



PRESS RELEASE
Oct. 23, 2007

**GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN AND
TIFFANY FOUNDATION PROVIDE
KEY STARTUP GRANTS**

The Board of Directors of the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) is very pleased to announce two important grants that will enable the organization to grow and to expand its work in support of artisanal diamond producers in developing countries.

A two-year grant from the **Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs**, announced Oct. 9, will contribute to elements required to lay the foundations for DDI's sustainability as an organization. The two-year grant, totaling €307,000 (US\$436,000) will also provide DDI with funding for projects in support of artisanal diamond producers.

A two-year US\$325,000 grant to the DDI from **The Tiffany & Co. Foundation** was announced on Oct. 16. This grant will also significantly contribute to the development of a sustainable foundation for the DDI by providing core operating support for its work. The grant will also provide funds for a standards and guidelines project on artisanal diamond mining.

"The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is proud to support the Diamond Development Initiative in its efforts to build the organization and to strengthen its program work to make diamonds a source of economic development and to improve the lives of Africa's artisanal mining communities," said Fernanda Kellogg, President of the Foundation.

More than a million African artisanal diamond diggers and their families live and work in absolute poverty, outside the formal economy, in countries struggling to recover from the ravages of war. The Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) is a unique effort to address their problems, bringing NGOs, governments and business together in a common effort that aims to convert diamonds from a fuel for war into an engine for development.

"These two grants are extremely important to the DDI," said Board Chair Ian Smillie. The Government of Sweden and The Tiffany & Co. Foundation have demonstrated understanding and great confidence in providing the core support that is essential to any new initiative, and their additional support for project work in Africa will allow us to build on some of the exciting work we have already started."

DDI International, a charitable organization registered in the United States, was inaugurated in 2005. Its international Board of Directors and its Advisory Group include individuals from more than a dozen countries. It is currently working on start-up projects in that aim to improve the lives of Africa's one million-plus artisanal diamond diggers.

For more information on DDI, see
<http://www.pacweb.org/e/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=81&Itemid=99>

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For more information on The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, see www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org

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