

Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2008 in Tianjin to focus on " the next wave of growth"

15 July 2008

Geneva, Switzerland – The Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2008 will take place in Tianjin, People's Republic of China, from 27–28 September. The second "Summer Davos" will bring together the emerging multinational companies – the New Champions – that have the potential to reshape the global economic landscape. Under the theme "The Next Wave of Growth", CEOs of the New Champions will engage with a diverse group of the most important players shaping the future of business and the global agenda.

"In many ways, the world will be looking to the community of Global Growth Companies as the key drivers of the next wave of growth and this especially in the current difficult economic situation. This meeting will build on the momentum that started last year in Dalian," said André Schneider, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, World Economic Forum, at a press conference held in Tianjin today.

"We are delighted to host the New Champions at this 'Summer Davos' in Tianjin, especially during such an important time when answers are needed to the key economic questions we face today," said Huang Xingguo, Mayor of Tianjin, who also gave an update on the city's preparations for the meeting.

Some 1,500 leaders from over 60 countries are expected to take part in the meeting. A select group of business leaders with extensive international experience in building global businesses from the World Economic Forum's Partner and Members will act as mentors to the Annual Meeting of the New Champions. They include: Mukesh D. Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries, India; Thomas Enders, Chief Executive Officer, Airbus, France; James S. Turley, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ernst & Young, USA; James H. Quigley, Global Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte, USA; Peter Bakker, Chief Executive Officer, TNT, Netherlands; Yang Yuanqing, Chairman of the Board, Lenovo, People's Republic of China; Jiang Jianqing, Chairman of the Board, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, People's Republic of China; Samuel A. DiPiazza Jr, Global Chief Executive Officer, PricewaterhouseCoopers, USA; William R. Rhodes, Senior Vice-Chairman, Citigroup; Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Citibank NA, Citi, USA; Frank Ning Gaoning, Chairman, COFCO, People's Republic of China.

Journalists who wish to cover this event must submit their accreditation request on the Forum's online registration website [at www.weforummedia.org](http://www.weforummedia.org) by Friday 29 August 2008.

Please note that only applications submitted online and on time will be considered. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted and no accreditation will be granted onsite.

For more information about the meeting, please visit the Forum's website [at www.weforum.org/newchampions](http://www.weforum.org/newchampions)

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