



CIBJO PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025/6

The following is a report covering activities of the CIBJO President, Secretariat and Administration for the period immediately preceding the 2025 CIBJO Congress in Paris France, in October 2025, to the period immediately preceding the 2026 CIBJO Congress in Vicenza, Italy, in September 2026.

1. CIBJO CONGRESS 2025

The 2025 CIBJO Congress concluded on October 29, 2025, in Paris. It was hosted by l'Union Française de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie, des Pierres & des Perles (UFBJOP), with the first two days taking place at the Comet Bourse Auditorium and the third and final day at UFBJOP headquarters.

CIBJO extends its thanks to UFBJOP for its hard work and exemplary collaboration, particularly to its Executive President, Bernadette Pinet-Cuoq; Executive Director, Laurence Chevillon; and their staff.

Official registration for the congress exceeded 250, with nearly 50 accompanying persons and 20 members of the media. In addition to local guests, total participation was well over 300, making it one of the largest CIBJO Congresses ever held up to that time.

The congress was also livestreamed throughout all three days. Viewing was available through the dedicated congress website's home page and CIBJO's YouTube channel. Following the event, recordings of all sessions were uploaded to the CIBJO website and YouTube channel.

In the lead-up to the congress, 10 special reports from all CIBJO commissions and the Technology Committee were distributed and posted on the congress website, where they remain available for download.

In early September, the Élysée Palace, the official seat of the French head of state, confirmed that the congress would be held under the official patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. The French President's agreement to serve as official patron signified that the event aligned with the values, interests, and priorities of the French state.

UFBJOP has held a large portion of the original archives of CIBJO and its founding organization, BIBOA, for many decades. During the congress, it arranged a special exhibition at its headquarters featuring a selection of photographs and documents celebrating the beginning of the 100th year since CIBJO's founding.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR CIBJO CONGRESS 2026

On February 9, CIBJO officially announced that the 2026 congress would take place in Vicenza, Italy, from September 3 to 7, including pre-congress meetings. The event

will be designated the Centenary Congress, marking 100 years since CIBJO's establishment.

The congress is being hosted by the Italian Exhibition Group (IEG), organizer of the VICENZAORO shows held each January and September, as well as the T.Gold and Oroarezzo shows in Italy and JGTD | Jewellery, Gem & Technology in Dubai. Sessions will take place at the Fiera di Vicenza concurrently with the September VICENZAORO jewellery show.

The official CIBJO Congress hotels will be located in Abano Terme, approximately 45 kilometers from Vicenza. Transportation between the hotels and the congress venue will be provided by the congress organizers.

The CIBJO President and Communications Director held initial meetings with IEG in Vicenza in January, followed by subsequent hybrid meetings hosted in Milan and Vicenza. Stefania Favaro was appointed to coordinate the congress arrangements on behalf of IEG, while Moira Zoconda will coordinate travel and hotel arrangements.

The planned format differs somewhat from that of previous congresses. The event will run for three and a half days rather than three, including one and a half days of pre-congress steering committee sessions.

The first steering committee sessions will take place on Thursday, September 3, at the Grand Hotel in Abano Terme. Unlike in recent years, participation in the steering committee sessions will be by invitation only, with invitations issued at the discretion of commission presidents and/or committee chairs.

The second day of steering committee sessions will take place on the morning of Friday, September 4, at the Fiera di Vicenza.

The Opening Ceremony and Opening Session will take place on the afternoon of Friday, September 4, at the Palladio Theatre in Vicenza, followed by a high-level trade presentation.

The first full day of congress sessions will be held on Saturday, September 5, at the Palladio Theatre and will feature a series of panel discussions.

Sunday, September 6, will feature a series of one-hour commission and committee sessions at the Palladio Theatre, together with one open panel discussion.

The congress will close on Monday, September 7, with the remaining commission and committee sessions, sector meetings, the General Assembly, and a meeting of the Board of Directors.

