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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **International Resources Group and John Mellor Associates Sign Strategic Alliance to Support Agricultural Development in Emerging Markets**

Washington, DC—International Resources Group (IRG) and John Mellor Associates, Inc. (JMA) today announced the establishment of a strategic alliance that will combine their international development expertise to create and support opportunities for economic growth and agricultural development in developing countries, particularly for rural economies.

Dr. John Mellor, an international authority on agricultural economics, was the founding Director of the International Food Policy Research Institute, and has served as Chief Economist of USAID and Professor of Economics at Cornell University. He has won numerous prizes for his research work on development and for his seminal book on the economics of agricultural development, including both the Presidential Hunger Award and the Wihuri Prize for his work reducing hunger throughout the world.

“We are delighted to be working with John Mellor Associates,” said IRG President and CEO Asif M. Shaikh. “Dr. Mellor was a pioneer in exploring the link between rural development and the sustained macroeconomic growth necessary for meaningful poverty reduction. Both IRG and John Mellor Associates have a strong focus on economic growth and the transformation of rural sectors so this strategic alliance will greatly enhance our services.

“IRG is a thought leader in agriculture, natural resources and economic growth,” said Dr. Mellor. “The company has a strong, worldwide presence, and really understands the necessity of plugging the rural sector into urban markets in order to bring about a rural transformation. I’m excited to be part of such a dynamic team.”

#### **International Resources Group ([www.irgltd.com](http://www.irgltd.com))**

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 more than 650 contracts in 134 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.

#### **John Mellor Associates**

JMA is an international policy advisory firm that brings leading edge thinking to developing strategy, setting priorities, and implementing institutional development in low and middle income countries. It does so with a clear focus on poverty reduction and sustainability. Founded in 1991, JMA has advised in a wide range of Asian, African, and Latin American countries, with a recent emphasis on post-conflict situations and measures to build support for nascent governments.

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