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World Investment Forum UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards 2012

UNCTAD XIII

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Summary prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. At the Grand Opening of the World Investment Forum (WIF) on 20 April, the 2012 UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards were awarded to three winners and two runners-up for promoting investment for jobs and skill.
2. The Grand Opening ceremony was well attended and included a cultural event with the theme of “Investment for Sustainable Development”. UNCTAD Secretary-General Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Qatar Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Ahmad Bin Abdullah Bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud, and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Secretary-General Mr. Jean-Guy Carrier officially opened the World Investment Forum 2012 at a ceremony at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha. In addition to a host of dignitaries, including Heads of State and Ministers, the business community of Qatar was broadly represented. One of the highlights of the opening ceremony was a cultural event on stage on the theme of investment in long-term sustainable development.
3. The UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards are presented annually to the best performing investment promotion agencies (IPAs) for their achievements in promoting investment for sustainable development. Against the backdrop of rising unemployment in many parts of the world, this year’s awards specifically rewarded excellence in promoting investment for job creation and skills development.

4. Out of about 40 IPAs from around the world that entered the awards competition, three were rewarded as equal winners for their job-creating efforts in the period 2010–2011. They were:

(a) **Malta Enterprise:** The agency was awarded for its efforts to help create and retain more than 950 jobs since January 2010 through innovative investment promotion and investor aftercare services, including an impressive retraining scheme for redundant shipyard workers who found new jobs in an aircraft maintenance company;

(b) **ProMéxico:** The agency received the award for its work with different partners and stakeholders in promoting foreign direct investment (FDI). One recent aeronautical investment project was cited in which the agency helped to attract 400 new jobs by fostering partnerships between the investing company and education centres and by helping to implement a joint Talent Management Programme for the aerospace sector;

(c) The **Beijing Haidian Investment Promotion Bureau:** The Bureau was recognized for its role in promoting high-tech FDI for high value added jobs. The Bureau was especially praised for its role in attracting a large-scale information and telecommunication research and development project with 3,800 new jobs, including many positions for highly skilled employees.

5. Two other agencies, from Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, were rewarded as runners-up:

(a) The **Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority:** This was recognized in particular, for its role in attracting an FDI project in textile and apparels manufacturing, which produced 850 jobs in the country.

(b) The **Grenada Industrial Development Corporation:** This was noted especially for its role in facilitating the expansion of a United States-based inbound call centre with 80 new jobs.

6. The Awards were presented to the winners by H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; H.E. Ms. Tarja Kaarina Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland and Co-chair of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability; H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Former President of the Republic of South Africa; H.E. Mr. Joaquim Chissano, Former President of the Republic of Mozambique; and H.E. Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar, who was the official host of WIF 2012.
