



FICAC NEWS



January, 2013

MONACO 2012

The Best Ever!

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President



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Vice President



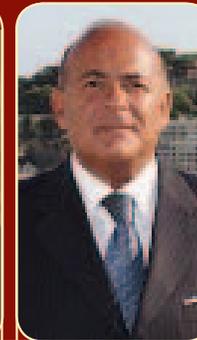
Hon. Aykut Eken
Secretary General



Hon. K. L. Ganju
Director



Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio
Director



Hon. Sylvain Cohen
Director



Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos
Director



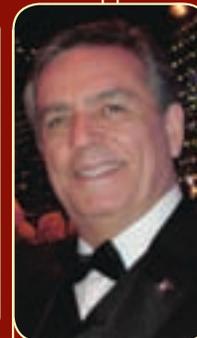
Hon. Leif-Kristian Sverstad
Director



Hon. Vince Carlos
Director



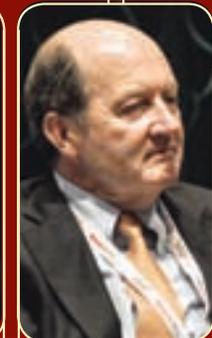
Hon. Dr. Mirza Ihtikar Baig
Director



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves
Director



Hon. Moustapha El-Solh
Director



Hon. Francois Piers
Director



FICAC NEWS



FICAC thanks HSH Prince Albert II



Above left, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II is seen receiving a gift of appreciation from the Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC at the WWC 2012 which was held under the Distinguished Patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II.

We thank you most sincerely for having endorsed the issue by the Office des Emissions de Timbre-Poste of the Principality of Monaco of the very impressive FICAC WCC 2012 Commemorative Stamp.

We are deeply grateful for your gracious bestowal on each FICAC delegate the commemorative medal of the ascension to the Throne by Your Serene Highness.

We are not only honoured, but also greatly encouraged by your demonstrated support of the aims and objectives of our Federation.

- The Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ

I salute the hard work done by FICAC

- HSH Prince Albert II



His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco addressing the 10th World Congress of Consuls held recently in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

HSH Prince Albert II in his address said:

Excellencies,
Mr President,
Dear Consuls,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to be with you tonight for the 10th World Congress of Consuls being held in Monaco during this 30th World Federation of Consul (FICAC) anniversary's year.

Let me thank its president, Mr Arnold Foote, and all executive committee members to have chosen – again - my country to gather on this specific occasion.

(I do remember having opened your third Conference here in Monaco in November 1992.)

My gratitude also goes to Mr El-Solh and the ACHM Organising Committee and the chairman, Mr. Takis Toulaiatos, for their commitment and valuable support in the preparation of this event. I know that their tireless efforts made this meeting a huge success.

As you all know, as a small territory, my country is fully aware of the prominence of the need to maintain strong and long lasting relationships with the many states that you represent. This Congress will certainly strengthen the existing bonds and develop deeper appreciation and understanding of the countries each one of you embody.

In an increasingly globalised world, you have a key role to play and your advice, work and actions are of utmost importance to help your Governments undertake the necessary policies that will meet the needs and the expectations demanded by interdependent countries.

You are all well aware that one of my main concerns is to link sound science and politics to achieve tangible actions to protect and preserve the environment. This is the reason why I do not forget that my Foundation has a Partnership Agreement for cooperation in energy and environment with your Federation.

I am firmly convinced that each of you will find ways to implement projects in this field and back new ideas, working your ways to achieve this goal.

I salute the hard work you are all doing, the continuous efforts done by the FICAC and the future of its cooperation with Monaco through the ACHM.

Thank you.

*Speech of H.S.H Prince Albert II
ACHM
12th November 2012*

Prime Minister His Excellency Michel Roger declares WCC 2012 open



Prime Minister His Excellency Michel Roger of Monaco (right), is greeted by the Honourable Arnold Foote, President of the World Federation of Consuls, at the 10th World Congress of Consuls. Prime Minister Roger declared the Congress open on November 12.

Speech by His Excellency Michel Roger Prime Minister of Monaco on Monday 12th November 2012

President of the Federation,
Permanent Secretary,
President of the Association of Consuls in
the Principality of Monaco
President of the Organising Committee,
Consuls,
Dear Friends,

All great initiatives start with a shared vision that inspires small groups of men and women who wish to work for the common good.

Thus, 30 years ago, a group of seven visionary people met in Denmark and decided to create the FICAC. Allow me to offer my special thoughts today for one of the founders of your outstanding organisation, the late Mr. Vagn Jaspersen, who, as Consul General, represented the Principality of Monaco in Denmark for more than 47 years, and who sadly passed away last year.

