

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2017 Pan-African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards winners announced

Lagos, Accra, Nairobi, All-Africa, 7 April 2017 – The 2017 Pan-African Reinsurance Journalism Awards winners were announced at a gala dinner in Dakar, Senegal, shining a spotlight on the excellent work of African media in the industry.

In its second year, the Pan-African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards received entries from French and English speaking journalists from 13 countries across Africa.

Mr Gareth Stokes of Commercial Risk Africa (South Africa) was awarded the **Pan-African Reinsurance Journalist of the Year Award** for his article *“Botswana in search of growth”*. In his article, he addressed the numerous challenges insurers and insurance brokers face in Botswana; not least of which the impact of the low commodity cycle and cyber-crime.

Ms Josiane Kouagheu of Agripreneur d’Afrique (Cameroon) was awarded **Best Re/Insurance Industry Feature Article** for her story *“In Cameroon, agriculture does not attract insurers”*. In her article, Josiane Kouagheu investigates why Cameroon, a country where more than 50% of its population works as farmers, does not offer agricultural insurance. It also explores a possible solution – the development of Index Insurance.

Mr Isaac Khisa of Independent Publications in Uganda was awarded **Best Re/Insurance Industry Analysis and Commentary** for his article *“Insurance industry tops Shs 700bn”*. In his article, Isaac Khisa highlighted that the insurance industry in Uganda is slowly growing as premiums continue to surge. To deepen insurance penetration, companies are identifying new opportunities, particularly in the area of micro-insurance, according to the journalist.

Continental Reinsurance initiated the awards in 2015 to recognise and acknowledge the good work of media on the continent. Journalists were required to demonstrate how their articles raised awareness and understanding of the re/insurance sector in Africa.

Dr Femi Oyetunji, Group MD / CEO of Continental Reinsurance Plc said: “At Continental Reinsurance, we strongly believe that these awards inspire media to cover issues related to re/insurance and improve the overall quality of the reporting. After another successful edition, we have no doubt the Pan-African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards will continue to live up to its mission.”

Chair of the international judging panel Mr Afif Ben Yedder said: “This year, we were pleased to notice a remarkable improvement in the number and quality of contributions from francophone Africa. As a result the jury selected francophone finalists for the first time.”

The independent, international judging panel consisted of Mr Afif Ben Yedder, Ms Nadia Mensah-Acogny, Mr Michael Wilson, Mr William Wallis, Ms Julia Graham, and Ms Inga Thordar.

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About the judges

Mr Afif Ben Yedder, Founder of IC Publications Group – IC Publication is one of the world's leading sources of analysis and debate on African political and economic issues, reaching over 2.6 million loyal readers in more than 100 countries. The Group has headquarters in London and Paris and affiliate offices in major cities in Africa.

Ms Nadia Mensah-Acogny, Journalist, Forbes Afrique – Ms Mensah-Acogny is a journalist and columnist at Forbes Afrique, where she is the author of the annual “100 Most Influential Women in Africa” report. She has over 30 years of experience as a communications expert and is the co-founder of Acosphere, a business consultancy.

Mr William Wallis, African Affairs specialist at the Financial Times – Mr Wallis has travelled and worked in more than 40 countries in Africa and the Middle East in a career as a journalist spanning 23 years. Mr Wallis joined the FT in 1998 as West African correspondent based in Lagos, Nigeria, and went on to become the FT's Central and East Africa correspondent in Nairobi, acting subsequently as the newspaper's Middle East correspondent in Cairo and then for 7 years as Africa editor. Before joining the newspaper he worked for BBC and Reuters.

Mr Michael Wilson, Business and Economics Editor – Mr Wilson's media career stretches over thirty years. He joined Sky Television at its inception in 1989 and anchored nearly all of Sky's coverage of major business events. He also wrote for national and international publications and his TV reports have been watched worldwide. Since leaving Sky in 2009, Michael has broadcast for the BBC, ITV, Fox News, Al-Jazeera and LBC, and more recently he was Director of Business and Economics Editor of Arise Networks, a global television service aimed at Africa.

Ms Inga Thordar, Editor & Programming Director, CNN - Based at CNN International's Europe/Africa and Middle East hub in London, Ms Thordar oversees CNN's digital news output. She manages the content flow of digital units, including CNN International's mobile app. Prior to joining CNN, she spent 15 years at the BBC.

Ms Julia Graham, Technical Director of AIRMIC - Ms Graham is the former AIRMIC chair and President of the Federation of European Risk Management Associations (FERMA). She was also the Director of Risk Management and Insurance at DLA Piper for many years.

About Continental Reinsurance

Continental Reinsurance is a composite reinsurer, writing business in more than 50 countries across the African continent.

Established in 1985, and listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in 2007, Continental Reinsurance provides support to over 200 insurance companies in Africa with its main offices in Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Botswana. It also has a specialist subsidiary – Continental Property and Engineering Risk Services (CPERS) – registered in South Africa.



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