A Welcome Dinner is scheduled for Friday, September 4, at the restaurant of the Fiera di Vicenza. The Gala Dinner will take place on Saturday, September 5, at the Garibaldi Bistrot in Vicenza's city centre, following a cultural visit to the nearby

Teatro Olimpico. The Taste of Italy dinner will take place on Sunday, September 6, at a villa near Vicenza.

Following the close of the congress on Monday, September 7, there will be a tour of Vicenza's city centre, including the Jewellery Museum in the Basilica Palladiana in the central Piazza dei Signori, followed by an aperitif on a terrace at the basilica.

Commissions and committees are encouraged to hold as many online steering committee meetings as they consider necessary before the congress.

3. UNITED NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

As required every four years of organizations holding special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), CIBJO submitted its quadrennial report for the period 2022–2025 to the NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on July 14, 2026.

The report covered CIBJO's work within the broader jewellery industry in support of the UN development program and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. More specifically, it described activities undertaken during the four-year period that contributed to the UN's mission, cooperation with various UN bodies—including ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly—and CIBJO initiatives supporting the achievement of various SDGs.

As required annually, CIBJO submitted its annual report to ECOSOC on April 14, 2026. The report described how CIBJO and the jewellery industry were working to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. The statement was published by ECOSOC and made publicly available together with declarations submitted by non-governmental organizations holding consultative status with ECOSOC. All supported the 2026 ECOSOC theme: "Transformative, equitable, innovative, and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all."

Since 2006, CIBJO has been the only organization in the international diamond sector to hold special consultative status with ECOSOC. In August 2022, ECOSOC confirmed CIBJO's status through 2026. CIBJO delivered statements to the ECOSOC High-Level Segments in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026, reporting on the program it is implementing within the industry.

In his address to the ECOSOC High-Level Segment at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on July 15, 2026, CIBJO President Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri expressed CIBJO's and the jewellery industry's commitment to supporting transformative, equitable, innovative, and coordinated action to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Cavaliere noted that, ahead of CIBJO's Centenary Congress in Vicenza, Italy, in early September, CIBJO was completing the first edition of its *ESG and Sustainability Reference Guide for the Jewellery Sector*. He explained that the document would serve as a roadmap for companies throughout the jewellery supply chain over the next five to ten years by condensing the broad range of ESG topics into a structured and prioritized framework.

4. UN GLOBAL COMPACT ENGAGEMENT

As required biennially, CIBJO submitted its formal Communication on Engagement (COE) report to the United Nations Global Compact on August 13, 2026. The report described how CIBJO fulfils its commitments to the organization, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2030 Agenda.

The eight-page report covered three principal areas of activity:

1. Organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops, webinars, and training sessions for jewellery-industry members on the UN Global Compact Principles and topics relevant to corporate sustainability.
2. Developing tools and guidelines to enable jewellery-industry members to comply with the Global Compact Principles.
3. Engaging members and affiliated groups in collective-action efforts at multiple events and locations on issues related to the mission of the UN Global Compact.

5. WORLD JEWELLERY CONFEDERATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION (WJCEF)

Educational programs are generally conducted under the umbrella of the WJCEF, which CIBJO established in 2008 to help finance and administer programs promoting the principles of corporate social responsibility throughout the global jewellery industry.

The purpose of these programs is to educate industry members about incorporating CSR principles into the countries and communities in which they operate, and about creating and supporting grassroots initiatives through which the jewellery business can contribute to sustainable economic and social development.

WJCEF educational programs are delivered in several ways, including:

1. Materials distributed through CIBJO member organizations, which have direct contact with hundreds of thousands of industry members worldwide.
2. Programs conducted at industry events, some organized directly by CIBJO/WJCEF and others by third parties, such as trade shows.
3. Arrangements with third-party organizations with which CIBJO/WJCEF has formal agreements.

CIBJO/WJCEF has a standard agreement with the Italian Exhibition Group through which it delivers CSR- and sustainability-related seminars during major trade shows in Italy. These seminars are simultaneously broadcast worldwide via a streaming service.

