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Press Release

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Africa's business strength shows in Africa Investor Awards 2007 shortlist

Africa's top business talent and biggest corporates have stamped their mark on the Africa investor Awards 2007 shortlist. North and west Africa have showed their strength, as entries from Egyptian, Nigerian and Senegalese names go head to head with South African and international players.

The Awards received an exceptional number of entries across all seventeen Awards categories this year, with particular interest shown in the categories for Best Initiative in Support of SME Development; Best Infrastructure Deal of the Year; Businesswoman of the Year; Bank of the Year and African Business Leader of the Year.

Nigeria's banks dominate the Bank of the Year category, with Zenith Bank, Access Bank, Intercontinental Bank, GT Bank and First Bank facing competition from other African names including Barclays Mauritius and Standard Bank.

In the Carbon Finance initiative category we have strong contention from Alexandria Onyx Landfill Gas capturing Initiative and the Senegal plantation project.

High flying businesswomen have emerged as a particular strength for South Africa. Business leaders and BEE pioneers Mamphela Ramphele, chair of VC fund Circle Capital Partners; Philisiwe Buthelezi, CEO of the National Empowerment Fund and CEO of the Mvela Group Yolanda Cuba all gained places on the Businesswoman of the Year Award shortlist.

Now in their fourth successful year, the Africa investor Awards are seen as the international benchmark for excellence in responsible investing in Africa and attract the continents best and brightest contestants. The Awards recognize and reward the achievements of the private sector across wide-ranging sectors and disciplines, and attract the market leaders from across the continent. Previous winners have included, Sir Richard Branson, Bill Gates, Mo Ibrahim, Standard Bank, Nedbank, Oceanic Bank e.t.c

Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, Chairman of the judging panel, commented: *"we are delighted to see increased high calibre entries across the board. We believe this reflects the improving environment for doing business in Africa and a further demonstration of our continent's business leaders to tell a new story about Africa's development."*

The awards winners will be announced on November 7, 2007 at a gala ceremony at the Civic Centre, Lagos, Nigeria. The ceremony is being held alongside the Africa investor Projects Summit, which takes place from November 7-8.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Please find below for the awards shortlist.

No	Company/Organization	Project
	Best Initiative in Support of Millenium Development Goals	
1	UN Millennium Project	Millennium Villages
2	Diageo Africa	Water of Life Programme
3	Deutsche Post World NetDHL	DHL/UNICEF project in Kenya
4	BATN Foundation	MDG support initiatives in Nigeria
5	Mo Ibrahim Foundation	Ranking of African governance
6	Global Fund	Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
	Smart Regulation	
1	OECD	Anti-Bribery with SA
2	UNCTAD	Blue Books-Zambia
3	Fieldstone	Development of Cogeneration Sector in S/A
4	The donor Committee for Enterprise development	Enterprise development
5	BIZCLIMATE	BIZCLIMATE
6	Nepad/OECD	Africa Investment Initiative
	Infrastructure Deal of the year	
1	Standard Chartered Bank	Lumwana Copper Project
2	Standard Bank	Gautrain
3	Rand Merchant Bank	Gautrain
4	Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Ltd	Murtala Mohammed Airport 2
6	Oceanic Bank	Murtala Mohammed Airport 2
6	Zenith Bank Plc	APM Terminals, Apapa Port,Lagos, Nigeria
	Venture Capital Deal of the Year	
1	Emerging Capital Partners	Continental Reinsurance Plc
2	Helios Investment Partners	Africa Tel
3	Brait Capital	Brait Capital
4	Actis	Alexander Forbes
5	Actis	Sinai Marble
6	Pamodzi Resources Fund	Pamodzi Resources Fund
	Investment Promotion Agency of the year	
1	ANIP	
2	GAFI (Egypt)	
3	Ghana Investment Promotion Centre GIPC	
4	Nigeria Investment Promotion Agency NIPC	
5	Uganda Investment Authority UIA	
6	The Kenyan Investment Authority	
	Sustainable Investment in Africa Award	
1	NedBank	Affinity Programme
2	Chevron Nigeria	Chevron Nigeria
3	Shell	Trading Up Sustainable Business