Today, the FICAC brings together several

thousand consuls from 89 countries representing all five continents. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to your commitment and emphasise the importance of the work you are undertaking with the Permanent Secretary so that this Organisation, which is recognised at the highest level by international bodies, may continue to gain renown and increase its visibility throughout the world.

I would now like to thank the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Prince's Government. I wish to express my ongoing appreciation for its dynamic approach and the initiatives taken by its president, in association with the members of its Bureau, who have worked so hard to make this meeting a success.

It is true that the ACHM, under the leadership of its president, Mr. Moustapha El-Solh, and its Bureau, has expanded its activities considerably, due to its involvement in both the economic and social life of the Principality and the help it offers to consuls of foreign powers with carrying out their duties.

Throughout 2012, the Association has

been heavily involved in organising the 10th Congress. It has been able to attract the interest of the highest Monegasque authorities, in addition to that of its 75 members, so that every effort could be made to ensure the success of this event.

I am delighted to take the opportunity today to thank the Organising Committee, and namely Mr. Panayotis Touliatos. This Committee has put efficient welcoming procedures in place and has created optimal working conditions, making the Principality a setting that is conducive to discussion, debate and the sharing of ideas that are central to the FICAC.

Finally, esteemed consuls, I would like to pay a sincere tribute to your activities, your dedication, your commitment and your availability, which serve to strengthen the links that unite the countries you live in and the States you represent.

I wish you every success with the work that will take place over these two days and I declare the 10th World Congress of Honorary Consuls in the Principality of Monaco open.

Welcome to FICAC World Congress 2012

- The Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ



The Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC, speaking to more than 400 delegates and guests at the 10th World Congress of Consuls held recently in Monaco.

The Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC, in his welcome to delegates said:

Honourable Michel Roger, Minister of State and President of the Governing Council of Monaco Ministers and other officials of the Government of Monaco
Your Excellencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps Directors and members of the World Federation of Consuls President and members of the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, I am very proud, happy and privileged to be part of the FICAC World Congress of Consuls 2012 in the beautiful city of Monte Carlo, Monaco.

I take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt gratitude to Minister of State, the Honourable Michel Roger, for taking time from his busy schedule to be with us, address us and declare the 10th FICAC World Congress of Consuls 2012 officially open.

I am deeply honoured, deeply appreciative and humbled that the FICAC World Congress of Consuls 2012 has received

the distinguished patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II.

In addition, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II will take the time to add his presence here later today to address us. This will be a great honour, ladies and gentlemen.

The Palace of Monaco has announced the offering of a medal issued on the occasion of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II's accession to the throne, to all delegates of the FICAC World Congress of Consuls. What a great honour. This deserves a special round of applause.

The Office des Emissions de Timbre-Poste of the Principality of Monaco issued on August 22, 2012 the FICAC WCC 2012 Commemorative Stamp. This is indeed a historic event for our Federation. We extend special thanks to His Serene Highness for making it possible.

I cannot say enough about the graciousness and the hospitality that we have each received from we arrived here in Monaco. To say nothing of the logistics, the preparation, the setting, the atmosphere and the attendance here today.

I must now congratulate and thank the president, Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, and members of the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco, the chairman of the Organising Committee, Hon. Takis Touliatos, and members of the Committee, for the excellent work that they have done in making World Congress 2012 a huge success. Thank you very much.

At this Congress, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary, and several members of our Federation from all over the world will be honoured this evening for the excellent work that they have done in the countries in which they have the honour to serve.

This Congress gives us the opportunity to strengthen further the bonds of existing friendships, as well as to form new friendships and develop a deeper understanding between the countries that we have the honour to represent.

This is important, as the advances in technology and communication have reduced the world into what is now described as a global village.

Living in this environment demands interdependency between countries,



His Excellency Michel Roger (second left), Prime Minister of Monaco, with Hon. Moustapha El-Solh (left), President of the Association of the Honorary Consuls of Monaco, the Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC and Mrs Patricia Foote.

which has significantly changed the way we think and relate to each other.

As consuls representing countries worldwide, this has placed and continues to place, a tremendous responsibility on us. The policies and programmes that our countries adopt and the cooperation between our countries will impact on the kind of world that will emerge. Our decisions and advice and reports given to our Governments must therefore be based on sound and well-researched information.

As you all know, our Federation has a Partnership Agreement with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for cooperation in environment and climate change. This could include cooperation in project identification and funding, pooling of expertise and dissemination of information.

