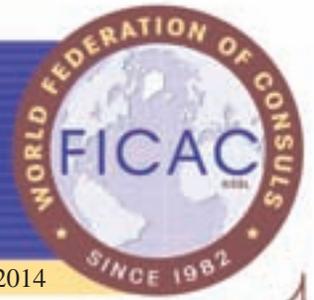




FICAC NEWS



Special Edition - February 2014

Congratulations AHC Indonesia on an Excellent East Asia Conference



H.E. Dr. H. Soekarwo, Governor of East Java
**Governor of East Java,
H.E. Dr. H. Soekarwo, in his speech,
declared the Conference officially open**

In his speech, H.E. Dr. H. Soekarwo said:

Assalamu'alikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh (May God's peace and mercy be upon you):

His Excellency, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia,



The Organising Committee of the 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Consular Conference, after receiving the conference plaque from the Board of the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia (AHCI) – (from left to right): Hon. Reza Abdullah, Hon. J.R. Radjimin, Hon. Linda Irawati Oen, Hon. Djamal G. Basmeleh, Hon. Tjandra M. Gozali, Hon. Onny Asri Miryam, Hon. Anangga W. Roosdiono, Hon. Rahmat Shah, Hon. Sylvia Pangkey, Hon. Sindunata Sambudhi, Hon. Harjanto Tjokrosetio, Hon. Soy M. Pardede, Hon. Sugihono Kadarisman.

Mr. Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa; His Excellency, Dr. Mahathir Muhammad, Honorary President of Perdana Leadership Foundation; Honourable, Honorary Consul in East Asia Regional Honourable the East Java Leaders Forum (FORPIMDA); Distinguished guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen warmest welcome to you all the participants of 3rd Federation of Consular (FICAC), East Asia Regional Conference (EARC) at Surabaya, the capital city of East Java Province.

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H.E. Dr. H. Soekarwo, Governor of East Java, extended a warm welcome to delegates at FICAC's 3rd East Asia Conference.

Let us praise Allah, the Merciful God, for His blessing we all could gather here in well being.

I would highly appreciate to Honorary Consul Association in Indonesia to appoint East Java, for 3rd Federation of Consular (FICAC), East Asia Regional Conference (EARC). This is a right decision!

Ladies and Gentlemen, so far, most of you only know Jakarta as the center of international activities as the capital city of Indonesia, and Bali as the main international tourist destination.

Located between those two, East Java has a variety of natural and cultural interests to become a world tourism destination. Infrastructure are available quite well in East Java, for example, direct international flights from Surabaya to some destination countries,

such as Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Taiwan, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia. You could take Jakarta-Surabaya flight for almost every ten minutes.

On economic point of view, East Java economic development quit fascinating, In 2012, the economic growth in East Java reached 7.27%, meanwhile the average national economic growth, for the same period, attained 6.23%. In the first semester 2013, the East Java economic growth reached 6,81%, higher than the national economic growth, for the same period, 5,81% and the inflation is 4,50% whereas national inflation 4,30%.

The balance of trade in 2012 recorded **US\$56,31 billion** for export and **US\$50,88 billion** for import or surplus of US\$5,43 billion.

On total investment, in 2012 it reached **US\$14,35 billion** while in 2011 **US\$11,88 billion** or 20,78% increased.

Factors which may drive the increase of the total investment are:

- Simple one stop license service;
- The availability of electricity;
- The Governor/Vice Governor's facilitation when there is a dispute between the employee and employer;
- Facilitation on land acquisition.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like also to inform you that East Java is as the center for development on trade, industry, services, distribution and logistics, not only for the people of the province, in which the population

is 38.052 million inhabitants, but also for the eastern part of Indonesia, such as Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali, Nusa Tenggara, Maluku and Papua, even Timor Leste, covering more than 120 million people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude my speech, I would also like to ask the all the participants of 3rd Federation of Consular (FICAC), East Asia Regional Conference (EARC) who are attending this function, to inform the all about East Java to your colleagues and partners as well as enhance the partnership among the nations, especially in Asia.

Once again, welcome to East Java and enjoy the warm hospitality of East Java. I hope to see you again in the next future at other international meetings held in East Java.

**Thank you,
Wassallamuallaikum Wr.Wb**



Hon. Soy Pardede, Dean of the AHCI, welcomes delegates to the East Asia Conference in Surabaya



Hon. Soy Pardede, President and Dean of the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia (AHCI)

Hon. Soy Pardede, President and Dean of the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia (AHCI), in his welcome speech said:

Before I start my welcome remarks, allow me to invite you all to rise and observe a brief silence in honour and respect of the victims of the super typhoon in the Philippines, Vietnam and China, and pray for the deceased families to be strengthened and blessed by the Lord in heaven.

First of all and foremost, let me humbly invite you all to praise the Lord, the Almighty, for His grace and blessing that enable us all to gather in this City of Heroes, after only last week the Indonesian people celebrated the Heroes' Day, paying our respect to

those who have sacrificed their life for the independence of Indonesia.

