



## GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL TOPS FORBES' ANNUAL RANKING OF THE WORLD'S 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

**New York, NY (August 24, 2011)** – *Forbes* today announced its annual ranking of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women, with German Chancellor **Angela Merkel (No. 1)** topping this year's list ("**The 100 Most Powerful Women**," p. 77). U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Rodham Clinton** moves into the **No. 2** spot, followed by Brazilian President **Dilma Rousseff** at **No. 3**. Members of the 2011 ranking come from politics, business, media, entertainment and non-profit; their power derives from money and might, but also (thanks to social media) reach and influence. They control \$30 trillion collectively and have an average age of 54. Twenty-nine are CEOs; 22 are single; 8 are heads of state; 74 are returnees.

"Our list reflects the diverse and dynamic paths to power for women today – whether leading a nation or setting the agenda on critical issues of our time," said Moira Forbes, President & Publisher, *ForbesWoman*. "Across their multiple spheres of influence, these women have achieved power through connectivity – the ability to build community around the organizations they oversee, the countries they lead, the causes they champion, and their personal brands."

There are 26 newcomers to the list, among them: *New York Times* Executive Editor **Jill Abramson (No. 12)**, U.S. Presidential Candidate **Michele Bachmann (No. 22)**, and *NBC Today* Co-Ancor **Ann Curry (No. 66)**. **Lady Gaga (No. 11)** is the youngest, at age 25, and is also the top "Power Tweeter" (p. 96); Britain's **Queen Elizabeth II (No. 49)** is the oldest at 85. **Christine Lagarde (No. 9)**, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, moves into the Top 10 for the first time (she's been on the list every year since 2004) and is the subject of the *Forbes* cover story, 'It Takes Courage' (p. 78).

Also in this issue, Moira Forbes interviews **Anne Sweeney (No. 25)**, Disney Media Networks Co-Chair and President of Disney-ABC Television Group ("Ask, Then Listen," p. 92). Videos of this and other interviews – including with *Vogue* Editor-in-Chief **Anna Wintour (No. 69)**; **Mary Callahan Erdoes (No. 74)**, CEO, J.P. Morgan Asset Management, also featured in "The \$1 Trillion Woman" (p. 88); and **Greta Van Susteren (No. 75)**, Host of Fox News Channel's "On The Record" among others – are available online, at [www.forbes.com/power-women](http://www.forbes.com/power-women). The Top 15:

RANK	NAME	TITLE/COUNTRY
1	Angela Merkel	Chancellor/ Germany
2	Hillary Rodham Clinton	Secretary of State/ U.S.
3	Dilma Rousseff	President/ Brazil
4	Indra Nooyi	CEO, PepsiCo/ U.S.
5	Sheryl Sandberg	COO, Facebook/U.S.
6	Melinda Gates	Cofounder, Cochair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation/U.S.
7	Sonia Gandhi	President, Indian National Congress Party/India
8	Michelle Obama	First Lady/ U.S.
9	Christine Lagarde	Managing Director, International Monetary Fund/U.S.
10	Irene Rosenfeld	CEO, Kraft Foods/ U.S.
11	Lady Gaga	Entertainer/U.S.
12	Jill Abramson	Executive Editor, <i>The New York Times</i> /U.S.
13	Kathleen Sebelius	Secretary of Health and Human Services/U.S.
14	Oprah Winfrey	Media Mogul/U.S.
15	Janet Napolitano	Secretary of Homeland Security/U.S.

For the complete ranking, methodology, videos and more, visit: [www.forbes.com/power-women](http://www.forbes.com/power-women).

Follow Forbes on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/Forbes](http://www.twitter.com/Forbes)). Become a fan of Forbes on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Forbes](http://www.facebook.com/Forbes)).

Contact: Debbie Weathers at [dweathers@forbes.com](mailto:dweathers@forbes.com) or 212-366-8848