfolio management, origination and overall management of the Firm. Prior to founding Clearwater, Rob worked as a capital committer in Asian credit for fifteen years at Lehman Brothers and Peregrine Fixed income, before moving to the investment side of the business working for Marc Lasry at Amroc Investments for three years.

Rob sits on the Board of three Clearwater portfolio companies and also serves as Chair of the Boards of two non-profit organizations, The Emerging Markets Private Equity Association (EMPEA) and EngenderHealth. Rob holds a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science from Brown University and is based in Hong Kong with his wife and they have three adult children.



Alice Au, Global Head, Financial Services Practice; Member of the Global Board, Spencer Stuart

Alice Au is a member of Spencer Stuart's global board of directors and leads Spencer Stuart's global Financial Services Practice out of Hong Kong. She also leads the Board and Private Equity practices in Asia Pacific. A global citizen with deep relationships across industries, she brings more than 20 years of executive search and leadership counsel experience to her clients. She helps multinationals, principal investors, Asian and Chinese businesses, as well as family businesses, strengthen their governance practices and succession planning, and build and renew their boards and leadership to meet their strategic goals.

Deep insight into Asia business

- Prior to joining Spencer Stuart, Alice was a senior partner with another leading international xecutive search firm. She led the firm's CEO and board services practice, as well as the private equity practice in Asia Pacific; guided the rebuilding and expansion of the Hong Kong office; and helped numerous Asian and multinational companies and private equity firms meet their senior leadership needs across Asia.
- Alice began her career as a semiconductor engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation in the U.S. She then joined McKinsey & Company as a management consultant in New York, where she advised Fortune 100 clients on strategic, organizational and technology issues. She later joined International Paper Company as an executive in corporate development, leading crossfunctional teams in negotiating acquisitions in North America, Europe and Asia.
- Alice returned to Hong Kong in 1993 to establish a China fund and advise midsize international companies on their China entry strategies, then joined the executive search industry in 1995. She took a one-year leave from the business in 1999 to lead strategic planning and e-commerce at AsiaContent.com, which successfully listed on NASDAQ in 2000.

Alice has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Yale University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. From 2010 to 2012, she served as a part-time member of the Central Policy Unit of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR from 2013 – 2019, she was a member of the Human Capital Committee of the Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) in Hong Kong SAR. Alice speaks English, Cantonese and Mandarin.



Alva Lee, Partner, Advisory, KPMG China

Alva has more than 18 years of experience in corporate governance, board advisory, ERM, compliance, and risk and control advisory matters across a wide range of industries.

She also has considerable experience assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of business processes, providing practical recommendations to assist clients in establishing a robust governance

framework, and improving business performance for clients.

Alva has served different types of organisations, including Hong Kong/China-listed companies, MNCs and NGOs. She has worked on various types of risk advisory projects for her clients, including but not limited to corporate governance reviews, internal audit outsourcing, PN21, enterprise risk management framework assessments and implementation, internal control reviews, and internal audit function effectiveness reviews.

Alva also advises organisations of all sizes on their board and governance structures, corporate governance reviews and board effectiveness reviews, and oversees the development and management of KPMG's Director Training.