I feel honoured, on behalf of the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia (AHCI), to welcome all our fellow Honorary Consuls, their spouses and guests to the 3rd East Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, which is held as a prelude to the 11th World Congress of Consuls for which AHCI and Indonesia has been chosen to host in 2015 in the beautiful island of Bali.

Allow me to pay our deepest gratitude to H.E. Mr. Wardana, the Vice Minister of Indonesia, for sparing his time to address and officially open the conference.

Our samely deep gratitude also goes to Dr. Supachai Panichpakdi for very kindly accepted our invitation to share his very rich expertise on trade and development and its role in the growth of global economy.

Our heartiest gratitude goes to Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who has graciously agreed to spare his time to come all the way from Kedah, Malaysia, by special aircraft with his charming wife, to give his keynote speech on the theme of the conference "Asia to the World", reminding us on his fundamental and great role in the economic and nation-building of modern Malaysia, which is a model for not only Asian countries but also other countries in the world to use as a good example for development.

His personal assistant has arrived yesterday and joined us in the welcome reception last night.

To our much surprised we received a telephone call that Dr. Mahathir was advised by his doctor not to fly, and because of that Dr. Mahathir regrets could not materialize his plan to speak in this conference.

We hope that by the absence of Dr. Mahathir the conference remains worthyful with the speech of weights of Dr. Supachai.

In the afternoon session, we will listen to the presentation of the guru of marketing, Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya, himself is also a Honorary Consul of Czech in Surabaya, on the sub-theme of the conference "Honorary Consuls: Beyond the Traditions", which will be discussed along with the short presentation of Hon. K.L. Ganju on "Consular Immunities, Privileges and Facilities", which I hope will show how Honorary Consuls conduct their services on voluntary basis for the benefit of inter-states relationship or bilateral basis but also for the global prosperity.

I do hope that all of you will enjoy the conference, and to our guests from overseas, I wish you have a nice stay and enjoyable time in Surabaya.

Last but not least, on behalf of AHCI and its all member, my special thanks to the Organizing Committee, arek-arek Surabaya, who has done a great job to prepare for this special event. God bless you all.

Thank you!

Vice Minister praises the Conference theme “Asia to the World”. It is excellent.

- H.E. Wardana



H.E. Wardana, Indonesia's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Your Excellency, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad,
Excellencies,
Honourable Arnold Foote, President of the International Federation of Consular Associations,
Mr. Soy M. Pardede, President of the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia,
Honorary Consuls to Indonesia and to Other Countries of the Asia-Pacific Region,
Distinguished Participants to the 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Conference,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome all of you to Surabaya and to join you at the opening of this Third FICAC East Asia Regional Committee Meeting and Conference.

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, I wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia (AHCI) for organising this auspicious event.
May I also congratulate the

Organisation on its election to host and conduct the 11th World Congress of Consuls, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2015. This is a distinct honour for Indonesia, as the important role of honorary consuls today is well recognised and appreciated by sending and receiving governments alike. International diplomacy is a demanding and tedious undertaking and regular diplomats in embassies and missions abroad may not be in a position to carry out all the work that it requires. Honorary consuls who come from various professional backgrounds can assume a significant part of this crucial responsibility. With your help, the effectiveness of foreign policy is greatly improved. As to the theme of the 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Conference, “Asia to the World” is indeed an excellent choice. It is both timely and meaningful.

For there is no denying that the geopolitical center of gravity has shifted to the larger Asia-Pacific region. Since the advent of the present century, many positive changes have taken place in this part of the world. Not a few countries within the region have undergone political transformation. We are all witnessing democracy on the march and improved governance, bringing benefits to our peoples. Some of our countries are serving as models of political development for nations that are aspiring for democratic transition.

At the same time, the regional economies have shown extraordinary dynamism. As a result, our economies in the Asia-

Pacific, as a group, have become the engine of global economic growth.

Because of these positive developments, the countries of the Asia-Pacific are called upon to assume new responsibilities and to face new challenges. One of the greatest challenges that we have to face is to ensure that our countries' relations and interactions with one another are marked by partnership rather than rivalry. In the face of that challenge, this meeting takes on a greater importance.

Today's meeting provides Honorary Consuls in East Asia a unique opportunity to engage one another in constructive ways. It also brings about a rare opportunity for you to devise ways and means of fostering closer and more robust relations with Honorary Consuls serving in other parts of the world. This should lead to a more vigorous promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation between the sending countries represented by the Honorary Consuls and the host countries.

In that capacity and in the pursuit of your important responsibilities, you can contribute to the shaping of an even more dynamic Asia-Pacific region, and ultimately a better world.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Honorary Consuls,

I have every confidence that you will be equal to the tasks that you have set for yourselves today.

May you have a pleasant stay in Surabaya and may your deliberations be fruitful.

Thank you.