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.

I must again thank His Serene Highness for honouring us by allowing FICAC to work with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and assist in the promotion of international awareness of these important matters.

This programme must be given priority by the next administration of our Federation.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, our Federation notes with respect, the consideration that Monaco is giving to smaller states, and notes Monaco's international cooperation with countries of the Southern Hemisphere.

Coming from a small country myself, I appreciate the attention that is being given to these countries and the stated commitment of Monaco's International Cooperation Directorate to increase its official development assistance significantly by 2015. We are most grateful.

We want it to be known that the World Federation of Consuls stands ready to

cooperate with Monaco whenever called upon to do so. Again, many thanks to Monaco and to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II for all that has been done and is being done for cooperation with our Federation.

And so now, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Directors and members of the World Federation of Consuls, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today. I thank you for coming. I know that you will find it worth your while.

Welcome to the 10th FICAC World Congress of Consuls 2012.

Thank you very much.



It is our duty to contribute towards a peaceful world

- Hon. Moustapha El-Solh



Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, President of the Association of the Honorary Consuls of Monaco, addressing the audience at the opening session of the 10th FICAC WCC held recently in Monaco.

Speech by

Hon. Moustapha El-Solh

Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chief of Cabinet of His Serene Highness, Mr. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Representatives of Monaco's highest authorities, Mr. President of the FICAC, Deans and Member of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, Your Excellencies,

In 2010, when my friend the Honourable Panayotis Touliaos, who is the Consul General of Greece in Monaco, and

Secretary General of the ACHM, as well as an active board member of the FICAC, brought me the idea that we, the Monegasque Consular Corps Association, should host the next FICAC World Congress in 2012, I looked at him and said "Takis, my friend are you crazy? Are you out of your mind?!!! Why do we want to take this big responsibility on our shoulders???"

I guess you can all appreciate the reservations and uncertainties I had about our ability to successfully fulfill such an ambitious but challenging mission. Today,

2 years after such initial discussions, after being entrusted by the FICAC's board to host such a Congress, after obtaining the unconditional support of Monaco's highest authorities, after the absolute mobilisation of all of our consular corps members, after the inexhaustible months of benevolent work, after the absolute support and indefectible trust invested in us by our sponsors, I am proud to see that, today, with all of you here present, the dream has become a reality.

Your excellencies, honourable consuls, ladies and gentleman, on behalf of the ACHM, Monaco's Consular Corps Association, it gives me great honour and immense pleasure to welcome all of you to the FICAC's 10th World Congress, here in the principality of Monaco.

This Congress has gathered more than 200 official delegates, representing more than 90 countries from across the four corners of the globe. Such a rich and mature attendance testifies of the importance of the consular function and consolidates a new form of collaboration within the continuously growing role of the FICAC.

The pleasure and honour are all the greater because His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, has wholeheartedly bestowed upon this event his distinguished patronage and has exceptionally accepted to personally be present with us this afternoon.

The presence this morning of His Excellency Prime Minister Michel Roger, as well as numerous eminent officials, demonstrates the Principality's strong and unconditional commitment towards the consular function and, more precisely, towards the many participating representatives of friendly countries here today.

This moment is my opportunity to personally thank the FICAC and its vibrant president, Hon. Arnold Foote, as well as the FICAC's executive committee members, for this choice and the faith they have shown us by entrusting the ACHM

with the challenging task of planning and holding this long-awaited event in the Principality of Monaco.

Please know that this task was made possible by the priceless assistance of the Monegasque government and the unequalled availability and extraordinary support of its administration and institutions. But also through the unrelenting work of the ACHM organising committee, which was specifically formed for the occasion and presided over by my friend, Panayotis Touliatos, who was closely accompanied directly on the terrain by Hon. Sylvain Cohen, Rodolphe Berlin and the persistent and determined coordinator-of-all Colonel Thierry Jouan.

Standing here before this impressive assembly of officials and honourable consuls, I note with satisfaction and pride, the magnitude of the task and efforts that have been carried out by all concerned parties towards the success of this Congress. To all these authorities, entities, individuals, sponsors and all the delegates, many of whom traveled great distance to be here, I would like to

express my deepest gratitude and warmest appreciation.

Ladies and gentleman, the timing of our gathering falls within a very crucial and sensitive moment in our modern history.

The world is actually undergoing major political, social, environmental and economic challenges. The

- Euro crisis
 - the Arabs spring
 - the economic crisis
 - the nuclear proliferation
 - the global warming
 - the fiscal policies changes
 - the human rights implementation
 - the protection of the environment
 - the world's peace
 - the famine and poverty situation,
- and many other fundamental topics, are in the heart of the 21st century future.

