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**World Cocoa Foundation Partnership Meeting to be held in Hamburg, Germany,
Report Cocoa Sustainability Progress, Announce Innovation Grants**

Wolfgang Schmitt, Managing Director, GTZ, to be Keynote Speaker

*More than 150 representatives from global industry, cocoa-producing countries,
farmer associations, development organizations and civil society to attend two-day meeting*

Hamburg, Germany – The World Cocoa Foundation's 14th Partnership Meeting will be held in Hamburg, Germany on October 8 - 9, 2008. Attended by more than 150 representatives from the global cocoa and chocolate industry, cocoa-producing countries, farmer associations, development organizations and civil society, the two-day meeting will focus on progress toward sustainable cocoa production, donor strategies for agricultural and economic development in cocoa-producing regions, and life cycle assessments in agricultural commodities. The keynote address will be delivered by Wolfgang Schmitt, Managing Director of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. GTZ cooperates with the World Cocoa Foundation on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The meeting also will include the announcement of World Cocoa Foundation Challenge Grants to be used over the next 12 months to design and test innovative technologies benefiting cocoa farmers and building the capacity of local extension services and farmer associations. Grants will be awarded to eight research institutes, universities and farmer organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America for work focused on advancing laborsaving technologies, production efficiency, and education.

Commenting on the Partnership Meeting, Wolfgang Schmitt, Managing Director, GTZ, said it would be a pleasure to welcome the World Cocoa Foundation as well as its many partners and supporters to Hamburg. "If all actors of the supply chain accept their responsibility for the challenges in the cocoa sector, a change for the better of the entire sector and especially the cocoa producers is possible. Building on the broad experience of GTZ, Public Private Partnerships have proven to be a successful model for making such a difference," he said.

About the World Cocoa Foundation

Established in 2000, the World Cocoa Foundation is a leader in promoting economic and social development and environmental stewardship in 15 cocoa-producing countries around the world. With nearly 70 member companies from the Americas, Europe and Asia, the Foundation actively supports a range of farm-level programs harnessing sustainable agriculture practices to improve the quality of life for the millions of smallholder farmers growing this unique crop. For more information about the World Cocoa Foundation, visit: www.worldcocoafoundation.org.

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