

PETER BIRD

Managing Director, Singapore
Berkeley Research Group

SUMMARY

Dr. Peter Bird is a Managing Director in BRG's Singapore office, where he focuses on expert witness work with particular expertise in the energy, utilities and infrastructure sector. He has an international reputation as an expert in the design, restructuring and privatization of electricity markets.

A PhD economist, Dr. Bird started his career as an economics lecturer at the University of Stirling, following which he worked as an economic consultant with Coopers & Lybrand, advising on the privatization of the England and Wales electricity supply industry, and designing the rules of the England and Wales electricity pool.

In 1990, Dr. Bird joined the London office of Rothschild & Co, where he enjoyed a distinguished investment banking career spanning over 25 years, retiring as Executive Vice-Chairman and continuing on as Senior Advisor. His principal focus at Rothschild was M&A in the power, utilities and infrastructure sectors, as Co-Lead of Rothschild's Global Power team, working extensively across Asia, Australasia, Europe, the Americas and Africa, and leading global teams on high-profile politically sensitive transactions. In 2008, Dr. Bird relocated to Rothschild's Singapore office, serving as Co-Head of Rothschild in South East Asia.

After retiring from Rothschild, Dr. Bird served as an affiliated expert with NERA Economic Consulting, where he testified as an expert witness in international arbitration, prior to joining BRG in March 2019.

Dr. Bird also has a number of other advisory roles in the power sector, including: non-executive director at a New Zealand electricity and gas distribution company, Senior Advisor to a private equity fund focused on power generation in emerging markets and Senior Advisor to Globeleq, a power generation company.

His disputes experience includes:

- Currently acting as an expert witness in a Korean arbitration concerning delay damages in a power plant construction case
- Advised a client as an expert in an arbitration concerning interpretation of indexation provisions in a gas production-sharing contract
- Reported as an expert in a Hong Kong court case between two private equity firms concerning valuation of a private equity fund
- Testified as an expert witness in a Hong Kong court case about false representations in a private equity deal in the FMCG sector. The parties were each Asian private equity houses. The case involved quantum expert evidence primarily around valuation techniques. He was instructed by the defendant's counsel.
- Testified as an expert witness in a Paris-based ICC arbitration. The case involved the interpretation of the exercise price formula in a post-M&A put option clause in the Sale and

Purchase Agreement for an energy utility company. The parties were two European utilities. He was instructed by the respondent's counsel and was examined and cross-examined.

- Testified as an expert witness in 2014 in Geneva-based ICC arbitration. The case involved a dispute between the Owner and the EPC Contractor in relation to a power plant construction contract. The parties were a large utility and a large global contractor. He was instructed by the claimant's counsel and his evidence related to the procuring of project financing. The tribunal hearing was in 2014. He was examined and cross-examined and took part in a "hot tub".
- Acted for Rothschild in 2013-14 in managing a dispute and potential arbitration between Rothschild and a client. The dispute was settled at a late stage before commencement of proceedings in the Singapore arbitration centre.

Dr. Bird earned his BA and PhD in Economics from Cambridge University. He started his career as an economist in academia and has published over 30 academic articles in peer-reviewed journals.

CURRENT POSITIONS

2019 – Present	Berkeley Research Group, Managing Director
2018 – Present	Globeleq, Senior Advisor
2017 – Present	Wye Holdings, Senior Advisor
2012 – Present	Rothschild & Co, Senior Advisor

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Professional roles

2008 – 2012	Rothschild Singapore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-head of Global Utilities - Co-head / Executive Vice-Chairman, Global Financial Advisory, SE Asia
1990 – 2008	Rothschild London <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing Director - Director - Assistant Director
1988 – 1990	Coopers & Lybrand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Consultant - Senior Consultant
1985 – 1988	Uranium Institute, Senior Researcher
1984 – 1985	Christian Michelsen Institute, Senior Researcher
1977 – 1984	University of Stirling, Lecturer in Economics
1976 – 1977	Leicester Polytechnic, Lecturer in Economics

Advisory roles

2017 – 2019	NERA, Affiliate Consultant
2012, 2016 – 2018	Infraco Asia Investments, Director
2012, 2016 – 2018	Infraco Africa Investments, Director
2013 – 2018	Green Africa Power, Founder board member
2012 – 2016	ACEI, Senior Advisor
2007 – 2016	Vector Ltd, Non-executive Director
2009 – 2015	Infraco Asia Development, Founder Director
2005 – 2012	Infraco Africa Ltd, Founder Director

EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

1970-1976	BA and PhD in Economics, Cambridge University
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current positions

2019 – Present

Berkeley Research Group – Managing Director

Joined BRG's Singapore office in March 2019. Focuses on expert witness work related to the energy sector, as well as related to M&A in a variety of industries.

