News Release

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD

Mme Sadako Ogata Becomes Chairperson of World Economic Forum Japan

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- Mme Sadako Ogata to take the honorary role as Chairperson of the World Economic Forum Japan
- Over the past 20 years, Mme Ogata has been an active participant in Forum activities
- For further information about the World Economic Forum: http://www.weforum.org

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 April 2012 – The World Economic Forum is delighted to announce that Mme Sadako Ogata has assumed the role of Chairperson of the World Economic Forum Japan. An honorary function, the position has been bestowed upon Mme Ogata in gratitude for her outstanding contribution to the development of global society over many years.

In her new role, Mme Ogata will contribute to the Forum's ongoing work as a trusted partner in Japan's transformation and help further develop the strong community that the World Economic Forum Japan has built in recent years. As one of the most respected individuals in the international development community, she will also enhance the Forum's role as a true multistakeholder organization in the global sphere.

"Sadako is an inspiring individual whose determination to improve the state of the world has been demonstrated countless times during turbulent decades," said Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman and Founder, World Economic Forum. "I am proud to say that she has been a great friend and supporter of the Forum throughout this time, and we count ourselves fortunate that she can now lend her experience, passion and energy to the Forum's work."

"We live in uncertain times, and the mission of the World Economic Forum to improve the state of the world is more relevant than it has ever been," said Mme Ogata. "I am proud and honoured to join this organization and help it bring about transformation through multistakeholder engagement at this most exciting and critical time in its development."

During the past 20 years, Mme Ogata has participated in most of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meetings in Davos-Klosters and has served in several high-profile international roles, including that of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1990-2000) and President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (2003-2012). She was also a Foundation Board Member of the Schwab Foundation and served as Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum on Africa in 2008.

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