

Carlyle Group buys Wall Street Institute

9 March 2005, Hong Kong -- Global private equity giant the Carlyle Group has recently bought the Wall Street Institute (WSI), the world's largest international specialist English education organisation, for an undisclosed fee. WSI is headquartered in Baltimore, MD and employs more than 1,400 people around the globe.

The group made the investment through its US\$600 million Carlyle Venture Capital II growth capital fund, which focuses on emerging growth companies in the fields of technology, telecommunications, media and business services. Citigroup Private Equity will also be an investor in the company.

"With English as the common language of global business, demand for quality instruction is growing rapidly around the world - particularly in Asia," said Carlyle managing director Brooke Colburn.

Established in 1972, WSI has established a proud international alumni of more than 1,000,000 students over the past 33 years. WSI's unique teaching Multimethod[®] offers personalized courses linked to an effective performance tracking system. The method, regarded as the most modern in the world and ISO 9001:2000 certified, comprises a blend of traditional teaching methods, online interaction and computer-based learning, listening and pronunciation exercises.

WSI has dedicated itself entirely to teaching English and uses a new and innovative teaching method that dramatically improves listening, speaking, reading and writing skills far more rapidly than other more traditional teaching methods. Based on a natural approach to learning a language, over 140,000 students annually go on to enjoy more fulfilled lives and enhanced career prospects through studying at WSI.

WSI operates more than 350 language centres in 25 countries. WSI established its first Asian centre in Hong Kong in 2000 and have then expanded its boundary to neighbouring areas including China (Beijing and Shanghai), Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand and most recently, Japan.

WSI website: www.wsi.edu.hk

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