

Human Interest Story in achievement: Sandi Rhys Jones wins “First Woman” Award (2008)

Sandi Rhys Jones, a member of the UK Resource Centre's (UKRC) governing body, has been awarded a prestigious CBI First Women award 2008. She has championed women in traditionally male occupations such as science, construction and engineering for over a decade, acts as an inspirational role model for women. She was announced as the winner of the First Women award 2008 for the Property sector in London in June. The event was attended by more than 500 businesswomen and VIPs including patron Prime Minister's wife Sarah Brown and Director General of the CBI Richard Lambert. The awards, launched four years ago to celebrate the achievements of pioneering business women in Britain, are held by the CEI and Real Business magazine, in association with Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets. 10/07/2008 Page 2 of 3

Judging the Property sector were Diana Brightmore-Armour of Lloyds TSB and Neil Sachdev of Sainsburys. They said that the overall calibre of nominees in the property category was particularly high - an outstanding collection of individuals and genuine role models. They went on to say, "In an industry desperately short of female talent, Sandi is a shining example of just how far you can go. Her own achievements are outstanding. We counted at least seven 'firsts' throughout her career to date, across a range of aspects - commercial, community, education, professional- both domestically and internationally. But more importantly, she demonstrated a competence for pushing women forward in the sector through a wide variety of mentoring roles." A key quality was the nature of her advice - not blue-sky or hard-to-grasp - but practical, pragmatic, feet-on-the ground guidance. You get a clear sense that she would use this award to help promote others rather than herself." Presenting Sandi with her trophy was Baroness Boothroyd, the first female Speaker of the House of Commons. "I have some idea of what it's like to compete in a man's world," she said. "We can do it, girls!" Invited to give a few words in acceptance, Sandi picked up on these challenging words. "Why should we be housewives when we can be house builders?" "Why should we go shopping when we can build whole department stores?" This is the same bold approach Sandi brings to her role as a member of UKRC's governing body. Here, along with fellow members, she shares her considerable industry experience in order to fulfill the UKRC's mission to improve the participation and position of women in SET industries, research, academia and the public service. To read more about the First Women Awards please visit [CaSpiaj1Publishing Website](#)