

CIBJO  
CONGRESS  
2023

**CIBJO PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
CIBJO CONGRESS 2021/22 – CIBJO CONGRESS 2023

## **1. CIBJO Congress 2021/March 2022**

As a result of the ongoing COVID crisis, the CIBJO Board of Directors agreed that the 2021 CIBJO Congress would be held virtually, with a hybrid (in-person and virtual) General Assembly being conducted later in 2022.

Virtual sessions took place between November 1 through November 4, 2021, and then again from November 15 through 18, 2021. The reason for the gap between the two weeks was the holding of the Kimberley Process Plenary during the week starting November 8, which had been announced before the CIBJO Congress.

Five sessions were scheduled for each week, and it was decided to run four open sessions, meaning that members of the greater jewellery public would be able to attend. Two were held during each of the two weeks of the virtual congress. They included the Opening Ceremony and Responsible Sourcing Commission Session (November 1, 2021), the Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee, which provided the opportunity for a public presentation of the new Laboratory-Grown Diamond Guide (November 4, 2021); a joint session of the Marketing & Education Commission and the Ethics Commission, featuring the Jewellery Industry Supply Chain Nomenclature Committee and focusing the language of sustainability and responsible supply chains in the industry (November 15, 2021), and a joint session of the Marketing & Education Commission and the Ethics Commission, featuring the Technology Committee and focusing the challenge of working with data in the digital sales and marketing environments (November 18, 2021).

The four open sessions were run as webinars on Zoom's new Zoom events platform. The platform allowed participants to enter a virtual lobby, in which they were able to interact and intermingle before and after sessions.

The six other commission sessions – Diamond Commission (November 2, 2021), Precious Metal Commission and Gemmological Commission (November 3, 2021), Coloured Stone Commission (November 16, 2021) and Pearl Commission and Coral Commission (November 17, 2021) – were run as Zoom Meetings. Each was by invitation only, and open only to members of the commission, representatives of CIBJO organizations and other authorized participants.

Ten Special Reports were distributed before the congress, and as in previous congresses, a report of each session was written and posted online, with a newsletter containing the reports emailed at the end of each of the two weeks. Recordings of the four open meetings were posted on the CIBJO YouTube channel.

Total participation in congress sessions was close to 900, although this included the attendance of multiple events by the same people. The number of individuals attending was about 330, which would still likely make the entire event the CIBJO Congress with the highest ever participation.

At the conclusion of the joint session of the Marketing & Education Commission and the Ethics Commission on November 18, the CIBJO President formally declared the meeting of the CIBJO General Assembly as open. This was done to conform with a statutory requirement that the meeting of the General Assembly take place during the same calendar year.

The Italian Exhibition Group had originally proposed to host the in-person General Assembly in Vicenza on January 24 and 25, 2022, during its VicenzaOro show. However, due to the trade show being postponed because of a worldwide upsurge in COVID infections, the event was pushed back to take place during the rescheduled show on March 17, 2022, in Vicenza.

CIBJO set up an online registration facility, with invitations being sent all CIBJO members, and all other registrants for the 2021 CIBJO Congress. In total, as of March 14, 112 individuals registered for the General Assembly, with about 60 indicating that they would attend in person, and remainder stating they will attend online.

Given the unusual full-day format of the General Assembly, the agenda of the event was expanded to include four presentations and/or panel discussions on a range of relevant topics related to CIBJO ongoing work and the jewellery industry.

## **2. Redesign of CIBJO corporate image and relaunch of website**

The programme to restructure, upgrade and update the World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) corporate image included the redesign of the logo, the website, and the Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram social media and the CIBJO YouTube page.

A new logo was designed by an Israeli graphics studio, and then modified with the assistance of Hill & Co., which also has helped with the redesign of the CIBJO social media.

As part of the programme to restructure, upgrade and update the World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) Corporate image, the CIBJO website was rebuilt from scratch, with a redesigned look and feel that conformed with the new logo and colours, and would be more effective in promoting materials and services that CIBJO has developed on behalf of the jewellery, gem and precious metals industry.

The website was divided into four sections namely ABOUT (including all information related directly to CIBJO), ETHICS & SUSTAINABILITY, INDUSTRY STANDARDS, EDUCATION and NEW & MEDIA. Each of the first four includes a RESOURCE & SERVICES section, from which users can download at no costs all CIBJO-developed resources, such as the Blue Books and industry guides, and can linked to services provided by CIBJO or in collaboration with CIBJO.