Our world is facing today its biggest policy changes and, therefore, challenges. Those are the guiding principles that are now shaking the entire planet to its foundation. It is our duty to contribute towards instating a peaceful world, a viable free society, a sound economic

model and, most importantly, a sustainable environment.

It is for this reason, we have wisely selected three very pressing topical themes: "Peace", "Economic Crisis" and "Biodiversity" shall pave the way to excellent presentations and dialogue during this FICAC 10th World Congress in Monaco.

I seek this opportunity to thank our five renowned speakers, who, despite their very busy schedule, kindly accepted to come and share with us their wisdom and vision on three such vital topics. Gentlemen, we are delighted to have you with us.

I would like to conclude by wishing this Congress tremendous success, enjoyable stay to all the participants and their companions in the Principality of Monaco and, most importantly, a lively and rewarding dialogue which ultimately shall all converge towards a shared objective, that of a reconciled and peaceful world, one in which man lives in harmony with his environment and neighbour.

Thank you for your kind attention!



Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, President of the Association of the Honorary Consuls of Monaco, making a presentation to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II as the Honourable Arnold Foote looks on.

Monaco's assistance to developing countries lauded

- The Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ



Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, President of the Association of the Honorary Consuls of Monaco, formally presents the Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC, to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco at the recently held 10th FICAC World Congress of Consuls. The WCC was held under the distinguished patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II.

The Honourable Arnold Foote, in his speech to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, said:

Your Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco
Ministers and other officials of the Government of Monaco
Your Excellencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps
Directors and members of the World Federation of Consuls
President and members of the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

We have the distinct honour of closing our first day's meeting of the 10th FICAC World Congress of Consuls 2012 in the illustrious presence of His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Your Serene Highness, on behalf of the World Federation of Consuls, I am privileged to welcome you to this the 10th FICAC World Congress, convened under your distinguished patronage.

We are not only honoured, but also greatly encouraged by your demonstrated support of the aims and objectives of our Federation.

We are deeply grateful for your gracious bestowal on each FICAC delegate the commemorative medal of the ascension to the Throne by Your Serene Highness.

We thank you most sincerely for having endorsed the issue by the Office des Emissions de Timbre-Poste of the Principality of Monaco of the very impressive FICAC WCC 2012 Commemorative Stamp.

Most of all, we deeply appreciate your presence with us and look forward to the statement which Your Serene Highness will address to this assembly.

Since our arrival in this beautiful seaside paradise, our experience has been nothing but positive. The warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this conference are not surprising, since Monaco's reputation is well known.

Yet, we do not underestimate the hard, effective work which our hosts, the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco, have undertaken to secure the success of this conference.

We commend the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco and

thank its President, Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Hon. Takis Toulaitos, and members of the Committee for their excellent preparations. We salute their unquestionable commitment to FICAC and wish for the Association continuing success in pursuit of their objectives.

Your Serene Highness, Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at this Conference, we are also celebrating the 30th Anniversary of The World Federation of Consuls, which from humble beginnings, is now represented in every region of the world. As our membership has increased, so has our awareness of the potential of our Federation to contribute to global peace and development. Our declared Mission, which reflects the consensus derived from that awareness is "Collaboration for Economic and Social Prosperity".

We recognise that 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.

In that vein, this Conference considered current concerns and aspirations such as the ongoing financial and economic crisis,



His Serene Highness Prince Albert II is escorted to the Congress by Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, President of the Association of the Honorary Consuls of Monaco and Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC. His Serene Highness was scheduled to address the delegates.

the environment and biodiversity and the conflicts which threaten international peace and stability.

The brilliant presentations by our cadre of distinguished speakers, the intensity and quality of the ensuing debates and the knowledge shared in the process, have made this a memorable conference.

What is evident is that we must harvest the synergies within this membership for greater collaboration on projects to advance development and increase trade between our countries of residence, and the countries which we are privileged to represent.



His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and the Honourable Arnold Foote are part of an attentive audience at the 10th WCC in Monaco.

Today, that collaboration is made easier by the information revolution. Today, that collaboration is essential in our global village where solutions must be jointly sought and agreed, if they are to be durable.

Today, more than ever before, situations affecting the financial or political stability of states in one corner of the world, impact on the wellbeing and security of others geographically removed from the source of the problem or crisis. This is particularly so where the interests of the superpower and major powers are involved. Cases in point are the global attention paid to the recent presidential elections in the USA and the financial challenges within Eurozone states.

