

# News Release

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## GLOBAL LEADERS NAMED TO INSURANCE HALL OF FAME

New York, New York -- June 15, 2005 – Three insurance leaders have been named to the prestigious Insurance Hall of Fame by the International Insurance Society, Inc. They will be honored in Hong Kong, July 11, 2005, at the annual seminar of the International Insurance Society at the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong. They are:

- **Mr. Walter Kielholz**, Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Swiss Re, Switzerland.
- **Mr. D. Ignacio Hernando de Larramendi** (1921-2001), Former Chairman, MAPFRE Corporation, Spain.
- **Sir William Meredith** (1840-1923), Creator and Founder of Canada's Workers Compensation System, Canada.

The Insurance Hall of Fame is sponsored in New York by the International Insurance Society, Inc., a non-profit educational enterprise of insurance executives with almost 1000 members representing 90 nations. The Insurance Hall of Fame was instituted in 1957 by the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education, Columbus, Ohio. Later it moved to The University of Alabama.

There are 114 laureates in the Insurance Hall of Fame, including the most recent, from over 20 countries. The qualifications for installation in the Hall of Fame include exceptional contributions to the advancement of insurance locally or globally and innovation in developing insurance benefits for the well being of society and individuals. Members are selected by the membership of the International Insurance Society in a secret, independently-audited ballot.

Also honored in Hong Kong will be **Dr. William Haddon** (1921-1985), the first director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety in

the United States. He will receive the Dr. John S. Bickley Founders' Award Gold Medal for Excellence, named in honor of the Founder of the International Insurance Society and an Emeritus Professor at the University of Alabama in the USA.

**Walter Kielholz**, who joined Swiss Re in 1989, is being honored for his contributions in the creation of Swiss Re as a global enterprise with a strong focus on reinsurance. He successfully merged and integrated a number of corporations into the Swiss Re fold and in so doing aligned insurance and other financial products together in one enterprise for the benefit of customers. Swiss Re plays a leading role globally in offering new and innovative financial solutions in structured financial products and has garnered a world-wide reputation for expert know-how and skills.

**D. Ignacio Hernando de Larramendi** (1921-2001) was a pioneer in forming the modern-day MAPFRE insurance organization in Spain. Long before the proliferation of global insurers, in the 1970's, Mr. Larramendi adopted a business philosophy that created a strong diversified insurer serving Spain and Latin America with a variety of insurance and financial products. His early development of creative customer services, such as travel and home assistance plans, was ahead of its time and has since been replicated by many insurers.

**Sir William Meredith** (1840-1923) of Canada was the founding father of Canada's Workers' Compensation Program which addressed concerns about overcrowding and safety in the workplace. He headed a royal commission in 1910 to make recommendation on Workers' Compensation and his ideas became known as "the Meredith Principles", which are still recognized as innovative to this day.

Biographies, photos and videos about the Insurance Hall of Fame and its recipients are available at [www.InsuranceHallofFame.org](http://www.InsuranceHallofFame.org) Information can also be obtained in a digital gallery at St. John's University in New York City, which is sponsored by the International Insurance Society.

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