



THE WORLD JEWELLERY CONFEDERATION

CIBJO CONGRESS 2007
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
MARCH 12-15, 2007

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2007 CIBJO CONGRESS FEATURES PANELS ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES ACROSS THE INDUSTRY

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: MARCH 14, 2007 – CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation, continued on the second day of its 2007 congress in Cape Town, South Africa, with a morning-long, two-panel discussion on sustainable practices.

The panels were organized by CIBJO's Ethics Commission and featured 16 speakers from companies and associations representing all aspects of the jewellery supply chain, from large- and small-scale diamonds, gold, platinum and coloured gemstone mining, to jewellery manufacturing and retailing, and laboratories. Each panellist gave a 10-minute speech detailing the efforts his or her organizations were undertaking to address responsible business practices.

Cecilia Gardner of the U.S.-based Jewelers Vigilance Committee began the discussion by outlining the importance of following existing laws and regulations in all CIBJO member countries, including those covering the Kimberley Process and anti-money laundering.

Large diamond, gold and platinum mining company and association speakers included John Hall of Rio Tinto Diamonds, Martin Leake of BHP Billiton Diamonds, Steve Lenahan of AngloGold Ashanti, and James Courage, of Platinum Guild International, representing platinum miners. All detailed their organizations' extensive commitments to sustainability, through longstanding internal programs as well as membership in the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP).

Wilson Mutagwaba of the Mwadui Community Development Partnership, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, spoke about a pilot project there to study the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, aligned with the Diamond Development Initiative.

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Coloured gemstone manufacturer Eric Braunwart, Vancouver, WA, spoke about three fair trade initiatives his company has started in Mexico, Africa and Australia; while ICA ambassador Rui Galopim de Carvalho spoke of ICA members' commitment to sustainable practices in the coloured gem supply chain.

Two diamond jewellery manufacturers who did not speak, but did participate in the panel discussions after the speeches, included Uri Ariel of Canada's HRA Investments, and Davy Lapa of Overseas Diamonds, Antwerp.

Representing retailers were Greg Valerio, CRED Jewellery, London, UK; and three U.S. retailers: Bev Hori, Ben Bridge Jeweler, Seattle, WA; Vicki Cunningham, Cunningham Fine Jewelry, Tulsa, OK; and John Hayes, Goodman's Jewelers, Madison, WI, USA. Valerio spoke about his efforts to sell ethical jewellery products using the fair trade model. Hori, Cunningham and Goodman explained the growing interest in responsible business practices among their U.S. customers, their commitment to learning where their jewellery is sourced, and their membership in the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices.

CIBJO Treasurer Marc-Alain Christen spoke of the Swiss jewellery and watch industry's new ethics code, which its members pledge to follow.

Several other speakers addressed lab practices, including Don Palmieri, GCAL, New York, who spoke about his lab's enhanced guarantees; and Tom Cushman of the Institute Gemmologie de Madagascar. Cushman also spoke about other artisanal and small-scale colored gemstone initiatives he oversees in Madagascar, as well as a new ethical gold mining initiative there.

Finally, Michael Rae, CEO of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices, updated the CIBJO delegates about the progress his 71-member group is making towards the implementation of its Responsible Practices Framework, with third party monitoring due to begin in January 2008.

"The array of speakers we heard from today, conveys to the world how serious the international jewellery industry is about sustainable business practices," noted Matt Runci, Jewelers of America president and CEO, who moderated the panels along with De Beers manager, corporate responsibility, James Evans Lombe. Runci and Evans Lombe, along with Cecilia Gardner, serve as CIBJO's Ethics Commission chair and vice-chairs.

CIBJO's afternoon sessions included the public meetings of the Ethics Commission, along with Sectors I and II.

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