During the course of the project, every page and post had to be built separately, and many of the existing files rebuilt so as to incorporate the new logo and colours. The project took more than four months to complete.

It is by most standards a large website, including 40 pages, 210 posts (news items and video) and 320 downloadable files. This will continue to grow with time.

The site includes satellite mini-websites, such as the Retailer's Reference Guide and the Responsible Sourcing Toolkit. CIBJO Congress are also provided mini-websites, built as independent units.

Following the decision of the CIBJO Board of Directors on November 30, 2022, the new corporate identity, including the logo, was launched on December 5, 2022. The old CIBJO website was simultaneously retired and the new website began broadcasting in its place.

## **3. Retailer's Reference Guide**

The second edition of the CIBJO Retailers Reference Guide was launched on November 4 during the first week of the 2021 CIBJO Congress, on a dedicated mini-website at [www.cibjo.org/rrg/](http://www.cibjo.org/rrg/).

All-digital, the 154-page guide has two sections: a quick reference guide called Key Facts, and five chapters, covering in greater detail the key jewellery elements, namely Diamonds, Gemstones, Pearls, Precious Metals and Responsible Sourcing. The chapter on Responsible Sourcing is a new addition.

Using the website, users can access online the full CIBJO Retailer's Reference Guide, or its six sections individually. Alternatively, they can download them onto their computers or mobile devices, so that the

Guide can be referenced and displayed offline. The interactive PDF format allows for easy navigation through its sections and pages.

The intention is to add Coral as a sixth chapter.

#### **4. CIBJO-Intertek Sustainability Manager Educational Programme and Certification**

On September 10, 2022, at the VicenzaOro show in Vicenza, CIBJO and Intertek Italia SpA officially launched the first-ever training and certification programme for sustainability officers working in the jewellery industry.

The online programme is operating under the auspices of the International Council for Sustainable Business, which was established by CIBJO's educational arm, the World Jewellery Confederation Education Foundation (WJCEF).

The training programme is offered in a series of modules on a dedicated e-training platform, developed by Intertek. Presented by sustainability experts with special expertise in the gem and jewellery industries, they contribute to a student's successfully obtaining the number of training hours that are mandatory for certified CSR/Sustainability/ESG officers.

The sixth module was designed specifically by CIBJO, and its development was coordinated by Philip Olden, then the President of the Responsible Sourcing Commission. CIBJO commissioned Danielle Keller, a Berlin-based jewellery and sustainability specialist, who prepared and will present the course, which also included contributions by the Responsible Jewellery Council, Signet, the World Diamond Council and LBMA.

The certification is issued by Intertek, which is accredited by Accredia, the sole national accreditation body appointed by the Italian government in compliance with the application of the European Regulation 765/2008, which attests to the competence, independence and impartiality of certification, inspection and verification bodies. Accredia is a member of EA (European cooperation for Accreditation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum). This means that the certification is recognised worldwide.

#### **5. The CIBJO Academy**

The CIBJO President formally announced the establishment of the CIBJO Academy at the start of the Jewellery Industry Voices seminar in Vicenza on January 22, 2023. Kenneth Scarratt, Acting President of Sector A, heads the new body.

The CIBJO Academy will be responsible for the preparation and delivery of educational programmes and materials, suitable for jewellery professionals and the consuming public, about standards, operating principles and terminology developed within CIBJO's various commissions and expert committees. The new academy's goal is to make available to the greater jewellery community the massive body of work that is being produced on a constant basis by the commissions and special, in a way that is easily understood and applicable.

By the start of the 2023 CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, all the various educational modules have been completed, and the academy's programme will be presented to the membership during the meeting of the General Assembly on October 5, 2023.

#### **6. Jewellery Industry Voices Webinars**

The third season the Jewellery Industry Voices webinar, the series launched at the start of the COVID pandemic, had premiered with a hybrid live/streaming event at the VicenzaOro Jewellery Show in

September 2021. The event focused on industry strategies to support actualization of two of the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals.

