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Journalists Tour to Germany Focusing on Green Buildings and Architecture

March 1, 2009 (Washington, D.C.) –The German Government, in collaboration with the U.S. Green Building Council is offering the opportunity for U.S. and Canadian journalists and opinion leaders to become acquainted with the German approach to building efficiency and green architecture during a visit to Germany April 11-17, 2010.

The program will include visits to Berlin, Frankfurt and Darmstadt. It will focus on the regulatory framework for the construction and retrofitting of buildings (energy efficiency standards, etc.), the policy pursued by the government to promote energy-efficient and ecologically sustainable buildings, the advancement of architects and engineers, the LEED green building program, and practical examples of energy-efficient and ecologically sustainable private, commercial, and public buildings, such as the German Parliament building. During their stay, participants will also visit the international fair “Light+Building 2010” in Frankfurt, which will feature more than 2,000 international exhibitors.

Participants will be able to discuss these issues with officials of the German Ministry of Transport, Building, and Urban Development, the Foreign Office, and the cities of Berlin and Frankfurt; representatives of Deutsche Bank, the German Manufacturers Association, the Technical University of Darmstadt (two-time winner of the Solar Decathlon); German journalists covering green buildings and related issues; and representatives of an enterprise that provides tools for creating energy transparency.

The fellowship will cover the costs of transportation to, within, and from Germany as well as accommodation and meals. To ensure that the views presented do not exclusively reflect official opinion, the tour will be organized by a private not-for-profit think tank for applied environmental research, policy analysis and consultancy, the Ecologic Institute. Special arrangements can also be made to have your media outlet assume a portion or all of the costs of the tour.

The tour is intended for journalists who work for publications covering green buildings and architecture and related issues and will be conducted in English.

Journalists wishing to be considered for the tour should send the following information by e-mail no later than March 10, 2010 :

- information about the media outlet for which you write (if freelance, please indicate),
- a professional CV or resume,
- three writing samples from the last three months, and
- a statement of the reasons why you would like to participate.

Please send all documents by e-mail or direct any questions to: Enrico Brandt, German Embassy, enrico.brandt@diplo.de (202 298 4246)

Please feel free to forward this information to any journalist who may also be interested in the tour.

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U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 17,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 131,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO₂ emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.