



Reinforcing confidence in the diamond and gold supply chain

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY PRACTICES (CRJP) RELEASES DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICES

LONDON - The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP), which promotes responsible ethical, social and environmental practices throughout the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain, today released the initial draft of its Code of Practices for stakeholder review. The Draft Code of Practices articulates in detail the business ethics, social and environmental practices that the Council will expect of its members once its Responsible Practices Framework is fully operational.

CRJP invites stakeholders to log on to www.responsiblejewellery.com to comment on the Draft Code of Practices document, or contact info@responsiblejewellery.com for more information and a copy of the draft. Council representatives plan to hold a series of meetings and have developed an online survey in order to reach a wide variety of stakeholders from all levels of the industry supply chain, as well as governments, non-governmental organizations, host communities and other thought leaders. The consultation period for the Draft Code of Practices will run until 3rd July, 2006.

“As I begin my work with CRJP, it’s gratifying to see the Council achieve one of its initial goals, with the release of the Draft Code of Practices,” says Michael L. Rae, the CRJP’s new Chief Executive Officer. “I am eager to consult with businesses throughout the supply chain, as well as civil society and governments, on its various aspects.”

FINAL CALL FOR COMMENT ON DRAFT PRINCIPLES

“It’s also time for the Council to finalize its Draft Principles. These will form the foundation for the CRJP’s Responsible Practices Framework, the system of rules against which Council members will conduct their business,” says Santiago Porto, CRJP’s new Programme Director. “The consultation period is almost over for the Draft Principles and we particularly encourage smaller industry suppliers and retailers to contact me at santiago.porto@responsiblejewellery.com or an existing Council Member with comment, complete the online survey, or email the Council by March 15th.”

COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

CRJP also welcomed 13 new members to its table since the last member announcement in November, 2005:

- AMC Diamonds
- AngloGold Ashanti
- Argor-Heraeus AS
- British Jewellers Association
- Dalumi Diamonds
- I. Hennig & Co. Ltd.
- Leo Schachter Diamonds LLC
- National Mining Association
- Overseas Diamonds NV/Isee2
- PX Precinox SA
- Roberto Coin
- Rothschild Diamonds Ltd.
- World Gold Council

The new members join 20 existing members to bring the total number of companies and organization in CRJP to 33. The group welcomes additional Commercial and Association Members. “As we consider feedback on our Draft Code of Practices and begin the work of final construction on our Responsible Practices Framework, new members bring us fresh perspectives and unique points of view,” says Rae. “These are critical moments, as we craft an Implementation Model, risk assessment tools and a third-party monitoring system. We hope many more industry companies and associations will join us in our work.”

Rae will speak on March 4 in Toronto, Canada, at the World Mines Ministries Forum, a group of individuals from governments as well as exploration and mining communities who are working together with non-governmental organizations to resolve the issues surrounding mining practices around the world. He will update the group about CRJP and discuss the serious effort being made by all sectors of the jewellery trade to ensure high standards of environmental, social, economic and ethical performance.

ABOUT CRJP

The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices’ objective is to promote responsible practices relating to business ethics, social, human rights and environmental performance throughout the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail.

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