The future lies in the development of fair trade in this region and the rest of the world

- The Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ, CD, JP



**The Honourable Arnold Foote,
President of FICAC**

FICAC President Arnold Foote, in his speech, said:

I stand before you today, pleased and privileged to be part of this 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Consular Conference.

I cannot say enough about the graciousness and the hospitality that we have all received from we arrived here in beautiful Surabaya. Thank you very much.

The Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia, the host of this event, is a very important member of our Federation and they have done a marvelous job in organising the 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Consular Conference.

I would like to congratulate and thank the President of the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia, Hon. Soy Pardede and the members of the Organising Committee along with the Chairman of the FICAC East Asia Region and Director of FICAC, Hon. Vince Carlos.

I would like to thank you all for the excellent work that you have done in making this event possible.

When I look at the conference room, I have to make mention of the preparation, the beautiful setting, the wonderful atmosphere and the excellent attendance. Thank you again gentlemen. You have done our Federation proud.

The recent history of the world claims Europe and the United States of America as central to everything, but the tectonic plates of history, commerce and influence have shifted, and the countries of the East now again rise to take their rightful places in our world.

For so many centuries, the learning and skills, the economic patterns, culture, spices, treasures of all sorts, topped with talented hard-working, disciplined people, have come from this region, and, as is the way of the world, have been absorbed and taken for granted, and the origins not acknowledged, or lost in the mists of time.

This is not to downplay the contributions of Europe, Africa, the Americas and other regions, but to say that it has been the initial major policy thrust of my administration

as President, to reach out to this region and to strengthen the Consular movements in this part of the world. Those seeds, duly planted, are yielding an impressive harvest.

As part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of our Federation, tonight we will be honouring several Consuls in this region who have contributed greatly to their Consular Corps and to their country.

The World Federation of Consuls was established in Copenhagen in October 1982. Our Federation was born out of the necessity to bring together Consular Corps and Consular Associations to share experiences and coordinate efforts to enhance the effectiveness and status of the Consul.

Our Federation is incorporated in Belgium by Royal Decree as a non-profit international organisation with its Permanent Secretariat located in Brussels.

The Federation's business is conducted through several committees, each operating with clearly defined portfolios and terms of reference.

These Committees include:

- Trade Development
- Legal
- Membership
- Education
- Consular Privileges Protection
- International Relations
- Public Relations

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- FICAC/UNICEF, which is our outreach programme where we raise funds for underprivileged children with HIV/AIDS. Our slogan for this programme is “Consuls turning caring into action”.
- Cultural Exchange. This Committee’s function is to bring the cultural programmes of Sending States to the Receiving States. These performances will be free of cost to the people of the Receiving State.
- Events
- Environment and Climate Change – These issues are of global concern as climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone layer depletion, cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. Climate change is potentially the biggest risk factor facing humanity, and it is played out in the political, social and economic spheres vital to the security and viability of countries. The cost associated with loss of life, destruction of property and depletion of national wealth arising from intensified weather events are large and increasing. All countries are at risk from climate change, and the recovery costs are so large that their prospects of development may be set back for generations. We must have all hands on deck to deal with this global crisis.
- The World Federation of Consuls has signed a partnership agreement with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for environment and climate change. FICAC will assist in promoting international awareness of these important matters and I would like to take this opportunity to ask the East Asia Region to form a Working Committee to work closely with the FICAC Central Committee, as next year

we intend to launch our climate change awareness programme.

- Vienna Convention Review
- Fundraising
- Advisory Committee

Our Board of Directors meets quarterly to evaluate action by the committees and take decisions on their recommendations.

Our Federation enjoys United Nations recognition as an NGO with ECOSOC status. We have similar recognition at the European Union and we are also recognised by the Organization of American States.

The World Federation of Consuls has achieved international credibility, recognition and influence.

Today, our Federation has over 90 country members, associations and affiliated members, with several thousand individual Consul members. Our membership is a network of highly experienced, well-connected individuals, whose determined focus, combined expertise and resources can be used to impact the world for good.

The practice of mutual respect and adherence to the principles recognised in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 will continue to guide the promotion of consular cooperation in each member country.

On 24th April, 2013, the World Federation of Consuls congratulated the United Nations on the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. We celebrated the occasion in New York with a cocktail reception at which over 100 country representatives were present.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, unfortunately could not attend, but sent a message to our Federation which has been circulated to our membership

worldwide.

The then President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremic, led the guest list of diplomats representing nations from all over the world.

It was an historic occasion, as our Federation is the only organisation to have congratulated the United Nations on the 50th Anniversary of its Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

In the dynamic international arena of our times, the key to growth and development is partnership within and between nations.

FICAC provides an appropriate forum for consultation and networking, as we build partnerships for the effective performance of our duties in a rapidly changing world.

Today, the role of the State is vastly different from that which it played for most of the 20th century. New, powerful actors have swept onto the international stage. Transnational corporations, aided by the forces of globalisation, wield a vast influence on international decision-making. Non-governmental organisations and civil society rightly demand their space on the global stage.

