

Chairman and former deputy chairman of listed company face additional ICAC charges

20 December 2013

The chairman and a former deputy chairman of a listed company, who were earlier charged by the ICAC with conspiracy to defraud in relation to the acquisition of natural gas and oil fields in the United States of America, were today (Friday) laid with eight additional charges when they appeared at the Eastern Magistracy.

Wong Yuk-kwan, alias Wong Kwan, 66, chairman and executive director of Pearl Oriental Oil Limited (POOL), formerly known as Pearl Oriental Innovation Limited (POIL), faced seven additional charges of dealing with property known or believed to represent proceeds of an indictable offence, contrary to Section 25(1) of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO).

Lew Mon-hung, 65, former deputy chairman and executive director of POOL, was charged with a similar additional offence.

Also appearing at the magistracy today were co-defendants Yik Siu-hung, 44, housewife; and Kitty Yip Sui-kuen, 44, vice financial officer and administrative manager of POOL.

All four defendants now faced a total of 15 charges, including the seven and one additional charges laid against Wong and Lew respectively today.

The seven additional charges alleged that between March 10, 2010 and May 17, 2011, Wong had dealt with a total of HK\$200 million and 678.25 million shares of POIL, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the monies and shares represented proceeds of an indictable offence.

Lew faced an additional charge of having dealt with 169.56 million shares of POIL on May 17, 2011, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the shares represented proceeds of an indictable offence.

The seven other charges were two of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law; four of dealing with property known or believed to represent proceeds of an indictable offence, contrary to Section 25(1) of the OSCO; and one of employing a device, scheme or artifice in a transaction in securities with intent to defraud or deceive, contrary to Section 300(1)(a) of the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

In February 2012, the ICAC commenced an investigation into the case in relation to suspected offences under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. Subsequent enquiries revealed the above alleged offences.

The four defendants today pleaded not guilty to all charges. Magistrate Mr David Chum Yau-fong committed their case to the Court of First Instance (CFI) for trial on a date to be fixed.

Wong and Lew were granted cash bail of HK\$5 million and HK\$3 million respectively, while Yik and Yip were on cash bail of HK\$400,000 each. They were also ordered not to interfere with prosecution witnesses directly or indirectly, to reside at their reported addresses, to inform the ICAC of any change of address within 24 hours, and to attend any pre-trial review as requested by the CFI.

The prosecution was today represented by Senior Public Prosecutor Peggy Lo, assisted by ICAC officer William Lam.

上市公司主席及前副主席被廉署加控罪名

2013年12月20日

一名上市公司主席及一名前副主席，在收購美國天然氣油田時涉嫌串謀詐騙，早前被廉政公署拘控。兩名被告今日(星期五)在東區裁判法院應訊時被加控八項罪名。

黃煜坤，別名黃坤，六十六歲，東方明珠石油有限公司(「東方明珠石油」)，前稱東方明珠創業有限公司(「東方明珠創業」)主席兼執行董事，被加控七項罪名，即處理已知道或相信為代表從可公訴罪行的得益的財產，涉嫌違反《有組織及嚴重罪行條例》第25(1)條。

劉夢熊，六十五歲，「東方明珠石油」前副主席兼執行董事，則被加控一項相類罪名。

同案另外兩名被告翼小紅，四十四歲，家庭主婦；及葉瑞娟，四十四歲，「東方明珠石油」副財務總監兼行政經理，今日亦有出庭應訊。

四名被告共被控十五項罪名，包括今日分別控告黃的七項及劉的一項新增罪名。

七項新增控罪指黃於二〇一〇年三月十日至二〇一一年五月十七日期間，涉嫌處理合共二億港元款項及六億七千八百二十五萬股「東方明珠創業」股份，而他知道或有合理理由相信有關款項及股份代表從可公訴罪行的得益。

劉被控的一項新增罪名，指他於二〇一一年五月十七日涉嫌處理一億六千九百五十六萬股「東方明珠創業」股份，而他知道或有合理理由相信有關股份代表從可公訴罪行的得益。

其他七項控罪包括兩項串謀詐騙，涉嫌違反普通法；四項處理已知道或相信為代表從可公訴罪行的得益的財產，涉嫌違反《有組織及嚴重罪行條例》第25(1)條；及一項在證券交易中意圖欺詐或欺騙而使用手段、計劃或計謀，涉嫌違反《證券及期貨條例》第300(1)(a)條。

廉署於二〇一二年二月就一宗懷疑違反《防止賄賂條例》罪行的個案展開調查，調查後揭發上述涉嫌罪行。

四名被告今日否認所有控罪。裁判官覃有方將案件轉介高等法院原訟法庭排期審理。

黃及劉分別獲准以現金五百萬港元及三百萬港元保釋，而翼及葉則各獲准以現金四十萬港元保釋。各被告亦受命不得直接或間接地騷擾控方證人，須在報住的地址居住，如更改地址須於二十四小時內通知廉署，及出席原訟法庭提出的預審。

控方今日由高級檢控官盧淑玲代表出庭，並由廉署人員林榮傑協助。

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