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**Public-Private Alliance Foundation launches
with “Partners Against Poverty” event at the United Nations**

“Partners Against Poverty” was the theme that launched the Public-Private Alliance Foundation on May 18 at the United Nations in New York. Over 120 people, including Ambassadors, UN officials, people from the business sector, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, business associations including Hispanic Chambers of Commerce from the U.S. and Canada, media and others attended the event.

“PPAF is committed to assist in the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals through this partnership initiative,” said Daniel Mejia, who chairs the project finance and development company Sunland Group Corp and also chairs the Board of PPAF. Mejia announced a \$100,000 donation to the Foundation. Others attending the event also announced donations, partnerships and business opportunities.

The mission of PPAF is to encourage governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, businesses, academic institutions and others to collaborate and provide funding to help poor people in developing countries become self-reliant. According to PPAF Executive Director David Stillman, formerly a UN staff member, “Business is the engine for sustainable economic development, and must be involved in work toward meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals.”

PPAF has its roots in the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, which is an initiative of the UN Economic and Social Council. The Dominican Republic and Madagascar are pilot countries for this effort. PPAF is establishing a Board of UN Ambassadors and plans to expand its work to other countries.

Featured speakers included UN Economic and Social Council Vice President Ambassador Leo Merores of Haiti; Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy of Madagascar; Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Dominican Republic; Georg Kell, Executive Head of the UN Global Compact; and Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Stillman served as emcee for the event.

Representatives of Intel; the European Bank; Pure-Tek, Inc., Toronto, Canada; the University of South Florida Patel Center; the University of Oklahoma InfoPoverty Center; the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Public Administration Division; and others spoke about their organizations' interest in partnerships and focused on collaboration with PPAF.



Ralph Corey, of Intel, donated a Classmate PC to the Foundation as a step towards joint efforts in the Dominican Republic and several other countries. Greg Bowman of Pure-Tek, Inc., Toronto, Canada, spoke of solar panels already provided out of the company's corporate social responsibility commitment and announced plans to work with PPAF to supply affordable and reliable electricity generation through solar technology in several communities. Dr. John Steffens of the University of Oklahoma InfoPoverty Institute pledged \$1,000 worth of fish fingerlings, for a fish farming project in the Dominican Republic. Motoo Kusakabe of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development spoke of the Development Gateway and the Open Cities Portal and urged participation by developing countries and interested cities.

Carmen Moreno, the head of the Institute for Training and Research on Women (UN INSTRAW), based in Santo Domingo, described current work on remittances, entrepreneurship and related subjects and encouraged collaborative projects. Omar Diaz of TransSeed Corporation provided a summary business proposal for investment in a multimillion-dollar sugar cane ethanol distillery in the Dominican Republic. Terri Hasdorff of USAID spoke of the importance of faith and community-based initiatives in overcoming poverty. Alain Lemieux, President of the World Sports Alliance, reported on work in developing sports and education after-school programs in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere. Betty Castor, Executive Director of the University of South Florida Patel Center for Global Solutions, offered the applied research capacity of university faculty to improve access to safe drinking water in the Caribbean and Central America Region.

Stillman announced that several organizations had provided generous financial support to PPAF for this event and other start-up costs, including Sun Land Group Corp., World Sports Alliance, World Shipping America, Prudential Financial, and the New York State Coalition of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.

Welcoming the participation of all in this event, Stillman said, "Intellectual resources, business opportunities, corporate social responsibility and partnerships are the spirit of the Public-Private Alliance Foundation and its work to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals through a business approach to development. This is what partnership against poverty is all about."

Information about the Public-Private Alliance Foundation is available at:
www.ppafoundation.org.