WJCEF is a foundation registered in Switzerland and is therefore subject to all laws and regulations governing nonprofit organizations operating in the country. Accordingly, as in previous years, a report on its activities was submitted to the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations on April 30, 2026.

7. THE CIBJO ACADEMY

The CIBJO Academy was established in 2023 to prepare and deliver educational programs and materials for jewellery professionals and the consuming public concerning the standards, operating principles, and terminology developed by CIBJO's various commissions and expert committees. Its Founding Dean is Kenneth Scarratt, CIBJO Vice President and President of Sector A.

The CIBJO Academy's essential course materials comprise the various CIBJO Blue Books and guides covering the full spectrum of the gemstone and jewellery industries. These include natural diamonds, laboratory-grown diamonds, colored gemstones, pearls, coral, precious metals, responsible-sourcing principles, gem-laboratory operations, marketing, ethics, legal issues, and other subjects.

8. INTERNATIONAL FINE JEWELLERY ACADEMY

The International Fine Jewellery Academy (IFJA), an educational institute based in Milan, Italy, was formally registered in July 2025. It serves the needs of the jewellery industry and provides educational resources to students from around the world.

IFJA was created as a partnership involving CIBJO; Confcommercio, Italy's largest trade association, which operates in 155 sectors, including jewellery; Fondazione Mani Intelligenti, a Valenza-based organization whose mission is to train the next generation of Italian goldsmiths; and CAPAC–Politecnico del Commercio e del Turismo, a nonprofit foundation active in professional training since 1961.

As part of the venture, CAPAC will provide facilities for IFJA in central Milan, where in-person training and education will take place. This will be complemented by hands-on training delivered by highly skilled jewellery artisans at partner companies in northern Italy.

IFJA will target students between the ages of 19 and 30 and offer specialized courses ranging from 250 to 1,000 hours, including on-the-job training with partner companies. This hands-on approach will ensure that students acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical experience, which are crucial in the high-skill vocational field of jewellery. Classroom instruction will be conducted in English.

IFJA's educational activities are scheduled to begin during the 2026–27 academic year, representing the first step in a project designed to expand progressively through the development of facilities, programs, and international partnerships.

9. JEWELLERY INDUSTRY VOICES AT VICENZAORO

CIBJO began the seventh season of its *Jewellery Industry Voices* seminar and webinar series at the VicenzaOro show in January 2026. Eight sessions were held on January 7 and 8, with four seminars taking place each day. Seven of the presentations were panel discussions. The sessions were streamed through multiple channels and subsequently uploaded to the CIBJO website.

The sessions were:

- a. A collaboration with the Gold Principles Group, a body uniting major participants in the global gold sector to promote responsible and sustainable practices based on the *Gold Industry Declaration of Responsibility and Sustainability Principles*, launched in 2022.
- b. *Managing Risk and Driving Change in Jewellery Supply Chains*, which highlighted the forthcoming release of CIBJO's comprehensive *ESG & Sustainability Reference Guide for the Jewellery Industry* and version 2.0 of its *Responsible Sourcing Blue Book and Toolkit*.
- c. *Educating the Next Generation of Jewellery Buyers*, which examined how the jewellery industry can engage younger consumers, helping them buy with confidence and make informed decisions.
- d. *Artificial Intelligence and Gemstone Identification and Grading*, which examined how AI may change the operation of gem laboratories.
- e. *Prospects for the Natural Diamond Sector*, which considered the sector's strategies as it navigates one of the most challenging and disruptive periods in its history, while seeking to retain its traditional role as a market anchor, as well as its strength and leadership.
- f. A presentation by Martin Rapaport, President of the Rapaport Group, entitled "What Will Happen to the Diamond Industry? What Should You Do About It?"
- g. *Is the Coloured Gemstone Industry Meeting Its Market Potential?*
- h. *Tracking and Tracing Gemstones, Diamonds, and Jewellery with DNA-Based Physical Tracers and Blockchain Technology*.

