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The IAPMO Group Pledges Capacity Building Assistance in Middle East and Other International Regions

Ontario, California, USA (April 3, 2009) – With its recent introduction of the *Uniform Plumbing Code – Abu Dhabi*, co-developed with the Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi (EAD), the IAPMO Group is primed to help the Emirate and its neighbors in the region undertake each subsequent phase of their capacity building initiatives.

With strong uniform requirements now in place to govern the installation and maintenance of Abu Dhabi's plumbing systems, in addition to those recently created with IAPMO's assistance in Kuwait, Jordan, India and Indonesia, each of these nations is equipped to institute capacity building measures that when taken in sequence will drastically improve infrastructure and health and safety standards on behalf of their general populace. The IAPMO Group is uniquely qualified to support these efforts.

Once just a small association of 39 plumbing inspectors who authored the United States' first model code of plumbing standards in 1928, The IAPMO Group has grown into a large, but close-knit family of eight distinct business units with offices in 12 countries. Its *Uniform Plumbing Code*® is routinely cited as a versatile and easy-to-apply document that can be tailored to fit almost any nation's needs for ensuring drinking water safety and sanitary waste disposal. Each of The IAPMO Group's business units is specially designed to support these goals within any nation adopting a plumbing code.

IAPMO — Developer of four model codes — *Uniform Plumbing Code*®, *Uniform Mechanical Code*®, *Uniform Solar Energy Code*®, *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code*®; the former two designated as American National Standards. These Uniform Codes are regarded worldwide as the most technically advanced codes available, as evidenced by the numerous countries that have used the *Uniform Plumbing Code* as the basis for their own code or a revision of their existing code.

Furthermore, IAPMO is the developer and administrator of educational and training programs designed to help individuals master the skills necessary to implement the requirements of these codes. The association has created Train the Trainer programs and a collection of class syllabi for instructors to use when educating entry-level plumbing industry apprentices. Certification/licensing of qualified designers, installers, inspectors and maintainers of plumbing systems is another critical capacity building exercise handled capably by IAPMO on behalf of any authority working from a uniform plumbing or mechanical code.

IAPMO Research & Testing — Responsible for creating numerous capacity building capabilities, IAPMO R&T develops standards for plastic plumbing fixtures, as well as other standards for use within plumbing systems. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) designates these consensus documents as American National Standards. IAPMO R&T also administers the world's largest (by number of customers and products) conformity assessment program and an ISO 9000 Quality Management System registration program, which enables manufacturers, government agencies and the entire plumbing and mechanical industries to prove they have met the very high standards embedded within the ISO Series 9000 Standards.

IAPMO R&T Laboratory — Responsible for testing products as part of the conformity review process, as each product seeking market access must be accompanied by a test report from a duly authorized test lab verifying that the product has been tested to each applicable section of the performance standard for this particular product, component or material. IAPMO R&T Lab also provides other services, such as assisting manufacturers in enhancing their quality control programs, which results in the creation of more reliable products.

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IAPMO Evaluation Services — Complementing IAPMO R&T's capacity building capabilities within the plumbing and mechanical industries, IAPMO ES expands upon this range of services to include the conformity assessment of structural elements for building construction.

IAPMO R&T Oceana — Recognizing the drastic and rapid growth of the plumbing industry worldwide, IAPMO ventured into the South Pacific with this office in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2007. IAPMO R&T Oceana, through its highly qualified staff, offers the entire region services similar to those offered by IAPMO, IAPMO R&T and IAPMO R&T Lab in North America. IAPMO R&T Oceana is accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) to perform conformity assessment services for products destined for Australian and New Zealand markets. In addition to plumbing products, IAPMO R&T Oceana is JAS-ANZ accredited to certify gas appliances and electrical products and recently submitted its application to the Australian Accreditation Board for Standards Developing Organization to become an accredited standards development organization.

IAPMO R&T Laboratory, Guangzhou, China — Not unlike the testing laboratory at The IAPMO Group's world headquarters in Ontario, California, the lab in Guangzhou is equipped to perform standards conformance testing on plumbing fixtures and fixture fittings, drain line carry testing, weatherization testing and any number of other tests for products manufactured in the Asia Pacific region for export to North America or Australasia. This lab is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and highly trained personnel, who are recognized as experts in this field.

Backflow Prevention Institute (BPI) — Dedicated to the testing and certification of individuals who design, install, test and maintain backflow prevention devices to the requirements of the various standards around the world that govern the prevention of cross connection, backflow and backsiphonage; three serious threats to the integrity of any water system. IAPMO's BPI provides education and training services to increase both private and professional awareness of potential hazards to the public drinking water supply.

IAPMO-India — It has been one full year since the introduction of the *Uniform Plumbing Code – India*, co-developed by IAPMO and the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA), a model code of plumbing installation and maintenance for all of India. In addition to the code, the associations also published the *UPC – India Illustrated Training Manual* to further facilitate understanding of the code language.

IAPMO, the IPA and the Indian Institute of Plumbing (IIP) have furthermore partnered to provide plumbing training and education throughout India via their ambitious Plumbing Education to Employment Program (PEEP), which will offer structured courses of study to develop a new highly skilled Indian workforce of plumbing design engineers, plumbing construction manager/supervisors and plumbing installers/repairers.

GP Russ Chaney, executive director of The IAPMO Group said: "We recognized in our three most recent projects in the Middle East, working with the Kuwait Institute of Science and Research, the Jordanian National Building Council (working with USAID) and the Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi on the development of their own respective uniform plumbing codes, the strong need moving forward for capacity building support in all three cases. This is not at all unique in the Middle East, where potable water challenges are numerous and placing a high premium on efficiency and health is a necessity.

"While these things could certainly be accomplished without a code in place, the creation and adoption of a *Uniform Plumbing Code* naturally facilitates such efforts; and all subsequent support in achieving building capacity works hand in glove with the code, especially when advanced by an organization with the comprehensive expertise of The IAPMO Group."

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Sponsor of the Uniform Codes, IAPMO – The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials – works in concert with government and industry for safe, sanitary plumbing and mechanical systems. Learn more about IAPMO at www.iapmo.org.

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