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# NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Sho Dozono  
President and CEO  
Phone: (503) 294-6471  
Email: sdozono@azumano.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AZUMANO TRAVEL WINS AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL *Representative Excellence Award***

**PORTLAND, OREGON (March 22, 2006)**— Azumano Travel, an American Express Travel Services Representative, announced today that it was named this year's winner of the prestigious American Express U.S. Consumer Travel Network (CTN) *Representative Excellence Award*.

Azumano Travel is one of only 27 members of the American Express U.S. Representative Travel Network to receive the award, which recognizes strong performance in sales and customer service. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Azumano has received the Representative Excellence Award. Azumano owner Sho Dozono and other winning agency owners will be recognized by American Express with a seven-day trip to Prague and Vienna as the guests of the The InterContinental Praha, June 14-17, and of The Intercontinental Wein, June 17-20.

"I am pleased to recognize the excellence that Azumano Travel has achieved," said Ellen Bettridge, vice president of the U.S. Representative Travel Network. Azumano worked hard and delivered extraordinary results. They are a great representative of the American Express brand."

The *Representative Excellence Award* honors the accomplishments of outstanding members of the Representative Travel Network who have been exemplary supporters of the American Express brand.

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These agencies achieved superior sales results driving cruise and tour supplier goals and secured the highest year-over-year sales growth. American Express' cruise and tour suppliers are among the most respected names in the travel industry known for providing excellent customer service and travel experiences.

“We are thrilled to have received this prestigious award for the fourth consecutive year,” said Azumano owner Sho Dozono. We value our relationship with American Express and the wide range of travel benefits, consulting and financial services we are able to offer our clients as a result of our strategic partnership with this well respected and highly recognized industry giant.”

Azumano Travel was founded in 1949 in Portland, Oregon, and joined the American Express Network in 2001. Today, Azumano is a multifaceted enterprise with a retail staff of 175 and sales revenues in excess of \$162 million. Azumano has offices in Portland, Beaverton, Tigard, Salem, Albany, Corvallis and Eugene in Oregon; Vancouver, Seattle, and Redmond in Washington, and an office in Anchorage, Alaska. For more information, visit [www.azumano.com](http://www.azumano.com).

American Express entered the travel agency business in 1915 and today is one of the world's largest travel agency networks. The company has more than 2,200\* Travel and Foreign Exchange Services locations worldwide in more than 140 countries.

American Express Company is a diversified worldwide travel, network and financial services provider founded in 1850. It is a leader in charge and credit cards, Travelers Cheques, travel, international banking. For more information, visit [www.americanexpress.com](http://www.americanexpress.com)