

## **Media release**

Thursday 20 January 2011

### **IRM Announces 2011 Forum Speakers**

The Institute of Risk Management (IRM) has announced a varied and multi-national line up of expert speakers for its annual Global Risk Management Professional Development Forum which is taking place in Liverpool from 21-23 March 2011. Delegates will be able to expand their understanding of risk management by exploring topics as diverse as human behaviour, space exploration, cyber crime and animal survival tactics.

Opening speaker is Dr Jeevan Perera, Risk Manager at NASA's Johnson Space Centre. Dr Perera will explain how NASA completely rebuilt its risk management culture and processes following the 2003 Colombia Space Shuttle disaster, establishing firm foundations for the new Orion space programme that will eventually return astronauts to the moon and mount human expeditions to Mars.

Gert Cruywagen from Tsogo Sun Group, South African Risk Manager of the Year, wildlife enthusiast and TV personality, will be speaking on 'Jungle Risk Management': how animals in the African bush manage their risks (or not) to avoid becoming prey and then relating these risk strategies to modern day organisations. Gert's planned appearance at the IRM's 2010 Forum was frustrated by volcanic ash travel difficulties so IRM is pleased to have arranged a second opportunity for delegates to hear him speak.

Information security risk expert Paul Dwyer, Security GRC Principal at leading Irish telecoms company eircom, will explain the complex and extensive underground business of cyber crime and explore the motivations and rewards of the participants in this virtual economy. He will delve into the link between cyber crime, cyber terrorism and warfare and will also outline the threats posed to business, critical national infrastructure and the economy from this activity.

To close the conference, IRM is delighted to be bringing to the UK one of the world's leading academics in the field of risk psychology, heuristics and decision making. Professor Gerd Gigerenzer, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Human

Development in Berlin, will be speaking on the topic of risk literacy. He will explain why many people, laymen and experts alike, are functionally illiterate when it comes to understanding statistical evidence and hence draw wrong conclusions and make poor decisions. With particular reference to medical and financial risks, Professor Gigerenzer will emphasise the importance of risk literacy in society and explore what can be done to improve it.

The Forum will also feature a comprehensive range of specialist workshops from risk practitioners and academics on hot topics in practical risk management, ranging from risk appetite to cloud computing.

Steve Fowler, Chief Executive of IRM, said “Our Forums continue to go from strength to strength, reinforcing IRM’s position as the leading provider of professional development for enterprise risk professionals at all stages in their careers. We offer an opportunity to hear from the best in the risk business, in a relaxed educational environment.”

The Forum takes place on 21-23 March 2011 at the BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK. Online booking is now open via the Forum website at <http://www.irmforum.org>

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### **Note to Editors**

Photographs of the keynote speakers are available on request.

The Institute of Risk Management (IRM) is the world’s leading enterprise-wide risk education Institute. We are independent, well-respected advocates of the risk profession, owned by practising risk professionals. IRM passionately believes in the importance of risk management and that investment in education and continuing professional development leads to more effective risk management. We provide qualifications, short courses and events at a range of levels from introductory to expert. IRM supports risk professionals by providing the skills and tools needed to put theory into practice in order to deal with the demands of a constantly changing, sophisticated and challenging business environment. We operate internationally with

members and students in over 50 countries, drawn from a variety of risk-related disciplines and a wide range of industries.

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