IDF ELIE METCHNIKOFF PRIZE 2007: RECORD PARTICIPATION TO CELEBRATE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

Brussels, 12 February 2006 - IDF Elie Metchnikoff Prize 2007 received an outstanding participation of 31 entries from 17 countries. The winners will be announced at a special award session in the afternoon following the first IDF Regional Conference on Fermented Milks - Technology and Nutrition in Moscow/Russia on 17 May 2007.

Applicants applied for the IDF Elie Metchnikoff Prize 2007 in three categories: microbiology, biotechnology, nutrition and health in the field of fermented milks, a very dynamic and rapidly expanding branch of the dairy industry for improving nutrition and health worldwide.

"I was extremely pleased to see the excellent response for the first initiative of this kind. The quality of submissions is very high. Nominations include very senior reputable scientists from industry and academia as well as young scientists and postgraduate students having completed important research projects in the field," said Christian Robert, IDF Director General. He also added "IDF is most grateful for the sponsorship support provided by the dairy industry and associated organizations that was essential for the establishment of the Prize."

All submissions will be evaluated by an Award Expert Panel comprised of five independent experts. Each of them will recommend a shortlist of three nominees per category taking into account various criteria relevant to each category. The Award Committee will take its decisions on the winning entry in each category in March 2007.

Full details on the IDF Elie Metchnikoff Prize are available from http://EMetchnikoff.fil-idf-pr.com/

Note to editors:

- By launching this initiative, IDF and its partners Institut Pasteur Paris and the International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics (ISAPP) pay tribute to Nobel prize winner Prof. Elie Metchnikoff and his founding contribution to a very dynamic and rapidly expanding branch of the dairy industry, namely fermented milks and probiotics for improving nutrition and health worldwide. The year 2007 will mark the 100th anniversary of his famous publication "The Prolongation of Life" in which he explained for the very first time in history the concept of longevity and positive health effects through ingestion of fermented milk products.

- The IDF Elie Metchnikoff Prize 2007 is sponsored by the following partners from the industry and other organizations: Yakult, Nestlé, Danone Research, All-Russia Dairy Research Institute, Russian Dairy Union, CHR Hansen, Danisco, YLFA International, Valio, DSM Food Specialties, California Dairy Research Foundation, Dairy Management Inc.

- The International Dairy Federation is the most comprehensive and authoritative source of science-based knowledge and information in support of the nutritional benefits of milk and dairy products. Founded in 1903, IDF is the representative organization for the dairy sector worldwide and is both a forum for discussion and exchange and a dairy information centre.

To find out more please visit http://www.fil-idf.org

- The first IDF Regional Conference on Fermented Milks - Technology and Nutrition in Moscow on 17 May 2007

This conference aims to provide a platform for presentation and exchange of most recent knowledge focusing on industrial application of innovative technologies for the production of fermented milk products as well as highlighting the unique nutritional benefits of fermented milks for human health. The programme will meet the needs and expectations of the regional audience of Russia and its neighbouring countries of Eastern Europe and Northern Asia.

More information on http://www.lactose.ru/