



Scottish Council for  
Development and Industry

## PRESS RELEASE

### NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM SCDI CHIEF EXECUTIVE

29 December 2009

Scotland's economic recovery in 2010 and growth will increasingly depend on its businesses' successes in international markets and their ability to compete should be enhanced by supportive domestic policies, Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) Chief Executive Dr Lesley Sawers has said in her New Year's Message. **Dr Sawers commented:**

"The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCDI's first international trade visit takes place in 2010. During this half century of international activity, SCDI has worked with over 5000 organisations to secure business in 50 markets around the world.

"In those five decades this last year has been one of the most difficult for the Scottish economy. Co-ordinated action by the Scottish and UK governments and the Bank of England helped stabilise the position and as a consequence the UK economy now looks to be exiting from its longest recession on record. But demand in the developed world will remain weak and in the year ahead Scotland will need new sources of growth to drive economic prosperity.

"Emerging economies have accelerated first and fastest, and global trade is rapidly rebounding. In the next 10 years, economic power will further shift from developed to emerging markets and trade will grow three times as quickly as global GDP. In 2010, Scotland will need to begin positioning itself as a knowledge-based, export-led economy.

"Industry sectors in which Scotland has a comparative advantage have been identified, but the pace of delivery will need to be picked up. Critically, the ability of Scottish companies to compete away from home should be enhanced by supportive policies in our domestic market.

"Public spending should buy more Scottish products, for example from our life sciences sector, and Scottish laws should be careful not to undermine free trade in Scottish goods.

"Above all, 2010 is likely to be the start of Scotland's renewable energy gold-rush which should be supported by infrastructure decisions which attract investment in new projects and technologies, and by work to develop local supply chains to optimise the economic benefit.

"Tough choices on spending face Scotland. It is vital for us all that it supports long-term competitiveness in skills, innovation and connectivity that will generate sustainable economic growth and fund high-quality public services and provide opportunities for all.

"In representing the civic and business interests of our members and of Scotland, SCDI will shortly our policy agenda on re-wiring the Scottish economy. This manifesto for the Scottish economy will form the core of the debate at our annual Forum in March. This is the big issue of our time and possible the next decade. In 2010, Scotland must again go global to ensure our future prosperity."



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### ENDS

For further information, please contact Gareth Williams, Head of Policy, on 07917-103 997

### Notes to Editors

The Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) is an independent membership network which strengthens Scotland's competitiveness by influencing Government policies to encourage sustainable economic prosperity. SCDI has offices in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness. Our membership is drawn from Scottish business, trade unions, public agencies, educational institutions, local authorities, voluntary sector and inter faith groups.

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