



Responsible Jewellery Council

NEWS RELEASE

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RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL OUTLINES THE RJC SYSTEM AT BASELWORLD

London – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) held a press conference on the media day, immediately prior to the opening of Baselworld to outline to exhibitors, attendees and the media the process involved to achieve certification using the RJC System. “The RJC System documents were released in early December 2008 but this is the first trade fair opportunity where we are able to outline the System’s value to our members’ companies,” says Michael Rae, CEO, RJC.

Attendees of the conference were addressed by John Hall, Vice Chairman of the RJC together with Pamela Caillens, Chair, RJC Membership Committee. Mr. Hall and Ms. Caillens represent Rio Tinto and Cartier, respectively, these two companies being Founding Members of the Council.

“Baselworld is the world's leading watch and jewellery trading exhibition where new products are debuted. We are very pleased that RJC has the chance to debut its RJC certification system at this leading fair, says Mr. Hall. He continues, “It is the right place to promote responsible business practices to the major suppliers and international media.”

During the press conference, Mr. Hall and Ms. Caillens emphasized the fact that the RJC is open to all commercial ventures in the gold and/or diamond watch and jewellery supply chain that are willing to adhere to the RJC’s Code of Practices (COP) and submit to third party auditing. They noted that RJC also welcomes trade association members wishing to support the advancement of responsible business practices within their membership.

Mr. Hall and Ms. Caillens underlined that the RJC certification process aims to provide to its members a credible “seal of good practice” that will be understood and recognized by consumers worldwide. As member companies become certified and are joined by others, the RJC certification system will lead to an overall improvement in the performance and reputation of the gold and diamond supply chain, consolidating the market appeal of jewellery and watches in a difficult, competitive environment.

Ms. Caillens summarized the certification process for the attendees by saying, “Member companies like Cartier will be able to use the documents provided to self-assess their level of performance in relation to the RJC Code of Practices, implement improvements where necessary, and then move to retain an independent third-party auditor. If the auditor finds the member substantively in conformance with the RJC standards guidelines, the RJC will issue that member with the RJC

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Certification. A member who has become RJC Certified does not need to be audited again for another three years.”

The RJC currently has 90 member organizations from the mining to retail sectors and many are exhibiting and attending Baselworld. The RJC’s website – www.responsiblejewellery.com has a full list of the Council’s members.

Last month the RJC announced its *Participant* status in the United Nations Global Compact. The RJC fully supports the Global Compact and its ten principles with respect to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, in all areas of its competence.



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