



-- PRESS RELEASE --

Federation Welcomes Japanese Circus & Entertainment Association Five Circus Friends Organisations Also Join

For Immediate Release

Monte-Carlo, Monaco (12 December 2011) The Japanese Circus & Entertainment Association has joined the Fédération Mondiale du Cirque, becoming the Federation's first member in Asia. The Association brings together traditional Japanese companies including Kinoshita Circus, Pop Circus and Dream Circus as well as foreign shows touring in Japan and others in the Japanese entertainment sector. Its aim is to improve and promote innovation in circus and other performance activities and to provide a venue to resolve mutual challenges through cooperation. The Association was established in 1950. Today it has 41 members and 85 supporting members under the presidency of Mr. Tadashi Kinoshita, also president of Kinoshita Circus.

According to Federation Board Member John Le Mare, "The membership of the Japanese Circus & Entertainment Association in the Federation is an important first step to ensuring inclusion of circus arts from the Asian region, which consistently produce highly specialized and sophisticated acts, often involving large troupes of artists, with an Eastern flair that has come to be recognized around the world."

In addition, the Federation welcomes today five new Friends of the Federation. The new Friends are four European and one American organizations of circus supporters, friends, fans, hobbyists, and enthusiasts who have committed to supporting the Federation through the donations of circus artifacts for the annual Silent Auction in Monaco, assistance in Federation calendar sales and/or planning annual World Circus Day events.

The Club van Circusvrienden Nederland (Dutch Circus Friends), and the Club du Cirque Français (French Circus Club) were established in 1949 to help support the renewal of Circus arts and culture in the aftermath of the Second World War. The Gesellschaft der Circusfreunde e.V. (German Circus Friends Organisation) and the Club Amici del Circo (Italian Circus Friends Club) were founded in 1955 and 1969 respectively with similar goals of supporting and sustaining Circus. Each organisation produces high quality publications featuring news about the latest developments in Circus arts and information about its history and cultural importance. The publications are traded under the names of "De Piste," "Le Cirque dans l'Univers," "CircusZeitung," and "CIRCO".

Also joining the Federation is the Wayne McCary Tent # 172, established in 1998 to honor circus producer and Eastern States Exposition ("the Big E") CEO Wayne McCary. Since 2009, Mr. McCary also has served as Vice-President of the Federation. The McCary Tent is one of many tents in the Circus Fans Association of America (CFA) network which considers Circus as one of America's greatest cultural institutions and works for its preservation and increased recognition. The McCary Tent, which brings together members from the New England and eastern states, is the second CFA Tent to join the Federation. The Adam Forepaugh – Barry "Grandma" Lubin Tent #2, based in Pennsylvania, has supported the Federation since its founding 2008 and was one of the first organizations recognized as a Friend of the Federation.

The Fédération Mondiale du Cirque was founded in 2008 under the patronage of H.S.H. Princess Stephanie of Monaco and is headquartered in Monte-Carlo. The Federation is a non-profit organization created to promote Circus arts and culture worldwide, to serve as a voice for the Circus community, and to represent Circus interests at the international level.

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