



International Advertising Association  
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## Press Release

# Global Advertising Community and United Nations Partner On Climate Change Initiative

## United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Hosts Agency Leaders International Advertising Association Effort Kicks Off Advertising Week

New York, NY, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008—Today, the International Advertising Association led the first-ever advertising industry meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. This meeting is intended to drive support for a comprehensive UN communications initiative to help combat climate change and was timed with the start of both the 63<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly and the fifth annual Advertising Week, held concurrently in New York City.

Present at the meeting, together with Under-Secretary-General Communications and Public Information Kiyo Akasaka, were well-known figures from the world's largest advertising agencies including: Maurice Lévy, Publicis Groupe; Michael Roth, Interpublic Group; John Wren of Omnicom; Miles Nadal, MDC Partners; Seth Farbman, Ogilvy (representing WPP); David Jones, Euro RSCG Worldwide (representing Havas); Tom Carroll, TBWA Worldwide; Byron Lewis, UniWorld; Linda Sawyer, Deutsch (and Co-Chair of Advertising Week).

The meeting grew out of an idea by the International Advertising Association to build on its social responsibility programs with the UN, a desire by the organizers of Advertising Week to galvanize the forces of the ad community for a common, larger good, and support from the most powerful leaders of the global communications industry to come up with strategic solutions to one of the most important issues facing the planet today.

Michael Lee, Executive Director of the IAA, stated: "We wanted to build on the IAA's history of cooperation with the UN and its official NGO status. It has become increasingly clear that the complexities of climate change issues present a communications challenge with both policy makers and the general public. The ad industry is up to the task of making a significant contribution to help change consumer behaviour, influence public policy and help the UN make



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further progress on this issue. The ultimate selling proposition might just be saving the planet. Nobody, anywhere, can surely defy the gravitational pull of responsibility?"

At the meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon shared his concerns about the speed and extent to which global initiatives to counter the increasing effects of climate change are needed, stating: "We need action on climate change and I applaud the determination of the advertising industry to help. As climate change affects everyone, everywhere, the UN needs partners in the private sector and in civil society to mobilize and spur action. Now is the time for action and we welcome this assistance from the advertising community, which will bolster our present capacities."

Next steps include the formation of the industry's working group (hand-selected by the leaders present at today's meeting) which will develop a set of firm objectives and deliverables. The new initiative, which will be global, will be presented in the margins of the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change Conference in Poznan, held December 1<sup>st</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 2008.

"One of the objectives of Advertising Week, going back to our roots in 2004, was to leverage the platform of The Week to leave permanent footprints in the sand and harness and focus the raw power of our industry. The real promise of Advertising Week is to extend our impact beyond The Week itself. This initiative with our friends at the IAA delivers on that promise," said Matt Scheckner, Executive Director of Advertising Week.

**Notes to editors:**

**International Advertising Association:**

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The International Advertising Association (IAA), headquartered in New York, was founded in 1938 to champion responsible marketing. The IAA, has members in 76 countries and chapters in 56, and is a one-of-a-kind global partnership whose members comprise advertisers, media, advertising and public relations agencies, media companies, and academics. The IAA is a platform for industry issues and is dedicated to protecting and advancing freedom of commercial speech, responsible advertising, consumer choice, and the education of marketing professionals. For more information please visit [www.iaaglobal.org](http://www.iaaglobal.org).

**Advertising Week:**

Since its creation in 2004, Advertising Week has drawn thousands of participants from around the world to New York City for a week long think-tank comprised of over 200 different events, panels and discussions that focus on the power of advertising and its neighbouring industries. Above and



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beyond celebration, the mission of The Week is to inspire young people to join the craft; focus the industry and public at-large on the social impacts of advertising; address the most important issues facing the industry and shine a bright light on the business and economic influence of the advertising, media and marketing industries. For more information please visit [www.advertisingweek.com](http://www.advertisingweek.com).

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