



## **APRIL Renews Partnership with UNEP to Honor Global Environmental Leaders**

*Supports global business forum for the environment with UNEP and UN Global Compact*

(22 April 2008, Singapore) – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and APRIL, one of the world’s leading plantation forestry and pulp and paper manufacturing companies, have agreed to be partners in the recognition of outstanding environmental leaders in UNEP’s Champions of the Earth 2008 awards. The UNEP’s Champions of the Earth 2008 Awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Global Business Summit for the Environment (B4E) in Singapore.

The Champions of the Earth distinguishes individuals from each region of the world who have shown extraordinary leadership on environmental issues, with particular focus on sustainable development and the fight against climate change.

“Sustainable development and addressing climate change through responsible forestry are key advocacies that APRIL shares in common with the UNEP and the Laureates. This is the main reason we continue to support the UNEP on these Awards for three years now. We believe in and work for the same cause that UNEP and the Champions stand for,” said Mr A J Devanesan, President of APRIL.

Prince Albert II of Monaco, former US Senator Timothy E. Wirth, and New Zealand’s Prime Minister Helen Clark are among the seven 2008 Laureates who will be recognized in ceremonies to be held on 22 April in Singapore.

The other 2008 Champions of the Earth are: Balgis Osman-Elasha, a senior researcher at Sudan's Higher Council for Environment & Natural Resources; Atiq Rahman, the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies; Liz Thompson, the former Energy and Environment Minister of Barbados; and Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, the Secretary General of the Yemen People's General Congress.

In addition, APRIL is also a strategic partner of B4E - the Global Business Summit for the Environment, a major international conference focusing on business and the environment. This conference is co-hosted by the United Nations Environment Program and the United Nations Global Compact.

APRIL, a member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and a signatory to the UN Global Compact, is committed to sustainability by developing fiber plantations that conserve environmental values, while generating economic benefits for the local people. Following its policy to delineate and protect High Conservation Values (HCVs), the company manages over 200,000 hectares of conservation areas, making it the second largest conservation agency in Riau (Sumatra, Indonesia).

Through responsible forest management, APRIL contributes to climate change mitigation by:

- Absorbing carbon through the planting of more than 200 million trees yearly
- Increasing the carbon sink in forest and forest products
- Cutting CO<sub>2</sub> by as much as 90 percent on degraded peatlands that are brought to APRIL's management
- Protecting biodiversity through our policy to delineate and protect HCVs

More information about the program is available at [www.unep.org/champions/](http://www.unep.org/champions/).

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### **About Champions of the Earth Awards**

Champions of the Earth is an international environment award established in 2004 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The annual prize rewards individuals from around the globe who have made a significant and recognized contribution globally, regionally and beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth's environment and natural resources. Candidates are judged by a senior UNEP panel with input from UNEP's regional offices.

### **About APRIL** (*www.aprilasia.com*)

APRIL, with offices in Singapore and operations in Indonesia and China, is a leading producer of fiber, pulp and paper. APRIL operates one of the world's largest pulp mills with an annual production capacity of 2,000,000 tonnes in Indonesia. The company is committed to protecting the natural resources in its care through sustainable management of its mills and plantation operations to benefit our stakeholders, both now and in the future.

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