



News Release

MasterCard and U21Global Announce the Winners of the MasterCard Worldwide-U21Global Scholarship Program for Women in Travel and Tourism

Singapore / New Delhi, 2 August 2006 – MasterCard Worldwide and U21Global today announced the inaugural cohort of the first annual MasterCard Worldwide-U21Global Scholarship Program for Women in Travel and Tourism in Asia/Pacific. Twenty women from around the region have been offered a full scholarship for the U21Global Diploma in Tourism and Travel Management.

The call for entries for the online program drew an overwhelming response from organizations in the travel and tourism industry across the Asia/Pacific region.

“Over the last two months, we have received an impressive array of applicants with vast knowledge and expertise in the tourism and travel industries. The twenty scholarship winners selected proved that they are the next wave of leaders within the travel and tourism industries.

“To help the women in this program develop their leadership skills, a special online learning community will be created, allowing the scholars to have access to a wide range of speakers and mentors, and enhance networking with each other, and subsequent groups of winners, allowing them to continue networking even after graduation.

“This is an exciting program built around a promising group of leaders. We would like to congratulate and welcome them into a truly wonderful program,” said Dr. Michael A. Goldberg, Chief Academic Officer, U21Global.

“Women across the region are making strides towards socio-economic parity with men and given the development of Asia’s markets as tourist destinations, we thought it was the right time to offer this scholarship program to working women professionals who were committed to building their careers in the travel and tourism industry,” said Georgette Tan, vice president, Communications, Asia/Pacific, Middle East and Africa, MasterCard Worldwide. “We are pleased to welcome the inaugural batch of winners and hope that the scholarship program will add immense value to their professional development,” she added.

“I am overwhelmed to receive this scholarship as it would allow me to take a step further in my journey of continuous learning and applying the knowledge for betterment of the service sector. Also, it would enable me to endorse my own commitment to eLearning

and facilitate my learning of the science of the Travel and Tourism business,” said Dolly Bhasin, MD Trade Wings Infotech Ltd., one of the winners of the scholarship program.

The MasterCard Worldwide-U21Global Scholarship Program for Women in Travel and Tourism was announced earlier this year with the aim of empowering working women professionals in the travel and tourism industry to stay ahead of industry trends and realize their full potential. The program will focus on diverse aspects of tourism management will help build a broad understanding of management principles and practices as they apply in the tourism and travel industries. The course has been developed by Christel DeHaan Tourism and Travel Research Institute a part of Nottingham University Business School and U21Global.

In light of the keen competition for the twenty scholarships and the response received, the panel of judges further granted twenty U21Global Honorable Mention Scholarships and eight U21Global Runner-up Scholarships in recognition of the applicants’ meritocracy.

In addition, the University of Nottingham has announced that it will offer up to ten successful graduates of the Diploma in Tourism and Travel Management a further scholarship to pursue the MSc in Travel and Tourism Management.

About MasterCard Worldwide

MasterCard Worldwide advances global commerce by providing a critical economic link between financial institutions, businesses, cardholders and merchants worldwide. As a franchisor, processor and advisor, MasterCard develops and markets payment solutions, processes close to 14 billion payments each year, and provides industry-leading analysis and consulting services to financial institution customers and merchants. Through its family of brands, including MasterCard®, Maestro® and Cirrus®, MasterCard Worldwide serves consumers and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. For more information go to www.mastercardworldwide.com.

About U21Global

Established in 2001, U21Global is the world's premier online Graduate School and offers globally recognised graduate programs. It is a joint venture between Universitas 21, an international network of 19 leading research-intensive universities in 11 countries, and Thomson Learning, a world leader in tailored learning solutions. U21Global combines the traditional quality of its founders with innovative modes of delivery on the Internet, providing students with substantial learning advantages, while balancing work, travel and family life.

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