The impact of externally generated problems is greater for small, vulnerable states with open economies. There is a well-known saying that when the USA sneezes, some of us in the Caribbean catch pneumonia and the economic woes suffered by several Caribbean states would appear to validate that.

What is even more evident is the importance of diversifying financial and economic relations, building strategic partnerships across cultures and regions.

This is a position which we know that the Principality shares as evidenced by the recent statement of Your Serene Highness that as a small territory Monaco acknowledged “the prominence of the need to maintain strong and long

lasting relations with many other states”. One of the results of this policy is our Federation’s Partnership Agreement with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for cooperation in energy and the environment.

The World Federation of Consuls has welcomed this Agreement and is committed to the design and implementation of projects which will respond to real needs in developing countries. We also applaud the decision by Monaco to increase its development assistance to developing countries by 2015.

Your Serene Highness, I believe we shall come away from this the 10th FICAC World Congress with a clearer understanding of the need for increased collaboration at all levels, in search for solutions to the problems which bedevil the international community.

Our collaborative action must be targeted and focused for maximum effect, thus contributing to the economic and social prosperity which we envision.

I believe that the Board of Directors of FICAC and, I dare say, all delegates to this Conference accept this challenge. I believe also that the creative energy fueled by this Conference will launch us on the right course to achieve our objectives.

Thank you!

Our Federation is becoming a strong source of influence worldwide

- The Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ

President's Report

It is my distinct honour and pleasure to welcome you this morning to the 10th General Assembly of the World Federation of Consuls in beautiful Monaco.

I am particularly grateful to the president, Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, and members of the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco and the chairman of the Organising Committee of the FICAC World Congress 2012, Hon. Takis Touliatos, who have all worked assiduously to ensure that the 10th World Congress of Consuls would be a resounding success.

I would now like to place on record my deep appreciation and thanks to all the directors who worked as a team in a very positive manner bringing successful results. I speak of: Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio, Vice President and Chairman of our Africa Region and member of the FICAC Legal Committee, Hon. Aykut Eken, Secretary General and Treasurer and Chairman of our Events Committee, Hon. K. L. Ganju, Chairman of our Consular Privileges Protection Committee, Hon. Dr. Virachai Techavijit, Chairman of our Membership and Education Committees, Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos, Chairman of the FICAC Legal Committee, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis, Chairman of our International Relations Committee, Hon. Kartar Bhalla, Chairman of South Asia Region, Chairman of our Vienna Convention Review Committee and Chairman of our Advisory Committee, Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman of our Public Relations Committee, Hon. Takis Touliatos, Chairman of the FICAC WCC 2012 Organizing Committee and member of the FICAC Legal Committee, Hon. Vince Carlos, Chairman of our East Asia Region, Hon. Lamartine Hollanda Jr., Chairman of the South America Region, Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl, Chairperson of FICAC North America Region



The Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC, at the Gala at the close of the 10th WCC held in Monaco.

The Izmir Declaration of World Congress 2009, marking the successful conclusion of the General Assembly, resolved:

- To take FICAC to all countries to strengthen the Consular Movement
- To bring all consuls of the world under the banner of FICAC
- To work towards the establishment of new member associations and their affiliation with FICAC
- To bring estranged states and consuls back to FICAC
- To work for removal of disparities between career consuls and honorary consuls

- To intensify efforts to improve the status of honorary consuls and create an ambiance in which they can discharge their functions with dignity
- To expand the role of honorary consuls to encompass the full range of economic, trade, cultural, political and diplomatic relations
- To call upon directors and chairmen of regional and subject committees to enhance the status and standing of the World Federation of Consuls in all regions and countries

continued on page 12

The General Assembly of the 9th World Congress gave us a powerful mandate. In order for our Federation to fulfill the mandate given, I reviewed all operations and structure and proposed changes and adjustments which I believed were necessary to improve and maintain an efficient and effective organisation in this ever-changing global environment.

As a result, “The Way Forward” programme was created.

Let me first deal with the Permanent Secretariat.

As you know, the Board appointed Director Hon. Aykut Eken, as Secretary General and Treasurer, combining the functions. As this may not be the case in the future, I have dealt with the functions separately.

The Permanent Secretariat is located at the offices of the Secretary General in Brussels, Belgium, and has overall responsibility for the secretarial work of our Federation. The Secretary General will work in consultation with the President and the Vice President.

The functions of the Secretariat are:

- Organising the work of the Secretariat
- Preparing draft work programmes for consideration by the directors
- Supervising the implementation of work programmes and their coordination
- Conducting the everyday activities of FICAC
- Preparing an annual statement of membership of the Federation for circulation to all member associations.