The first online webinar took place on October 7, 2021. Entitled “Trading Pearls Online: Why, How, and the Consequences,” it examined the impact of online trading in the pearl sector, discuss the particular challenges and consider how the trade is likely to change.

In November, the four open sessions of the Virtual CIBJO Congress were run according to the Jewellery Industry Voices panel discussion format, with the exception of the opening ceremony. JIV moderator Edward Johnson assisted in their preparation and moderated the second, which served as a session of the Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee.

The next webinars took place on February, and then two hybrid seminars were held in Vicenza on March 18, the day after the meeting of the CIBJO General Assembly.

Season 3 of Jewellery Industry Voices had four season sponsors. Each season sponsored two webinars.

CIBJO launched the fourth season of Jewellery Industry Voices on Sunday, January 22, 2023, during the VicenzaOro jewellery show in Vicenza, Italy. It was simultaneously live streamed around the world via the show’s website.

The first seminar/was entitled “The branding of the jewellery market.” It looked at the growing dominance of brands, which today account for more than half of fine jewellery sales, focusing on how they are promoting responsible sourcing and sustainability principles to enhance their own identity, as well as the value of their products.

The second seminar was entitled “Sustainability through successful succession.” It focussed on the process of transitioning institutional knowledge effectively from one generation to the next. It was conducted in collaboration with Initiatives in Art and Culture.

The third seminar was also done in collaboration with Initiatives in Art and Culture, and was a hybrid event at the IAC Conference in New York City on July 18, 2023. It dealt with intellectual property in the jewellery industry and was the first of a three-part series on IP. The first focused on the U.S. industry and market.

The second IP seminar looked the subject from the perspective of brands operating in the European market, and it took place at the VicenzaOro show in Italy on September 10, 2023. The third part in the series will focus on Asia and take place in Jaipur on October 3, 2023, during the Ethics Commission session of the 2023 CIBJO Congress.

Another JIV hybrid seminar was conducted in Vicenza on September 10. It looked at the growing use and reliance on systems powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which is likely to engender one of the most significant transformations of the jewellery industry.

## **7. United Nations participation**

As part of CIBJO’s obligations as a the jewellery industry’s representative with special consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council, the CIBJO President participated in a number of meetings, including the High-Level Segment of the United Nation’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2023, where he addressed the gathering, emphasising the potential that the jewellery industry has as a force for positive societal development, particularly during the period following the COVID pandemic. Among the leaders in attendance during the gathering was UN Secretary General António Guterres.

He also attended the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023, during which progress toward fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals was discussed at the mid-way between 2015, when they were introduced, and 2030, when they are supposed to be realised.

CIBJO delivered statements to the ECOSOC High-Level Segment both in 2022 and 2023, and its Quadrennial Report for the period 2018-2021, which was submitted and accepted in August 2022. A Communication of Engagement for the period of 2021 and 2022 was submitted to and accepted by the UN Global Compact in September 2022.

## **8. CIBJO Statement following Russian invasion of Ukraine**

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 2022, CIBJO released guidelines for members on March 7. The document was first reviewed by the CIBJO President, Vice Presidents and Chief Financial Officer, and then submitted for review and approval to the Board of Directors. It was distributed to all CIBJO member organizations.

The statement was as follows:

*Since the beginning of the conflict on February 24, 2022, CIBJO has received numerous queries from concerned members, about how the jewellery industry should act in the current circumstances.*

*CIBJO is extremely concerned for the safety and welfare of the people affected in Ukraine, and especially members of its jewellery sector, to which the World Jewellery Confederation has long been associated and with whom we have personal ties.*

*We hope that the diplomatic processes underway prove successful, and that the people and communities in the country be allowed to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, freely and securely, and peace will prevail.*

*Members of the jewellery industry must establish their own policies regarding sales to and purchases from counterparts in the region, in accordance with relevant laws which currently may include restrictions on the transfer of funds internationally and the extension and receiving of credit and/or financing.*

*The situation is dynamic, and the legal environment is constantly changing – sometimes daily.*

*CIBJO recommends that companies maintain close contact with their national associations for guidance on sanctions and restrictions in the countries in which they live and operate, and that they always act strictly according to national and regional law.*

*As always, CIBJO recommends that members of the jewellery industry abide by the guidance provided in its Responsible Sourcing Blue Book, which recommends that all participants have in place demonstrable due diligence procedures to identify risks in their supply chain. In addition, care should be taken to avoid unintended consequences.*

