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**NON-PROFIT 'THE WORLD IS JUST A BOOK AWAY' WELCOMES WORLD
RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL JOURNALIST RIZ KHAN
TO ADVISORY BOARD**

Los Angeles, CA, USA (April 2011) – Non-profit organization *The World Is Just A Book Away (WIJABA)*, with a mission of supplying books and building school libraries for children in developing countries, is honored to welcome world-renowned international journalist, author and TV host Riz Khan to the organization's Advisory Board.

Recognized for his extensive careers with the BBC and CNN, Riz Khan currently hosts two shows on Al Jazeera English, including the network's flagship program – the daily, live "Riz Khan" show featuring the world's top newsmakers, and "Riz Khan's One on One" weekly profile show featuring a diverse range of celebrities and high-level guests from around the world. He was recruited in 2005 to set-up Al Jazeera's English-language channel in Washington, DC, which currently airs in 82 countries and over 300 million households.



Khan launched BBC World Service Television News in 1991 and was later recruited by CNN as a senior anchor for global news shows and special events including the historic and award-winning live coverage of the Hajj. Including through his interactive interview show, *Q&A with Riz Khan*, his 1,500-plus interviews at CNN included more world leaders than any other global news show at the time, including then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Former US Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela, to name a few.

WIJABA founder James Owens was introduced to Khan by Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus, author of "Banker to the Poor". Both Owens and Khan were invited to participate in the Festival of Thinkers in the United Arab Emirates where Kahn asked Owens to speak about *WIJABA* at the closing event.

WIJABA's mission to bring hope--in the form of books, libraries, and schools--to thousands of children in developing countries struck a chord with Khan. His five-year-old daughter is learning to read and he is eager to see children in developing countries have the same opportunities. A library in Indonesia was recently opened in honor of Khan.

"I can't tell you how important it is for me to see the success and growth of *WIJABA* – which has such a dedicated team doing such great work," says Khan. "I've been an avid reader all my life. I literally read anything I could get my hands on from an early age! Access to books and magazines was fundamental to

my growth and understanding of the world around me, and I would love for every child to have the same opportunity. I'm the proud father of a 5-year-old girl who shares my passion for books, and I'm aware of how lucky she is to have so much reading material around her. I hope that, in my role with *The World Is Just A Book Away*, I can help other children to share the same opportunities as those of my daughter."

The *WIJABA* school libraries introduce developing countries to the idea of loaning non-classroom books for recreational reading for grades one through six. One *WIJABA* library touches approximately 300-500 children in surrounding areas, and is supported by the communities. In addition to being actively involved in choosing the library books, the community must commit to participating by raising 10% of the library's cost to actively maintain and run the library.

Riz Khan joins an Advisory Board of prominent professionals and academics gathered by Owens, including renowned educator and author Dr. Rudy Crew, USC Marshall School of Business Dean James G. Ellis, premier businesswoman Jenny Ming (President and C.E.O. of clothing chain Charlotte Russe), educator and author Dr. Roselle Chartock, and renowned Hollywood dialect coach Tim Monich. Owens is associate professor of Clinical Management Communication at the USC Marshall School of Business Center for Management Communication.

"I am honored to have Riz Khan join the advisory board of *WIJABA*," states Owens. "His passion for literacy and his commitment to education for children, along with his expertise and experience in communication and media make him an enormous asset to *The World is Just a Book Away*."

The World Is Just A Book Away launched in 2008 with a building program in Sidoarjo, Indonesia, site of the mudflow disaster that displaced more than 60,000 people and destroyed many schools. At the end of 2010, expanding into other regions and surpassing all initial expectations, the organization has initiated programs to serve **25,000+ Children with 45,000+ Books, through 47 Libraries and 2 Mobile Libraries at 100+ Schools**

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