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PRESIDENT OF TOP AMERICAN TRAVEL AGENCY WINS PRESTIGIOUS WTM GLOBAL AWARD - 12/Nov/2007

Sho Dozono, President Azumano Travel in Portland, Oregon has been presented with one of twelve prestigious World Travel Market Global Awards at WTM's VIP Opening & Reception today, Monday 12 November. He received the Award from World Travel Market's Chairman, Fiona Jeffery.

WTM's Global Media Network, comprising key travel industry media around the world, were invited to nominate companies who have made a remarkable contribution to their region's travel and tourism industry.

Nominated by leading American travel trade publication *Travel Weekly US*, Sho Dozono has been at the forefront of the travel industry through his commitment and determination to aid people affected by catastrophic events and in bringing travel agencies to the forefront of responsible tourism.

In the weeks after 9/11, he organised a visit to New York City by 900 Portlanders to march in the October Columbus Day Parade and help fill empty hotel rooms, restaurants and Broadway shows with paying customers, sending an encouraging message to fearful fliers that it was fine to take to the skies again.

After the tsunami, he brought a delegation of business and travel industry leaders to Phuket to assess damage and offer assistance and in the wake of Katrina he organised volunteers to help build stricken areas in New Orleans.

Most recently he has taken a particular interest in responsible tourism, making his twelve agencies carbon neutral by purchasing offsets and he is encouraging his large corporate clients to consider purchasing offsets for their travel. He is also meeting with cruise companies to explore the opportunities to reduce their impact on climate change and has advocated for a more active role for agencies at a meeting of American Express affiliated agencies.

Other Global Award winners were Jasper National Park (Canadian Travel Press), Santa Susanna Tourism Foundation (Editor, Spain); Daniel Winteler, Chairman and CEO Alpitour Group (L'Agenzia di Viaggi, Italy); The Emirates Group (TTN Middle East); Walt Disney World (Rèport Américas, Latin America); Ascent Travel Ltd (Tour Business, Russia); Kingfisher Airlines Ltd (Trav Talk, India); Macau Special Administrative Region (TravelWeekly China); Miguel Ko, President, Asia Pacific, Starwood Asia Pacific Hotels & Resorts (TravelWeekly Asia); Tap Airlines (Publituris, Portugal); Paulo Senise, Executive Director Rio Convention Centre & Visitors Bureau (Mercado & Eventos, Brazil).