Kanoo And Premier Tax Free Launch New VAT Refund Office In Paris

Tourists shopping in Paris can now receive instant VAT refunds with greater ease and efficiency

June 13, 2010 - <u>*PRLog*</u> -- Manama, Bahrain: Kanoo, one of the largest independent, family owned group of companies in the Gulf Region and Premier Tax Free, Europe's major Tax Free Shopping provider, today announced that they have opened their latest VAT refund office in Paris. Located within the prestigious Printemps department store, the new refund bureau allows international tourists to receive their VAT refunds in cash with greater efficiency and ease.

Thanks to the partnership between Kanoo Foreign Exchange Services and Premier Tax Free, tourists visiting Printemps can now shop in comfort, knowing that they will receive an instant VAT refund in-store on the day of purchase and before going to airport customs.

"With heightened security screenings in place worldwide, cash refunds at the airport add even more to the time spent there. Kanoo and Premier Tax Free aim to make Tax Free Shopping all that more enjoyable and easy, by offering refunds in cash at city centre locations. Our aim is that customers will spend more of their time enjoying shopping and visiting Paris, saving both time and money" explains Abdulla Abu Khamseen, Executive General Manager of Kanoo Travel.

The new VAT refund office is conveniently located in Printemp's International Department, allowing tourists to receive their VAT voucher and VAT refund simultaneously. In addition, Kanoo offers a full foreign exchange service enabling tourists to receive their refund in the currency of their choice.

Kanoo also operates a downtown VAT refund office in the heart of Paris' 9th shopping district. Located at 11 Rue Scribe, the Kanoo bureau makes VAT refunds hassle free for all those shopping in Premier Tax Free affiliated stores in Place Vendôme, Boulevard des Capucines and the popular shopping streets of the Opéra National de Paris area.

The Tax Free Shopping concept allows non-European residents to pay less for purchases made within the European Union. In France, tourists must spend more than €175,01 in one store on the same day in order to become eligible for a VAT refund. They then receive a VAT refund voucher at the point of sale and are required to present their goods to customs upon leaving the EU. With VAT at 19.6% in France today, this equates to significant savings for visitors from the GCC, Middle East, North Africa and beyond. Premier Tax Free offers tax free shopping in partnership with over 16,000 luxury retail outlets in France.

Kanoo and Premier Tax Free plan to extend this service to customers visiting the United Kingdom later this summer.

For more information on how to shop tax free visit www.kanoofes.fr or www.premiertaxfree.com

About YBA Kanoo Group:

Established in Bahrain in 1890, Kanoo is one of the largest independent, family owned group of companies in the Gulf Region. This diversified business conglomerate operates across a wide spectrum of industries, including; foreign exchange, corporate and leisure travel, holidays, shipping machinery, oil & gas, power & industrial projects, exhibition services, courier services, logistics, specialty chemicals, business centres, other retail and commercial activities.

About Premier Tax Free:

Premier Tax Free pioneered Tourist VAT Refunds in Ireland in 1985 and has since become synonymous with quality Tax Free Shopping and Financial services across the globe. The company currently operates within 24 countries from The Americas, Europe, Middle East to South East Asia. Premier Tax Free is the official and exclusive Tourist VAT Refund provider for the Australian, Jordanian and Uruguayan Governments. Today, Premier Tax Free is the chosen VAT Refund provider for over 75,000 retail outlets globally.

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