

NOTE TO THE MEDIA

WINNERS OF THE STOP TB AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING ON TUBERCULOSIS ANNOUNCED IN PARIS

16 October 2008 – Paris -- The Stop TB Partnership today announced the winners of the Award for Excellence in Reporting on Tuberculosis 2008. The award, which is supported by the Stop TB Partnership and Lilly MDR-TB Partnership, recognizes outstanding reporting and commentary in print and on the web that materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of tuberculosis (TB) and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), in countries affected by the disease.

The first place winner, who will receive an award of US\$ 3000, is Brian Ligomeka of Malawi. Mr Ligomeka's winning article, [Malawi: Fighting TB as part of the deadly trio](#), which appeared in *The Sunday Times of Malawi*, depicts the crisis in his country resulting from TB, HIV and poverty.

Second place, with an award of US\$ 2000, goes to Ilze Vainovska of Latvia, whose article [We can](#), published in *Kursas Laiks*, tells the story of a family's struggle with tuberculosis. The third place winner, who will receive a \$US 1000 award, is Berlanty Refaat of Egypt, whose article appeared the news web site [www.kelmetnamagcom](#). [Let the shisha talk](#) warns of the dangerous connection between tobacco and tuberculosis.

For the 2008 award, only journalists from low- and middle-income countries* were eligible to enter their work. In 2009 the Stop TB Partnership will open a second category of awards: for journalists writing from high-income countries. Articles considered for the 2009 awards must be published between 1 March 2008 and 31 March 2009 in a general circulation newspaper, magazine or web news vehicle. The deadline entries for the 2009 award is 30 April 2009.

The Stop TB Partnership, which is hosted by the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, consists of more than 700 international organizations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, and nongovernmental and governmental organizations that are working together to eliminate TB. The Partnership's Global Plan to Stop TB (2006-2015) sets forth a roadmap for halving TB prevalence and deaths compared with 1990 levels by 2015.

The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership is a public-private initiative that encompasses global health and relief organizations, academic institutions and private companies and is led by Eli Lilly and Company. Its mission is to address the expanding crisis of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). The partnership is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to fight MDR-TB through increasing drug supply at concessionary prices; research; providing training in prevention, treatment, and surveillance; promoting awareness and community support programs and sharing drug manufacturing technology with nations most at risk of MDR-TB.

*World Bank criteria: [World Bank Country Classification](#)

For further information, please contact:

Judith Mandelbaum-Schmid, Senior Communications Adviser, Stop TB Partnership
+41 22 791 29 67, mobile +41 79 254 6835, email: schmidj@who.int.

JJ Divino, Communications and Advocacy Manager, Lilly MDR-TB Partnership
+41 22 306 0322, mobile +41 79 669 0986, email: divinojj@lilly.com