In addition, the Secretariat is responsible for maintaining the files, archives, accounts and other records of FICAC and safeguarding those records.

The office of the Treasurer is an honorary position selected by the President and the Board tri-annually. Any support staff is the responsibility of the Treasurer. All functions that have to be carried out by the Treasurer are in consultation with the President, Vice President and the Secretary General. These functions are;

- Submitting a triennial budgetary proposal, reviewed by the Board, and approved by the General Assembly
- Submitting the annual budget for approval of the Board
- Keeping, preparing and presenting statements of account
- Keeping the Board informed of the financial status of FICAC
- Collecting member’s fees and taking all measures in connection therewith
- Safeguarding the assets of the Federation and discharging its liabilities
- Depositing funds of the Federation in a bank
- Performing such other functions that the Board or the President may assign him

In addition, the Treasurer will prepare annual financial statements for audit on a timely basis for presentation to the Board of Directors. I now move to the issue of the FICAC regions and the Central Committees.

I increased the number of regions to widen our coverage and service and to enhance our membership. The regions are based on the United Nations categorization. The FICAC regions are:

- East Asia – Chairman Hon. Vince Carlos of the Philippines

- South Asia – Chairman Hon. Kartar Bhalla of India
- Middle East – Chairman Hon. Khaled Miqdadi of Jordan
- Eastern Africa – Chairman Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio of Ghana
- Western Africa – Chairman Hon. Dimitri Avraam of Ghana
- Northern Africa – Chairman Hon. Dr. Ali Benkirane
- Southern Africa – Chairman Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio of Ghana
- Eastern Europe – Chairman Hon. Marko Smole of Slovenia
- Northern Europe – Chairman Hon. Aykut Eken of Turkey
- Western Europe – Chairman Hon. Count Niccolo Caissotti di Chuisano of Monaco
- Southern Europe – Chairman Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos of Greece
- South America – Chairman Hon. Lamartine Hollanda Jr. of Brazil
- North America – Chairman Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl of USA
- Caribbean – Chairman Hon. Antonio Alma of the Dominican Republic

Each committee of the Federation has been defined as to its purpose and how it is expected to operate at the FICAC level. Most of these committees are replicated at the regional level.



Secretary General of FICAC Hon. Aykut Eken welcomes HSH Prince Albert II at the FICAC World Congress of Consuls 2012

Committees have been set up to deal with specific issues of FICAC. Each committee is chaired either by a Board member or a Regional Chairman, and populated by choice of the Chair to include Deans and members who have specific interest in the topic.

The intention is for each region to have a similar organisational structure to the Federation, that is a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Board comprising of Deans of the region and appropriate committees.

Each region is managed by a Regional Chairman who attends Board meetings and reports on the progress of his or her region. It is expected that each region supports a regional secretariat located at the offices of the Regional Chairman, and that the Regional Chairman reports to the Secretary General on a monthly basis as prescribed by him.

The functions of the Regional Committees are similar to those of the Federation overall and they are as follows:

- To project the work of the World Federation by communicating on a regular basis with member countries
- Develop membership within the region – make special visits to countries which are not members
- Develop FICAC programmes within the region
- Visit member countries and encourage the work of the member corps – advising on projects and liaising with Chairmen of FICAC Committees
- Project each member positively in the receiving state by interacting with media, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and through the FICAC programmes etc.
- Promote annual trade expos in each country of the region
- Organise FICAC/UNICEF fundraising banquets in each country of the region
- Encourage educational programmes and work with FICAC Committees for recommending the appropriate programmes
- Create a better understanding of FICAC services – invite FICAC directors to the region.

There are 17 Central Committees supported by similar committees at the regional level.

- Trade Development
- Legal
- Membership
- Education
- Consular Privilege Protection
- International Relations
- Public Relations
- FICAC/UNICEF
- Cultural Relations
- Events
- Vienna Convention Review
- Communications – FICAC News and website
- Economic Advisory
- Environment and Climate Change
- Fundraising
- Benefits
- Advisory

TRADE DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this committee is to promote cross border business, trade development and networking amongst members. The operation is to organize and host trade expos and missions amongst members.

The development of trade and its promotion is one of the main functions of the Consul, and it is also an integral part of the objectives of this administration.

Our Federation includes a high proportion of persons with considerable business expertise and they are therefore ideally suited for trade promotion.