The original concept of sovereignty gradually loses relevance in a world where states have declared a commitment to the charters of international organisations, to bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions, and to the growing body of international law and jurisprudence affecting every sphere of life.

It is in this context that diplomatic and consular representatives must constantly update the theory and practice of their craft, if they are to remain relevant to the global struggle for peace, security and sustainable development.

Consular operations can no longer be confined to the issuance of travel documents and attention to the

welfare of nationals of the countries that we represent, as globalisation has altered the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Several countries worldwide are closing their embassies for budgetary reasons and are appointing more honorary consuls to serve in countries where they have business interests. The role of the honorary consul must be expanded to encompass the full range of economic, political and diplomatic relations. This expanded role is particularly important for developing countries and small states which cannot afford global deployment of their foreign service.

A critically important component of the foundation of peace, democracy and development, is economic growth. In today's world economy, which is being transformed by a comprehensive process of advanced globalisation, international trade is the engine of economic growth, and has assumed an increasingly prominent role in state-to-state relations.

The development of trade is one of the main functions of the Consul, and its promotion is integral to my administration.

The purpose of the FICAC Trade Development Committee is to promote cross border business, trade development and networking among members. Its operation is to organise and host trade expos and trade missions.

The members of our Federation are ideally suited to participate positively in trade promotion activities. Indeed, Consular Corps have a comparative advantage in undertaking trade promotion because Consular Corps have a much broader geographic deployment and can, therefore, provide more extensive coverage than Diplomatic Corps.

This is particularly so for developing countries which are unable to afford diplomatic representation in all the locations where they have important

economic interests.

The Consular Corps has a presence in all major cities, in the centres of commerce and industry, whereas the Diplomatic Corps is concentrated in capital cities, which in several cases are political rather than economic centres.

The Consular Corps include a very high proportion of Consuls with considerable business expertise and they are ideally suited for developing trade.

The members of our Federation are immersed in communities in ways in which diplomats cannot be, and their knowledge of local conditions and local products can be useful in identifying niche markets, distribution networks and new, tradable goods and services.

Consuls can be important conduits for information which can inform international trade negotiations, and enhance the awareness and involvement of the public.

International trade expos and trade fairs have been successfully organised by our members. The member corps that have done this, have seen their image and status grow considerably. They have earned the respect of the Government of the country, and in particular the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the private sector and the public.

This programme will also develop better relations between the Diplomatic Corps and the Consular Corps, as the Diplomatic Corps involvement in the FICAC International Trade Expo is vital to its success.

This programme is unique. It is the only trade promotional programme worldwide that promotes trade directly between the sending and receiving states.

The FICAC International Trade Expo offers countries an opportunity to do business without having to deal with large budgets and large participation

costs. It is an event which provides the right environment for bilateral and multilateral trade and information.

Our participation in the promotion of commercial links between member countries is of vital importance to us. Sponsorship from the private sector is easily available because of the importance of this programme at national and international levels. The future lies in the development of fair trade in this region and the rest of the world.

Our work in this modern world has taken on new and significant dimensions. Despite e-mails, web cameras and video conferencing, there is no substitute for meeting someone face to face, making personal acquaintances, building on the networks and friendships that we already have, and making new friends and contacts.

That process can only increase our effectiveness in the roles we are called upon to play. That is one of the opportunities that we have here in Surabaya, Indonesia.

And so I welcome you, I thank you for coming, I know that you will find this conference worth your while.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Arnold Foote's speech was read by Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Secretary General.



Chairman of FICAC East Asia Region, Hon. Vince Carlos, thanks all for making it an excellent conference



Hon. Vicente J. Carlos, Chairman of FICAC East Asia Regional Committee, making his closing remarks at the 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Consular Conference.

What an exciting and fruitful day we had. We were treated to hear fantastic speakers in this Conference, starting with the inspiring address of our President, Hon. Arnold Foote, as ably read by our Secretary-General, Hon. Aykut Eken. We pray for the speedy recovery of our dear President Arnold Foote and Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

H. E. Pakde dr. Sukarwo, the Honourable Governor of East Java, welcomed us to Surabaya and explained in his speech why it was a correct decision to hold the 3rd Regional Conference here in East Java.

The Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, H. E. Wardana, officially welcomed the delegates to Indonesia, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He stated that “Asia to the World” was indeed an appropriate theme as the centre of gravity has shifted to Asia.

We then had our keynote speaker, the well-respected Dr. Supachai Panichpakdi, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, who discussed issues relevant to trade, such as the need of balance between imports and exports. He delved into the negative impact

of climate change, such as the major disasters that we are now witnessing. It was his feeling that most meetings of the global leaders were mere photo sessions, i.e. APEC, etc.

And Mr. Tony Fernandes, the Group CEO of the successful budget carrier, Air Asia, showed us what Asia is to the world.

