

News Release

Re:locate Awards 2014/15 reward outstanding HR performance

Friday 15 May 2015 – The winners of this year's *Re:locate* Awards, which celebrate the contribution of companies and individuals across the relocation sector, were announced and presented with their trophies at a champagne reception and gala dinner held yesterday at London's prestigious Institute of Directors. Among the awards presented were **Inspirational HR Team of the Year, Best Managing or Growing Talent Initiative, and Best HR & Supplier Strategy or Team.**

The *Re:locate* Awards are regarded as the ultimate recognition of excellence in all aspects of relocation, both in the UK and internationally. More than 200 guests from across the relocation spectrum – including HR professionals and suppliers – networked the night away as they awaited the announcement of the winners. They were entertained and informed by this year's speaker, Laughology's Stephanie Davies, whose refreshingly interactive keynote was warmly received. Master of ceremonies Dave Keeling, also of Laughology, ensured that the presentation of the trophies went with a swing.

Speaking at the gala dinner, Fiona Murchie, managing editor of *Re:locate*, the leading source of information, support and events for the fast-growing global mobility community, said, "HR professionals and global mobility specialists face tough challenges as their organisations enter new markets around the world. It is fitting that they are recognised for the great work they do in the complex environment of expatriate management and business travel. Everyday they are dealing with issues ranging from tax, immigration and compliance to talent management and employee support."

The winners

Between them, this year's 12 *Re:locate* Awards recognised individuals, teams, policy and innovation, with a choice of categories for HR and service providers. Entries were subjected to rigorous scrutiny by a team of independent judges.

The winners, which included companies and individuals from the UK and overseas, reflected the many different types of organisation involved in relocation, all of which contribute a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Familiar names like InterContinental Hotels Group, PwC and Crown World Mobility were side by side with previously less-familiar ones.

The **Inspirational HR Team of the Year** award celebrates a team that can demonstrate outstanding leadership and excellence in relocation, and that inspires others. Joint winners were Ezeibe Agomo and his Global People Movement team at marketing and consulting company Sapient Corporation and the Global Talent Mobility team at Qatar-based telecommunications group Ooredoo.

Sapient's team was praised by the judges for working across the business with colleagues in tax, HR and new business to pioneer new management and communication systems to ensure that compliance was maintained in a streamlined and consistent way. Electronic systems capture and monitor business travel information to address the very real challenges of a diverse, globally mobile workforce of 5,000.

Ezeibe Agomo, Sapient Corporation said, "We are very honoured. This Award belongs to all the team at Sapient who work together to make our mobility team a success.

"The entire team is delighted by the win. It feels great to receive this external recognition for the steps which Sapient has taken so far to transform our

mobility function into one which can grow with our business and provide it with the sort of commercially-minded, compliant and agile support that it needs in order to remain competitive on a global scale.”

Speaking about the *Re:locate* awards, Mr Agomo said, “It’s great to take some time out to celebrate good work and to recognise outstanding players in the relocation field. These awards provide great publicity for the nominees and eventual winners, and motivate all concerned to reach for higher heights in terms of service delivery, innovation and all round excellence.”

Ooredoo’s fascinating case study, the judges said, showed “considerable effort” by the team to develop and deliver a mobility function to address mobility across a range of countries, and to ensure successful return on investment from expatriation.

Commending the team for its engagement with relocatees and the contribution it had made to ROI, the judges added, “A number of challenges had to be addressed, but the team showed that they were willing to reflect on issues and take their learning on board to develop their programmes of support. The outcomes were successful, and the team demonstrated the importance of listening actively to employees.”

Now in its second year, the **Best Managing or Growing Talent Initiative** category seeks to foster a true strategic partnership between talent and mobility by recognising the vital contribution that mobility – domestic and international – can make to developing talent and maximising ROI.

This year’s winner, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), took the award for its China-Ready initiative, described by the judges as “a genuinely impressive programme which is having a positive effect on IHG’s business and on individual assignees”.

The project develops staff from China hotels via international assignments to other group hotels outside China. This, according to the judges, is an important initiative for IHG and meets a real business need in terms of supporting the future of Chinese travel, which will increasingly impact the leisure market.

Calling China-Ready “an interesting example of how talent development can be carried out in new domains,” the judges said that the challenges of assigning staff to a new market area were explained through a clear, well-argued entry statement and supporting evidence that provided examples of assignee experiences, feedback and lessons for the future, with talent development outcomes highlighted.

Wendy Maynard, of IHG said, “Entering an award can be quite daunting and it is very easy to be too busy. However I found it an excellent way to reflect and take time to acknowledge the great team work of my colleagues. It gets even better when the outside world also agrees with you.”

Russian destination services provider Intermark Relocation was highly commended in the same category for its initiative to improve the professionalism of its staff via an internship programme, thus improving the experience of international assignees relocating to Russia.

Irina Yakimenko, of Intermark Relocation said, “We are all very happy! It was our team who wanted to enter. They said we had grown so much, and achieved so much, that it was time for people to know.

"This is the first time we have entered the awards. We entered four categories, were shortlisted in three, won one, and were highly commended in another. We'll be back next year!"

The **Best HR & Supplier Strategy or Team** award honours great partnerships between HR teams working with a supplier to deliver a relocation

strategy that enhances business objectives and the quality of the relocation support provided to individual employees.

Winner Pro-Link GLOBAL provides corporate visa and immigration services to multinational clients. Commending Pro-Link's entry as "exceptionally well-produced", the judges said that it had demonstrated impressive service, with excellent outcomes for clients and employees on the move, using a case study about the challenges faced by a client which plays an important part in delivering clean water to Africa as it sought to establish a new entity in Kenya and post to Kenya a Dutch national born in Rwanda.

Andrew Elliot of Pro-Link GLOBAL said, "This *Re:locate* Award is a vindication of our team's passion, joy and commitment to creating a seamless experience for our clients through what can be, as our case studies show, challenging and difficult circumstances."

Jason Rogers, Attorney at Pro-Link GLOBAL said, "We are thrilled. *Re:locate* Awards are the gold standard within the relocation industry and this shows that we at Pro-Link GLOBAL have reached the gold standard for excellence in immigration."

For a comprehensive list of winners, [click here](#).

The Summer 2015 issue of *Re:locate* magazine, to be published in June, will feature full details of all the winners, with case studies.

The *Re:locate* Awards 2014/15 were sponsored by BridgeStreet Global Hospitality, Cheval Residences, Graebel Relocation, Skyline Worldwide and Smith Stone Walters. The Association of Relocation Professionals (ARP), the European Relocation Association (EuRA), FOCUS, and the Relocation Users Group (RUG) provided professional endorsements.

- ENDS -

Notes for Editors

About the Re:locate Awards

Introduced in 2007 to reward good practice and celebrate the contribution of relocation to business success, the *Re:locate* Awards recognise teams and individuals, as well as organisations. They attract global attention and entries from the UK and overseas. Previous winners range from blue-chip companies to start-ups.

For further information, visit relocatemagazine.com/about-the-awards

About Re:locate Global

Re:locate Global recently celebrated ten years as the leading source of information, support and events for the global mobility sector. Its website, relocateglobal.com, is the gateway to a range of influential multichannel, multimedia products and services. Updated daily and reaching 145 countries, the website includes regional and subject-specific digital magazines. It is the online home of a fast-growing community of HR, global managers, relocation professionals and experts dedicated to global mobility.

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