10. JEWELLERY INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

More than five years after beginning work on the project, CIBJO's Jewellery Industry Supply Chain Nomenclature Committee conducted a second round of public consultation on the Blue List. The Blue List is intended to function as a universally accepted glossary of terminology for the jewellery, gemstone, and precious-metals industries relating to responsible sourcing and sustainability.

The second round began on April 16, 2026, and ran for two months. It followed the first round, which ran from May 5 to September 6, 2025. During the first round, the committee received a number of recommended amendments to the original draft.

The second round of public consultation was coordinated by Kele Mafole, International Relations Lead of the De Beers Group.

Following the second consultation, the committee approved a number of minor amendments and recommended that the Blue List be submitted for final approval at the 2026 CIBJO Congress in Vicenza.

11. ESG INITIATIVES

The “Ethics and Sustainability” section of the CIBJO website has been expanded to include new tools and documents developed within the Sustainable Development Commission and through services provided by ESG consultants Jon Key and Helen Mitchell.

This includes a comprehensively updated *Responsible Sourcing Toolkit*, which will replace the original toolkit that has been available on the website for several years.

Like the earlier toolkit, the updated version consists of a landing page and nine separate modules. Companies in the industry can use these modules to develop in-house responsible-sourcing policies, practices, and reporting systems. Each module covers a specific stage, and most modules provide links to documents that can be downloaded at no cost and used or adapted by industry participants.

A new section will be added to the general “Ethics and Sustainability” area of the CIBJO website. It will provide an overview of the materials and services developed within CIBJO and links to the relevant guidelines and tools. These will include the *Responsible Sourcing Toolkit*, the *Responsible Sourcing Blue Book*, updated in 2026, the *ESG & Sustainability Reference Guide*, the ESG Wheel, the *Double Materiality Assessment*, and the *ESG Measurement Guidelines*.

12. JADE (FEI CUI) AND OPAL GUIDES

Two working groups operating under the umbrella of the Coloured Stone Commission and Sector A have developed two new guides, both of which will be presented at the 2026 CIBJO Congress in Vicenza.

The *Jade Guide* makes important cultural distinctions and provides a detailed taxonomy for Fei Cui, jade, jadeite, nephrite, and yu, with clear definitions for all the terminology used. An integrated relationship chart links traditional Chinese terms with those used in the Western world, enabling both the industry and the public to understand these important relationships. Historical timelines show how the current nomenclature has developed over the centuries. The colourfully illustrated

guide describes how this gem may be classified according to colour, transparency, and texture, and how these characteristics may be evaluated.

The *Opal Guide* provides clear definitions of descriptive terms, classification tables, and written and visual explanations of opal's unique characteristics in relation to its various global sources. Treatments and forms of fashioning are described. Precious opal is compared with common opal, synthetics, and simulants. The history of opal and opal mining is addressed, along with modern operations. Important opal sources are fully described, together with 20 lesser-known producing countries.

13. JCK SHOW BOOTH

CIBJO participated as an exhibitor at the JCK Show in Las Vegas from May 29 to June 1, 2026, under the terms of its long-standing barter agreement with the show organizer, RX.

The CIBJO booth was located in an area reserved for industry associations. It consisted of a step-and-repeat backdrop bearing the CIBJO logo and two retractable side banners, one explaining CIBJO's mission and the other promoting the 2026 CIBJO Congress.

Handout materials were also prepared for the booth, including new flyers for the CIBJO Congress in Vicenza.

The booth was staffed by the CIBJO Communications Director.

14. HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL JEWELLERY SHOW

CIBJO President Gaetano Cavalieri and CIBJO Vice President Kenneth Scarratt attended the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show from March 4 to 8, 2026.

During the show, Dr. Cavalieri delivered a keynote address at the 2026 International Fei Cui and Jade Jewellery Design Competition, organized by the Hong Kong Jade Association and co-organized by NGTC Culture.