We all enjoyed listening to the entertaining and thought-provoking speech of Hon. Herman Kartajaya, as he spoke on the topic of “Honorary Consuls: Beyond the Traditions.” He discussed the value of women and explained why honorary consuls are better diplomats than their career counterparts.

Lastly, we heard Hon. K. L. Ganju update us on the consular privileges and immunities, as laid out in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Yes, indeed, it was a fruitful Conference.

As Chairman of the Regional East Asia Committee, I would like to thank all of them for sharing some of their precious time with us.

Allow me to commend and thank the Association of Honorary Consuls of Indonesia, led by Hon. Soy Pardede, for hosting and organising this conference.

Thank you to the hard-working organising committee led by Hon. J. R. Radjimin for inviting us to the beautiful city of Surabaya.

Thank you for showing up in full force as the host organisation of this very successful conference.

Thank for your warm hospitality, especially Hon. Consul Djamal Ghozi Basmeleh and Madam Azza Dina Djamal for hosting the welcome reception at their elegant and historic De Soematra Function House last night.

Thank you for allowing us to renew old friendships and discover new ones.

Thank you for the many ideas and advocacies that we shared for the benefit of our Federation and for the upliftment of our roles as consuls.

Thank you for showing us how Asia is becoming a leader to the world.

And to our colleagues from the other corps and associations in our region, and to those who joined us here from all over the world, especially Secretary General Aykut Eken, who ably represented our dear President Arnold Foote and the members of the FICAC Board, we say thank you for being a part of this memorable and successful event.

May I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my countrymen, our deepest gratitude for your kind words, your expressions of sympathy and support, as well as your much-needed aid, as our country has experienced the worst disaster in its history.

As we look forward to the Gala Dinner tonight, I invite all of you to meet again at FICAC’s biggest triennial event, the FICAC World Congress of Consuls, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia in November of 2015.

**Thank you and cheers to all!
Terima kasih!**



Group photograph taken after the presentation of plaques to the Honourable Members by the Association of Honorary Consuls to Indonesia, during the 3rd FICAC East Asia Regional Conference held in Surabaya, Indonesia.

FICAC Medals of Honour were presented to the following Awardees at the East Asia Regional Conference in Surabaya, Indonesia



*Hon. Luis I. Ablaza, Jr.,
Honorary Consul of Zambia in the Philippines*

*Hon. Ceferino L. Benedicto,
Honorary Consul General of Albania in the Philippines*

*Hon. Mrs. Linda Irawati Oen,
Honorary Consul of Denmark in Surabaya*

*Hon. Sugihono Kadarisman,
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Jakarta*

*Hon. Irshad Ali Kassim,
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Tajikistan in Pakistan*

*Hon. Mirza Omair Baig,
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Pakistan*

*Hon. Dato Abdul Rafique Karim,
Honorary Consul General of Pakistan, Acting Chairman
of the Honorary Consular Corps of Malaysia*

*Hon. Shaik Ismail Allaudin,
Honorary Consul of Bangladesh, Secretary General
of the Honorary Consular Corps of Malaysia*

President of the European Council, H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, and H.E. Didier Reynders, headed the list of distinguished guests.

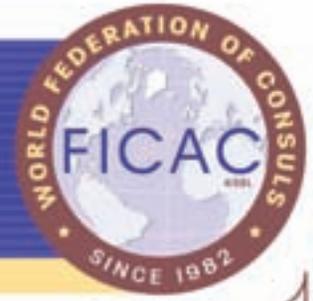


Some of the members and distinguished guests of the Belgian Consular Union (BCU) at the 20th

Van Rompuy, and Vice Prime Minister of Belgium, distinguished guests at the Gala Banquet of the BCU



Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels, Belgium, held on October 4, 2013.



BCU's 20th Anniversary An Outstanding Success

Hon. Willy Deswaef honoured for serving the Belgian Consular Union for 20 years as their Dean



Hon. Willy Deswaef (right), President of the Belgian Consular Union, receiving the FICAC Award of Excellence from FICAC President, Honourable Arnold Foote. Also in picture is Hon. Aykut Eken, Secretary General of FICAC.

In his remarks,
Hon. Willy Deswaef said:
Mister President of the
European Council,
Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires
Etrangères,
Excellencies,
Mister President of The World
Federation of Consuls,
Madame la Présidente de la
Fédération des Unions Européennes
des Consuls Honoraires.
Waarde collega's,
Mesdames et messieurs,

A marathon runner, at the finish of his
marathon, once said: "The miracle
isn't that I finished. The miracle is
that I had the courage to start."

Let me tell you that the miracle of the
Belgian Consular Union is not the
accomplishment of this consular
association, but is that twenty years
ago some honorary consuls had the
inspiration and the courage to start.
Twenty years later, we can be proud
of what our Union has realised and
it's with emotion that I express my

sincere thanks to you, colleagues and
friends, participating during all these
years as member and as member of
the board to the realisation of the
goals stated in the Statutes of our
association.

