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PRESS RELEASE

May 30, 2007
For Immediate Release

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IRG's INNOVATIVE HEALTH PROJECT WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD Children's Health Tied to Environmental Clean-Up for Two-in-One Benefits

Washington, DC -- International Resources Group today announced that its subsidiary company, IRG Philippines has been awarded a highly competitive World Bank grant this week, one of 22 winners selected from 2,900 applicants to the Bank's 2007 Global Development Marketplace and jointly funded with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The IRG project, Health Bank for the Poor is an innovative approach that intersects health and environment: poor families exchange their neighborhood's recyclable waste for vitamin supplements, milk and basic medicines for common childhood illnesses.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the award of this \$130,940 grant and to extend congratulations to the IRG Philippines team led by its Managing Director Laurie Navarro," said Matthew Mendis, IRG Corporate Vice President.

"This project was selected for its unique and innovative approach of converting a local waste disposal and pollution problem into a potential economic source for provision of health and nutrition services to poor, undernourished children in rural areas of the Philippines," he added. "It is a classic case of symbiotic benefits – improving health while cleaning up the environment."

Navarro said, "I am delighted that we have been given the opportunity to implement a project that will give poor families access to health goods, from vitamin supplements to basic medicine for their children. At the same time, it will address the growing environmental problems brought about by increasing waste dumped in public places or polluted waters where small children so often play."

The project, Health Bank for the Poor: Redeem Your Health Goods will focus on children aged 12 or younger in the Filipino island townships of Salambao and Binuangan. Instances of diarrheal illness, skin diseases and wound infections are among those that commonly affect the pilot group of approximately 240, often malnourished children. The two health banks will give out milk and medicines in exchange for recyclable goods that, in turn, will be sold to replenish the supplies and thereby sustain the project. Once established, the project will be scaled up to nine other towns. For more information go to: <http://go.worldbank.org/V7290Z9JJ0>.

Development Marketplace is a competitive grant program that identifies and supports emerging development ideas. It has awarded some \$40 million to more than 1,000 projects through global and country-level competitions since 1998.

IRG is an international professional services firm that helps governments, the private sector, communities, and households manage critical resources to build a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous world. Since its inception in 1978, IRG has completed over 750 contracts in 135 countries, delivering high-quality, cost effective services that promote positive economic growth, institutional and social change, and intelligent use of resources – human, physical, environmental, and financial.

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