

Joan O'Connor new President of Irish Taxation Institute

Wednesday, 8 August 2007: Ms Joan O'Connor has been selected as the new President of the Irish Taxation Institute (ITI). An international tax partner with Deloitte, Joan O'Connor has 25 years experience in the taxation profession, advising Irish domestic public and private companies and inbound multinational companies.

The ITI has also announced the appointments of its first co-opted members, Mr Paul Haran and Dr Don Thornhill to its Council. Former Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Paul Haran is credited with being instrumental in the development and implementation of policies that contributed directly to our economic development. Dr Don Thornhill is a consultant and adviser on strategy and policy. He was appointed Chairman of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) of Ireland in February 2005 by the Irish Government.

Speaking after her ratification at the ITI AGM, Joan O'Connor said she looked forward to leading the 6,000 member body. She identified education for the profession in its widest sense, policy and representations and the Commission on Taxation as priority objectives.

She said: "The growth in foreign direct investment, unprecedented job growth, improving infrastructure investment, more start-ups and growth in the indigenous enterprise sector, new products and services can be directly attributed to tax policies and the revenues created by good tax policies.

"The challenge now is to sustain economic prosperity and I believe our Institute has a key role to play in meeting this challenge. On the domestic front, the inclusion in the new Programme for Government of a commitment to form a new Commission on Taxation has been warmly welcomed by this Institute. We believe that now is the time to take a strategic look at how tax policy can influence behaviours, help sustain and grow appropriate economic activity in the medium to long term, and in turn led to the objectives set out in the government's document being achieved.....given ITI's wide and diverse membership base and our extensive knowledge of the fundamentals of the Irish tax system through many decades, I believe ITI is well placed to contribute to the debate on future tax policy"

On the common EU tax debate, Ms O'Connor said: "CCCTB does not make sense for Ireland or for investment into the EU.

Welcoming the appointments of Dr Don Thornhill and Mr Paul Haran to the ITI Council, Ms O'Connor said: "We are delighted that two individuals of Paul and Don's calibre and expertise are joining the governing Council of ITI. Both Paul and Don bring valuable business, governmental and educational perspectives to ITI. The wealth of experience they bring from their distinguished careers will play an important role in the future strategic direction of ITI."

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Further info:

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Full text of Ms O'Connor's speech is available on our website:

<http://www.taxireland.ie/documents/AGM%202007%20President's%20Speech%20Final%2008%2008%2007.pdf>

Notes to Editor

Mr Paul Haran

Former Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Paul Haran has recently joined the board of the Road Safety Council. Along with being Chairman of the National Qualifications Authority, Principal of UCD's College of Business and Law, board member of UCD's Michael Smurfit School of Business, he is on the Court of the Bank of Ireland, council member of the Irish Management Institute, chair of Forfás Taxation Advisory Committee, and a Director of Glanbia plc, the Mater Private Hospital and Edward Dillon & Company.

Dr Don Thornhill

Dr Don Thornhill is a consultant and adviser on strategy and policy and a board member of organisations in the public and private sectors.

He was appointed Chairman of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) of Ireland in February 2005 by the Irish Government. He is also Chairman of the Irish Payments Services Organisation (IPSO) - the organisation established by the Irish banks to manage the financial payments system in Ireland.

He completed a seven year term as executive chairman of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in January 2005. He was Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science from 1993 to 1998. He was previously an Assistant Secretary General in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin and has also worked in the Irish Departments of Finance and Foreign Affairs and in the Unilever organisation. His board memberships, in addition to the NCC and IPSO, include the Irish Management Institute, Forfás and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).