The greatest achievement is certainly
that the Union brought the Belgian
honorary consuls together during so
many meetings and exotic travels and
that many friendships arise between
them. Believe me, when I look around

Hon. Willy Deswaef Honoured

this evening in this marvellous Salle des Miroirs I see more than only colleagues, I see a lot of close friends.

The relationship between our Union with the diplomacy and the successive Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Chiefs of Protocol improved constantly and the very appreciated presence of Minister Didier Reynders and Ambassador Chief of Protocol Pierre Labouverie is the evidence of this excellent relationship.

The participation to the boards of the World Federation of Consuls and of the European Federation of some of our members has always been remarkable and I take this opportunity to thank Mr Arnold Foote, certainly the most dynamic President ever of the World Federation of Consuls and Mrs Ann-Katrin Bauknecht, President of the Fédération des Unions Européennes des Consuls Honoraires for their very appreciated presence at the twentieth anniversary of our Union.

President Kennedy once said: "Some men see things as they are and ask why, I dream things that never were and ask why not?" The founders of the Belgian Consular Union had certainly that kind of dream.

Personally, I still dream a world that stops to consider the honorary consul as a privileged citizen but as a responsible person being from early in the morning till late in the evening constantly in stand-by in order to help and support the citizens of his Sending State.

I dream a diplomatic world who stops to look at the honorary consul as a weak diplomatic link but as titled with a new and essential responsibility in this globalised world where economic targets seem to have priority.

In a world where popes, presidents and even CEOs are often elected when they since long have reached the age of pension, your president, my good friends, dreams a diplomatic world that doesn't chase the honorary consul blindly at his seventieth anniversary when he has the experience and the efficiency to give of one's best in the accomplishment of his consular mandate.

At the end of my short intervention, I want to express again my deep gratitude

- to you, dear friends, who have

made the successes of our Union possible,
- to all the colleagues coming from all over the world in order to celebrate with us,
- to the members of the board of the Belgian Consular Union who worked very hard during many months in order to organize this successful Gala,
- to the President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy giving a part of his overloaded agenda to be this evening with us at this marvellous Palais d'Egmont

- and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Didier Reynders accepting our invitation to join his previous colleagues and take the floor.

I am delighted to hand over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Didier Reynders.



Hon. Willy Deswaef (left) being congratulated by the Vice Prime Minister of Belgium, H.E. Didier Reynders.

BCU Honours FICAC President



Hon. Willy Deswaef (left), Dean of the Belgian Consular Union (BCU), presenting FICAC President, Honourable Arnold Foote with an award from the BCU, at the Consular Union's 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner held in Brussels, Belgium, on October 4, 2013.

FICAC President Arnold Foote, in his speech, said:

Your Excellency Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council
Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Didier Reynders
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps
President and members of the Belgian Consular Union
Directors and members of the World Federation of Consuls
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am humbled and deeply honoured to receive this award from the Belgian Consular Union. This recognition means a lot to me. Thank you all very much.

I came here tonight, not only to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Belgian Consular Union and to congratulate it for its many activities, but especially to thank the BCU

for the excellent contribution it has made, and continues to make, to the development of the World Federation of Consuls.

In this regard, I must make special mention of its President, Willy Deswaef, whose 20 years of leadership of the Belgian Consular Union is no ordinary achievement. President Willy Deswaef has served his Corps and his country, nationally and internationally, with distinction.

President Willy, you have earned our respect and admiration. Please accept our heartiest congratulations.

I would like also to say a special word of thanks to Mrs. Deswaef for the wonderful support that she gives constantly to her dear husband. Please give her a big round of applause. She deserves it.

The Belgian Consular Union became a member of the World Federation of Consuls in 1995. Today, the BCU is

represented on our Board of Directors by Hon. Francois Piers, who is making an excellent contribution to our Federation.

I would like also to say a special thank you to the Belgian Consular Union's dynamic Monique de Decker-Deprez, for the excellent support she gives to our Federation. She is an outstanding Consul. Thank you very much Monique.

Before closing, I would like to congratulate the members of the Belgian Consular Union for your achievements over the last 20 years and the excellent work you are all doing for your Sending States and for Belgium.

I wish for you many, many more successful years as you continue to write the history of the great Belgian Consular Union.

FICAC Medals of Honour Presented to BCU Members by FICAC Directors



Directors of FICAC – Hon. Aykut Eken, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis, Hon. Francois Piers and Hon. Thomas Amaral – presented Medals of Honour to the following members of the Belgian Consular Union (BCU) at the 20th Anniversary Gala Reception held in Brussels, Belgium, on October 4, 2013.

