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**** EMBARGOED UNTIL 01:00 ON THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2007 ****

INTERNATIONAL PRESS NOTICE

The 2007 African investor investment Oscars winners announced

African finance is leading the way in raising funds and structuring ambitious deals across the continent, the Africa investor Awards found last night.

African owned banks, fund managers and institutional investors swept the board at the glittering Awards ceremony held at the Lagos Civic Centre, picking up accolades for their success in financing record breaking investments in the last year.

Standard Bank and Rand Merchant Bank, both of South Africa walked away with Infrastructure Deal of the Year for their joint private financing of the US\$3.4 billion Gautrain high speed rail link in South Africa. Nigeria's Zenith Bank won the prestigious Bank of the Year Award in recognition of its growing strength in Africa, while fellow Nigerian fund managers Helios Investment Partners took home the Venture Capital Deal of the Year Award for its innovative backing of the multi country telecoms operator Africa Tel.

The Institutional Investor of the Year Award was won by Ghanaian broad based mutual equity fund EPACK, commended by the judges for setting out a blueprint for grassroots investment vehicles, while Afrexim Bank's success at trade financing and using remittances as collateral on loans earned it the Financial Consultancy of the Year Award.

Chairman of the judging panel, Dr Bamanga Tukur, commented:

"Africa clearly now has the resources, both human and financial, to compete and deliver successfully on groundbreaking ventures. The evidence of African private sector finance taking the lead in complex deals is a great step forwards for the region and I am delighted that so many home-grown companies feature among this year's Award winners. Africa today is gaining experience and capital from the international investment arena and bringing that expertise back home to plough into local markets. I extend my warmest congratulations to the winners."

The Africa investor Awards, now in their fourth successful year, attract the continents best and brightest contestants and are seen as the international benchmark for excellence in responsible investing in Africa. The Awards recognise and reward the achievements of the private sector across wide-ranging sectors and disciplines, and attract the market leaders from across the continent.

The 2007 Africa investor Awards were supported by AMSCO; Bi-Courtney Aviation Services; British Airways; Celtel International; Coca-Cola Africa, Oceanic Bank, Standard Bank and the Lagos Civic Centre.

Judges for the awards include Dr Bamanga Tukur, Executive President, Africa Business Roundtable and Chairman, NEPAD Business Group; Arumna Oteh, Vice President of the African Development Bank; Dr William Kalema of the Uganda Investment Authority, Dr Joe Wanjui of UAP Insurance, Kenya, and Dr Ken Kwaku, Advisor to the Government of Tanzania.

FULL LIST OF 2007 WINNERS

Best Initiative in Support of the Millennium Development Goals

Winner – Mo Ibrahim Foundation: Index of African Governance

Highly Commended – The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

Smart Regulation Award

Winner – UNCTAD: Blue Book for Zambia

Highly Commended – OECD: Anti Bribery Programme

Infrastructure Deal of the Year

Winner – Standard Bank and Rand Merchant Bank (joint): Gautrain

Highly Commended – Standard Chartered Bank, Lumwana Copper Project, Zambia

Bank of the Year

Winner – Zenith Bank

Venture Capital Deal of the Year

Winner – Helios Investment Partners, Africa Tel

Highly Commended – Emerging Capital Partners, Continental Re

Financial Consultancy of the Year

Winner – Afrexim Bank

Highly Commended – First Africa

Institutional Investor of the Year

Winner – EPACK, Ghana

Highly Commended – PIC, South Africa

Investment Promotion Agency of the Year

Winner – ANIP, Angola

Highly Commended – Ghana Investment Promotion Council (GIPC) and Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) jointly

Privatisation Programme of the Year

Winner – Abuja Airport

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Carbon Finance Initiative

Winner: Aba Cogeneration Project

Highly Commended: UNEP Risoe

Sustainable Investment in Africa Award

Winner – UNEP: Trees for the Future

Highly Commended – Shell: Trading up to Sustainable Business, and Chevron Nigeria

Best Initiative in Support of SME Development

Winner – UNIDO and Microsoft: ICT development programme

Highly Commended – Oceanic Bank

Employer of the Year

Winner – Barloworld

Young Investment Professional of the Year

Winner – Lisa Opuku Busumbru, Goldman Sachs

Highly Commended – Raymond Ndlovu, Noah Financial Solutions and Fungai Ruwende, Actis

Business Woman of the Year Award

Winner – Stella Okoli, Emzor Pharmaceuticals

African Business Leader

Winner – Alhaji Aliko Dangote

International Business Leader

Winner – Li Ruogu, China Exim Bank

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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.