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TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS COMPETE FOR TOP AWARDS

The International Trade Centre (ITC) today announced the shortlist of candidates for the 2012 TPO Network Awards – Excellence in Export Development Initiatives. Eleven national Trade Promotion Organizations from Austria, Benin, the Dominican Republic, France, Jamaica, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Zambia have been nominated for this year's shortlist. Four award winners will be announced at a gala dinner during the 9th TPO Network World Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 18 October.

The TPO Network Awards are open to all national TPOs and recognize excellence in trade support services and celebrate TPOs that have demonstrated outstanding performance in the use of innovative and effective practices and procedures in their export development initiatives.

To recognize and share more TPO good practices, the Adjudicating Panel may award second and third place winners from the shortlist. In addition, the Panel's Special Mention award will be presented to a TPO that participated in the Awards and, in the panel's opinion, deserves special recognition.

The Adjudicating Panel is chaired by ITC Executive Director Patricia R. Francis and includes senior representatives from the 2010 TPO Network Award winners' organizations. 'Of all the candidates for 2012 Awards, these TPOs in particular have made a difference in their home countries to ensure that their exporters have become competitive in the global market,' Ms. Francis said. 'They have worked hard and they have set examples for others to follow.'

The TPO Network World Conference is a biennial event, first launched in 1996 in Cartagena, Colombia. The 9th conference will bring together more than 150 participants from 58 countries to address the theme: 'Transforming TPOs' Business through Innovation

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations, and is devoted to helping small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries become more competitive in global markets and thus to speed up sustainable economic development and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

For further information, visit www.intracen.org and www.tponetwork.net.

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SHORTLISTED TPO NETWORK AWARDS APPLICANTS

Least Developed Country Category	
Benin	Benin Agency for Trade Promotion (ABePEC)
Uganda	Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB)
Zambia	Zambia Development Agency (ZDA)
Small Island Developing States Category	
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic Export and Investment Centre (CEI-RD)
Jamaica	Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO)
Developing Country Category	
Jordan	Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO)
Mexico	ProMexico Trade and Investment (ProMexico)
United Arab Emirates	Dubai Export Development Corporation (DEDIC)
Developed Country Category	
Austria	Advantage Austria (WKO)
France	UBIFRANCE
Lithuania	Enterprise Lithuania