

5th World Chambers Congress ends on a high note, onward to Kuala Lumpur

Istanbul, 6 July 2007

Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce and Industry was one of the finalists in the World Chambers Competition in the “Best Skills Development Program” category.

IACCI delegation to the World Congress was headed by Mr. Raad Ommar, CEO, Mr. Brennen Searcy, Mr. Adam Hobson and Ms. May Shubber to receive the award and network with hundreds of chambers from around the world.



“This was a good opportunity for IACCI to showcase our commitment to excellence, the work of the IACCI “Impossible is Nothing” team of 350 staff members and how our over 7,000 members are capable of doing today and tomorrow in Iraq. Iraqis are working diligently to rebuild their nation with their own strength as much as possible. We like to say, ‘Rebuild Iraq by Iraqi hands’,” stated Mr. Raad Ommar.

Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a member representative of ICC through United State Council for International business “USCIB” and this year’s event was the most successful ever in bringing a large US delegation.

For all the details, visit <http://www.uscib.org/index.asp?documentID=3720>



Some of the American delegates in Istanbul, plus guests, at USCIB's booth in the Congress exhibition area. L-R: Brennen Searcy (Iraqi American Chamber), Anne Blouin (American Society of Association Executives), Gary Toebben (Los Angeles Area Chamber), Janice Toebben, Adam Hobson (Iraqi American Chamber), Janice Rys (Metro Atlanta Chamber), Amanda Barlow (USCIB), World Chambers Federation Chair Rona Yircali, Win Hallett (Mobile Area Chamber), Robert Recker (Orlando Regional Chamber), Anthony Parkes (World Chambers Federation), Leslie Schweitzer (U.S. Chamber), David Kreider (Pennsylvania Chamber), Chris Mead (American Chamber of Commerce Executives), Jonathan Huneke (USCIB), Susan Sarfati (American Society of Association Executives), Raad Ommar (Iraqi American Chamber) and Demet Ariyak (ICC Turkey).

Background Information

The Congress was attended by 1,600 delegates from 118 countries. ICC Chairman Marcus Wallenberg brought the 5th World Chambers Congress to a close and, in a special ceremony, handed over the hosting of the congress from Istanbul to Kuala Lumpur, where the biennial congress will take place in 2009. "Our memories of the event and this city will stay with us for many years to come," Mr Wallenberg told delegates assembled at the congress closing. "But, more importantly, the partnerships and connections made here will also continue long into the future. This is what the congress is all about: building the links that ultimately facilitate trade among nations."

Mr. Wallenberg also highlighted the multilateral trade declaration produced at the congress: to press harder for a global trade accord in the World Trade Organization's Doha round of trade negotiations. The statement was issued during this afternoon's plenary on threats to multilateralism and endorsed by the 1,600 delegates from 118 countries attending the congress.

"We are counting on you to redouble your efforts when you return home, to convince your government leaders to act swiftly to finalize an agreement in the Doha round of world trade talks," said Mr Wallenberg, who is also Chairman of the Swedish banking group SEB.

Rona Yircali, Chair of ICC's World Chambers Federation; Guy Sebban, ICC Secretary General; Rifaat Hisarciklioglu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey; Kadir Topbas, Mayor of the City of Istanbul; Halim Borhan, Mayor of the City of Kuala Lumpur and Yong Poh Kon, President of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, accompanied Mr. Wallenberg on the stage.

Highlights from the three-day Congress also included:

- Opening statement by Turkish Prime Minister Reycep Tayyip Erdogan
- An address by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
- An address by Mohammed Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of Grameen Bank, on microcredit and reducing world poverty

- Five plenary sessions on threats to multilateralism, managing global risks, supporting SME development, securing the future of energy and chambers and migration
- A series of 23 workshops covered a wide range of topics, including customer service, chamber branding, leadership versus management, intellectual property, IT and e-business for chambers and empowering businesswomen
- A Bosphorus Strait cruise and banquet dinner at the Ciragan Palace
- A dinner at the Rahmi Koc Museum
- The 2007 World Chambers Competition for the most innovative projects from chambers of commerce

The winners of the 2007 World Chambers Competition were announced at the Gala Dinner on the last night of the Congress. By category, they were:

Best International Cooperation

Confederation of Brazilian Commercial and Business Associations and Essen Chamber of Crafts

Best New Membership Recruitment

Vancouver Board of Trade

Best Skills Development Program

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Best Unconventional Project for SMEs

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka

Best Project from a Developing Country

**Anguilla Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd.
Chamber of Economy of Sarajevo Canton**

The Congress attracted considerable attention from the world press. Approximately 200 journalists attended the congress.