*Stefan Broeckx,
rtd Consul of Bolivia*

*Albert Geradin,
rtd Consul of Finland*

*Rosette Porta,
Consul General of Monaco*

*Robert De Moor,
Consul General of The Democratic Republic Congo*

*Georges De Bruyn,
Consul General of El Salvador*

*Niels Dahlmann, Consul of Latvia
Jean-François Gailly, Consul of Finland*

*Rudy Colle,
Consul of Ivory Coast*

Hon. K.L. Ganju Honoured by the Indian Solidarity Council

On 3rd October, 2013 at a glittering function held at International Law Society, in Delhi, India, FICAC Director Hon. K.L Ganju was awarded with a Gold Medal and National Gold Star Award by the Indian Solidarity Council in association with International Institute of Education and Management.

The Gold Medal and National Gold Star Award were presented to him for his excellent contribution in developing bilateral relations between Union of Comoros and India and also his excellent work as Honorary Consul General.

This award is given once a year by the Indian Solidarity Council. The Management Committee of the Council includes Dr. Bhisim Narain Singh, former Governor and former Cabinet Minister; Dr. G.V.G



Hon. K.L. Ganju (second left) is presented with the National Gold Star by Dr. B.N. Singh, on behalf of the Indian Solidarity Council and the International Institute of Education and Management, as Dr. N.S.N. Babu (left) and Dr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy look on.

Krishnamurthy, former Election Commissioner of India; Mr. Joginder Singh IPS, former Director of CBI; and many other present and past

politicians and past bureaucrats. Hon. K.L. Ganju was invited to the function as a Special Guest of Honour.

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New Security Risks & Challenges for Consuls



*By The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP,
President of the World Federation of Consuls*

The rapidly changing global environment affects the nature of the work done by consuls and the conditions under which they work. Among the significant challenges that consuls face globally is the emergence of new security risks that threaten peace, security and development. The events of 11 September 2012 in Benghazi, Libya, have brought into sharp focus the new security environment in many countries. Events like these have led the international community and individual states, as well as groups of countries, to evaluate the security risks in diplomatic and consular missions and to propose sweeping new changes. These policy and strategic changes constitute part of the conceptual redefinition of international and national security.

The European Union, for instance, has recently adopted a security strategy to deal with its internal security challenges. This reflects an all-encompassing approach which includes national actions affecting policing, criminal law, immigration, border control, counter-terrorism, national security agencies cooperation, information and

intelligence gathering and sharing. What is particularly striking is the long list of crimes which are now considered as endangering national and international security. These include terrorism, serious and organised crime, trafficking in illicit drugs and arms, human trafficking, sexual exploitation of minors and pornography, economic crime, cybercrime, corruption, document fraud and money-laundering. Consuls accept their responsibility to join in the global struggle against these crimes and can render valuable services to their respective sending states.

In light of the attacks that have taken place since the 1998 embassy attacks in East Africa, the United States Government has instituted new security measures to combat the increasing threats to the personal safety and security of its officials overseas and their facilities in high threat locations. These activities have increased since the 2012 terrorist attack on the consulate compound in Benghazi where a United States Ambassador and three other United States officials were killed.

These examples illustrate the diplomatic and consular relations that are now conducted in an environment of increasing security risks to the personnel and property of diplomatic and consular missions throughout the world.

These threats are themselves the result of internal and external factors which directly or indirectly affect the state's capacity to protect its own citizens. In addition, a state's ability to discharge its responsibilities to provide a secure environment for diplomatic and consular missions might be compromised. At the core of these concerns is the diminishing capacity of many states to guarantee safe passage to diplomatic and consular officers as they carry out their assigned responsibilities.

The 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations refers to the security of the consular premises and consular officers under Articles 31, 59 and 64. Articles 31(3) and 59 provide that the receiving state is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the consular premises against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the consular post or impairment of its dignity. Article 64 enjoins upon the receiving state to accord to an honorary consular officer such protection as may be required by reason of his official position.

Until recently, consuls were able to rely on the provisions of the Vienna Convention for their protection. However, the attacks on foreign missions of many countries in different parts of the world have laid bare the vulnerability of consuls to acts of terrorism, organised crime and violent internal strife or civil wars and disturbances. Consideration should be given to strengthening the Vienna Convention to improve the legal framework for their protection.

The 2012 Benghazi terrorist attack has highlighted a serious concern for the security of consular missions and graphically demonstrated the vulnerability of consular premises. Consular missions or their sending states cannot handle this problem on their own. They need the support and help of receiving states to protect their premises and consular officers. While consulates can assess the dimension and extent of security risks, they would not be able to take effective action to prevent terrorist and similar attacks on their missions and consular staff.

Laws in some receiving states prohibit the consular mission from taking all the security precautions which would be advisable. This is an issue that needs to be addressed at the international level. The sending state could also seek to ensure equitable treatment of their Consular Missions and personnel through reciprocity.

The World Federation of Consuls advocates the strengthening of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations:

- to prevent its disregard by states;
- to improve the international legal framework for the protection of consular missions and consular

officers against terrorist and other attacks;

- to allow for equity and non-discrimination in the role of honorary consuls to enable them to serve the sending states to the best of their ability, with dignity and in safety.