International Trade Expos and Trade Fairs have been organized by members successfully. The member Corps that are doing this on an annual basis have seen the image and status of the Consular Corps involved, grow considerably. They have earned the respect of the Government of the country and, in particular, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

The Consular Corps who have organised FICAC International Trade Expos, have made a profit on it, which cleared all their annual expenses.

LEGAL

The purpose of the Legal Committee is to protect FICAC from lawsuits, develop policies and procedures for dealing with legal issues, review constitution and

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 from legal perspective.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee's purpose is to develop the membership base of the World Federation of Consuls. Its operation is to activate recruitment methodology including visits, consultations and presentations.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee's purpose is to advise members on available educational programmes which satisfy their needs to increase effectiveness of the Consular duties and enhance their knowledge in specific areas.

We Honorary Consuls must become more relevant to the global struggle for peace, security and sustainable development. The World Federation of Consuls has developed an International Relations and Diplomacy course for its members to constantly update the theory and practice the craft.

This International Relations and Diplomacy Course will provide you with an invaluable tool; the understanding of the relationship between states and how they impact on each other. It will help you to develop an analytical approach to international news, and will assist you to bring a fresh view to whatever your area of business or interest.

Courses are available that inform on other areas of our activities. Lectures on International Relations and Diplomacy and other topics can be arranged through our Secretariat.

CONSULAR PRIVILEGE PROTECTION

The FICAC Consular Privilege Protection Committee will work with members to ensure the enactment of the privileges in line with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963.

The Consular Privileges Protection Committee informed the Board of Directors that in the last four months, all the Consular Corps around the world were once again requested to send in the latest information regarding privileges, facilities and immunities being enjoyed by them. It is very encouraging to note that a large number of our members have

continued on page 14



FICAC directors with His Excellency Michel Roger after the Prime Minister has received the Award of Excellence from the Hon Arnold Foote. With him, from left, are Hon. Dr. Virachai Techavijit, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis, Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl, Hon. Dr. Mirza Baig, Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, Hon. Amarkai Amarteifo, Hon. Aykut Eken and Hon. K.L. Ganju.

continued from page 13

responded and provided the latest information. As soon as this exercise is complete, all members will be informed.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The purpose of the International Relations Committee is to manage relationships between Governments, private sector associations, members and international agencies. This Committee is to ensure the highest class of membership for our Federation in international organisations.

Its operation is to develop working partnerships within member countries and between international agencies, the European Union, the Organization of American States, the United Nations, WTO and the World Bank/IFC. It is also to develop relationships with the Diplomatic Corps to assist with FICAC projects.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The purpose of this Committee is to create international media awareness of FICAC by managing relationships with media, Governments and private sectors. Its operation is to maintain a working group in each region responsible for press releases relating to FICAC member activities.

This committee has to improve and make our communications more effective with our members, Governments and especially the international press. Even though we have shown improvement internationally, we have a far way to go, because the day has passed when institutions can afford anonymity – for institutions communicate by default just as surely as by design.

FICAC UNICEF COMMITTEE

We created our humanitarian outreach programme with UNICEF. The theme of our programme is “Consuls turning caring into action”.

The purpose of this Committee is to raise funds for the UNICEF programme which is designed to help underprivileged children living with HIV/AIDS.

Several FICAC member corps have already made significant contributions to the lives of underprivileged children of the world and in particular those who carry the additional burden of HIV/AIDS. We must continue to work together on this important outreach programme

CULTURAL EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

The purpose of this Committee is to bring cultures of the world to member countries and present them to the general population of the Receiving State free of cost. Its operation is to organise cultural exchange groups funded by the member countries.

EVENTS

The purpose of the Events Committee is to organise and stage events of the World Federation of Consuls such as awards ceremonies, annual meetings, FICAC Forum of the Americas, FICAC European Forum, FICAC Forum of Asia, FICAC African Forum etc. Its operation is to plan and execute these events.

VIENNA CONVENTION REVIEW

The purpose of this Committee is to review the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963. The FICAC Regional

Conference held in Monaco in February 2009 identified five disparities between career consuls and honorary consuls in the discharge of their functions and felt that the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 needs to be reviewed and the disparities removed.

These disparities, which do not appear to be fair or justified, tend to discriminate against honorary consuls, who are persons of high business standing, reputable professionals and do exactly the same work as career consuls of the same rank.

A petition giving detailed background and the Resolution of the FICAC Board of Directors with specific suggestions for the removal of disparities was sent to the UN Secretary General, Foreign Ministers of all countries, the UN Law Commission and the President of ECOSOC. There is still more work to be done in this area and the matter is being pursued.

