

■ HILLARY LAUREATE

NZ award for Chinese climate campaigner

Glenn Conway

A rising star in China's climate-change campaign has been awarded a New Zealand leadership award.

Peggy Liu, a Chinese-American who lives in Shanghai, has been named the 2010 Hillary Laureate.

Liu is chairwoman of JUCCE (Joint US-China Collaboration on Clean Energy), which aims to change the way China creates and uses energy.

The Hillary Institute, a New Zealand organisation named after legendary mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, supports emerging world leaders with annual awards.

Its current theme is climate-change solutions.

As a Hillary Laureate, Liu will be eligible to win the four-yearly Hillary Step, worth US\$100,000



Peggy Liu

(NZ\$142,000). The institute's international board, the Hillary Summit, named its 2010 laureate choice this morning.

Executive director Mark Prain said the choice was "a bold and exciting decision . . . from a global watch-list of 50 exceptional mid-career nominees worldwide".

Liu was honoured as a *Time* magazine Hero of the Environment in 2008 and a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader in 2009.

She was an adviser to the Clinton Global Initiative on Energy and Climate Change in 2008.

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Liu organised the 2007 MIT Forum on the Future of Energy in China from which JUCCE was formed.

The Hillary Institute holds annual symposiums concentrating on its current theme, with the laureates contributing a key address. Liu will be brought to New Zealand for a symposium this year.