

**AUSTRIA, CHINA AND JORDAN CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS AWARDED
FOR CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS**
— *MetLife Foundation and Association of Children's Museums Present First-Ever
International Promising Practice Award* —

ARLINGTON, VA — The international field of children's museums is making an impact by creating global citizens through play-based learning experiences. ZOOM Children's Museum in Vienna, Austria, has been selected as the recipient of the first-ever MetLife Foundation and Association of Children's Museums (ACM) Promising Practice Award for International Children's Museums. Children's Museum of Jordan in Amman, Jordan, and Magic Bean House in Beijing, China, received honorable mention distinctions for their programming.

"Globalization is an important concept for children to begin learning at an early age," said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. "These exceptional children's museums highlight how effective play can be to educate children about our diverse and interconnected world."

"By nature children are curious to explore beyond their own interests. Children's museums create environments that encourage children to make connections outside of their immediate experience," said Janet Rice Elman, ACM executive director.

- ZOOM Children's Museum received a \$10,000 (U.S. Dollars) Promising Practice Award for its "Welcome@Hotel Global" exhibit. Children "check-in" to the hotel environment, explore rooms, encounter people role-playing hotel workers and guests of various professions. Each character's personal story serves as an episode in an evolving story about globalization. Children are encouraged to see multiple viewpoints and to evaluate and suggest creative solutions to solve complex problems such as climate change, world-trade and shortage of raw materials.
- Magic Bean House received an honorable mention for its cross-cultural exhibits and international-themed Learning Parties. The programming and outreach have helped integrate traditional Chinese families with Western foreign nationals who have transplanted their families to Beijing. By providing children and parents with opportunities to learn new concepts via open-ended exploration, the museum is helping both communities build essential global citizen skills such as cooperation, creativity and respect for others.
- Children's Museum of Jordan received an honorable mention for its Celebrations Program. Amman is increasingly becoming a melting pot of multiple cultures, religions and sects due to political and economic changes. Often, what is not understood is feared. To address this challenge, the museum designed a series of exhibits, art workshops and literacy programs that permit children to explore the aesthetics and common values that are inherent in holiday celebrations such as Independence Carnival, AlFitr and Christmas.

Established in 1999, and funded by MetLife Foundation, the Promising Practice Award recognizes and documents pioneering programs, exhibits and management practices found in ACM member

— More —

children's museums. The theme for the 2011 award, creating global citizens, is a first in the history of the Promising Practice Award program, and sparked a decision to make children's museums located outside of the United States eligible to apply for an award. U.S. award recipients of the 2011 Promising Practice Award were announced earlier this year; information highlighting those recipients can be found in the Press Room section of ACM's Web site, www.ChildrensMuseums.org.

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to carry on MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation is committed to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide. Through programs focusing on empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities, MetLife Foundation increases access and opportunities for people of all ages. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has made more than \$500 million in grants and \$75 million in program related investments. For more information, visit www.MetLife.org.

Begun in 1962, Association of Children's Museums strengthens all children's museums through leadership, advocacy, professional development and service. In an increasingly complex world, children's museums provide a place where all kids can learn through play with the caring adults in their lives. Children's museums annually reach more than 30 million children and families. For links to ACM's international list of museums, visit www.ChildrensMuseums.org.

###