

Press Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Winners of the African Banker Awards announced for 2011**

The African Banker Awards 2011, now in its fifth year, is one of the biggest African events during the World Bank meetings. Arunma Oteh, Director-General of Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission, Jean-Louis Ekra, President of Africa Export-Import Bank, and Arnold Ekpe, CEO of Ecobank were among the 300 distinguished guests. Dr James Mwangi was declared African Banker of the Year for the second year in a row. The MD and CEO of Kenya's largest bank by depositors, Equity Bank, was presented with his accolade by Houda Shoukry Managing Director of the Mediterranean Smart Cards Company (MSCC), the platinum sponsors of the evening, at the Awards ceremony that took place at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington DC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Standard Bank Group of South Africa won the much acclaimed African Bank of the Year Award. Stanbic IBTC Bank won the Deal of the Year Award and FirstBank Nigeria the Most Innovative Bank of the Year Award. EFG Hermes won the Investment Bank of the Year Award and the National Bank of Egypt took the Socially Responsible Bank of the Year Award.

Mozambique made its debut into the pool of winners this year with Millennium BIM scooping the Best Local Bank in Africa Award. Evelyn Oputu, CEO of the Bank of Industry, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award and set a new record for being the first woman to receive this most coveted Award. HE Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, the architect of Uganda's economic revival, picked up the Central Bank Governor Award.

During the prestigious evening the guests enjoyed a variety of entertainment including a live jazz performance, a vibrant drumming ensemble and a cocktail reception hosted by the Ecobank Nedbank Alliance.

Commenting on the Awards, Omar Ben Yedder, Group Publisher of African Banker magazine, said, "We have solid financial institutions in Africa which have been able to show resilience in the midst of uncertainty and global unrest, something which would not have been possible just a decade ago. We are seeing Africans take the lead as new regulations in Nigeria have ring fenced commercial banking from investment banking. This happened in Africa ahead of the UK and London, considered to be the world's financial centre. I am filled with confidence and tonight, with the quality on show, my belief is strengthened."

The African Banker Awards were sponsored by MSCC (Platinum Sponsor), Ecobank Nedbank Alliance (Cocktail Reception Sponsor), African Export-Import Bank, BIAT, GTBank, Harland Financial Solutions (Associate Sponsors), Wavetec (Technology Sponsor), and Visa (Category Sponsor – African Bank of the Year).

The African Banker Awards are organised by *African Banker* magazine, IC Events, and BusinessinAfrica Events. It is a landmark event taking place every year during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings. The event brought together around 300 key industry players and top government officials from Africa and around the world to honour the achievements of companies and individuals who have contributed significantly to the reform, modernisation and expansion of the continent's banking and financial system, driving Africa's sustained economic growth in the process.

#### **Winners:**

##### **African Bank of the Year**

Standard Bank Group, South Africa

**African Banker of the Year**

James Mwangi, Managing Director & CEO, Equity Bank, Kenya

**Best Local Bank**

Millennium BIM, Mozambique

**Deal of the Year**

Golden Sugar Refinery Project, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Nigeria

*Special commendation to EFG Hermes for sale of Tunisia from Orascom to Qtel*

**Investment Bank of the Year**

EFG-Hermes, Egypt

**Investment Fund/Private Equity Fund of the Year**

Actis, United Kingdom

**Microfinance Institution/Project of the Year**

EB-Accion Savings & Loans Company, Ghana

**Most Innovative Bank of the Year**

FirstBank of Nigeria

*Special commendation to Diamond Bank, Nigeria*

**Socially Responsible Bank of the Year**

National Bank of Egypt

**African Banker Icon**

Adebayo Ogunlesi

**Central Bank Governor of the Year**

HE Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, Governor of the Bank of Uganda

**Finance Minister of the Year**

HE Situmbeko Musokotwane, Minister of Finance, Zambia

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Evelyn Oputu

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***About African Banker magazine***

*African Banker* is the only pan-African magazine dedicated to banking in the continent. Launched in 2007, *African Banker* reflects Africa's rapidly growing finance and banking sectors. *African Banker* is published in French and in English to comprehensively cover the entire continent. It has become an essential tool of the people and institutions that pull the strings of Africa's banking and finance industries. In line with its commitment to banking in Africa, *African Banker* organises the *African Banker* Awards to reward the people and financial institutions that are making a big impact on improving the banking industry in Africa.

***About IC Events – IC Publications***

IC Publications ([www.africasia.com](http://www.africasia.com)) has over 50 years experience in publishing magazines, newsletters, country supplements, industry reports and market intelligence on Africa and the Middle East. Our market leading titles (African Business, African Banker, New African The Middle East and New African Woman) are published in both English and French, with a combined global readership of over 2 million.

IC Events ([www.ic-events.net](http://www.ic-events.net)) was established to complement IC Publication's publishing arm. Together with its dedicated team of specialists and extensive network of contacts, IC Events tailors innovative forums, roundtables and workshops responding to the most pressing issues in Africa and the Middle East. IC Events' activities are 100% results-driven, bringing together major stakeholders and partners involved in the topics tackled to achieve concrete action plans.

### **About The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA)**

*Established in 1993, The Corporate Council on Africa is a nonpartisan 501 (c) (3) membership organization of nearly 180 U.S. companies dedicated to strengthening the commercial relationship between the U.S. and Africa. CCA members represent nearly 85 percent of total U.S. private sector investments in Africa. The organization is dedicated to bringing together potential business partners and to showcase business opportunities on the continent. For more information on Corporate Council on Africa, visit: [www.africacncl.org](http://www.africacncl.org).*

### **About BusinessinAfrica Events (BIAE)**

BIAE is a leading UK based business communication company specialising in live events, public relations, media relations and reputation management for corporate clients, regulatory agencies and governments with a focus on Africa. [www.businessinafricaevents.com](http://www.businessinafricaevents.com)

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