



## NEWS RELEASE

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### SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY INTERNATIONAL (SAI) AND RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL (RJC) ANNOUNCE MOU AGREEMENT

Social Accountability International (SAI) and the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today announced their intent to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work cooperatively on training, industry outreach and standards harmonisation. To kick off the working relationship, the organisations will launch a supplier training program in India in the second half of 2011. The training will focus on using management systems to improve labour standards and working conditions. More details about the program will be released shortly.

RJC and SAI have common goals of supporting achievement of social compliance and responsible business practices. The MOU will formalize SAI and RJC's collaboration on:

- **Industry Outreach:** Joint promotion of responsible business practices to the jewellery supply chain.
- **Training:** Co-presentation of tailored training modules for companies seeking more detailed guidance on establishing systems and procedures for social compliance, featuring SAI's Social Fingerprint™ Program and auditor training courses.
- **Standards Harmonisation:** Initial comparative review of SA8000® and RJC Code of Practices identified significant overlap and opportunities to enhance alignment. The parties will work together in the context of RJC's 2012 standards review.

"SAI is very happy to be entering into a MOU with the RJC. Both organizations share the goal of improving working conditions and labour standards throughout the world. We believe that collaboration with RJC will scale up our impact in the jewellery supply chain," says Alice Tepper Marlin, SAI President.

"RJC shares SAI's enthusiasm for this new relationship between our organizations. Working together towards our common goals will strengthen our collective efforts towards responsible business practices in the jewellery supply chain. We are looking forward to the collaboration and the benefits it can bring to RJC Members and more broadly," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

SAI is an international, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to promoting workers' rights around the world. Its reach has grown throughout the world since its establishment in 1997. Its labour standard SA8000® is recognized as one of the most rigorous standards and the first one to

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integrate a management system requirement into a labour code. Currently there are over 1.4 million workers in 2,478 SA8000® certified facilities in 65 industries in 65 countries. Numerous corporate, industry and government codes reference SA8000®. SAI is known for auditor, supplier, worker, labour inspector, and brand/retailer training and multi-stakeholder capacity-building programs that span the globe. SAI delivers those programs in partnerships with businesses, trade unions, governments and other NGOs. In 2010, SAI introduced Social Fingerprint™ - a program of ratings, training and tools designed to help companies measure and improve their social performance to any code or standard. The program leverages SAI's long expertise in using the SA8000® management systems approach for supply chain management.

The RJC has grown rapidly to nearly 300 Members since it was founded by 14 companies and trade associations in 2005. RJC's mission is to promote responsible business practices through the jewellery supply chain. The RJC's standards programs include Member Certification against the Code of Practices, which is compulsory for RJC Members, and was launched in 2009; and a voluntary Chain-of-Custody Standard which is currently under development. A unique strength of RJC's scope is that it covers the full jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail. This broad participation provides a platform for engaging in sector-wide issues ranging from social and ethical performance, conflict sources, to responsible mining.

**For further information please contact:**

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**About SAI**

Social Accountability International (SAI) is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization established to advance the human rights of workers by promoting decent work conditions, labour rights, and corporate social responsibility through voluntary standards. SAI developed one of the world's preeminent social standards— SA8000®— a recognized benchmark among the voluntary codes and standards initiatives. SAI is among the world's leading social compliance training organizations, and has provided training to over 20,000 people. SAI is headquartered in the United States with field representation in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, India, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Philippines, Switzerland, Vietnam, and UAE. More information on [www.sa-intl.org](http://www.sa-intl.org).

**About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together nearly 300 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery products. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC Member Certification system. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

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