

Bergamo, 9 June 2008

Italcementi sdReport 2006 awarded at GRI conference

“As sustainability issues increasingly move towards the forefront of people’s minds, sustainability reporting becomes a key form of communication”

Mervyn King – Chairman, GRI Board of Directors

Dear all,
during the Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency that took place in Amsterdam in May, **GRI** announced the winners of the first **GRI Readers’ Choice Awards** for sustainability reporting. **Italcementi Group sdReport 2006** won second prize.

The **GRI Readers’ Choice Award 2008**, along with a readers survey, was designed to highlight the reports that were most appreciated by the readers with the aim to improve the value of reporting initiatives. Almost 800 reports, covering 2006 sustainability performance, entered in the competition with 1,725 people from 70 countries casting 5,650 scores for these reports. Among the selected readers were journalists, investors or analysts, employees of the companies (included the subsidiaries), members of the board or senior management team, representatives of civil society organisations and a category comprised of citizens, students, and consumers. Scorers were scattered worldwide, with a high percentage from Europe (41%), Asia/Pacific area (29%) and South America (22%).

After four months of scoring, only 45 reports were declared eligible to receive awards in the following eight categories:

Readership Group Awards:

- *All Stakeholder Groups*
- *Media*
- *Investors / Financial Markets*
- *Civil Society*
- *Employees*

Special Award Categories:

- *Non – Business Organisation*
- *Not – So – Big – Business*
- *Non – OECD Company*

As the only Italian company included among finalists, **Italcementi Group** was awarded the second prize in the *Media category*, where international journalists and other media professionals evaluated organisations’ reports. The Group was also recognized in the *Honourable Mentions* category by country and sector.

The efforts and results of the many participants, along with the large number of responses received from emerging markets, demonstrate how reporting initiatives on sustainability have become a truly global concern.

At the heart of this successful event are the findings of the first **Readers' Choice survey of sustainability** report that, besides making available a great deal of information to a variety of users, was aimed at assessing who reports' readers really are and, more importantly, what they do with such documents. Findings and analyses are gathered in the '*Count me in. The readers' take on sustainability reporting*' report. The Readers' Choice survey, conducted from October 2007 through the end of January 2008, looked for the first time at the readers, their preferences and behaviours. Nearly 2,300 readers from around the world answered the questionnaire, with a significant majority of respondents representing business, consultancy and civil society. The survey was completed by a good percentage of people from investment and rating agencies.

Authors of the reports will benefit from the findings of this survey to improve the quality of the information provided to their stakeholders, while readers will fulfil their needs of consistent, clear and transparent information on environmental issues.



Italcementi Group is the fifth largest cement producer in the world. The Group companies combine the expertise, know how and cultures of 22 countries in 4 Continents, boasting an industrial network of 62 cement plants, 15 grinding centres, 5 terminals, 139 aggregates quarries and 610 concrete batching units. In 2006 Italcementi Group had sales amounting to over 5.8 billion Euro while sales volumes and internal transfers by business were: cement and clinker 64.0 Mt, aggregates 59.3 Mt and ready-mixed concrete 21.6 Mm³.
