

SPECIAL REPORT

Ethics Commission



Yerevan, Armenia
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Substantive progress by CIBJO in providing practical Corporate Social Responsibility tools and guidance

**By Cecilia Gardner, President
CIBJO Ethics Commission**

For matters that come under the “jurisdiction” of the Ethics Commission, the period from the last CIBJO Congress in Salvador, Brazil, and the upcoming congress in Yerevan, Armenia, has been full of activity. CIBJO was represented at the United Nations, and at the European Union to ensure that the

confederation’s input regarding policies that impact the jewellery industry are well considered.

Among many events throughout the year, CIBJO participated in the OECD meetings in Paris addressing due diligence standards for conflict minerals and diamonds. CIBJO also took part in the 15th Rendez-Vous Gemmologiques de Paris, where jewellery’s impact on sustainable economic opportunities was emphasised to help promote and support positive social development.





Cecilia Gardner, President of the CIBJO Ethics Commission.

CIBJO was represented at the “International Law Enforcement Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Roundtable” in The Hague, organised by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. State Department; at the “Countering Illicit Trafficking In Precious Metals” meeting in Cape Town, organised by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); at the Chopard Eco-Age Futures Roundtable discussion on sustainability in the jewellery industry, which was part of the New York Times International Luxury Conference in Versailles; and at two meetings in Paris of the Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP), which promoted the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, based on effective collaboration between the cosmetics, fashion and jewellery industries and their key stakeholders.

CIBJO co-organised a seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility strategies for the jewellery industry at Fiera di Vicenza’s VICENZAORO January show in Italy, and a seminar on responsible environmental practices in the coral and pearl sector at the Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem & Show in March. In July, CIBJO was one of only a handful of NGOs invited to report on its CSR programme before United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York

These are just a few of the high-level international gatherings where CIBJO represented the interests of our members in a more sustainable and responsible supply chain.

CSR in Six Easy Lessons

Through its educational arm, the World Jewellery Confederation Educational Foundation (WJCEF), CIBJO launched a robust online educational programme to teach members the basics of Corporate Social Responsibility and supply chain transparency, in partnership with Branded Trust of Australia.

The objectives of the six-part course are to provide jewellery industry professionals with a practical knowledge of the critical aspects of CSR relating to the industry. Delivered via the Internet, the course uses interesting new approaches and frameworks to help make this wide-ranging topic accessible, manageable and relevant. Lectures are conveyed by video presentations by leading CSR specialists, and dedicated reading materials are provided for downloading.

The course provides a clear understanding of key terms and concepts, and insight into the terminologies that need to be applied by jewellery professionals, enabling companies and the industry to achieve the aims and benefits of CSR more easily. The course also provides practical CSR solutions, strategies and approaches for jewellery professionals to utilise in their businesses, by connecting better with customers, suppliers and stakeholders, and in so doing improve organisational performance.

Upon successful completion of the course, students receive a Certificate of Accreditation (Level 1), issued by WJCEF. It attests to the fact that the student has completed the course and its requirements, achieving a high level of proficiency, skill and knowledge of CSR and sustainability, as they relate to the jewellery sector.

All CIBJO-affiliated associations are urged to inform their members about this important new programme, and to promote its wide-spread use among them. This will ensure an international base of jewellers who will become aware of their obligations and the actions they can take to



The first Responsible Jewellery Industry Summit in session in March 2016 in New York. Participants discussed ways of reaching consensus over a broader industry vision for sustainable business and ethical sourcing.

promote a sustainable supply chain for the benefit of the consuming public and the industry.

Currently under development with Branded Trust is another online system, which will enable and empower companies to conduct CSR due diligence and chain of custody assurance. Stay tuned!

Responsible Jewellery Industry Summit

CIBJO sponsored and supported a new initiative developed in the United States – the Responsible Jewellery Summit, which took place in March 2016. This interactive discussion about maintaining the integrity of the supply chain for jewellery products was started by a community of individuals from all sectors in the jewellery industry. Although a number of responsible sourcing programs exist, there has never been an industry-wide consensus on what constitutes a vision that all stakeholders can support. The Summit intends to develop such a consensus. This initiative seeks to develop shared visions for key stages of the jewellery supply-chain that support the broader industry vision for sustainable business and responsible sourcing. The

goal is to create awareness of the challenges to overcome and to enable the community to develop strategies, initiatives and tools to address them, and to create a future for the jewellery industry that is sustainable.

During the Summit the attendees (over 150 representatives from every sector of the supply chain) worked collaboratively to develop a vision that incorporated concepts to which the entire supply chain could commit. This vision included goals to procure products sourced in a manner that protects and sustains the environment, and will provide benefits to persons and communities where these products are found. There was an additional commitment to continue to take affirmative steps that ensure legal compliance, transparency, and open and responsible business practices, by actively engaging in and managing everyday actions through the business supply chain.

Eleven different projects that would advance these goals were identified at the Summit, and participants volunteered to do the necessary work to ensure progress to accomplish these projects, and agreed to participate in a reporting mechanism

to inform the group. Examples of the projects identified are: fighting silicosis in the stone cutting and polishing industry in India, creating a web-based hub to inform the public of the progress made to improve our supply chain, harmonising and coordinating standards for responsible sourcing and transparent business practices, and developing education for sales associates and consumers.

The next Summit is scheduled to be held in Tucson, Arizona, on January 29 and 30, 2017. It will be hosted by the American Gem Trade Association two days before the opening of the AGTA GemFair. Again, it will feature an interactive format which will allow attendees to discover positive actions being taken, and collaborate with others to address challenges with real solutions. Progress reports on all 11 initiatives will be delivered.

Once again, attendees will mostly converse in group discussions, assisted by professional facilitators who know how to build consensus towards action. Attendees will take part in an

interactive, working meeting where all voices and opinions are heard.

The Summit organisers are hoping to have more international representatives in attendance to contribute to the outcome. CIBJO members enjoy a \$50 discount on registration, and this includes entry to the AGTA GemFair, the leading trade show for coloured gemstones in the world, which immediately follows. CIBJO urges its members to attend and contribute!

For more information, and to register for the 2017 summit, visit www.jewelryindustrysummit.com.

I am looking forward to our Congress in Yerevan, where we can work together to raise awareness about the importance of taking actions in our industry, to make the supply chain for our products the best it can be! Consumers expect these actions and a safe supply chain. Benefiting all players can benefit all, and improve the bottom line!

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