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Citi Journalistic Excellence Award supporting outstanding business and financial reporting will be awarded in Russia for the first time

For the first time Citigroup Journalistic Excellence Award (CJEA) "For Achievement in Financial and Business Reporting and Editorial Writing" will be awarded in Russia. CJEA would help to discover new talent, and the Russian contest winner would be recognized, alongside with the other CJEA winners from around the world.

Citigroup Journalistic Excellence Award was announced during a press conference held at Citibank Paveletskoye Branch. Hosting the press conference were Allan Hirst, President of Citibank Russia, a member of Citigroup, and Mikhail Fedotov, Secretary of Russian Union of Journalists.

For the first time CJEA was administered back in 1982 by Citigroup, a major world financial corporation, in order to bring out the best analytical publications on economy and finance to promote financial and business reporting and editorial writing. During the twenty years of its existence, CJEA was recognized as one of the most prestigious and honorable journalistic awards: among the nominees were 200 most talented business journalists from 30 countries of North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Russia will join them in 2004.

Eligible to participate in the competition will be journalists working in business, economic and financial printed and electronic media, information agencies and radio stations, as well as authors of TV reports. The subject - matter embraces business development issues and global and regional economic and financial reviews.

The introduction of CJEA in Russia was initiated by Citibank ZAO, Russia. While opening the press conference dedicated to the official CJEA launch in Russia, Allan Hirst, put a special emphasis on the significance that Citibank attached to the quality of professional journalism worldwide.

He said, *"The recent years have seen the emergence of a pool of talented journalists and business publications in Russia which reflects positive trends in the country's socio-economic development. I am sure that CJEA would help to further enhance the professionalism, quality standards and responsibility of Russian business journalism."*

Among the members of CJEA Judging Committee are Evgeny Yasin, Scientific Advisor of State University Graduate School of Economics, Pavel Medvedev, Deputy of State Duma, Alexander Murychev, President of Russia Association, Garegin Tosynian, President of Russian Banking Association, and Sergei Philonovich, Dean of Graduate School of Management of State University Graduate School of Economics, and Valery Katkalo, Dean of Faculty of Management of St-Petersburg State University. Mikhail Fedotov, Chairman of CJEA Judging Committee, said that the Committee anticipated *"a lot of exciting work and difficult decisions, since, the entrants were expected to submit a lot of talented and highly professional works"*.

In February 2004 the Judging Committee will choose three finalists; after that, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism will name the Russian CJEA winner. The CJEA nominee will be granted a unique chance to attend a 10-day workshop at Columbia University and meet Citigroup top managers, well-known NYSE analysts, senior managers of World Bank and International Monetary Fund, leading specialists of US State Department, and Bloomberg Business News Agency.