



First Excellence in Currency Awards presented at 2007 Currency Conference in Bangkok

The first ever Awards for Excellence in Currency were presented on May 8 by the International Association of Currency Affairs (IACA). The event took place at the Currency Conference, which is held every 18 months and this year took place in Bangkok. Awards were made for the best new banknote, coin, currency feature, technology or process, public education campaign and central bank website, as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award.



Bangkok, Thailand - May 10, 2007: The seven individuals and companies honoured with **Awards for Excellence in Currency** were announced on 8 May at the Currency Conference in Bangkok. This was the inaugural event for the awards, which have been introduced to promote and recognize excellence in currency production processing, management and distribution and which are open to any organization or individual products and systems of the currency industry, as well as issuing authorities, commercial banks and enforcement agencies.

The awards were presented by IACA chairman Rick Haycock, who commented on the high calibre of all the entries, and who thanked all those who sent in nominations, to the award sponsors Currency News and the IACA Awards Committee for researching all the entries and shortlisting the finalists (the winners from which were chosen by a vote of the IACA members).

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was won by Thomas (Tom) Ferguson, who recently retired as Director of the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). Tom was responsible for the two BEP printing facilities that produce an average 9 billion banknotes per year and has appeared on numerous broadcasts and in many printed interviews extolling the use of currency and the need for the public to understand the layers of security that protect currency from counterfeiting.



The National Bank of Kazakhstan was the winner of the **Best New Banknote Award** with its complex and highly secure new series of banknotes launched in November 2006, and in particular the high denomination 10,000 Tenge which included the first use of banknote printer De La Rue's new Optiks® security feature.

Runners up in this category were the Central Bank of Sweden, for the new 1,000 Kronor launched in March 2006 that incorporated the new Motion® feature, and the Bank of Mexico, for the new 50 Peso banknote which was issued in November 2006 as a polymer note incorporating the new G-switch™ feature.



The **Best New Coin Award** went to the Royal Canadian Mint for the result of its collaboration with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation resulting in the production of Canadian quarter (25 cents) with the image of a pink ribbon in their centre.

Runners-up in this category were the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, for its lighter and smaller plated steel 10, 20 and 50 cent pieces and the British Royal Mint for the UK Brunel £2 coin.

All three short listed nominations for the hotly-contested **Best New Currency Feature** comprised new anti-counterfeiting technologies. The winner was Motion™ from the banknote printer and papermaker Crane. This optically variable feature incorporating a micro-lens array for security threads first appeared on the Swedish 1,000 Kronor banknote and has recently been chosen as the primary overt feature for the new US\$100 bill. G-switch™ (from Securrency) and Varifeye® (from Louisenthal) were runners up .



KBA GIORI of Switzerland won the **Best New Currency Product, Process or System Award** for ONE™ – a complete suite of products from digital design through to direct intaglio and offset plate making. Runners up were Direct Laser Engraver (DLE) from JURA and OeBS of Austria, and OBIS 3 (Optical Banknote Inspection System) from Giesecke & Devrient of Germany..

The award for **Best Currency Public Education Program** was won by the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing for its 'Color of Money' education program for the new generation of US banknotes, and in particular the new \$10 note that was carried out in 24 different languages.



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The Reserve Bank of New Zealand also received many votes for the public education campaign for its new coins, and that earned the bank a runner up award along with Eureka Metro for the 2nd edition of the World Polymer Notes book.

Finally, the award for the **Best Currency Website** went to the Bank of England for its newlydesigned website (www.bankofengland.co.uk) incorporating what the judges thought were very effective video presentations and virtual tours to illustrate the security features of UK banknotes.

The runners up were the Bank of Russia (www.cbr.ru/eng) for its use of vide clips to clarify the security features of its banknotes, and the BEP's website (www.bep.treas.gov/newmoney) that formed part of its Color for Money campaign and which received over three million hits on the day the new \$10 was launched.

Following the success of the event, IACA is now working on the second award series, nominations for which will commence in May via the IACA website (www.currencyaffairs.org). They will be presented at the next Currency Conference, which that takes place in October 2008 in Prague, Czech Republic.