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## **Exporters receive Certificate of International Trade**

The very first group of New Zealand exporters have been awarded the internationally accredited Certificate of International Trade from Chamber member – the New Zealand School of Export and the Canadian-based Forum for International Trade Training (FITT). The recipients are the first of a growing group of New Zealanders to study through distance learning for this specialist professional qualification, designed by exporters for exporters, accredited by IATTO and started during Export Year 07 with financial assistance from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Dr Romuald Rudzki, Director of the New Zealand School of Export which is based at Aokautere Park says: "We are immensely proud of the achievements of this pioneering group of exporters, especially at such a challenging time. They have rightly been recognised as being world-class."

Successful exporters to have achieved the qualification include Belinda Andal from Red Seal Natural Health who explained: "With a supportive employer like Red Seal, and the New Zealand School of Export, I have been able to make the monumental leap and grow in my current job with steady progress. The School provides an excellent curriculum that offers flexibility to a time-starved Export Executive as well as a qualified team of specialist advisors, and therefore ensures that one is equipped with the tools necessary to make an impact in the industry and the company's productivity."

To date the School has attracted exporters from Russell to Dunedin and from start-up businesses to Fonterra. The common denominator is that those enrolled are all professional exporters aiming to pass the Certificate, then Diploma of International Trade to become the first Certified International Trade Professional (CITP) holders in New Zealand – the designation recognised by the World Trade Center Association as the standard of excellence for global business professionals.

**ENDS** For more information contact Alison Vickers at: [alison@export.ac.nz](mailto:alison@export.ac.nz) 06 356 5656 or 027 387 3137 <http://www.export.ac.nz>