*Millions of people in some of the world's most economically and socially challenged regions rely on the revenues generated by jewellery and its components, and it is important to avoid the suffering of innocent people.*

*The jewellery industry is a global family that traverses national boundaries, political philosophies and interests, religions, gender, and ethnic identities. We inherently understand that our personal wellbeing is dependent on the collaboration and goodwill of all responsible participants in our supply chain, whoever they are and wherever they reside. The current crisis is an anathema to all*

*that we strive for, and we hope and pray that it will be resolved peacefully in the very near future.*

CIBJO's Russian members withdrew from the World Jewellery Confederation shortly after the start of the crisis, and more recently CIBJO has collaborated with other industry associations and companies in process facilitated by the World Diamond Council to formulate a G7 Diamond Protocol. It will be presented to G7 governments as an industry proposal to meet their requirements that measures be taken to prevent the import into their territories of diamonds whose origin is Russian.

#### **9. Agreement with Initiatives in Arts and Culture**

In December 2022, CIBJO concluded a cooperation agreement with Initiatives in Arts and Culture, which is a New York-based organization running educational programmes related to fine, decorative, and visual arts, and specifically jewellery. Its president is Lisa Koenigsberg and the bulk of its audience has traditionally been in the United States.

As part of the agreement, CIBJO and Initiatives in Arts and Culture agreed on the periodic joint organization of seminars, with the Vicenza event in January 2023 being the first in the series.

#### **10. Collaboration with Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030**

CIBJO has collaborated with the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030, which was founded in 2022 by Kering and Cartier, and to accelerate positive impact in three areas: building climate resilience, preserving resources, and fostering inclusiveness.

On January 22, 2022, CIBJO and W&JI 2030 conducted a panel discussion at the VicenzaOro show on gender equality in the industry. The discussion considered the subject from the perspective of the seven Women's Empowerment Principles, as expressed within the framework of the UN Global Compact.

An update on the WJI 2030 programme was presented during a moderated discussion involving the CIBJO President and Iris Van der Veeken, the W&JI 2023 Executive Director, during the VicenzaOro jewellery show on September 10, 2023.

#### **11. Major jewellery brands become CIBJO members**

In September 2022, Cartier International, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious luxury maisons, joined CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation, as a commercial member, becoming the first major jewellery brand to do so. The company operate more than more than 200 boutiques in more than 60 countries, and three flagship stores, known as temples, in Paris, New York and London. Its revenues in 2022 stood at approximately \$12.4 billion.

It was followed in September 2023 by the Kering Group. A multinational corporation specializing in luxury, the Paris-headquartered group owns the brands Gucci, Balenciaga, Bottega Veneta, Yves Saint Laurent, Creed and Alexander McQueen, among others, with global revenues in 2022 totalling about \$21.5 billion.

A special session devoted to the brands will be featured during the first day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress in October 3, 2023.

#### **12. Memorandums of Understanding**

A number of significant MOUs were reached between CIBJO and other industry associations during the period in question. They include agreements with:

- a. **The National Gemstone Testing Centre (NGTC) and the Gems and Jewellery Trade Association of China (GAC)**, according to which CIBJO, NGTC and GAC will formulate programmes to educate members of the gemstone, precious metals and jewellery sectors in China about the principles of ethical business practices, responsible sourcing, sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility and harmonized standards and nomenclature, as reflected in the CIBJO Blue Book series and guidance documents. It also was agreed that CIBJO NGTC and GAC will cooperate in the translation of selected CIBJO Blue Books and guidance documents into various Chinese languages, for distribution in China and available on the CIBJO website. Furthermore, it was agreed that CIBJO NGTC and GAC will cooperate in the creation of international jewellery events in China, including the hosting by NGTC and GAC of the CIBJO Congress.
- b. **The Turkish Jewellery Exporters' Association (TJEA)**, pledging the intent of the two organizations to cooperate closely in nurturing the development of both the Turkish and international jewellery, gemstone and precious metals industries. According to the agreement, CIBJO and TJEA will develop programmes to educate members of the gemstone, precious metals and jewellery sectors in Turkey about the principles of ethical business practices, responsible sourcing, sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility and harmonized standards and nomenclature. These will be based on the CIBJO Blue Book series Such programmes will be presented at events organized by TJEA.
- c. **The Birmingham Assay Office (BAO)**, establishing a framework for technical cooperation between the two organisations aimed at enhancing the global jewellery industry. The agreement maps out a programme of cooperation that will focus on areas such as information exchange, joint research, technical assistance, and initiatives promoting best practices, harmonisation of standards, and consumer protection.
- d. **The International Grown Diamond Association (IGDA)**, by which the organisations agreed to work together in protecting the confidence of consumers in both jewellery products and the jewellery industry, through the transparent development of standards, operating principles and terminology. As part of the agreement, IGDA will become a member of CIBJO's Laboratory Grown Diamond Committee.

