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Partnerships for Success: An International Summit on the Benefits of Disability Management for Workers, Businesses and Society

(Los Angeles, California – March 20, 2009) Representatives from several countries gathered in Los Angeles recently to help shape the agenda for the International Forum on Disability Management 2010. The distinguished Advisory Committee, which includes representation from government agencies, healthcare providers, researchers, and disability management practitioners, was excited about the opportunity for continued international dialogue on disability management.

Hosted by the California Department of Industrial Relations and California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation in collaboration with the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions, IFDM 2010 will be held on September 13-16, 2010, in Los Angeles, California.

John Duncan, Department of Industrial Relations Director and co-sponsor, states that "the conference will provide an opportunity to discuss policy, theory and applied disability management concepts that are critical to the well being of the economy".

IFDM 2010 will unite key stakeholders in the health, safety, and workers' compensation communities to discuss problems, trends, and best practices in disability management. A common theme echoed by Advisory Committee members was demonstrating the numerous long-term benefits for society that result from the implementation of disability management programs.

Christine Baker, Chair of the IFDM Advisory Committee, notes, "IFDM 2010 is a unique opportunity to both learn from the successful initiatives of international organizations and share innovative programs from California and across North America."

A key goal of IFDM 2010 will be to highlight how disability management is positive for workers, businesses and society. "At its core, the increased use of disability management techniques and strategies results in positive opportunities for individuals with disabilities to find and maintain meaningful employment," comments Wolfgang Zimmerman, Executive Director of National Institute for Disability Management and Research.

Zimmerman also notes that at the same time, research is beginning to show that dedicated disability management programs provide valuable economic advantages for employers, creating more stable workforces and reducing re-hiring and training costs. On a more global level, disability management also has the benefit of reducing the dependence on government social programs.

IFDM, which has been held bi-annually since 2002, has a distinguished history of bringing together key policymakers and being a catalyst for change. “The challenge of IFDM 2010 will be synthesizing the diverse perspectives of those who gather in Los Angeles to create a common mission committed to promoting disability management on every level,” comments Greg Krohm, Executive Director of the IAIABC. The partners of IFDM 2010 aspire to continue this important work in 2010. For more information about IFDM, visit www.ifdm2010.com.

About the IFDM

Held biannually since 2002, the International Forum on Disability Management is the only global conference dedicated to in-depth discussion of problems, trends, and best practices in disability management. IFDM 2010 will bring together attendees from across the world who represent the health, safety, medical, and workers' compensation communities. The diverse audience will include employers, workers, disability management practitioners, risk managers, unions, jurisdictional and local government agencies, the insurance industry, policymakers and the public to participate in presentations, discussions, and workshops.

About the IAIABC

The International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions is a not-for-profit association representing most of the government agencies charged with the administration of workers' compensation systems throughout the United States, Canada, and other nations and territories as well as other workers' compensation professionals in the private sector. Its mission is to advance the efficiency and effectiveness of workers' compensation systems throughout the world. It is governed by an Executive Committee of jurisdictional agency leaders and maintains a staff headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

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