

Release: Immediate

World-Check launches ground-breaking Country Risk Ranking Index

LONDON, 04 April, 2008: World-Check, the leading global provider of structured risk intelligence, is proud to announce the beta-launch of **Country-Check^{BETA}**, a premier risk ranking index for overall country risk. Aggregating more than eighty credible data sources across the full risk spectrum, the system provides a holistic perspective on jurisdictional risk in 243 countries and territories worldwide. Country-Check's Beta version is immediately accessible to the public at no cost and no subscription is required.

Country-Check^{BETA} can be applied to institutional risk assessment processes, and effectively serves to complement area-specific risk assessment by providing a fuller, more holistic indication of jurisdictional risk.

Financial institutions, ranging from banks preparing for international expansion to institutional investors and global underwriting concerns looking to capture foreign market share, all stand to benefit from Country-Check, both in terms of risk mitigation and regulatory compliance procedures. Moreover, governmental intelligence agencies, regulatory entities, financial intelligence units (FIUs) and cross-border law enforcement agencies all stand to benefit from this objective jurisdictional risk assessment solution.

Designed and engineered by World-Check, the Country-Check country ranking methodology is based on an extensive statistical network model. The system enables the aggregation of dozens of credible risk sources identified by World-Check, derived from established information sources in the public domain and categorized into three risk factors: political, economic and criminal.

The statistical model underlying the risk calculations is the result of the collaborative efforts of a team of academics working in statistics and computer science. "The model underlying the Country-Check system provides an elegant way for pre-specified sources of online information to be aggregated in a transparent method", said Professor Mark d'Inverno who led the team. Professor Jon Forster, who led the

statistical model development, said, "The model allows data from multiple sources and user input to be coherently combined in principled calculations, and for uncertainty to be effectively calibrated." He added, "The resulting Country-Check Master Index assumptions are transparent and it provides a verifiable model for country-specific risk assessment."

"A key challenge for existing risk indices is the fact that users from divergent industries and sectors tend to place more emphasis on certain risk factors than others" said Ridzwan bin Aminuddin, Country-Check project manager. "Country-Check is unique in that the model can be customized to reflect industry specific risk sensitivities, effectively enabling institutions to bring their sector-specific expertise to bear when assessing specific risk considerations".

The final model will enable users to create structured reports instantaneously and features numerous diagrammatical display functionalities, a holistic definition of jurisdictional or country risk, uncertainty and probability measures, a fully customizable parameter weighting and the added bonus of World-Check's research intelligence.

"We are extremely excited and proud to launch such a ground-breaking country risk model, which will empower institutions to make well informed risk mitigation policies and decisions about jurisdictional risk," said David Leppan, founder and CEO of World-Check. "Country-Check is the product of our commitment to continued investment in innovative solutions, research specialists and value-added services based on our client needs, and we will continue to do so in the coming years."

To access the **Country-Check^{BETA}** risk ranking system visit www.country-check.com

For more information e-mail contact@country-check.com

ABOUT WORLD-CHECK

World-Check provides its global open source intelligence database to more than 2500 institutions in 153 countries, including 47 of the world's 50 largest financial institutions, and over 200 enforcement and regulatory agencies in 90 countries. The

database is updated daily in real-time by World-Check's international research team, and is derived from hundreds of thousands of public sources. Coverage includes Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), money launderers, fraudsters, terrorists and sanctioned entities - plus individuals and businesses from over a dozen other high-risk categories. World-Check's database and tools find direct application in financial compliance, anti-money laundering (AML), Know-Your-Customer (KYC), PEP screening, enhanced due diligence (EDD), fraud prevention, government intelligence and other identity authentication, background screening and risk-prevention practices.