### 13. JCK Show

After a hiatus of two years, in 2020 and 2021, as a result of the COVID pandemic, CIBJO resumed its agreement with the JCK Show in 2022, exhibiting in Las Vegas in a booth provided by the show.

Because of the change in the CIBJO logo, the booth kit that had served us for many years was no longer appropriate, so a simple new booth was designed and printed, consisting of a step-and-repeat backdrop with the new logo, and two extractable side banners, one of which explained CIBJO mission and the other which publicised the 2023 CIBJO Congress.

### 14. CIBJO Congress 2023

The official to hold the CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, India, was issued by CIBJO Vice President Pramod Agrawal in his capacity as Chair of the National Gems & Jewellery Council of India, It was joined by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotional Council (GJEPC), which became the primary host.

A preliminary on-site visit was made by the CIBJO President and Communications Director, traveling to Jaipur and New Delhi, where they met representatives of the Indian government to obtain support for



the event. The CIBJO President met in April in Rome with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, also to discuss the congress.

The official announcement about the congress was made on May 8, and the dedicated congress website being launched two days later, on May 10.

The dedicated website includes the interim congress programme, important travel information, background information about Jaipur and the congress venue, news and media.

An online registration form for the congress was made available, and, since the CIBJO Congress 2023 will be a carbon neutral event, participants were also requested to complete a carbon foot-printing form.

With the official announcement, a coordinated congress marketing campaign was launched as well. It included regular mailings to the CIBJO database, changing social media banners on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram, and banners on all other materials sent out by CIBJO through the contact database.

Congress sponsorships were obtained by CIBJO worldwide, and in India by the congress hosts.

The CIBJO Communications Director visited Jaipur in August to review preparations. Shortly afterwards, a decision was made to shift the congress venue from a new facility at the Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre, to the Fairmont Jaipur, due to the delay in granting of the final permits the original site.

Ten Special reports were issued prior to the start of the congress, once a week starting from July 26, and the congress digital binder was uploaded on September 28.

## **15. In Memoriam**

The CIBJO Board of Directors lost key officers during the period since the previous, whose absence will be felt keenly. They were mentors and close friends, and made their mark indelibly on our community.

### **ROLAND NAFTULE**

For more than two decades, Roland served as President of Sector A, overseeing the work of all gem-associated commissions, as well as the preparation, updating and maintenance of the Blue Books, and a great deal more, including congress agendas, special reports and guidance documents.

He was born in Switzerland in 1937, into a family that cut and polished gemstones for high-end watch makers in Geneva. His grandfather, Leon Naftule, a jeweller, established a lapidary in 1926, where he later was joined by his three sons.

In 1952, Roland joined his father Jean, the eldest of Leon's sons, in New York, where they opened NAFCO Gems. He began his career in the city selling gemstones, and 10 years later expanded into rough production, becoming involved in mining ventures in Tanzania.

By 1968 Roland had grown NAFCO Gems into a nationwide operation, traveling abroad to purchase rough and loose gemstones for sale in both the American and European markets. A cutting factory was opened in Shannon, Ireland, in 1969, and in 1976 he transferred the company headquarters to Scottsdale, Arizona, opening an additional lapidary in Phoenix.

Roland also dedicated himself to public life of the gemstone industry. Joining CIBJO as a U.S. representative, Roland held a variety of roles over a period of about a quarter of a century, among them Vice President, Sector A President, member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and President's Council, and President and Vice President of the Coloured Stone Commission.

