

CONTACT: Tim Young or Erin Kane
L.C. Williams & Associates
800-837-7123 or 312-565-3900
tyoung@lcwa.com or ekane@lcwa.com

Christopher Boniface
Ace Hardware Corp.
630-990-6756
cboni@acehardware.com

ACE HARDWARE APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF SALES, ACE GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION, ASIA

OAK BROOK, Ill., Jan. 5, 2009 – Leading hardware cooperative Ace Hardware Corporation has promoted Jack Murphy to director of sales for Ace Global Distribution (AGD), Asia. AGD is the retail distribution arm for Ace International.

In his new position, Murphy, 40, will direct the AGD sales teams in Oak Brook, Ill., and Shanghai, China, while also working closely with Ace's 4,600 stores and the AGD merchandising teams. Responsibilities will include management of global foreign-to-foreign sales and spearheading future initiatives to promote AGD Asia's worldwide sales growth.

Murphy most recently served as international regional manager for Asia Pacific. His responsibilities in this position included growing the Ace brand globally via retail development initiatives and various wholesale strategies.

He previously served as a district manager for Ace and once owned and operated an Ace store in Forest City, N.C.

"Jack has a wealth of sales and retail knowledge, culled from his own experience as an Ace retailer and several key management positions," said Murray Armstrong, president and general manager of Ace International. "He is aware of the strategies needed to help us grow our international sales, particularly in Asia's emerging markets."

Murphy graduated from the U.S. Air Force Leadership School and holds a degree in management and operations from Loyola University, Chicago. He will report to Armstrong.

About Ace Hardware

Throughout its 84-year history, Ace Hardware has been known as the helpful hardware store by both customers and communities. This year, Ace ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Home Improvement Stores for the Second Consecutive Year," according to J.D. Power and Associates. With 4,600 hardware, home center and

building materials stores that generate annual retail sales of more than \$12 billion, Ace is the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the industry. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace currently operates 14 distribution centers in the U.S. and one in Shanghai, China, and its retailers' stores are located in all 50 states and 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit www.acehardware.com.

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