4	Rand Water	The Lesotho Highlands Water Project
5	UNEP	Trees for future
6	BG Energy Holdings	Olokola Lng
	Institutional Investor of the year	
1	Epack	EPACK Investment Funds
2	PAIDF	Pan Africa Infrastructural Development fund
3	PIC	Public Investment Co-operation
4	IDC (Industrial Development Corporation)	Risk Capital Facility
5	Global Commercial Microfinance Consortium	Global Commercial Microfinance Consortium
6	Peregrine	Peregrine
	Young Investment Professional of the Year	
1	Nana Appiah-Korang	Emerging Capital Partners
2	Diatou Gueye	Vice President, Client Technology Service Consultant, Morgan Stanley
3	Raymond Ndlovo	Vice President Morgan Stanley
4	Yvonne Ike	Vice President, JP Morgan
5	Lisa Opoku Busumbru	Goldman Sachs & CO
6	Fungai Ruwende	Partner Actis
	Best Initiative in Support of SME Development	
1	Coca Cola Company in Africa	Retail and community programme in Kenya and Nigeria
2	Anglo Zimele	Anglo American's enterprise development fund
3	Oceanic Bank	SME Financing
4	IKNOW Information Services Ltd	The District Business Information Centres Microsoft/UNIDO
5	Nescafe	Nescafe Pushcarts in West Africa
6	Afreximbank	Export Development Finance Programme
	Employer of the Year	
1	General Electric	
2	Intercontinental Bank	
3	ABSA	
4	Debswana	
5	Anglo	
6	Barloworld	
	Business woman of the Year	
1	Mamphela Ramphele	Chair, Circle Capital Partners
2	Philisiwe Buthelezi	Chairperson, Group Five and C.E.O. National Empowerment Fund
3	Mary Okello	Kenyan Entrepreneur
4	Yolanda Cuba	CEO, Mvelaphanda Holdings/Mvelaphanda Group
5	Stella Okoli	Founder, Emzor Pharmaceuticals
6	Evelyn Mungai	Advisory Board, Africa Business Leadership Forum
	African Business Leader of the Year	
1	Alhaji Aliko Dangote	Chairman, Dangote Group of Companies
2	Yibrah Tesfazghi	President & Corporate Regional Executive for Africa Region, General Electric
3	Jubril Adewale Tinubu	Group Chief Executive Officer, Oando Plc

4	Dr. Erastus Bankole Oladipo Akingbola (MON)i	Vice Chairman/Chief Executive ,Intercontinental Bank plc
5	Bolanle Olowale Babalakin	Chairman, Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Ltd
6	Dr (Mrs). Cecilia Ibru	C.E.O, Oceanic Bank
7	Jim Ovia	C.E.O, Zenith Bank Plc
	Bank of the Year	
1	ACCESS Bank	
2	GT Bank	
3	Barclays Mauritius	
4	Intercontinental Bank Plc	
5	Standard Bank	
6	Zenith Bank Plc	
	International Business of the Year	
1	Prince Al-Waleed	Chair, Kingdom Holding Company
2	Robert L Johnson	Founder, Liberia Enterprise Development Fund
3	Li Ruogu	Chairman/President Ex-Im Bank
4	Sol Kerzner	Chairman,Kerzner International Holdings Limited,
5	Lord Cairns	Chairman, Celtel International
6	Dominic Brunyseels	Group Executive Director, Barclays Africa and Middle East
	Financial Consultancy of the year	
1	First Africa	First Africa
2	Circle Capital Ventures	Edu-Loan
3	BAIN Capital	Edgars Consolidates Stores
4	AfreximBank	AfreximBank
5	Associated British Food	Ilovo Sugar
6	JP Morgan	Gold Fields
	Best Carbon Finance Initiative	
1	Alexandria Onyx Landfill Gas Capturing	Egypt
2	Aba Cogeneration Project	Nigeria
3	Acacia Community Plantations	Niger
4	Senegal Plantation Project	Senegal
5	World bank Finance Unit	Pan- African
6	UNEP Risoe	Pan-African
	Privatisation Deal of the year	
1	Abuja Gateway Consortium	Abuja Airport
2	Indorama Petro Ltd	Eleme Petrochemical Company Limited
3	AES	AES sonel
4	Banque du Caire	Banque du Caire
5	TRANSCORP	Nitel
6	Oceanic Bank	KEPCO energy Resources

The Judges

Chaired by:

Dr. Alhaji Bamanga Tukur

Chair, NEPAD Business Group and Executive President, African Business Roundtable (ABR)

Dr. Ken Kwaku
Special Advisor to Former President Mkapa

Ms Arunma Oteh
Vice President, Corporate Services, African Development Bank (AfDB)

Mr. Amir Dossal
Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)

Dr. William Kalema
Chairman, Uganda Investment Authority (UIA)

Dr. Joe Wanjui
Chairman, UAP Insurance, Kenya

About Africa investor

Africa investor is a specialist investment communications firm advising governments, international organisations and businesses on communication strategies for capital market and foreign direct investments in Africa. Africa investor publishes *Africa investor*, the leading international newsstand magazine for Africa's investment decision makers; maintains the [Ai 40 Investors' Index](#), hosts the prestigious annual [Africa investor Awards](#) and the annual [Ai Projects Summit](#) for infrastructure investors and developers.

Africa Investor Awards

The Africa investor Awards are unique pan-African business and investment awards that recognise and reward the achievements of the private sector across wide-ranging sectors and disciplines. These awards attract the market leaders from across the continent and salute their achievements. The work of governments and NGOs is also celebrated.

The awards reward exceptional business practices, economic achievements and investments across the investment spectrum in Africa including Best Bank, Sustainable Investing in Africa, Infrastructural Deal of the Year, Smart Regulation, Best Initiative in support of the millennium Development Goals, Businesswoman of the year, African and International Business leaders. In addition to business success, the Awards emphasise responsibility towards society and good corporate citizenship.

Africa investor Projects Summit

The Africa investor Projects Summit is an annual infrastructure and project finance forum that brings together decision makers from Africa's institutional investment community to engage project sponsors and developers, consider investment opportunities and review the investment climate with government leaders.

For more information on the Africa investor Awards, or to register for a media pass please contact Siji Otenigbagbe. sotenigbagbe@africa-investor.com