The CIBJO President and Vice President also participated in a seminar examining the internationalization of the Fei Cui standard. The seminar was moderated by Kent Wong, Chairman of the Hong Kong Jewellers & Goldsmiths Association.

15. KERING GENERATION AWARD X JEWELLERY

For the second year, CIBJO collaborated with the Kering luxury group and the scientific coordination team at POLI.design–Politecnico di Milano to organize the Kering Generation Award x Jewellery project.

The theme of the award was “Second Chance, First Choice.” Its goal was to reduce the environmental impact of the jewellery industry in terms of products, processes, services, and technology.

Ten world-renowned universities and academies offering courses in jewellery and sustainability participated, together with start-ups developing impact-reduction solutions for the industry. With guidance from their professors, students were required to design a jewel that transformed discarded materials into valuable pieces, demonstrating the intangible value of creativity. Start-ups were invited to submit an existing product, technology, or service in the jewellery sector aligned with the contest theme.

The shortlisted finalists presented their projects to the jury in July 2026 during Haute Couture Week in Paris.

The winner in the start-up category received mentorship from POLI.design– Politecnico di Milano, while the winner in the student category was offered an internship with one of Kering’s jewellery maisons.

16. INAUGURATION OF CIBJO LAKE IN GUJARAT, INDIA

In March, the CIBJO President was invited to attend the inauguration of a freshwater reservoir near the village of Luvarya in the Indian state of Gujarat. The reservoir was named CIBJO Lake in honour of the association’s centenary year.

The lake forms part of a major water-development project being undertaken by the Dholakia Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Hari Krishna Group, one of the world’s largest diamond-manufacturing companies. It was created as part of the foundation’s Gagadiya River rejuvenation initiative, which is strengthening water security in Gujarat’s drought-prone Saurashtra region.

Covering 15 acres, the lake has a storage capacity of 156 million litres. It will support five villages in the region and benefit approximately 12,000 farmers by enabling multiple cropping and increasing groundwater levels.

During the ceremony, the CIBJO President joined Dr. Savji Dholakia, founder of Hari Krishna Exports, who has dedicated much of his life to improving the lives of India’s most vulnerable communities, as well as members of the Union and state governments and legislatures.

17. NEW CIBJO MEMBERS

During 2026, CIBJO welcomed 11 new members:

- a. Autore Pearls, Australia
- b. Bharat Diamond Bourse, India
- c. Derewala Industries, India
- d. Fondazione Mani Intelligenti, Italy
- e. Hong Kong Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association, Hong Kong
- f. Indian Association for Gold Excellence and Standards, India
- g. Nakagawa Corporation, Japan

- h. National Gems and Jewellery Council of India, India
- i. ORO Precious Metals Pvt. Ltd., India
- j. Qatar Diamond Exchange, Qatar
- k. Swiss Better Gold Association, Switzerland

18. VISITS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES BY THE CIBJO PRESIDENT

The CIBJO President traveled extensively during the past year and addressed multiple industry events, including:

- a. **November 2025:** 2025 International Gems & Jewellery Academic Conference in Beijing, China.
- b. **February 2026:** A panel discussion at the Inhorgenta show in Munich, Germany, entitled “Breaking Down Barriers—Unlocking Industry Knowledge for SMEs in the Jewellery Industry.”
- c. **May 2026:** GemGenève 2026 jewellery show in Geneva, Switzerland.
- d. **May 2026:** Meetings with Shanghai municipal government and Communist Party officials concerning plans to develop a luxury jewellery industrial and commercial area in the city.
- e. **May 2026:** Precious Seas Summit in Torre del Greco, Italy.
- f. **June 2026:** Meetings with the leadership of the Bharat Diamond Bourse and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council in Mumbai.
- g. **June 2026:** Meetings with the National Gems and Jewellery Council of India in Jaipur.
- h. **June 2026:** A meeting with senior officials from India’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi.
- i. **July 2026:** 16th Annual Gold + Diamond Conference in New York.