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The Tech Museum presents Nobel Laureate and former Vice President Al Gore with the 2009 James C. Morgan Global Humanitarian Award

Honoree to be feted at The Tech Awards 9th annual international gala in November

(SAN JOSE, Calif.) April 21, 2009 – Nobel Laureate and former Vice President Al Gore today was named the 2009 James C. Morgan Global Humanitarian Award recipient by The Tech Museum as part of its international program, The Tech Awards, presented by Applied Materials.

The Global Humanitarian Award honors individuals whose broad vision and leadership help to alleviate humanity's greatest challenges. Gore was selected for his worldwide work on environmental affairs – in particular, raising global awareness of climate change.

"I am honored to be a recipient of the Global Humanitarian Award and am encouraged that so many people are working to solve the climate crisis," Gore said. "I appreciate the Tech Museum for offering me this platform to continue to try to raise awareness of global warming and the challenges and opportunities that lie before us."

Gore has won worldwide acclaim for his environmental activities. In 2007, he and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In that same year, Gore was named by *Time* magazine as runner-up for its Person of the Year. In 2006, he won an Oscar for "An Inconvenient Truth," a film focused on his unwavering campaign to curb global warming.

"Gore was among the first to bring the focus of average citizens to the environment and economic dangers that climate change poses to our planet," said Mike Splinter, chairman and CEO of Applied Materials. "In the spirit of Silicon Valley, Al Gore's warning on climate change was accompanied by an urgent call to action that has helped to ignite passion and excite children, adults and entrepreneurs around the world to harness innovation and new technology toward constructive solutions to save our planet."

Gore served as the 45th vice president of the United States from 1993 to 2001, after having worked in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. He was the Democratic nominee for president in 2000.

Peter Friess, president of The Tech Museum, said Gore's unswerving activism must be the example to which we aspire to eradicate the world's greatest inequities.

"Climate change is a central issue of our time and Al Gore has contributed greatly to exposing the burgeoning problem and its effects if left unaddressed," Friess said. "With Al Gore's selection as this year's humanitarian award recipient, The Tech Museum now takes its seat at the table of global debate, where we will engage in provocative discussions aimed at enlightening our visitors and inspiring them to action in the face of universal challenges."

The Global Humanitarian Award was inspired by Applied Materials Chairman Emeritus James Morgan's belief that technology can be a tool to turn ideas into solutions for a better world. Gore will accept the top honor during The Tech Awards: Technology benefiting humanity gala November 19th, where 15 innovators from around the world will be celebrated for applying technology in creative and practical ways to solve humanitarian problems in health, education, environment, economic development, and equality. The event takes place at San Jose McEnery Convention Center in San Jose, CA.

The Tech Museum, one of the premier science and technology centers in the world, established The Tech Awards program in 2000 to celebrate technology and innovation benefiting humanity. Since then, the program has recognized 200 pioneering creators whose inventions address the most critical issues facing our planet. Past Global Humanitarian Award recipients include Microsoft co-founder and chairman Bill Gates and Dr. Muhammad Yunus, pioneer of microcredit and founder of the Grameen Bank, and James Morgan of Applied Materials.

The Global Humanitarian Award is sponsored by Applied Materials. A major corporation or foundation also sponsors each of the five Tech Awards categories. They are: Economic Development (BD Biosciences), Education (Microsoft), Environment (Intel), Equality (Swanson Foundation), and Health (Nokia). Other major sponsors include Polycom, SAP, Genentech and KPMG.

For more information about The Tech Awards, visit: <http://www.techawards.org/>

About The Tech Museum of Innovation

The Tech Museum of Innovation is a hands-on technology and science museum for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Tech Museum— located in the Capital of Silicon Valley – is a non-profit educational resource established to engage people in exploring and experiencing technologies affecting their lives. Through educational programs, the annual Tech Challenge team competition for youth, and the internationally recognized Tech Awards, presented by Applied Materials, Inc. The Tech Museum of Innovation celebrates the present and encourages the development of innovative ideas for a more promising future. For more information about us, visit www.thetech.org.

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