



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Press Statement

January, 2012

IHP Recognise BGMA as Trusted Partner

The British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA) has been given an award by the charity International Health Partners (IHP) to recognise the contribution of its members to supplying medicines to areas of the world most in need.

IHP brings together European pharmaceutical companies and health providers with international aid agencies and governments to facilitate the safe donation of medicines and medical skills to those who need them most. This can be areas impacted by war, famine or natural disasters.

International Health Partners started in December 2004, sending its first shipment to Afghanistan. Since then, it has developed programmes of activity, supporting more than 500 medical projects in 86 countries with donated medicines, vaccines and medical supplies. In its seven years of operations, IHP has sent more than 15 million treatments with a value of £100m.

The work of the charity was recently recognised through the 2011 Queen's Award for Enterprise which was presented in the House of Lords by the Vice Lord Lieutenant for London on behalf of HM the Queen. As part of the event, which included an address from Secretary of State for Health Rt. Hon Andrew Lansley, partner awards were given by IHP to companies and organisations which have donated services or supplies.

The BGMA was one of the recipients and Director General Warwick Smith, who received the award on behalf of the association and its members said: "We are delighted to have been given a partner award by IHP and wholeheartedly congratulate them on the Queen's Award in recognition of the vitally important work they carry out all over the globe.

"The model they have created is a fantastic example of how representatives from the private, public and voluntary sectors can effectively collaborate for the common good."

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Notes for Editors:

The British Generic Manufacturers Association represents the interests of UK-based manufacturers and suppliers of generic medicines and promotes the development and understanding of the generic medicines industry in the United Kingdom.

Generic medicines contain the same active ingredient and are as effective as the equivalent brand and cost much less, making the NHS drugs bill affordable. More than two thirds (67.4%) of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 29.6% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of around £9.5bn in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be approximately twice its current level.

Our 21 members account for around 85% of the UK generics market by volume. Their work keeps medicines affordable for the Department of Health which allows further investment in other healthcare priorities, and promotes innovation in the development of new medicines.

We represent the views and interests of our members and industry to the UK government, the devolved administrations, regulators, other relevant third parties, including where appropriate the Institutions of the European Union.