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**IWMI Wins SAP ACE 2007 Award for “Best Public Services Sector Implementation”**

Colombo, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 2007. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) won the award for “**Best Public Services Sector Implementation**” at the SAP ACE 2007 Awards for Customer Excellence held in New Delhi on 27th August, 2007. SAP ACE is a platform to recognize organizations that have demonstrated the effective use of technology for outstanding business transformation. A total of 38 winners were felicitated at an impressive awards ceremony.

IWMI’s award was in recognition of the successful implementation of a project that has helped the Institute provide separate accounts for donors and management, control project and corporate assets--all the while keeping the least possible administrative overheads to maximize the on-ground impact.

Speaking on the occasion, Amol Khisty, Head of Finance and Administration at IWMI said “As a result of IWMI’s thrust for driving excellence and commitment to IT as a key driver of business value addition, the Institute decided to implement SAP to augment service delivery with key focus on customer (donors and internal customers) centricity. The implementation of SAP resulted in a complete overhaul of the existing systems by challenging the “status quo” and doing away with non- value added activities.”

The SAP ACE awards 2007 received enthusiastic nominations from a large number of organizations – large, medium and small. The evaluation process comprised four stages including scrutiny of the nomination form, short listing via interviews, onsite review and final assessment by a distinguished jury after a detailed panel discussion.

“We are very happy with the enthusiasm of our customers in showcasing their business transformation success, through the SAP ACE process. Highlighting the increasing penetration of IT usage in companies of all sizes in the Indian sub-continent, we received nominations from organizations across all segments and industries” said Ranjan Das, President and CEO, SAP Indian Subcontinent.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

IWMI is a non-profit research organization with headquarters in Sri Lanka and regional offices in Africa and Asia. IWMI works towards improving the management of land and water resources for food security, livelihoods and the environment. It is one of the 15 research centers supported by a network of over 60 governments, national and international organizations collectively known as the CGIAR – Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research.

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