

Business Humanitarian Forum to Receive Generic Medicines Award

Press Release

Geneva and Budapest - September 20, 2006

The European Generic medicines Association (EGA) will present its annual award for 2006 to the Business Humanitarian Forum (BHF), in recognition of its "work to ensure access to medicines in Afghanistan". Ambassador John J. Maresca, the BHF's President, will accept the award on behalf of the organization at the 12th Annual Conference of the EGA in Budapest on September 22.

The BHF, based in Geneva, is leading a public-private partnership to establish an Afghan-owned generic medicines production company in Kabul, Afghanistan. The partnership includes a wide range of organizations, each of which has made an important contribution since the initiative began in 2002. These include Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) and its subsidiary, DHL, the Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), a member of the KfW banking network, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Kabul, the Russell Family Foundation, the Karl Popper Foundation, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The EGA is the technical partner in this project. It has donated the pharmaceutical equipment and provides the technical training. The company's Afghan owner is Dr. Karim Baz, a respected Afghan doctor.

The new company named Baz International Pharmaceuticals Company Ltd. (BIPC), will provide badly needed medicines for the Afghan population, initially producing several antibiotics and analgesics which are on the World Health Organization's essential medicines list. Production will be adjusted over time to meet local requirements and market demand. At full capacity, the company will be able to produce 300-400 million direct compressed tablets per year. Production trials will begin in late 2006.

The Business Humanitarian Forum is an international non-profit association which works with public and private sector partners to promote sustainable economic development, to carry out specific public-private partnership projects, and to address humanitarian problems in post-conflict and developing countries. It was founded in 1999 and its Honorary Co-Chairs are George F. Russell Jr. and the Honorable John C. Whitehead.

The EGA is the official representative body of the European generic pharmaceutical industry. Formed in 1993, it represents more than 500 generic pharmaceuticals companies and their subsidiaries from throughout Europe, either directly or through national associations. Its annual award was established in 1997, and recognizes achievements in research and, in alternate years, in improving pharmaceutical care related to generic medicines, including cost-benefit factors for society as a whole.

The EGA Board voted unanimously to grant the 2006 edition of its Award to the BHF.

Further information:

BHF

7-9 Chemin de Balexert, 1219 Châtelaine (Geneva), Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0)22 795 1800; Fax: +41 (0)22 795 1809

Email: bhinfo@bhforum.org; Website: www.bhforum.org

EGA

Rue d'Arlan 15, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 736 84 11, Fax: +32 2 736 74 38

Email: info@egagenerics.com; Website: www.egagenerics.com