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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Finance and Accounting Professionals Cross Intersection of Knowledge and Know-How at IMA's 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition**

***Key Learning, Networking Opportunities Await Attendees at Five-Star Phoenix Resort***

**Montvale, N.J., March 15, 2007** – The Institute of Management Accountants (IMA®), the world's leading organization representing accounting and finance professionals working inside organizations, will hold its 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa in Phoenix, from June 16 to June 20, 2007. The conference will cater to a range of professionals, from seasoned practitioners to those just beginning their careers, providing attendees with the professional development necessary to advance their careers and drive business value where they work. Session programs are designed to address the myriad of issues professionals working in industry face everyday.

"Our conference provides industry practitioners with the critical tools necessary to become champions in their field," said Paul A. Sharman, ACMA, president and CEO, IMA. "The accounting profession, especially today, is evolving at a quick pace. This conference is one of the key tools IMA offers to ensure practitioners are actively learning and engaging, and essentially, being leaders in the field."

**Veterans of the Profession, Voices from the Top**

Industry leaders spanning both the private and public sectors will offer insight as to why management accountants are critical business leaders and how their roles can be tailored to fit a vast array of responsibilities. Keynote speakers will address crucial issues, while widening attendees' expertise, within IMA's five learning tracks: Business Performance Management, Enterprise Risk and Controls, Leadership Strategies and Ethics, Strategic Cost Management, and Technology Enablement.

Featured speakers include David Burritt, CFO of Caterpillar, Inc., who will address the need for management accountants to improve transparency while raising stockholder support, as well as Jane Hamilton-Nielsen, vice president of finance, North America, Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc., who will address finance professionals' ability to create value. Also featured at the conference are Sun Microsystems' CFO Michael Lehman who will speak to leveraging technology and business systems in improving operational discipline and maintaining regulatory compliance, and Kim Wallin, controller for the State of Nevada, who will focus on transitioning across the accountancy profession.

**Opportunities to Learn (and Earn)**

Each conference learning track will contain multiple sessions that address relevant finance and accounting issues, such as "Partnering for Profitability" and "Spying, Stupidity, and Stock Options: Life in the Post-Enron Age." These sessions will allow attendees to not only advance their careers by receiving valuable training, but also earn up to 30 CPE credits. New for 2007, each learning track will include a track leader to help facilitate discussion between attendees and presenters.

Professional networking opportunities with keynote speakers, as well as peers, will also be available throughout the four-day event. The conference will host several networking sessions, including a "Brown Bag Discussion Lunch," an interactive and informal roundtable that enables attendees to network and learn, as well as the "Watering Hole," which will allow friends and fellow chapter members to catch up with old acquaintances or meet new colleagues.

### **Work Hard, Play Hard**

IMA's 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition will also provide ample time to take advantage of its location in the spectacular Sonoran Desert and the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort's amenities. Whether it is enjoying a hot stone massage at the resort's spa, networking while shooting 18 holes of golf or basking by the pool, attendees will find it hard to resist the opportunities this sunny and warm weathered locale provides. For those more adventurous, exhilarating rides through the desert in four-wheel drive vehicles, as well as guided tours on horseback await.

### **Savings for Early Bird Registrants**

Discounted conference registration rates are available for those who register by April 6, including a special conference rate for stays at the J.W. Marriott. Registration information is available online at IMA's conference Web site at [www.imaconference.org](http://www.imaconference.org).

### **About IMA**

With a worldwide network of nearly 65,000 professionals, IMA is the world's leading organization dedicated to empowering accounting and finance professionals to drive business performance. IMA provides a dynamic forum for professionals to advance their careers through Certified Management Accountant (CMA<sup>®</sup>) certification, research, professional education, networking and advocacy of the highest ethical and professional standards. For more information about IMA, please visit [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org).

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