



Source: IRGlobal Rankings, 8° annual edition

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IR Global Rankings announces Latin American winners

Latin America's best companies in Investor Relations (IR), by technical criteria and also by the financial market popular vote, were acknowledged this Wednesday (February 15), in São Paulo, in the "IR Global Rankings 2006" (IRGR) closing ceremony. A type of corporate world "Oscar", the IRGR classifies, identifies the best practices and trends, and awards the best companies in investor relations in three global categories: investor relations websites, corporate governance and quarterly result release/information disclosure process. In 2006, the eight edition of this ranking, IRGR counted on the participation of 145 companies from 31 countries.

Created in 1999 by MZ Consult, a financial communications and investor relations consulting firm, IRGR has as purpose to encourage transparency of information disclosed by companies, as well as equity in treatment and accessibility to this information and, thus, attract and maintain investors. The event in São Paulo closes IRGR's world award cycle in 2006. In the past two weeks, award ceremonies were held in Singapore, Frankfurt and New York, gathering companies from the Asian/African, Europe and North American markets.

"The quality of information and equity in the communication process of this information to the capital market has become a priority for IR professionals over the past years", affirms Rodolfo Zabisky, CEO of MZ Consult. In his opinion, the consolidated global success of a ranking created in Brazil highlights the good level of Brazilian IR professionals, exactly at a moment at which the world flow of capital has been privileging this country, as we can see, since 2004, the highest concentration of trading of shares of the last decade. "To conquer and keep investor's confidence, minimizing the risk perception he/she has about the company, is a continuous challenge for IR professionals", he says.

The IRGR 2006 evaluation process, based on detailed researches of publicly-held companies and investors, was concluded by analysts from MZ Consult and from the company Excelência em Governança Corporativa. The results were reviewed and discussed with an independent technical committee, made up of experts in auditing, corporate governance and the legal department of KPMG Auditores Independentes, Linklaters, JPMorgan and Real IR Magazine.

Latin American winners

In the five best websites in investor relations (TOP5) category, Brazilian companies held all positions, and the final ranking was as follows: Petrobras, Unibanco, Net Serviços, Bradesco and Itaú. Petrobras also ranks among the five best in the world ranking.

In the POP+ category, which chooses the most popular IR website in the opinion of financial analysts and investors, ALL – América Latina Logística ranked first and was also the world winner. The best online annual reports were the ones of Petrobras, Votorantim Papel e Celulose and Companhia Brasileira de Distribuição (Grupo Pão de Açúcar), each one in their performance business area. Petrobras presented the best world report.

In the Corporate Governance category, which reflects the best transparency practices in management and dissemination of information to investors, the "one of Latin America's five best companies" award was held by TAM, Ultrapar and Gerdau. Banco Santander, in Chile, and Aeropuertos del Sureste (ASUR), in Mexico, completed the regional quintet. Among Brazil's five best in this category were GOL Linhas Aéreas Inteligentes and Unibanco.

At last, in the best quarterly result releases and disclosure processes category, Latin America's five best were GOL, Votorantim Papel e Celulose, Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional (CSN), Banco Bradesco and ALL.



The award ceremony took place simultaneously with a investor relations seminar promoted by MZ, in which IR professionals, analysts and investors, and specialized journalists had a general view of the capital market in Brazil and overseas, besides getting to know the best global practices and trends in the areas of IR, corporate governance and disclosure of results.