This year's Congress was hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Chambers Federation, and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey.

World Chambers Competition

The World Chambers Competition is organized by the World Chambers Federation (WCF). It is the only global awards programme to recognize the most innovative projects undertaken by chambers of commerce and industry from around the world. clip_image001.png

The competition provides a unique opportunity for chambers to:

- showcase originality and ingenuity

- demonstrate determination to strengthen SMEs
- improve services to members

Chambers of all kinds - from bilateral, local, regional and national to public and private law - can enter the competition.

Since its inception in 2003, the competition has produced an array of case studies demonstrating entrepreneurial diversity and inspiring other chambers. More than 55 dossiers from 30 countries were received for the 2005 competition. Entries came not only from developed countries but also from developing and least developed countries.

Previous finalists and winners of this increasingly popular event have experienced a significant impact on their local and national profile and on their influence due to the recognition received for their participating projects.

2007 competition finalists will present their dossiers to the international judging panel as part of the 5th World Chambers Congress, held 4-6 July 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Through the World Chambers Competition, WCF continues to fulfill its mission, to encourage chamber excellence and dynamism while fostering information exchange and business development.

Several new categories have been included for the 2007 edition of the competition. Each competition incorporates new categories to provide chambers with the chance to share their development of new ideas with their peers around the world.

Best Unconventional Project for SMEs

Applicants will have developed an exceptional project in an activity not typically associated with a chamber of commerce. The project must be inspirational and innovative while demonstrating that it fulfilled specific needs and objectives of the chamber, serving its SME member community

Best International Cooperation between Chambers

Applicants will have developed an exceptional project that showcases how an international alliance between chambers can bring about important benefits to a chamber, its members, and/or the local economy.

Best Skills Development Programme

Education, training and seminars are a core service of many chambers of commerce. Applicants will have developed an exceptional skill development programme that addressed

and fulfilled a niche in the changing education and information needs of their business community.

Best New Membership Recruitment Project

Applicants will have developed an exceptional project that increased chamber membership by commendable, quantitative amounts. Submissions should highlight the project's unique attributes and emphasize the ways and incentives and/or fidelity programs that were used to attract and retain members. Public law (mandatory membership) chambers may apply in this category by highlighting any new fidelity or membership outreach projects.

Special Recognition Award

Best Project from a Developing Country

The World Chambers Competition Jury will automatically consider any eligible projects from the dossiers received for other categories of the competition for this award. This special award will recognize an exceptional project from within the group of applicants, demonstrating achievement and success in a challenging business environment.

Finalists

Judges have finished evaluating the entries for the 2007 World Chambers Competition and have announced the 20 finalists who have made it to the last round of the competition, which will take place in Istanbul in July.

All finalists will be invited to present their projects to the international judging panel at the Fifth World Chambers Congress in Istanbul from 4-6 July 2007.

Best International Cooperation

- Barcelona Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation
- Chamber of Commerce for Bedfordshire
- Confederation of Brazilian Commercial and Business Associations
- Chamber of Industry and Trade of Stuttgart
- and the Chamber of Industry, Commerce, Services and Tourism of Santa Cruz
- Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Best New Membership Recruitment

- Anguilla Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd.
- Chamber of Economy of Sarajevo Canton
- Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Goderich & District Chamber of Commerce
- Vancouver Board of Trade

Best Skills Development Programme

- County Carlow Chamber
- The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Tampere Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Best Unconventional Project for SMEs

- Chamber of Economy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka
- Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Massif Central Chambers of Commerce and Industry Union
- Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Victorian Employer's Chamber of Commerce and Industry