



HEADS OF WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, CGAP AND CDC JOIN JUDGING PANEL FOR 2008 SUSTAINABLE BANKING AWARDS

LONDON, February 6, 2008: The Financial Times and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, today announced the full judging panel for the 2008 FT Sustainable Banking Awards, bringing some of the world's leading experts in sustainable investment, microfinance and environmental protection into the programme.

The judging panel selecting the nominees and winners in this year's awards includes:

- Richard Laing, Chief Executive of CDC Group Ltd, a UK-Government owned collection of funds that invests in sustainable projects worldwide
- Jonathan Lash, president of the World Resources Institute (WRI), a leading environmental think-tank
- Elizabeth Littlefield, CEO of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a consortium of public and private funding organisations that expand poor people's access to financial services

They will join co-chairs John Willman, UK Business Editor of the Financial Times, and Rachel Kyte, Director of Environment and Social Development, IFC, as well as David Harris, Manager, Responsible Investment at FTSE Group, and Tessa Tennant, co-founder of the Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia (ASRIA) on the panel.

Leading consultancy Sustainable Finance Limited will again be technical advisor for the awards, which were created by the Financial Times and IFC in 2005 to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

The deadline for entries for this year's programme is 29 February 2008. The winners of the awards will be announced at a special dinner at the Dorchester in London on 3 June 2008.

This awards dinner will conclude the 2008 FT/IFC Sustainable Banking Conference, a full-day gathering of major decision-makers, strategists and visionaries involved in sustainable finance which has become a major event on the international banking calendar following the success of the inaugural conference last year.

Entry forms and information on the awards and the Sustainable Banking Conference can be obtained at www.ftconferences.com/sustainablebanking.

"The addition of these globally recognised figures to the judging panel for the Sustainable Banking Awards is evidence of the impact this programme is having in both developed and emerging economies," said Lionel Barber, editor of the Financial Times. "We are thrilled to have such a strong panel and delighted with the positive response these awards continue to receive."

Lars Thunell, IFC Executive Vice President and CEO, commented: "This is a distinguished judging panel, with deep and varied expertise. I believe they will be especially busy with applications from emerging markets, where banks and other financial institutions provide many examples of leadership and innovation in sustainability."

Award applications are being accepted in the following five categories: Sustainable Bank of the Year, Emerging Markets Sustainable Bank of the Year, Sustainable Deal of the Year, Award for Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year.

Each category will have a shortlist of five finalists - except Emerging Markets Sustainable Bank of the Year, where the winner will be chosen from four banks awarded prizes for regional leadership in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Middle East/Africa respectively.

Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid and Sustainable Investor of the Year are new categories for the 2008 edition, broadening the awards to financial institutions not directly involved in banking.

Ahead of the entry deadline, the Financial Times and IFC have organised a series of regional dinners to increase understanding of sustainable banking in key emerging markets. Invitation-only gatherings have been held in Miami (for Latin America), Moscow, Shanghai, Mumbai and Dubai, with Istanbul and Lagos still to come.

The 2007 awards attracted 151 entries from 103 institutions in 51 countries.

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Notes to Editors:

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