

Thursday 20 October 2011

MBA AWARDS HONOUR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

London, 20 October 2011 - The Association of MBAs announced the winners of the *MBA Student of the Year*, the *MBA Innovation Award* and the *Entrepreneurial Venture Award 2011* at a gala dinner held in London yesterday (Wednesday 19 October 2011).

“We are excited to be building on the well-established and coveted *MBA Student of the Year Award* by adding two new prestigious awards to honour the most innovative MBA programme and to celebrate MBAs that show entrepreneurial spirit,” said Sharon Bamford, Chief Executive, Association of MBAs.

“As an active promoter of the value of business education on an international scale, we are thrilled to see the high standards of innovation and entrepreneurship among MBA students, graduates and the business schools, and these awards give us the opportunity to recognize the great work of individuals and business schools who have channelled their MBA to make a positive difference in the world.”

The award winners are:

- ***MBA Student of the Year Award*** - Alex Dalley from Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University
- ***MBA Innovation Award*** - Waikato MBA from The University of Waikato Management School in partnership with the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development
- ***MBA Entrepreneurial Venture Award*** - Jörg Wiemer, Dr. Wolfgang Kalthoff and Erol Bozak from Treasury Intelligence Solutions. They graduated from the ESSEC and Mannheim Executive MBA (a joint programme with ESSEC Business School, Paris and Mannheim, Germany)

The 2011 MBA Student of the Year, Alex Dalley, identified business opportunities in sourcing sustainably and ethically produced food from small farmers in developing economies to meet rapidly growing consumer demand in Europe and North America. Alex has recently set-up over five emerging market agribusinesses in the horticulture and commodity sector in East Timor.

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The *2011 Innovation Award* was given to New Zealand's Waikato Management School, The University of Waikato in partnership with the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development for its innovative MBA programme that combines the academic rigour and traditional Māori ways of learning to produce graduates with values informed by the unique Maori culture. The judges found this programme to be an innovative approach to MBA education for indigenous leaders working in a complex global environment.

Jörg Wiemer, Dr. Wolfgang Kalthoff and Erol Bozak from Treasury Intelligence Solutions were honoured with the *MBA Entrepreneurial Venture Award*. The winners graduated from the ESSEC and Mannheim Executive MBA (a joint programme with ESSEC Business School, Paris and Mannheim, Germany). This new award is aimed at MBA alumni and current MBA students running recently founded businesses (trading from between six months and three years), which are both innovative and successful. It celebrates the courage of entrepreneurial spirit. The 2011 winners demonstrated entrepreneurial motivation in their development of a sound and innovative concept and identified a niche in the market that met the needs of the corporate world.

Different panels of high profile judges from business education, management and investment judged each award.

"The Association of MBAs is an active supporter of innovation and excellence and these awards give us an opportunity to reward the fantastic talent and creativity produced by the business schools, students and alumni throughout the year," said Sharon Bamford.

Further details, photos and case studies of the award winners are available from the Association of MBAs website at www.mbaworld.com.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

The *MBA Student of the Year Award* is sponsored by the Independent newspaper. Now in its 15th year, the award honours the MBA student who has shown exceptional academic achievement, inspirational leadership and an international contribution to furthering their career as a result of achieving an MBA. .../cont.

The *MBA Innovation Award* was introduced in 2011 to award a business school that has been running a MBA programme that is different, innovative and creative in its approach. The objective of this new award is to recognise and bring to the fore the accredited business schools with exciting new practices. The winner was decided by a panel of high-profile judges led by Sir Paul Judge, President of the Association of MBAs and including Peter Lacy, Managing Director Accenture sustainability Services EALA and Emeritus Professor Andre Lock, University of Leeds.

The *MBA Entrepreneurial Venture Award* was also introduced in 2011 to celebrate entrepreneurship and innovation by MBA alumni and students who have recently founded successful businesses. The business must have been founded/co-founded by an MBA student or alumni from an accredited business school and the business must be operational for a minimum period of six months and a maximum period of three years. The winner was chosen from four finalists who had to present their business idea to the judging panel which included Alpesh Patel, Director of Praefinium Partners Ltd and David Gravells, an entrepreneur and chairman of a number of companies.

The Association of MBAs provides accreditation and upholds the highest international standards of MBA programmes. Established in 1967, it is the international impartial authority on postgraduate business education. There are 186 business schools in over 70 countries with programmes accredited by the Association of MBA.

More information on the Association of MBA's awards is available from www.mbaworld.com

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Photos of award winners available on request.