

MILLENNIUM BUSINESS AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

BUDAPEST/NAIROBI, 5 May 2000 - TWELVE companies from various parts of the world today received the "Millennium Business Award for Environmental Achievement", awarded by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). By receiving the award, the companies have been recognised as some of the "hidden gems" of corporate environmental management.

The award was presented at the closing ceremony of the 33d World Congress of the ICC, held in Budapest from 3 - 5 May 2000. Representatives of the companies were congratulated by UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer, ICC Secretary-General Maria Livanos Cattai, as well as Lord Richard Holme, Chair of the ICC Commission on Environment.

Klaus Töpfer said that "the award winners may not have achieved all the goals of environmental performance that UNEP desires, but that their managers and employees are showing the road to sustainable industrial development by implementing cleaner production and eco-efficiency in their operations". UNEP also sees this as providing key building stones in advancing the values UN Secretary-General wishes to see the business community advance in terms of his Global Compact initiative.

The aim of the award was to recognise companies that have taken important steps to promote excellence in corporate environmental management. About one hundred entries have been received by the 21 ICC national committees who participated in the competition. They submitted 38 company entries to the international selection committee, who was chaired by Lord Richard Holme. "The Millennium Business Award has enabled us to recognise some 'hidden gems', to demonstrate the awareness of industry decision-makers and highlight advances in environmental protection in all parts of the world," said Lord Holme.

The award winners are: Aluminium Bahrain (Bahrain), Bahia Sul Cellulose S.A. (Brazil), International Forest Products Ltd (Canada), HiPP (Germany), BSES (India), Neshor-Israel Cement Enterprises Ltd (Israel), Tokyo Electric Power Company (Japan), Altos Hornos de Mexico S.A. (Mexico), Cervesur (Peru), Rohner Textile AG (Switzerland), Siam Compressor Industry Co. Ltd (Thailand), and The Beacon Press (UK).

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UNEP News Release 2000/