



Retail Industry Leaders Set to Meet in Barcelona at World Retail Congress

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NEW YORK - (BUSINESS WIRE) - Myron E. (Mike) Ullman III, Chairman and CEO of JCPenney; Joe Gromek, President and CEO of Warnaco; Brendan Hoffman, President and CEO of Neiman Marcus Direct and Alan Hassenfeld, Chairman of Hasbro, are part of an exclusive group of industry leaders who are confirmed to speak at the World Retail Congress (www.worldretailcongress.com) in Barcelona, April 2008. The confirmed U.S. speakers as well as the key categories for the World Retail Awards were unveiled at a special global retail industry luncheon held at the Harmonie Club hosted by industry notables Rick Darling, President of Li & Fung USA; Gilbert W. Harrison, Chairman of Financo, Inc. and Stephen I. Sadove, CEO of Saks Inc.

Additional confirmed U.S. speakers include Richard Baker, Chairman, Lord & Taylor; Christopher Lee, Senior Vice President, Forever 21; Trudy F. Sullivan, President and CEO, Talbots and Dana Telsey, CEO, Telsey Advisory Group.

The World Retail Congress also announced special keynote speakers including Anders Dahlvig, President and CEO of Ikea Group; José Luis Duran, CEO of Carrefour and William Fung, Group Managing Director of Li & Fung.

“We are thrilled that World Retail Congress 2008 is attracting such a high caliber of global retail business leaders from more than 50 countries, and look forward to an active exchange of topics affecting the global retail landscape,” stated World Retail Congress Director Ian McGarrigle.

The World Retail Congress 2008 will be held on April 9(th) – April 11(th) in Barcelona and will focus on global retail issues ranging from partnerships with private equity firms, retail format innovation, global real estate issues, leadership/talent concerns and global expansion strategies. An integral part of the Congress is an evening gala announcing the winners of the World Retail Awards.

U.S. Nominations for World Retail Awards

The World Retail Congress also unveiled the key categories of the 2008 World Retail Awards including Retailer of the Year, Multi-Channel Retailer of the Year, Innovative Format and Marketing Campaign of the Year. The early nominations for the U.S. were selected by CEOs and other retail executives who were queried by email. To nominate a company, please visit www.worldretailcongress.com/home.asp.

About The World Retail Congress

Created in direct response to the demands of retailers, and supported by major international players including Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Carrefour, Ikea, Alshaya, and Best Buy, the World Retail Congress will again bring together the world's retail leaders for high-level debate with international policy makers.

The aim is to drive growth in the global retail economy, promote the benefits of global retail excellence and gain sustainable, competitive edge in domestic and international markets. With thousands of key retail professionals and politicians expected to attend, the focus will be on discussing and influencing the issues for change. Further details are available at www.worldretailcongress.com

About The World Retail Awards

The World Retail Awards forms an integral part of the World Retail Congress and was created to recognize and celebrate the world's best retailers and retail best practices. Entries are invited from retailers of all sectors for a range of categories. Finalists are selected by panels of retail experts which then go forward to the Grand Jury who debate and select winners. The Grand Jury is made of senior retailers and industry figures representing a cross section of sectors and experience.