



News Release

## **Winners of MasterCard-U21 Global Scholarship Program for Women in Travel and Tourism Announced**

**Eleven Female Travel Industry Professionals Chosen for Scholarship that will Help them Advance their Skills and Stay Ahead of Industry Trends**

*Singapore, 13 October 2010* – MasterCard Worldwide and U21Global today announced the recipients of the MasterCard-U21Global scholarship program for women professionals in the travel and tourism industry. Eleven women have been offered full scholarships to pursue the Postgraduate Diploma of Business Administration from U21Global, the world's premier online Graduate School. This is the fifth consecutive year that MasterCard and U21Global are collaborating to offer this scholarship program.

Indian professionals continued to top the list of recipients, with four women from the country being awarded the scholarship, followed by Philippines, with three recipients. Other recipients of the scholarship this year come from China, Hong Kong, Thailand and New Zealand. The recipients come from a wide variety of organizations ranging from national tourism councils to hotels, airlines and travel agencies. Majority of them are in senior- to mid-level positions.

Launched in 2006, the U21Global Postgraduate Diploma of Business Administration aims to empower women executives through the development of their skills in the management and marketing fields of the travel and hospitality industry. The program consists of core management subjects such as Organizational Behavior, Finance, Marketing Management and Strategic Management, valuable knowledge they can apply within their respective professional fields.

The scholarship recipients look forward to expanding their skills in the industry through the program and climb up the corporate ladder. Sherry Padda, Assistant Front Office Manager in Taj President, Mumbai, said "The course will help me to adopt a global perspective in dealing with key issues, an added advantage considering my company's global expansion. I believe the program will be an excellent complement to my existing qualifications. I look forward to using this platform to share my learning and experiences as well."

Recipients are also appreciative of the program's unique online approach that enables them to interact with professionals from across Asia/Pacific as well as manage their time better. Jennifer Rosal Jayme, Reservations Supervisor at Lagen Island Resort in the Philippines said, "Being awarded the MasterCard Worldwide - U21Global Scholarship is truly a privilege and a blessing. I expect to learn more about the tourism industry on a global level through interaction with my fellow professionals around the world. The unique way of learning at my own pace is even more exciting, and the benefits of learning are limitless as I will not be the only one gaining from the experience, but my company as well, because the knowledge will be cascaded to my co-employees."

The curriculum was designed by U21Global in collaboration with Christel DeHaan Tourism and Travel Research Institute, a component of the University of Nottingham. Graduates of the diploma can qualify for their Masters of Science in Tourism and Travel Management at the University, renowned for its quality graduate online education for working executives and professionals.

Nick Hutton, CEO of U21Global said, “I am very encouraged to see the impressive array of applicants who displayed great enthusiasm to further their education this year. This is the fifth year of our collaboration with MasterCard Worldwide and it has been an exceptional success - bringing our unique brand of online higher education to the regions and enabling these individuals to prepare themselves for the future. The ongoing interest in the program is in line with the growth of the travel and tourism industry in the Asia Pacific region - I wish all the scholarship winners a successful and stimulating experience on the program.”

“MasterCard is proud to be working with U21 Global for the fifth year on a program that supports our broader commitment to women’s advancement. Through this exclusive program, we have been equipping promising female travel professionals with valuable education that will assist them as they move up the corporate ladder. The program’s unique structure that enables these busy professionals to interact with likeminded counterparts in other markets while learning at their own pace has made it a successful and valuable initiative. We offer our congratulations to this year’s winners and hope they find the course useful as they manage the return in demand for travel,” said Georgette Tan, vice president, Communications, Asia/Pacific, Middle East & Africa, MasterCard Worldwide.

Some eighty women have been awarded the MasterCard-U21 Global scholarship in the last four years. This year’s scholarship recipients will begin their first class in October. Those interested in more information on U21Global and its program offerings can visit [www.u21global.edu.sg](http://www.u21global.edu.sg).

#### **About U21Global**

Established in 2001, U21Global is the world’s premier online Graduate School that offers globally recognised graduate programmes. The graduate school is in close partnership and collaboration with four prestigious partner universities - the University of Birmingham, the University of Melbourne, the University of Nottingham and the University of Virginia. U21Global combines the traditional quality of its founders with innovative modes of delivery on the Internet, providing students with substantial learning advantages that is relevant to current management thinking, while balancing work, travel and family life.

U21Global has successfully enrolled students from 72 countries around the world including those from Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. The graduate programmes draw upon the best practices in online learning and pedagogy and have been approved by U21pedagogica, an independent quality assurance body which ensures that the curriculum meets the rigorous academic standards of all the partner universities. For more information on U21Global, please visit [www.u21global.edu.sg](http://www.u21global.edu.sg)

## **MasterCard and Corporate Social Responsibility**

MasterCard's corporate social responsibility platform (CSR) in Asia/Pacific, Middle East and Africa is focused primarily on bettering the quality of life for women and children by providing them educational opportunities. MasterCard does this by supporting a broad range of women's and children's causes through scholarships, financial assistance, educational programs and various sustainability programs, helping provide them with the skills required to stand on their own feet and support themselves and their families. Apart from the educational aspects of MasterCard's CSR programs, consumer education is an important area of consideration for MasterCard given the significance of financial know-how in improving lives and the socioeconomic standing of families throughout the region.

A key component of MasterCard's social responsibility and citizenship efforts across the region is the MasterCard Purchase with Purpose platform. Based on the concept of transactional philanthropy, it is at the heart of a drive by MasterCard to encourage responsible spending and make a difference in someone else's life. MasterCard Purchase with Purpose initiatives involve cardholders in the company's efforts to give back to the community whenever they use their MasterCard cards. More information on MasterCard Purchase with Purpose is available at [www.mastercard.com/sea/purchasewithpurpose](http://www.mastercard.com/sea/purchasewithpurpose)

## **About MasterCard Worldwide**

As a leading global payments company, MasterCard Worldwide prides itself on being at the heart of commerce, helping to make life easier and more efficient for everyone, everywhere. MasterCard serves as a franchisor, processor and advisor to the payments industry, and makes commerce happen by providing a critical economic link among financial institutions, governments, businesses, merchants, and cardholders worldwide.

In 2009, \$2.5 trillion in gross dollar volume was generated on its products by consumers around the world. Powered by the MasterCard Worldwide Network – the fastest payment processing network in the world – MasterCard processes over 22 billion transactions each year, has the capacity to handle 140 million transactions per hour, with an average network response time of 140 milliseconds and with 99.99 percent reliability.

MasterCard advances global commerce through its family of brands, including MasterCard®, Maestro®, and Cirrus®; its suite of core products such as credit, debit, and prepaid; and its innovative platforms and functionalities, such as *MasterCard PayPass™* and *MasterCard inControl™*. MasterCard serves consumers, governments, and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. For more information, please visit us at [www.mastercard.com](http://www.mastercard.com). Follow us on Twitter: @mastercardnews.

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