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**Robert Koenigsberger**

*Founder, CIO and Managing Partner,
Gramercy Funds Management*

We pivot the conversation with investors around the types of fee structures we can offer to our investors. Some investors are more management-fee sensitive and some are less, so we tend to talk about a menu of fee options. The key to all of this is determining what the value-added is to the investor. This value is based on the question that we ask ourselves, namely did we meet or beat the client's expectations when we put up returns in normal and abnormal markets, and did we preserve their capital?

The point is that we are not rigid on our pricing; we have different fee buckets for investors to choose from. We don't want to be known for my management fees but rather my performance fees. We want to perform for our clients and get paid; that's why we want a disproportionate amount of income that the firm generates to come from performance. The industry needs to get back to being paid for performing rather than earning an asset management fee for gathering assets.



Robert Koenigsberger

*Founder, CIO and Managing Partner, Gramercy Funds Management,
on how best to retain and cultivate talent within a hedge fund*

We view the development of our employees as akin to creating an investment firm that is a perpetuity in its nature rather than an annuity. Every day we are thinking about how we're going to perpetuate ourselves. And that means hiring the right people, retaining those people and giving them meaningful careers.

We have four tenets that support the ongoing development of our employees. First, we believe that everyone should get a base salary, and that should be sufficient to feed their family and not

their neighbourhood. Number two, there should be some kind of bonus that can be a meaningful multiple of that base. Number three, it's about equity. Everybody at Gramercy owns equity, from the front door of this business to the back door. And the last tenet is to give people a meaningful career. We always have a three-year business plan for the firm, and we create a three-year plan for each member of staff to correspond with that. We say here's where we're going, what will you do to be a part of that growth?



Robert Koenigsberger

*Founder, CIO and Managing Partner,
Gramercy Funds Management,
on how his firm plans for succession*

When it comes to planning for succession for the business, we sat down and developed a plan for how we are going to handle it. The three risks we identified were first, friction with the estate in the case of an unplanned succession (in the event of the founder dying or becoming incapacitated and therefore unable to discharge his or her duties), second, retention of the firm's employees, and third, to make sure that we are doing the right thing by our clients.

We use large amounts of key-man insurance to defuse those three different areas. In the first instance, we communicate what we intend to do to our clients so that they're satisfied that we really are a perpetuity. Following that, we cut a deal with the estate of the founder so that some amount of the insurance will go to them and there can be no dispute. Finally we will offer our employees retention bonuses and a percentage of the stake to be shared among the firm's staff.



**Robert Koenigsberger**

*Founder, CIO and Managing Partner,
Gramercy Funds Management*

I'm very optimistic for the future. If you look at other industries, either you evolve or you die. The 2-and-20 hedge fund compensation is over, and I don't just mean the fee structure. Real industry leaders over long periods of time are adapting to market conditions. I love looking at companies that have done a really good job at adapting. Is Apple about computers? Because that's what it looked like in 2006. The iPhone's only been around for a decade. Or the design of consumer products: I love to look outside of the industry for failures, people who didn't adapt. Take for example, Blockbuster versus the guys who figured out online movie streaming. Or the railroads: Were they in the railroad business or the transportation business? They decided that they were in the railroad business and they died. But they were ahead of the curve in transportation. Our core offering is really in the business of providing risk-adjusted returns in emerging markets for our clients. It will evolve around structures and market conditions but I don't think the desire for good risk-adjusted returns from emerging markets or risk management is going away anytime soon.