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**HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL TO RECEIVE \$1.5 MILLION CONRAD N. HILTON
HUMANITARIAN PRIZE**

**International jury selects largest NGO that aids and advocates for people with
disabilities**

GENEVA . 15 March 2011 . The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation announced here today that Handicap International, the largest non-governmental organization providing assistance and advocacy for people with disabilities, will receive the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize of \$1.5 million. The Hilton Foundation presents the annual award, the world's largest humanitarian prize, to an organization that is doing extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering. Handicap International was selected for the 2011 Prize by a prestigious independent international jury.

Judy M. Miller, Vice President of the Hilton Foundation and Director of the Hilton Prize, and Princess Salimah Aga Khan, a member of the Hilton Prize jury, announced the winner at a reception for international diplomats, humanitarian leaders and government officials.

Formed in 1982 by two French doctors to help Cambodians seriously injured by landmines, Handicap International now provides crucial assistance to acutely vulnerable people around the world including those disabled from natural disasters, injury, armed conflict, disease and poverty. It currently manages 300 projects in 60 countries and has become a major first responder for persons with disabilities in emergency situations, including the 2010 floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Haiti.

Handicap International is a truly deserving organization -- and unique in its mission -- focusing on providing crucial assistance to people with disabilities, particularly in disaster situations,+said Miller. Those who have been disabled are the most vulnerable in societies and Handicap International has transformed the way the world deals with this overlooked and underserved group. Through 30 years of innovative leadership and advocacy by Handicap International, countries are assuring that people with disabilities are entitled to the same rights as everyone else.+

Headquartered in Lyon, France, Handicap International affiliates in France, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States formed the Handicap International Federation in 2009. The organization's services range from clearing landmines to providing artificial limbs, psychological and economic support and training of local staff.

Praising the selection of Handicap International for the 2011 Hilton Prize, Princess Aga Khan said, Handicap International insists all lives are of equal value and has demonstrated that people with disabilities can live meaningful and productive lives even in the poorest settings.+

Receiving the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize is a great honor and underscores our collective responsibility to serve the world's most marginalized and vulnerable people,+said Dr. Jean-Baptiste Richardier, CEO of Handicap International and one of the original founders along with Claude Simonnot who retired from the NGO in 2004. We will, from now on, be in a much stronger position to convince donors to include the most vulnerable from the onset of an emergency and to ensure that long-term inclusive development for all becomes the norm rather than the exception.+

Dr. Richardier said the proceeds from the prize would be used to strengthen Handicap International's disaster preparedness capabilities and pre-deploy emergency response resources to be even better prepared for future crises. Dr. Richardier affirmed that some funds would be set aside to ensure that Handicap International can continue to help the many thousands of Haitians who lost limbs or sustained other injuries in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake.

Handicap International has a long history of developing model programs to serve people with disabilities and advocating for policies that address their specific needs. It was a leading advocate for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which became

international law in 2008. Handicap International co-founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines that led to the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.

Recognizing that people with disabilities are often forgotten in disasters, Handicap International pioneered the Disability and Vulnerability Focal Point, an all-inclusive mobile medical and service center that can be quickly set up in emergency situations where humanitarian workers can refer those suffering from disabilities and other especially vulnerable people for help.

The official 2011 Prize Award Ceremony will take place during the Global Philanthropy Forum in Redwood City, California, on 13 April 2011. Michelle Bachelet, the first Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, will be the keynote speaker for the prize dinner. Ms. Bachelet most recently served as President of Chile from 2006 to 2010.

The Hilton Humanitarian Prize was established in 1996 to call attention to organizations that are innovative leaders in addressing humanitarian needs throughout the world. More than 200 nominations are received every year and we hope the examples of the prize awardees will encourage others to contribute to their important work, added Miller.

Footage and high-resolution photos of Handicap International's work are available for download here:

<ftp://ftp.handicap-international.fr/>

User name: invite
Password: invite
Directory: Hilton Prize

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About Handicap International

Handicap International is an independent and impartial international aid organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. For more information, please visit: www.handicap-international.org

About the Hilton Humanitarian Prize

The Hilton Prize jury currently includes: Princess Salimah Aga Khan, international ambassador for SOS-Kinderdorf International; Catherine A. Bertini, former executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme and professor of public administration, Syracuse University; Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH, former director-general of the World Health Organization and former prime minister of Norway; Eric M. Hilton, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and son of Conrad Hilton; James R. Galbraith, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Olara A. Otunnu, president of LBL Foundation for Children, former UN

under-secretary-general and special representative for children and armed conflict; and Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Laureate in economics and Lamont University professor at Harvard University.

The Hilton Prize Laureates are recognized leaders in the humanitarian world and include: Aravind Eye Care System (India) 2010; PATH (Washington), 2009; BRAC (Bangladesh), 2008; Tostan (Senegal), 2007; Women for Women International (Washington, DC), 2006; Partners In Health (Massachusetts), 2005; Heifer International (Arkansas), 2004; International Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (Denmark), 2003; SOS Children's Villages (Austria), 2002; St. Christopher's Hospice (England), 2001; Casa Alianza (Costa Rica), 2000; African Medical and Research Foundation (Kenya), 1999; Doctors Without Borders (France), 1998; International Rescue Committee (New York), 1997; and Operation Smile (Virginia), 1996.

About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in five priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, caring for vulnerable children, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. Following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$940 million in grants, distributing more than \$100 million in 2010. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org.