On Saturday 20 December 2008, Dr. Gary Dirks, BP Group Vice President was honored as one of the top 10 multinational-company (MNC) leaders at an event to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the Chinese economy at the Great Hall of People.

Mr. Li Wuwei, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee and Mr. Cheng Siwei, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress awarded the prizes to the winners at the ceremony.

The awards, initiated and organized by the China Economy Weekly under the auspices of People's Daily Press Group, are designed to recognize key individuals contributing to China’s economic development to coincide the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the reform and opening-up. The committee set different award categories to honor over 100 Chinese and foreign individuals from key industry sectors, including the one to honor 10 Multinational-Company leaders.
"I am surprised and very pleased to have been chosen. The award represents the work of many people in BP of whom I am just one," said Gary.

The other winners of "TOP 10 MNC Leaders" include CEOs/Presidents of BMW, Intel, IBM, Siemens and Boeing, etc. BP is the only oil company awarded. The judging process involved the panel voting - 35% weighting, the China Economy Weekly readers' voting - 35% weighting and on-line voting - 30% weighting.