



Media only: Kelly Carnes (202) 633-2950
Randall Kremer (202) 633-2950

Nov. 12, 2010

Media website: <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

Media Advisory

WHAT: Preview of the Hope Diamond in its new setting, “Embracing Hope”

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 18
Arrival and set-up begin at 8 a.m.
Program begins at 9 a.m.
Doors will close sharply at 9 a.m. Late arrivals will not be admitted for security reasons.

WHERE: Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History
10th and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Event will take place in the Harry Winston Gallery on the second floor

WHO: Cristián Samper, director, National Museum of Natural History
Frédéric de Narp, president and CEO, Harry Winston Inc.
Jeffrey Post, curator, National Gem Collection, National Museum of Natural History
David Royle, executive vice president, Smithsonian Channel

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the historic donation of the Hope Diamond and the museum’s centennial, the diamond is being exhibited for the first time ever in a new temporary setting called “Embracing Hope.” Designed by master craftsmen at Harry Winston Inc., the setting was selected by the American public in an online vote, sponsored by Smithsonian Channel, with the participation of more than 100,000 people.

Set in platinum, the new design surrounds the legendary deep-blue diamond with an extraordinary 340 baguette diamonds and took more than eight months to create. It will be on display for a limited time, after which the Hope will be returned to its historic setting. **The new temporary setting will be unveiled to the public Nov. 18 at 11 a.m.** This exhibit coincides with the world premiere of the Smithsonian Channel documentary film *Mystery of the Hope Diamond*, which premieres Nov. 21.

When distinguished jeweler Harry Winston gave the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian in 1958, he made a lasting gift to the American people that has since become one of the most renowned museum icons in the world. The gem has inspired millions of visitors with its fascinating scientific story, historical significance and intriguing tales of a curse. It is the most visited object in the entire Smithsonian.

Space is limited. Media must RSVP to attend the event.

###