

2011 African Banker Awards announces winners

The winners of the 2011 *African Banker Awards* were announced at the awards ceremony which took place on Friday 23 September 2011 in Washington DC as part of the IMF/World Bank annual meetings. Dr James Mwangi, MD and CEO of Ecobank in Kenya, was awarded African Banker of the Year for the second year in a row.



Standard Bank Group of South Africa, picked up the trophy for the equally coveted African Bank of the Year award, presented by Houda Shoukry, managing director of the Mediterranean Smart Cards Company (MSCC).

Evelyn Oputu, CEO of the Bank of Industry in Nigeria, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and set a new record for being the first woman to receive this particular accolade.

Another milestone came when the central Bank Governor of Uganda, Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile was rewarded not only for his work in the past year but for being the architect of Uganda's economic revival.

The winners

Category	Winner
African Bank of the Year	Standard Bank Group, South Africa
African Banker of the Year	James Mwangi, managing director and CEO, Equity Bank, Kenya
Best Local Bank	Millennium BIM
Deal of the Year	Golden Sugar Refinery Project, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Nigeria
Investment Bank of the Year	EFG-Hermes, Egypt
Investment Fund/Private Equity Fund of the Year	Actis, United Kingdom
Microfinance Institution/Project of the Year	EB-Accion Savings & Loans Company, Ghana
Most Innovative Bank of the Year	FirstBank of Nigeria
Socially Responsible Bank of the Year	National Bank of Egypt
African Banker Icon	Adebayo Ogunlesi
Central Bank Governor of the Year	HE Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, Governor of the Bank of Uganda
Finance Minister of the Year	HE Situmbeko Musokotwane Zambia

Commenting on the awards, Omar Ben Yedder, group publisher of *African Banker* magazine, said, "The Egyptian revolution has not stopped the resolve with two winners from Egypt. And in fact what these past few years have taught us is that we have financial institutions that have been able to show resilience in the midst of uncertainty and global shocks, something which would not have been possible two decades back. And we are seeing Africans showing the lead - for

example new regulation in Nigeria has ring fenced commercial banking from investment banking. And this happened in Africa before the UK and London the world's financial centre. I'm confident and tonight with the quality on show, my belief is strengthened."

The African Banker Awards is organised by *African Banker* magazine, IC Events, and BusinessinAfrica Events. It is a landmark event taking place every year during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings.

The event brought together around 300 key industry players and top government officials from Africa and around the world to honour the achievements of companies and individuals who have contributed significantly to the reform, modernisation and expansion of the continent's banking and financial system, driving Africa's sustained economic growth in the process.

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