

MEDIA RELEASE

Quarry Products Association NI

25 February 2009

QUARRY '09 SPEAKS VOLUMES AT STORMONT LAUNCH

Proclaimed as the Industry's Journal of the Year QUARRY '09 was unveiled today (Wednesday 25th February 2009) at the Long Gallery in Stormont by the Quarry Products Association NI (QPANI) and the Institute of Quarrying (IoQ) Northern Ireland. The event gathered together all public and private sectors involved in the quarrying industry to celebrate the contribution the industry makes in delivering essential materials for the economy both locally and nationally. 2009 will prove to be a special year in the shadow of the economic downturn as the quarry industry prepares to host the IoQ Annual UK Conference in Belfast this October.

The jointly published QUARRY '09 is a comprehensive journal featuring the proud history of the industry, the progress that is being made in terms of better education, training, safety and environmental performance and how, as an active and united voice, the industry has overcome challenges and influence decision making in order to protect the industry's right to operate. Packed with hard-hitting, informative editorials authored by industry leaders, specialists, Government Ministers and high-ranking figures it could be rightly called the bible of the quarry industry for 2009.

Held in the prestigious Long Gallery hosted by John McCallister MLA, Trevor Lunn MLA and Mark Durkan MP MLA, the lunchtime event was attended by industry representatives, Government Heads of Departments, NGOs, QPANI and IoQ members.

Speaking at the launch Gordon Best, QPANI Regional Director voiced "*The quarry products industry has been through one of the most difficult years ever. We have lost a quarter of our workforce and at today's QUARRY '09 Journal launch those ex colleagues are close to our thoughts. Our Industry has a long and proud record of delivering essential products and employment in Northern Ireland. The challenges ahead in 2009 will be real and difficult to overcome, but they will be overcome.*"

For your edition of the full colour glossy journal Quarry '09, also available to view online, visit www.qpani.org or contact QPANI on Tel: 028 9082 4078 to be posted a copy.

ENDS.

Photo Captions:

1. Quarry representatives with their guest on the steps of Stormont celebrating the launch of the QPANI IoQ Industry Journal QUARRY '09.

2. Launching the joint QPANI IoQ Industry Journal QUARRY '09 at Stormont was John McCallister MLA, John Gipson (Chairman IoQ), Johnny McQuillan (Chairman QPANI), Gordon Best (Regional Director QPANI) and Des Armstrong (Director Central Procurement Directorate).

Notes to Editors:

- The Quarry Products Association is the trade association representing the UK aggregates industry. In Northern Ireland our members produce over 90% of aggregates extracted – sand and gravel and crushed rock as well as non aggregate minerals such as agricultural and industrial lime including limestone, clay and shale for cement.
- The Institute of Quarrying is the international professional body for quarrying and the related extractive and processing industries. The main aim of the Institute is to promote education and training within the industry in order to encourage improvements in all aspects of quarry operation and business management. Membership of the Institute is open to managerial and technical staff and others employed in, or training for, positions of responsibility within the industry.
- QUARRY '09 is the third biennial journal publication by the QPANI, this year it is in association with The Institute of Quarrying Northern Ireland.
- The Institute of Quarrying Northern Ireland Branch is hosting the 2009 Annual UK Conference. The conference entitled 'Quarrying – A Northern Ireland Approach' will be held on the 8th and 9th October 2009 at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

For further information contact:

- Quarry Products Association NI, Unit 10, Nutts Corner Business Park, Dundrod Road, Crumlin, BT29 4SR. Tel: 028 90824078 Fax: 028 90825103 Email: info@qpani.org