

News release

For immediate release

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World's leading entrepreneurs gather for 15th EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year

- ▶ **EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ to take place between 2-7 June 2015 in Monaco**
- ▶ **65 finalists with combined revenues of approximately US\$38b**
- ▶ **Forum to feature keynote addresses from Howard Schultz, Biz Stone, Muhtar Kent and Sir Martin Sorrell**

LONDON, 26 May 2015. EY will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year next week in Monaco, recognizing the journeys of 65 entrepreneurs from 53 countries. Entrepreneurs, investors, corporations and policymakers will also convene for four days of keynote speeches, panels and networking to discuss the role of entrepreneurs and the impact they have on society and the global economy.

Specific areas of focus this year include a determination to improve opportunities for global youth employment; greater participation of women entrepreneurs in developed and developing markets; and discussion of the issues facing family-owned businesses.

The finalist entrepreneurs will compete for the world title and cement their legacy by entering the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Hall of Fame, joining the 572 previous country finalists since the global event started in 2001. The World Entrepreneur Of The Year winner will be announced at a gala ceremony on the evening of Saturday, 6 June at Salle Des Étoiles.

The ripple effect of World Entrepreneur Of The Year winners

Maria Pinelli, EY's Global Vice Chair of Strategic Growth Markets, says:

“In the 15 years since the global event started it has become increasingly influential as we have welcomed more and more countries into the competition. World Entrepreneur Of The Year winners now occupy a truly global footprint. In its first year, there were 19 finalists representing 63% of global GDP. There have since been a total of 572 finalists across 73 countries, which now represent 90% of global GDP. Notably, almost half of NASDAQ 100 listed companies are run, or were founded by EY Entrepreneur Of The Year winners. It truly is a program with reach and impact. Entrepreneurs are creating a better world and we are honored to play a part in this transformative force.”

This year’s finalists include Lateefa Alwaalan of Yatooq (Saudi Arabia); Ernesto Antolín Arribas of Grupo Antolín (Spain); Dr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India Ltd. (India); Joe Davenport and Owen Kerr of Pepperstone (Australia); Jüri Raidla of Raidla Lejins & Norcous (Estonia); Rosemary Squire of Ambassador Theatre Group (United Kingdom); and David Hung of Medivation (United States). Belarus, Croatia, Peru and Romania will be represented for the first time.

This year’s finalists are some of the most successful entrepreneurs in the world, and together they have:

- ▶ Combined revenues of approximately US\$38b
- ▶ Average revenues of US\$720m
- ▶ Combined revenue growth of 42% in the last three years (2011-14)
- ▶ Average annual revenue growth of 12%
- ▶ 334,000 employees combined – with job growth of 48% in the last three years (2011-14)

A full list of the 65 country winners is available at www.ey.com/weoy.

The overall winner is chosen by an independent judging panel of distinguished former EY Entrepreneur Of The Year winners and other leading entrepreneurs. The award is given on the basis of six criteria, giving all country winners an equal opportunity to compete: entrepreneurial spirit; financial performance; strategic direction; global (or community) impact; innovation; and personal integrity/influence.

The independent judging panel will be chaired by Rebecca MacDonald of Just Energy Group (Canada). Joining her will be:

- ▶ Fadi Ghandour of Aramex and Wamda Capital (UAE)
- ▶ Nobuyuki Idei of Quantum Leaps Corporation (Japan)
- ▶ Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin of EcoWorld Development Group Berhad (Malaysia)
- ▶ Michael Wu of Maxim's Caterers Limited (China)
- ▶ Dr. Ruth Oltjer of Chemi-Pharm AS (Estonia)
- ▶ Ewald Raben of Raben Group (Poland)

Business leaders meet to discuss the global impact of entrepreneurs

As well as the awards, this year's program includes a series of keynote speeches, panel discussions and events of special interest to entrepreneurs and influential business leaders in attendance, including EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year alumni. Under the theme "*How are you reshaping our world?*", the sessions will look at the impact entrepreneurs can make and the legacy they can leave, and in particular the global issue of youth unemployment. The forum provides global business leaders and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to tackle topical issues like business growth; the rising urban middle class; youth employment; IPO and strategic transactions; technology's role in shaping the future; and using digital disruption as a competitive edge.

Keynote addresses will be delivered by speakers including Arif Masood Naqvi, founder and Group Chief Executive of The Abraaj Group; Bill Ford, automotive pioneer and Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Company; Biz Stone, Twitter co-founder and startup luminary; Howard Schultz, Chairman and CEO of Starbucks; Sir Martin Sorrell, Group Chief Executive of WPP; and last year's EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Winner, Uday Kotak, Founder, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited.

The five-day itinerary will also include [Accelerating Entrepreneurs](#), where six high-potential entrepreneurs from across the world will present business plans to a panel of "Growth Coaches" during the event in Monaco.

Over the past 15 years, winners of the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award have included: Hamdi Ulukaya, Founder and CEO of Chobani, Inc. (United States); Dr. James Mwangi, CEO and Managing Director of Equity Bank Limited (Kenya); Olivia Lum, Executive Chairman and Group CEO, Hyflux Limited (Singapore); Cho Tak Wong, Chairman, Fuyao Glass Industry Group (China); Guy Laliberté, Founder and CEO, Cirque du Soleil (Canada); and Narayana Murthy, Founder and Chairman, Infosys Technologies Limited (India).

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Notes to Editors

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Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries. ey.com/weoy