



Lean Enterprise Institute

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 Organizations Create Lean Global Network to Advance Lean Thinking Worldwide

Cambridge, Mass., March 6, 2008 – Fourteen nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations on 5 continents today announced they had formed the Lean Global Network (LGN), a network committed to advancing worldwide a set of ideas known as lean management, derived from practices pioneered by Toyota.

LGN's web site opened today at <http://www.leanglobal.org>.

“It is now clear that the principles of lean management work equally well in any organization, culture, or country, and that the whole world will benefit if they are universally embraced,” said James P. Womack, Ph.D., founder and chairman of the nonprofit [Lean Enterprise Institute \(LEI\)](http://www.lean.org) <http://www.lean.org>, an LGN member organization. Womack launched LEI 10 years ago to advance a set of ideas known as lean thinking and has assisted in launching the 14 LGN member organizations.

The LGN member organizations, called Affiliates, are:

- Lean Enterprise Institute (USA)
- Lean Enterprise Academy (UK)
- Lean Institute Brazil
- Lean Institute Turkey
- Lean Management Institut (Germany)
- Lean Management Instituut (Netherlands)
- Lean Enterprise Institute Polska (Poland)
- Dansk Industri (Denmark)
- Institut Lean France
- Lean Enterprise Australia
- Lean Enterprise China
- Instituto Lean Management(Spain)
- Lean Enterprise Institute Mexico
- Lean Management Institute India

Members of the LGN executive committee are Daniel Jones, chairperson, United Kingdom; James Womack, vice chairperson, United States; Peter Walsh, treasurer, Australia; Jose Ferro, clerk, Brazil.

“LGN Affiliates are independent organizations in their home countries, but they will interact on a regular basis to more efficiently and effectively collaborate and share information to accelerate the diffusion of lean thinking and the development of lean leaders throughout the world,” said John O’Donnell, LGN executive director.

O'Donnell, who was previously an executive with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, served as the Program Coordinator and Research Affiliate in MIT's International Motor Vehicle Program. This program produced the critically acclaimed book, *The Machine That Changed the World* by Womack, Daniel Jones, founder of the Lean Enterprise Academy, and Daniel Roos. The book coined the term "lean" to describe Toyota's management system.

LGN's operations manager is Masia Goodman, an LEI associate since 2006. Masia has three years of curriculum development experience, having taught French and Comparative World Religions. She has lived and studied in Belgium, India, and Australia, reflecting her enthusiasm and ability to serve the international Lean Community.

O'Donnell said LGN Affiliates will offer a variety of educational products and services in four core areas: publications such as books and workbooks; educational and training workshops as well as in-company research; annual summits; and lean transformation experiments.

He said LGN is creating a growing network of affiliates throughout the world promoting lean management and lean leadership to help companies with their lean transformations. LGN will facilitate collaboration among affiliates, to further generate lean knowledge and accelerate its diffusion.

LGN is a nonprofit corporation established under Chapter 180 of the Massachusetts General Laws. It is headquartered at One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA.

For more information about the Lean Global Network:

Visit: <http://www.leanglobal.org>

Email: info@leanglobal.org

Call: 617-871-2944

About the Lean Enterprise Institute (LEI)

Based in Cambridge, MA, the Lean Enterprise Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education, publication, conferencing, and research center founded in 1997 by management expert [James P. Womack](#), Ph.D, <http://www.lean.org/WhoWeAre/LeanPerson.cfm?LeanPersonId=1> LEI helps organizations transform themselves into lean enterprises and helps managers develop the leadership behaviors that sustain lean enterprises. For more information visit LEI at <http://www.lean.org>.