

PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The University of Edinburgh has been honoured for outstanding achievement in international engagement.

Weeks after securing a place at number 20 on The Times Higher Education – Top 200 Universities in the world, *QS World Rankings 2009*, the University has been honoured with the **SCDI Award for Outstanding International Achievement in Scotland's Universities 2009**.

The SCDI'S International Awards were presented last night (Friday November 6) at a gala dinner in Edinburgh's International Conference Centre which was attended by 600 senior business figures from across Scotland.

The awards which were judged over eight categories, rewarded innovation and strategic vision in international business engagement, as well as recognising excellence and innovation in areas key to Scotland's economic success such as resource efficiency, environment, inclusion and enterprise education.

The University of Edinburgh currently has more than 7000 international students, representing 140 nations. From 2007-2008, tuition fee income from students from outside the EU grew by 16% and now totals £38 million.

In June 2009, the University launched an ambitious Internationalisation Strategy with the overarching priority of further enhancing the University's global presence. The appointment of an International team, led by Professor Hillier, has underlined the University's commitment to implementing this strategy.

The University is also involved in a number of international partnerships. Amongst these are its research links in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine with the University of Peking, the launch of a joint PhD programme with Macquarie University in Australia and plans to launch a jointly-awarded PhD programme with 13 members of the Universitas 21 network.

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University of Edinburgh Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea said:

"The overarching priority is to further enhance our global presence. We are a distinctly Scottish University based in Scotland's capital, but our reach and aspirations are international and it is in that context we must be measured."

Professor Stephen Hillier, Vice Principal International said:

"The University of Edinburgh is a distinctly Scottish university that has always been outward-looking - we attract students and staff from all over the world, and our researchers and scholars make a major contribution to global issues."

We are delighted to be honoured with this award, recognising the launch of our internationalisation strategy this year and reaffirming our world status."

The event's top awards also included **The SCDI President's Award**, which was presented to **BP** in recognition both of the company's centenary year and the fact it is 40 years since BP established a presence in Aberdeen.

Presenting the award to Bernard Looney, Managing Director, BP North Sea, **SCDI Chair Shonaig Macpherson said:**

"SCDI recognises BP's longstanding investment and contribution to Scotland's economy as a producer, investor and responsible employer."

Bernard Looney said:

"BP is delighted to receive the SCDI President's Award for 2009. Our North Sea business has been headquartered in Aberdeen for 40 years and we have actually been investing in Scotland for over 80 years, so this is very much our "home base".

"It is a great honour for BP to be recognised in this way but I would really like to thank all of the individuals, organisations and communities in Scotland whose support has been the real foundation of our success over many years."

In her opening address to guests at SCDI'S International Awards Dinner,

Dr. Lesley Sawers, SCDI's Chief Executive, urged the business community to be braver in its global ambitions.

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Dr Sawers said:

“Never has there been a greater need or opportunity for Scottish businesses to internationalise. We all know the difficult choices and tough operating environment that lies ahead. But now more than ever we need to work in partnership, as “Team Scotland” to support our business base, to capitalise on the international opportunities for our Scottish skills and expertise and to deliver our Global ambitions as a nation.”

List of Award Winners

SCDI President’s Award

Winner: BP, Aberdeen

HSBC Award for Outstanding International Achievement

Winner: Production Services Network Limited, Aberdeen

**Scottish Natural Heritage Award for Outstanding Achievement
in Environmental Sustainability**

Winner: Scotch Whisky Association, Edinburgh

SCDI Global Ambitions Award for Outstanding International Achievement

Winner: SELEX Galileo, Edinburgh

SCDI Award for Outstanding International Achievement in Scotland’s Universities

Winner: University of Edinburgh

SCDI Award for Outstanding International Achievement in Scotland’s Colleges

Winner: Glasgow College of Nautical Studies

**Determined to Succeed Award for
Outstanding Partnership Working with a School**

Winner: Halcrow Group, Glasgow

Envirowise Award for Outstanding Achievement in Resource Efficiency

Winner: FMC Technologies Ltd, Fife

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**Scottish Disability & Business Award presented by Leonard Cheshire Disability in association with Gillespie Macandrew LLP
Winner: Lothian Buses**

**SCDI Young Engineers & Science Club of the Year Award
Winners: Bankhead Academy, Aberdeen**

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