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LEADING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE WORLD™ ANNOUNCES 2007

HONOREES

World's Foremost Women Entrepreneurs to Participate in the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ Eleventh Annual Gala and Celebratory Event in South Africa.

KANSAS CITY, MO - (June 12, 2007) – Fifteen women entrepreneurs from Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, and North America, whose companies had combined revenues of nearly \$1.6 Billion US last year, are being recognized as Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ by the organization of the same name. The list includes business owners from Bulgaria, Egypt, Guatemala, Japan, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ Eleventh Annual Gala and Celebratory Event will take place 8-13 September 2007 in South Africa.

The fifteen 2007 Honoree Inductees are:

- **Bulgaria; Evgenia Popescu**, EP-Commerce Ltd., a trading company for chemicals, fertilizers, fuels, wood materials, and metals.

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- **Egypt; Hosna Mohamed Rachid**, Rachid Mashreq Group, an investment holding entity with joint ventures involving manufacturing and marketing of fast moving consumer goods.
- **Guatemala; Ligia Maldonado Garcia**, MALHER S.A., a processed food manufacturer and distributor of soup mixes, instant soft drink mixes, etc.
- **Japan; Miyoko Yazu**, Yazuya Co, Ltd., an award-winning mail order and retailer of natural health foods distributed throughout Japan.
- **Philippines; Vivienne K. Tan**, Entrepreneurs School of Asia revitalizing the education industry and paving the way in formalizing entrepreneurship learning.
- **Romania; Mirea Daniela**, Continental Hotels, Romania's first hotel chain, offering 4-star services at 3-star rates.
- **South Africa; Jane Raphaely**, Associated Magazines, publisher of six major magazine titles in South Africa, including *O*, *The Oprah Magazine* and *Marie Claire*.
- **South Africa; Suzanne Ravenall**, Beyond Outsourcing, a business transformation company providing performance improvement plans to companies through program management, business process re-engineering, and management consulting.
- **South Africa; Gloria Tomatoe Serobe**, Women Investment Portfolio Holdings (WIPOLD), an investment vehicle that empowers women in South Africa to participate in the mainstream economy through investing.

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- **Thailand; Pannin Kitiparaporn**, Ratchada Niramit Co., Ltd., amusement parks and theatrical productions throughout Thailand.
- **Thailand; Nalinee Paiboon**, Giffarine Skyline Unity Company, Ltd., distributor of cosmetics, supplementary food and household products through network marketing channel.
- **Thailand; Surang Premmpree**, Bangkok Broadcasting & TV Co., Ltd. Southeast Asia's leader in television broadcasting, programming and new broadcasting technology.
- **United Kingdom; Emma Harrison**, A4e Ltd., providers of employment and training; business support services; fund management and distribution; financial inclusion services, education and health.
- **United Kingdom; Avril Owton**, Cloud Hotel, award-winning establishment situated in England's New Forest National Park.
- **United States; Margery Kraus**, APCO Worldwide, a global consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., specializing in public affairs, communication and business consulting for major multinationals.

“Countless lives have been tremendously impacted by this year’s deserving inductees and the global business community is indebted to these forward thinking women entrepreneurs,” said Cheryl Womack, Chairperson of Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™. “The sharing of information and exchange of ideas that occurs when these talented women gather together is

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vital to the health and welfare of the world economy.“ Dr. Anna Mokgokong, Executive Chairperson of Community Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd. And Honorary Chair of this year’s event stated, “South Africa has experienced unprecedented economic growth and we are privileged and excited to welcome The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ to our beautiful country. It is an honor to host this prestigious event and an unprecedented opportunity to expose these incredible women and their companies to all that South Africa has to offer.”

An international selection committee chose this year’s Honoree Inductees from hundreds of nominees worldwide. Criteria for the selection of the 2007 Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ Honoree Inductees include:

- Minimum 50% current or past ownership of a public or private company;
- Annual sales: Minimum \$20-\$25 million (USD) or \$5 million (USD) for nominees from third world countries;
- The nominee must demonstrate that she is one of the foremost and respected female entrepreneurs in her country and/or within her applicable industry;
- The nominee must demonstrate that she is well known and identified for her and/or her company’s involvement in either civic or charitable activities, or both;
- The nominee must be easily identified as someone who would be considered a role model for other women and leaders;

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On 11 September 2007, this year's Honoree Inductees will be presented with a specially designed Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ Gingko Pin. The noble Gingko tree, a tree which can live for thousands of years with its extraordinary root system feeding a powerful trunk and a network of branches from which thousands of fan-like leaves burst, symbolizes the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ organization.

During a business forum at the conclusion of The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ Eleventh Annual Gala and Celebratory Event, the organization will present a USD \$10,000.00 "Take the Next Step™" grant to a promising woman entrepreneur from South Africa. Two runner-up grants of USD \$2,500.00 will also be awarded to female citizens from the host country.

The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ First Annual Gala and Celebratory Event ceremony took place in Paris in 1997. Since then, the group has recognized more than 300 women business owners from more than 56 countries spanning six continents.

Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ is a U.S. based non-profit organization that raises the visibility of successful entrepreneurial women and increases public awareness of women entrepreneurs' contributions to the global economy. Annually, the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ collectively generate more than US \$255 billion for the global

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economy and employ more than 530,000 people around the world. This places the group 26th largest in terms of global GDP, ahead of many countries.

For more information on The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World™ Eleventh Annual Gala and Celebratory Event in South Africa 8-13 September 2007, visit www.leadingwomen.org.

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