

African business 'Oscars' presented at inaugural Ai Awards Private and public sector leaders honoured

London, 22 November 2004.

Winners of the inaugural *Africa investor* awards were announced on Friday 19 November at a gala ceremony in Dakar. The *Africa investor* awards, the first of their type honouring pan-African investment achievements, were presented in front of an audience of over 250 guests and broadcast on CNBC Europe.

The ceremony was opened by Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, President of the African Business Roundtable and Chairman of NEPAD Business Group, and closed by Hon A.D Idris Waziri, Minister of Commerce, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"These awards are a celebration of African unity and the remarkable contribution which individuals and organisations from the public and private sectors are making to African development," said Hon. Waziri.

Presenting the African Business Leader award to Dr Mohammed Ibrahim, CEO of Celtel, Hon Idris Waziri, said:

"The judges agreed that Mo' Ibrahim is an inspiration to African entrepreneurs, a visionary leader who has built a world-class institution offering outstanding returns and a first-class service. He is richly deserving of this prestigious award."

Accepting the award, Dr Ibrahim said: "As Africans, we do not tend to promote our business leaders as highly as in Europe and the USA, so awards such as these are essential in raising the profile of the significant contribution that African business leaders are making to the continent's development. The time has come to recognise publicly the leading role that business can and does play in generating economic growth to enable Africa to progress."

In the other categories, Sir Richard Branson of Virgin received the International Business Leader award and Dr Sebatu Konji of Pfizer was presented with the Business Woman of the Year award.

Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, Chairman of the judges, said: "Sir Richard embodies the spirit of entrepreneurship that Africa badly needs. He is always seeking to break new frontiers. Virgin Atlantic has emerged as a dominant player in Nigeria's aviation industry while retaining profitable routes to South Africa. He is a deserving winner and a business leader of distinction."

Accepting the award, Sir Richard said: "I am proud to be a part of the inaugural *Africa investor* awards and to be rewarded in the International Business Leader category. I have a long personal and professional affiliation with Africa. I hope that Virgin's success in South Africa and Nigeria will give a clear signal to the international investment community that Africa offers attractive and competitive opportunities for business."

Winners from the public sector included the Mayor of Entebbe and the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC). Hon. Samuel Sitta, CEO of TIC, collected the award on behalf of Tanzania's President and Minister in charge of investment promotion, President Benjamin Mkapa.

Marcus Courage, Managing Director of *africappractice*, who sponsored and presented the award for the Investment Promotion Agency of the Year, said: "In a complex and crowded information environment where destinations compete aggressively for Foreign Direct Investment, the Tanzanian Government has distinguished itself, successfully attracting hundreds of first-time investors and capital in excess of \$1.5 billion in 2003. The TIC is a worthy winner of this award."

The winners of the 2004 Ai awards are:

1. *Best Initiative in Support of the Millennium Development Goals*
(Supported by The Coca-Cola Company in Africa)
Shell Foundation
Highly commended: **Barclays Kenya**
2. *Venture Capital Deal of the Year*
Actis (formerly CDC)
3. *Financial Consultancy of the Year*
Loita Capital Partners
4. *Infrastructure Deal of the Year*
Standard Bank
5. *Privatisation Programme of the Year*
Municipal Investment Infrastructure Unit, Cape Town
6. *Investment Promotion Agency of the Year*
Tanzania Investment Centre
Highly Commended: **APIX**
7. *Best Bank*
(Supported by Visa International)
Barclays Africa
8. *Smart Regulation Award*
Entebbe Municipal Council / Bannock Consulting
9. *Sustainability Investing in Africa*
British American Tobacco, Nigeria
Highly Commended: **Nedbank**
10. *Employer of the Year*
Diageo Africa
11. *Business Woman of the Year*
Dr Konji Sebati, Decial Director, Pfizer Inc.
Highly Commended: **Suzanne Ravenalli**
12. *International Business Leader*
Sir Richard Branson, Founder and Chairman, Virgin group of companies
13. *African Business Leader*
Dr Mohammed Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer, Celtel

Representatives from these companies will be invited to join *Africa investor's* advisory board.

A panel of Judges chaired by Alhaji Tukur and comprising Barbara James (AIA), Sean de Cleene (AICC), Ken Kwaku (former Director, MIGA), Arunma Oteh (African Development Bank) and Dr Titilola Banjoko (AfricaRecruit) adjudicated the submissions.

Sponsors and supporters of the awards include Visa International, The Coca-Cola Company in Africa, British American Tobacco, NEPAD Business Group, African Business Roundtable, africapractice and Africa Investment Advisory (AIA).

Presenters of the awards included: Dr Nkosana Moyo, Managing Partner, Actis; Stuart Brocklehurst, Senior Vice President, Visa International; Mark Pritchard, The Coca-Cola Company in Africa; Desi Fafie Lopez, Managing Director, Oracle Africa; Roger Gaillard, Division Manager, Private Sector Dept, African Development Bank; H.E Rantobeng William Mokou, South African Ambassador to Senegal; Marcus Courage, Managing Director, africapractice; Garry Miller, Managing Director, Ecomarine; Christopher Edordu, Executive president, African Export-Import Bank; Nick Hales, Chairman of BAT plc, Nigeria; Luciano Bourane, Head of Private Sector Division, African Development Bank.

ENDS

For further information:

Tim Newbold
+ 44 (0)20 7462 7592
+ 44 (0)7989 946267
tnewbold@africappractice.com

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Published by africapractice and launched with the support of the NEPAD Business Group, *Africa investor* magazine is a leading business investment publication profiling the business case for Africa. *Africa investor's* Advisory Board is made up of distinguished business and government leaders working to improve Africa's investment climate. It represents a unique forum for business and government to contribute thought leadership in support of raising Africa's investment profile worldwide. africa-investor.com, the portal for *Africa investor*, is also the platform for the NEPAD Business Group, which comprises over 1,000 international companies operating in Africa. www.africa-investor.com

2. africapractice is a public affairs agency dedicated to working with governments, international organisations and businesses to communicate their commitment to African development. africapractice was established to provide communications expertise in support of NEPAD goals and objectives. www.africappractice.com

3. The 2005 *Africa investor Investment Awards* will be held in July in Abuja, Nigeria, on the occasion of the African Union summit. The closing date for submissions is 15 May 2005. Awards will be made in the following categories:

- Bank of the Year
- Smart Regulation Award
- Venture Capital / Private Equity Deal of the Year
- Infrastructure Deal of the Year
- PPP Programme of the Year
- Investment Promotion Agency of the Year
- Best Initiative in Support of Millennium Development Goals
- Financial Consultancy of the Year
- Business Woman of the Year Award
- Employer of the Year
- African Business Leader of the Year
- International Business Leader of the Year
- Sustainability Investing in Africa Award

For further information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact:
Helen Stanley, *Africa investor*, 67-69 Whitfield Street, London, W1T 4HF, UK
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7462 7596, Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7462 7573
awards@africa-investor.com
www.magazine.africa-investor.com/awards.php