2019 – Present

Reactive Technologies Ltd

Member of the International Advisory Board of this tech start-up, supporting marketing of its highly innovative SaaS product to electricity networks and grids.

2012 – Present

Rothschild & Co – Senior Advisor

Advisor to Rothschild global financial advisory on deal origination, client relationships and industry expertise. Originated transactions in power, infrastructure and financial services. Has assisted in the execution of two nuclear new-build mandates in Europe.

Previous professional roles

2008 – 2012

Rothschild Singapore – Co-head of Global Utilities and Co-head/Executive Vice-Chairman, Global Financial Advisory, SE Asia

Built Rothschild's world-leading utilities business and its leading advisory business in SE Asia.

1990 – 2008

Rothschild London – Managing Director / Director / Assistant Director

Founder of Rothschild's world-leading franchise in renewable energy.

1988 – 1990

Coopers & Lybrand management consulting – Senior/Principal Consultant

Wrote the rules of the England and Wales electricity pool.

1985 – 1988

Uranium Institute – Senior researcher

The trade association of the world nuclear fuel industry, now the WNO. Research on economics and politics of international nuclear fuel trade.

1984 – 1985

Christian Michelsen Institute – Senior researcher

Research on international petroleum economics, based in Norway.

1977 – 1984

University of Stirling – Lecturer in Economics

Over 30 academic publications.

1976 – 1977

Leicester Polytechnic – Lecturer in Economics

Previous advisory roles

2017 – 2019

NERA – Affiliate Consultant

Acted as the SE Asia representative and as an expert witness. Successfully raised NERA's footprint and identity in Asia and was engaged in two expert roles.

2018 – 2019

Globeleq – Senior Advisor

Globeleq, an independent power generation company focused on Africa. His role was to develop construction, investment and financing partnerships for Globeleq with Asian companies. Successfully identified opportunities which are being actively developed.

2012 / 2016 – 2018

Infraco Asia Investments / Infraco Africa Investments – Director

Director of Infraco Asia Investments and Infraco Africa Investments, two donor-funded investment funds focused on emerging markets.

2013 – 2018

Green Africa Power – Founder Board member

A donor-financed supporter of renewables in Africa, which helped to finance three renewable power projects in Africa. As the only founder director, he was responsible along with the donors

for selecting the Chair and other NEDs, as well as with the Board for recruiting the executive director and the investment advisor EISER Infrastructure.

2012 – 2016

ACEI – Senior Advisor

Senior Advisor on deal origination and execution for ACEI, a US-based private equity fund focused on power generation. The fund achieved an 18% IRR on invested capital, despite being forced to liquidate by its sponsor on a fire-sale basis.

2007 – 2016

Vector Ltd – Non-executive Director

Independent Director from 2007 to 2016 of Vector Ltd, an NZD 3bn+ listed infrastructure network company. During his service, the company successfully executed a major change in strategy, shifting its focus from being a regulated utility to a customer-driven champion of disruptive technology. Played a key role in approving and monitoring the new investment programme, and in two disposals which substantially enhanced shareholder value.

2009 – 2015

Infraco Asia Development – Founder Director

Founder director from 2009 to 2015 of Infraco Asia Development, a private infrastructure developer spun out of Infraco Africa (see below), financed by the Private Infrastructure Development Group (“PIDG”), a group of government aid donors led by DfID from UK. The Board was similarly responsible for setting the company up and hiring the original out-sourced developer team Nexif, as well as for governance and until 2014 for management of the business itself. Served variously as interim chairman and chair of the finance committee, the nominations committee, the procurement committee and the risk committee. Infraco Asia has successfully provided private infrastructure to 750,000 poor people, created 1000 jobs and abated 25,000 tonnes of CO₂.

2005 – 2012

Infraco Africa Ltd – Founder Director

Founder Director from 2005 to 2012 of Infraco Africa, a private infrastructure developer financed by the PIDG. The Board was initially responsible for setting the company up and hiring an out-sourced developer team, eleQtra. Infraco Africa has successfully developed and closed a substantial portfolio of pro-poor infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa.