PRESS RELEASE

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UN’s Global Goals Inspire the World’s Greenest Hotels for Responsible Business Week.

The 2018 Green Hotelier Awards have named the world’s most eco-friendly and sustainable hotels as part of Responsible Business Week.

The annual Awards by Green Hotelier magazine changed format this year to align with the International Tourism Partnership’s Goals for 2030. ITP’s Goals invite the hotel industry to align their corporate social responsibility efforts with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also called the Global Goals.

Applications were invited from hotels of any size anywhere in the world, and were judged on their initiatives to reduce energy and water consumption, their waste output, their roles as responsible businesses to their employees and in the local community, as well as looking at how they communicate their sustainable and responsible ethos to guests.

The challenge was met by a broad range of properties from all around the world in locations as far flung as Malaysia, Ghana, Poland, Indonesia and New York, USA.

Editor of Green Hotelier and Awards judge Siobhan O’Neill said: “We were delighted to receive applications this year from many hotels and their owners and managers who are thinking hard about how they can contribute to the Global Goals. Reading them all has been wonderful. Every single hotel is deeply committed to doing their bit for people and planet, and many of them go above and beyond to have huge positive impacts for the communities and environments where they’re located.

“Judging has been hard as the standards continue to rise, and there have been long debates between the judges about which hotels to name winner when some were separated by the narrowest of margins. We saw so much innovation, and environmental solutions that both make sense for that hotel’s location, and also help drive the sustainability agenda forwards.”

The Awards suggest that more hotels than ever are measuring their performance on energy, water and waste, and setting themselves new targets each year. Around the world hoteliers are investing in new technology as well as simple solutions to reduce their environmental impact. Meanwhile they’re taking their responsibility as fair employers very seriously, investing in the development of their staff, and raising awareness of human rights issues. They all make valuable contributions to their local communities.

Interestingly hotels are getting braver about communicating their actions more widely to guests and inviting them to be a part of their initiatives. Several hotels are encouraging guests to behave more sustainably during their stay via a range of innovative programmes that focus on learning and having fun.
Awards judge and Programme Manager of the International Tourism Partnership (ITP), Nicolas Perin said, “The hotels we’re announcing today really exemplify best practice in sustainable and responsible business behaviour. ITP’s Goals focus on the four critical issues that will impact hotels’ bottom line, but which they also have the most power to positively influence: carbon, water, youth employment and human rights. It’s been immensely gratifying to see that hotels around the world are recognising their responsibilities and working for greater impacts by innovating for the environment, taking action on such sensitive issues as modern slavery, and creating solid trends on how to provide fair and meaningful employment for their staff. Congratulations to all our applicants for their initiatives and setting the bar on what a sustainable hotel looks like.”

The winners of the 2018 Green Hotelier Awards are:

Carbon:

**Winner: NH Conference Centre Leeuwenhorst.**
This NH Hotels' property in the Netherlands has exceeded its targets over the last year by reducing its energy consumption per occupied room by 15%. As well as ensuring energy isn’t wasted throughout the building, they reduce energy through cogeneration and the use of more natural solutions like using sunlight for lighting and heating. They use centralised systems to control room temperature and monitor energy use throughout the building, but also help their guests reduce their own footprint by offering electric car charging points and bike rentals. Their commitment to reduced carbon footprint has really paid off.

*Highly Commended: Inspira Santa Marta, Lisbon, Portugal*

Water:

**Winner: Mercure Convention Center Ancol Jakarta.**
Based in a city which struggles to supply water to all its inhabitants, the Mercure Convention Centre is actively working with local government to ensure more water of high quality is available locally. They ceased drawing from their well, engaged experts and undertook a comprehensive audit, installing meters across the property, training staff, checking weekly for leaks, adding efficiency measures and re-using greywater. They’ve achieved a water saving of 51% in six years and 10% costs against an increase of 7% on revenue. And they’ve helped over 7,300 people access more and better water. A truly impressive commitment to water stewardship.

*Highly Commended: Hesperia Lanzarote Hotel, Spain.*

Waste:

**Winner: Glenuig Inn, Scotland**
This small inn in a remote corner of Scotland has thought hard about sustainability initiatives that make sense for its location and community. It performed well across the board but set a particularly high bar on waste, reducing waste to landfill by 97.5% in the past ten years. Food waste becomes part of their energy solution, being dried and adding calorific value to their biofuel. The resulting ash is used in the garden. Chefs are skilled in portion control. By getting tough on packaging they’ve reduced their cardboard and plastic waste by 50% and they encourage guests to separate waste in bins for recycling.

Community:

**Winner: Six Senses Laamu, Maldives**
When you’re based in a small island atoll, community is everything, and Six Senses Laamu takes giving back to its neighbours very seriously. It gives 0.5% of total revenues plus guest donations
for sustainable development projects in the community, contributing to roofing for a school, construction materials for a mosque, aggregate for a harbour, lights for an airport, and metal for a waste management centre. It launched “Eku-Eky”, which means “together” in the local language of Dhivehi. The aim is to strengthen relationships with Laamu Atoll communities, work towards sustainable development and achieve long-term conservation strategies. It drives conservation and education in schools. It hosts a quarterly meeting of all local councils and stakeholders to discuss sustainable development and how the resort can assist local communities. It jointly organises an annual turtle festival which last year saw 1000 people commit against poaching. 67% of staff come from the Atoll.

Workplace:

Winner: LUX Grande Gaube, Mauritius
The judges were particularly impressed with this LUX property’s commitment to human rights training for all its staff, which is reported and externally audited. They provide a hotline for staff to the appropriate Mauritian agency for anonymous reporting of any workplace anomaly. Team members are offered a range of regular health checks as well as health insurance and their development is addressed through the in-house LUX Training Academy. They anonymously survey staff to ensure they’re meeting commitments as a responsible employer.

Highly Commended: Sundance Apartments & Suites, Crete, Greece.

Special mentions:

Accra City Hotel, Ghana; Six Senses Zil Pasyon, Seychelles
Although not winning categories, the judges wanted to particularly commend the Accra City Hotel for its strong commitment to ITP’s Goals and clear alignment of its CSR activities with the four critical issues of carbon, water, youth unemployment and human rights. Additionally, Six Senses Zil Pasyon deserves commendation for its communication of sustainability, particularly through a range of fun, engaging and educational weekly events for guests, encouraging them to learn and participate in eco-friendly and sustainable activities, as well as written information for both guests and hosts.

Overall winner:

Mercure Convention Center Ancol Jakarta.
The judges are delighted to announce that the overall winner of the Green Hoteller Awards 2018, with the highest score is the Mercure Convention Center Ancol. Many congratulations for your commitment across all our ITP Goals categories and to responsible business in the hotel industry.

Highly Commended: Six Senses Laamu, Maldives.
A very close runner-up with fantastic commitments and achievements across all categories. Very well done.

Responsible Business Week is an initiative of Business in the Community (BITC) and an opportunity for companies in the UK and around the world to showcase their sustainable and responsible actions, as well as take part in a variety of events which further our understanding of what it means to be a responsible business. Discussions and workshops are taking place for businesses to learn more about the challenges they face as well as the issues which are looming on the horizon. Visit the website to learn more or follow the #RBWeek hashtag on Twitter.

ENDS
Notes for editors

Green Hotelier is the leading international voice on sustainability in the hotel industry and a programme of ITP.

The International Tourism Partnership drives responsible business in the hospitality industry by engaging with the world’s leading hotel companies.

ITP turns responsible ambition and good ideas into positive action. We do this by sharing best practice, offering practical products and programmes and facilitating collaboration in one of the world’s biggest industries.

For our members we provide a non-competitive platform for leaders to share ideas, build relationships and work together on making the industry more responsible. For hoteliers around the world, however big and small, we provide access to valuable information and resources at no cost, allowing them to drive their own responsible business agendas. Most of this information is freely available on www.greenhotelier.org.

ITP is an initiative of Business in the Community.

BITC is the Prince’s Responsible Business Network. Our members work together to tackle a wide range of issues that are essential to building a fairer society and a more sustainable future. We are a business-led, issue focused charity with more than 30 years’ experience of mobilising business. We engage thousands of businesses through our programmes driven by our core membership of over 800 organisations from small enterprises to global corporations.

For more information on ITP and our programmes visit http://tourismpartnership.org/.

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