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NEWS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE

2008 TEMPLETON PRIZE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH

The winner of the 2008 Templeton Prize will be announced at a news conference on Wednesday, March 12th at 11:00 AM at the Church Center for the United Nations, 44th Street and First Avenue in New York City. The Templeton Prize is a cornerstone of the John Templeton Foundation's international efforts to serve as a philanthropic catalyst for discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions, which it describes as ranging from explorations into the laws of nature and the universe to questions on the nature of love, gratitude, forgiveness, and creativity.

The 2008 Prize Laureate will attend the news conference and be available for questions. Questions may also be asked via a live webcast of the news conference with advance registration at www.templetonprize.org.

The Foundation noted that next month's Templeton Prize announcement will launch a new online exchange at www.templeton.org on a question that illuminates its philanthropic mission.

The Prize, officially known as the Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries About Spiritual Realities, is the world's largest annual monetary award given to an individual. Created by global investor and philanthropist Sir John Templeton and first awarded in 1973, the monetary value of the Prize – 820,000 pounds sterling, more than \$1.6 million – is set always to exceed the Nobel Prizes to underscore Templeton's belief that benefits from advances in spiritual discoveries can be quantifiably more vast than those from other worthy human endeavors.

“Our vision is derived from my father’s commitment to progress through rigorous scientific research and related scholarship,” says John M. Templeton, Jr., M.D., the Foundation’s Chairman and President and Sir John’s son. “The Foundation’s motto ‘How little we know, how eager to learn’ exemplifies our support for open-minded inquiry and our hope for advancing human progress through breakthrough discoveries. By honoring those whose research and discoveries have opened new perspectives and insights into such spiritual realities as purpose, love, and thanksgiving, the Prize fosters an environment that encourages others to help us more fully understand ourselves and our universe.”

The Duke of Edinburgh will present the Prize at a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, May 7th.

Although the Templeton Prize Laureate may or may not be associated with a particular religion, the international, interfaith panel of nine judges that awards the Prize does so without regard to religious affiliation.

The 2008 Templeton Prize Laureate will join a distinguished list of 37 former recipients. Last year’s award went to Charles Taylor, professor emeritus in the Department of Philosophy at McGill University in Montréal, who for nearly half a century has argued that problems such as violence and bigotry can only be solved by considering both their secular and spiritual dimensions. The 2006 Laureate was John D. Barrow, Professor of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Cambridge, a cosmologist whose extensive writings about the relationship between life and the universe, and the nature of human understanding, have created new perspectives on questions of ultimate concern.

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Editors Please Note: Information on the 2008 Templeton Prize Laureate can be provided in advance under strict embargo. Contact Donald Lehr at (212) 967-8200 / dlehr@templetonprize.org.