The World Federation of Consuls was established in Copenhagen in October 1982 as *Fédération Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires (FICAC)*. The Federation was born out of the necessity to bring together Consular Corps and Consular Associations to share experiences and coordinate efforts to enhance the effectiveness and status of the consul. The Federation was incorporated in Belgium by

The role of the honorary consul must be expanded to permit sending countries the flexibility of having a wide range of their trade and other interests represented at that level. This expanded role is particularly important for developing countries and small states which cannot afford global deployment of their foreign service.

royal decree as a non-profit international organization, with its Permanent Secretariat located in Brussels.

FICAC's business is conducted through several committees, each operating with clearly defined portfolios and terms of reference. Its Board of Directors meets quarterly to evaluate action by the committees and take decisions on their recommendations, in accordance with mandates and policies agreed to at their annual general meeting.

FICAC activities and noteworthy facts include:

- FICAC International Trade Expos, which promote trade directly between the sending and receiving states at very low cost to embassies and consulates.
- FICAC/United Nations Children's Fund, a humanitarian outreach programme designed to raise funds to benefit underprivileged children with HIV/AIDS. The slogan for this programme is "Consuls turning caring into action".
- FICAC Gold Star, created as a mark of the highest honour presented only to distinguished world leaders.
- FICAC Medal of Honour, which gives recognition to consuls who have made excellent contributions in their receiving states.
- FICAC International Cultural Galas, which allow

consulates and embassies to present their cultural programmes to the people of the receiving states free of cost.

- A partnership agreement was signed between FICAC and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation on 17 September 2012.
- FICAC has organizations in every region of the world, based on the United Nations regional categorization.
- FICAC's Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques in Paris.
- The FICAC News and Who's Who publications.
- FICAC Regional Consular Conferences.
- FICAC website (www.ficacworld.org).

FICAC enjoys United Nations recognition as a non-governmental organization with Economic and Social Council consultative status. It has similar recognition at the European Union and is also recognised by the Organization of American States.

FICAC has over 90 country members, associations and affiliated members with several thousand individual consul members. Its membership is a network of highly experienced, well-connected individuals whose determined focus, combined expertise and resources can be used to have a constructive and positive impact around the world.

The practice of mutual respect and adherence to the principles recognised in the Vienna Convention will continue to guide the promotion of consular cooperation in each member country. The Convention recognised that honorary consuls, who had been extensively utilised in the past, constituted an efficient instrument in enhancing international relations. Five decades have passed since the adoption of the Convention; the international political, economic and social environment has changed. Consequently, problems facing consuls have also changed.

For example, one of the most important responsibilities of a consul is to protect the nationals of the state which she/he represents. Article 36 of the Convention provides that the competent authorities shall, without delay, inform a detained national of his right to communicate with consular officials of his state and grants consular officials the right to visit, converse and correspond with a detained national and to arrange for his legal representation. Breaches of this provision have caused

litigations in domestic and international courts and lead one to conclude that Article 36 is not enforceable in all member countries and further observe that it is weak and not comprehensive.

Consular operations can no longer be confined to the issuance of travel documents and attention to the welfare of the nationals of the represented countries, as globalization has altered the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Several countries worldwide are closing their embassies for budgetary reasons and are appointing honorary consuls to serve in countries in which they have business interests.

The role of the honorary consul must be expanded to permit sending countries the flexibility of having a wide range of their trade and other interests represented at that level. This expanded role is particularly important for developing countries and small states which cannot afford global deployment of their foreign service.

FICAC recognises that the future lies in the development of fair trade worldwide, which is one of the principal functions of the consul. Consuls have a presence in all major centres of commerce and industry and they often reside in local communities, which give them a great advantage for trade promotion.

One of the tools of diplomatic and consular missions is cultural diplomacy, which can assist in building and improving dialogue, understanding and trust between governments and citizens all over the world. This not only boosts domestic and international security but also provides a productive context for sustainable development. Strategies and tactics need to be crafted on a case-by-case basis, taking into account all relevant historical, political and cultural factors. These are matters of which FICAC Cultural Exchange Committee is fully aware. With its representation in every region of the world, FICAC can play an increasingly important role in cultural diplomacy.

In today's rapidly changing international environment, FICAC remains committed to contributing to international peace, security and development through its global network of members. Their connections within the communities and societies where they function enable them to provide pragmatic support, timely responses and advice.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Seen at the BCU Gala Dinner, from left, Her Excellency Shirley Skerritt-Andrew, Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States, Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Secretary General, and his wife, Hon. Gonul Eken.



Hon. Francois Piers (left) in discussion with delegates at the BCU Gala Dinner.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Leif-Kristian Sverstad, representing the Consular Corps of Norway, in discussion with other delegates at his table at the BCU's 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Also in picture is Mrs. Elizabeth Daae, wife of the Dean of the Consular Corps of Norway, Hon. Peter Daae, who was also present at the function.



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves (right) and his wife, Sra. Dolores Bustelo, representing Brazil at the BCU Gala Dinner.