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Cocoa Sustainability Stakeholders Convene in Ghana for 20th World Cocoa Foundation Partnership Meeting

New Officers and Members Announced

October 26, 2011, WASHINGTON, DC – Global cocoa sustainability stakeholders are gathering today in Accra, Ghana for the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) 20th Partnership Meeting & Roundtable Sessions, *People, Planet, Profit: Envisioning the Future of Cocoa in Africa*. Nearly 300 guests from industry, governments, NGOs, academia, and research institutes from 25 countries in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia have convened in Ghana to address some of the most pressing issues in cocoa sustainability.

Newly elected Co-Vice Chairs for 2012 are Jeff Morgan of Mars, Inc. and Nicko Debenham of Armajaro Trading Ltd. Elected representatives to the WCF Executive Committee for 2012 are Steve Genzoli of Ghirardelli Chocolate Company and Dimeji Owofemi of Multi-Trex Integrated Foods.

WCF also welcomed Guan Chong Cocoa Manufacturer Sdn. Bhd. based in Johor, Malaysia. They join the global membership of cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, processors, supply chain managers, and other companies of all sizes that comprise WCF and represent more than 80% of the global cocoa market.

In addition to new membership, the WCF staff has grown to include accomplished experts who will represent WCF and provide additional outreach in cocoa-growing communities. Mr. Sona Ebai will lead WCF West Africa government and organization relations and is based in Lagos, Nigeria. Sona was former Secretary General of the Alliance of Cocoa Producing Countries (COPAL). Jean-Yves Couloud will be the WCF program liaison representative in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

WCF President Bill Guyton said, "We are pleased to have several new officers providing leadership for WCF, new member companies joining their industry colleagues to support our mission, and accomplished staff joining the WCF team – all working together to promote sustainability in cocoa-growing communities."

The World Cocoa Foundation holds a number of events each year to advance cocoa sustainability understanding, collaboration, and programs. The largest of these is the Partnership Meeting & Roundtable Sessions. Keynote speakers include Mr. Percival Kuranchie, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD); Mr. Tony Fofie, Chief Executive of COCOBOD; Ms. Anne Alonzo, Vice President of Global Public Policy at Kraft Foods; and Bill Guyton, President of WCF.

The Partnership Meeting continues through Thursday afternoon with sessions on the African Cocoa Sector, Innovations in Extension and Farmer Training, Addressing Child Labor, Advancing Regional Research Collaboration, and roundtable discussions on engaging youth and empowering communities, the environment and climate change, and food security.

*The **World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)** is an international membership foundation that promotes a sustainable cocoa economy by providing cocoa farmers with the tools they need to grow more and better cocoa, market it successfully, and make greater profits. These efforts help increase the supply of cocoa and help guarantee chocolate lovers access to their favorite products. WCF's membership includes cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, processors, supply chain managers, and other companies worldwide, representing more than 80% of the global cocoa market. For more information, visit www.worldcocoa.org.*