

Gary W. Dirks

*President, BP Asia Pacific and BP China (Retired)
Director, ASU LightWorks*

Education:

Ph.D., Chemistry, Arizona State University

Dr. Dirks earned a doctorate in chemistry from Arizona State University and retired as President of BP Asia Pacific and BP China. He now works to bring together a variety of emerging technologies related to the power of sunlight as part of the ASU LightWorks initiative.

As Director of ASU LightWorks, Gary works on projects that will develop biofuel compatible diesel and jet fuel production, create more sustainable plastics, find way to mimic antibodies for better and less expensive cures, and use the chemical process of photosynthesis to generate clean energy.

Gary began his career at BP in Research and Development before moving into Oil and Chemicals Marketing and Strategic Planning. He was formerly Group Vice President of the BP Group and President of BP for the Asia, Pacific Region and BP China.

Gary is on the Board of the China-US Centre for Sustainable Development as well as the Board of Directors of the China Business Council for Sustainable Development. He was awarded China's "Friendship Award" in 2003 and received an honorary CMG from the UK in 2005. In December 2008, he was recognized by the *People's Daily* as one of the 10 most influential multinational companies leaders of the last 30 years of China's economic development.