He was a founding organiser of the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) and served as its President from 1983 through 1985. He was Chairman of AGTA's Industry Rules Committee for 12 years, and for two years served on the Board of Governors of the AGTA Gemological Testing Center.

In 1984, Roland was a founding organiser of the International Coloured Stone Association (ICA), first serving as Chairman of its organizing committee and then as its Founding President from 1985 through 1989.

In 1989 he was the founding organiser and first Chairman of the Gemstone Industry & Laboratory Conference (GILC), which is dedicated to harmonising terminology provided on reports by leading gemmological laboratories.

Roland was elected to the Board of Governors of GIA in 2001, and served the body for 12 years. He was also Chairman of the GIA's coloured gemstone advisory and museum committees.

Roland died on April 1 at age 85. Despite his deteriorating health, he had remained active as Sector A President almost until the end.

### **HARRY LEVY**

Harry filled a variety of roles in CIBJO, serving at different times as President and Vice President of the Coloured Stone Commission, and President and Vice President of the Diamond Commission.

He was born in Turkey into a family that had recently left Persia. It was on its way to Britain, where he arrived as a young boy. In 2009, at the CIBJO Congress in Istanbul, his unique origins were honoured by the Turkish Jewellery Exporters Association.

Harry studied mathematics and philosophy at university, but was drawn to the world of gemstones, in which his family was involved. He set up his own company in London's Hatton Garden district, Levy Gems.

For most of his life Harry was a working gemstone dealer, but he was also a self-taught authority on gemmology, and a dedicated industry public servant. In addition to his various roles in CIBJO, he served as President of the International Diamond Council, the gemmological authority of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA), which today has its standard incorporated within CIBJO's. He was twice President of the London Diamond Bourse, as well as President of Gem-A, the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, and President of the British Jewellers Association.

One of the crowning achievements came in July 2015, when the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) published International Standard 18323, entitled "Jewellery — Consumer confidence in the diamond industry," specifying a set of permitted descriptors for the diamond industry that are meant to be unequivocally understood by consumers. It was the first ISO standard related to diamonds, and Harry served as Chairman of the Working Group that oversaw its formulation. The final version mirrored the definitions outlined in CIBJO's Diamond Blue Book, which were aligned with those of the IDC.

Harry died on May 15 at age 83.

### **JOSE HESS**

CIBJO remembers Jose Hess, who served as the organisation's first American President from 1997 through 2000, who died before the previous congress on February 9, 2021, at age 87.

He was born in 1933 into a Jewish family, which left Nazi Germany in 1938, settling in Colombia, South America. He got his start in the jewellery industry at age 14, having left school temporarily to help his parents, who had both fallen ill, finding employment with a Viennese goldsmith who had also fled Nazi Germany.

Jose immigrated to the United States at age 17 and worked at a series of jobs in the jewellery industry. Graduating high school, he took gemmology courses at GIA, and obtained a degree from the Mechanics Institute of the General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York.

After four years service in the U.S. military, Jose became a full-time jeweller, making models and handmade pieces for the renowned American designer David Webb.

In 1958 he set out on his own, and the name Jose Hess became synonymous with fine jewellery design. In 1963, he won the first of his De Beers Diamonds International Awards, for a gold and diamond leaf pin. Over the years he was recognized many times, among them winning seven De Beers Diamonds International Awards, eight De Beers Diamonds Today Awards, two International Gold Corp. Certificate of Merits and an American Gem Trade Association Spectrum Award. His jewellery was often spotted on celebrities at red carpet events, and was featured by consumer magazines such as Modern Bride, Elle, In Style, Vogue and others.

Jose served on the Board of Directors of the Manufacturing Jewelers and Silversmiths of America (MJSA) and as President of both the Plumb Club and the 24 Karat Club of the City of New York. He was a founder of both the American Jewelry Design Council and the Contemporary Jewelry Design Group, and was a guide to emerging young designers and a consultant for jewellery companies around the world. He taught at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, where helped create a framework course for jewellery students that is still offered today.

In 1996 he was elected President of CIBJO, beginning the first of two consecutive two-year terms at the start of 1997, ending in December 2000. During this period he worked hard to nurture a new generation of leadership for the international jewellery business.

*We share in the loss of their families, and will pay official tribute to both at the CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, where we will honour their memories and consider the vast contributions that each made to our industry.*