

NEW ZEALAND'S WAIKATO MBA WINS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MBA INNOVATION AWARD.

London, 20 October 2011 - The Association of MBAs awarded the inaugural *MBA Innovation Award* to the Waikato MBA from The University of Waikato Management School in partnership with the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development at a gala ceremony in London last night.

"The Association of MBAs introduced this award to recognise business schools with exciting new practices that are innovative and original. We are thrilled with the high calibre of entries from across the world and congratulate Waikato Management School and the Waikato-Tainui College on winning this new and prestigious award," said Sharon Bamford, Chief Executive Association of MBAs.

"Waikato Management School has developed an MBA programme unique in its curriculum, teaching and learning, and the involvement of alumni. Its vision to bring Māori people, New Zealand, and the world together in order to support and advance Māori and indigenous aspirations at local, national and international levels is innovative and inspirational," she added.

Accepting on behalf of Waikato Management school, Peter Sun said "We are overwhelmed to receive the MBA Innovation Award. To us this award is an affirmation that our programmes are always at the cutting edge of management education, and celebrates our boldness in venturing into uncharted waters. Our innovative MBA programme attempts to bring indigenous values into the forefront of business dynamics. We believe that there is unity in diversity and creativity when diverse perspectives meet. The award is also a celebration of the multicultural nature of New Zealand society."

The *MBA Innovation Award* was introduced in 2011 to award a business school that has been running an MBA programme that is different, innovative and creative in its approach.

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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 Andrew Lock, University of Leeds.

“We were extremely impressed with the very high calibre of nominations from across the world. The entries were so strong that as well as the winner and three finalists we also chose to highly commend two entries,” said Sir Paul Judge, President of the Association of MBAs. The finalists were the Lisbon MBA programme from Nova SBE & Catolica-Lisbon SBE in Portugal, the Entrepreneurship Accelerator and Social Entrepreneurship Catalyst from Insead and the International MBA and Executive MBA from Nyenrode Business Universiteit in the Netherlands.

Highly commended entries were the Executive MBA (Lorange Institute of Business, Zurich) and the One Planet MBA (University of Exeter Business School).

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NOTE TO EDITORS

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.