COMMUNICATIONS

The purpose of this Committee is to gather news from members for FICAC publications and for the Federation’s website www.ficacworld.org. The operation of this Committee is to work with Regional Chairmen to ensure that a process is in place to gather news, manage the Federation’s website and publish the FICAC News.

ECONOMIC ADVISORY

The purpose of this Committee is to gather, collate and disseminate information relating to the economies of member countries. Its operation is to make information available on request.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The purpose of this Committee is to promote awareness of the effects of climate change. Its operation is to create regional and international awareness of the programme. On September 17th, 2010, FICAC signed a Partnership Agreement with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for cooperation in energy and the environment. 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.

H. E. Bernard Fautrier, Executive Vice President of the Prince Albert II Foundation, in his opening remarks said, and I quote:

“I am proud to sign an agreement with the World Federation of Consuls which set up an Environmental and Climate Change Committee since 2009.”

A special programme has been developed by the FICAC Environment and Climate Change Committee for presentation to the Prince Albert II Foundation for their consideration

FUNDRAISING

The purpose of this Committee is to raise funds required to operate our Federation by developing and implementing fundraising programmes and sponsorships.

FICAC MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The purpose of this Committee is to negotiate preferential treatment and deals for members. This Committee should meet with international companies and organize deals that are beneficial to both parties, including special prices, discounts, endorsements etc.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Its purpose is to provide a source of constitutional knowledge and experience of members. This Committee will advise the President and Board members on request. The Way Forward programme was prepared by me, and presented to the

Board of Directors at a meeting held in Dubai on 4th February 2010. The Board of Directors approved The Way Forward programme unanimously.

Regional Conferences and Directors' Meetings

Dubai

The Dubai Consular Conference was hosted by the Consular Corps of Sindh Karachi Pakistan and the Consular Corps of Punjab Lahore Pakistan. It was an excellent event which was addressed by Dr. Moazzam Mekam of the World Bank in Dubai.

It was very well organized, including an excellent awards banquet and wonderful entertainment. Special mention and thanks must be given to Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig and Hon. Mian Tajammal Hussain for the wonderful job they did in making this event a success.

Dominican Republic

The first Caribbean Regional Conference was held in the Dominican Republic in April 2010. The keynote speaker was His Excellency Carlos Troncoso, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, who gave a very informative address to the diplomatic community.

His Excellency Minister Troncoso received the FICAC Award of Distinction at the conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hon. Rosendo Alvarez for organising this event.

Milan, Italy

A FICAC directors meeting and luncheon was held at the Atahotel Executive in Milan. At this meeting, Hon. Stelio Campanale, dean of the Corpo Consolare di Puglia Basilicata et Molise with 46 members was introduced to the directors.

The Board of Directors of FICAC, at its meeting held in Milan on 21st May 2010, agreed unanimously to the “Guidelines for Honorary Consuls” prepared by Hon. Kartar Bhalla. A copy of the Guidelines for Honorary Consuls can be obtained from our Secretariat and on the website.

Brussels

The FICAC European Consular Forum was held in the European Parliament building on 29th September, 2010. At this conference, His Excellency Herman

van Rompuy, president of the European Council, was awarded the FICAC Gold Star, the highest honour given only to distinguished world leaders.

This was a historic occasion and special mention must be made of the excellent work done by our Secretary General, Hon. Aykut Eken. Well done, Aykut.

Philippines

On 19–21 November 2010, the FICAC East Asia Regional Conference was held in Manila. This international event was held at the Peninsula Hotel in Manila and was hosted by the Consular Corps of the Philippines, headed by Dean Hon. Amelia Ablaza, Honorary Consul for Guatemala.

I would like to say a special thank you to the chairman of the FICAC East Asia Region, Hon. Vince Carlos, Dean Amelia Ablaza and the Consular Corps of the Philippines, who did a fantastic job in making the conference a huge success.

Philippines president, Benigno S. Aquino III, received the FICAC Gold Star, the highest honour of the World Federation of Consuls given only to distinguished world leaders.

Israel – January 2011

At the invitation of the Consular Corps of Israel and the Honorary Life President of FICAC, Hon. Peter Gad Naschitz, I was the keynote speaker at their Diplomatic banquet. My address was well received and they were very interested in the Federation’s work, especially the International Trade Expos. I wrote thanking Hon. Peter Gad Naschitz for the kind hospitality extended to my wife and myself during our stay in Tel Aviv. In his reply he said, and I quote:

“I am confident that your visit strengthened the already strong bonds between the Israel Consular Corps and the World Federation of Consul under your leadership and we shall all work together to fulfill the mutual aims.”

Bangladesh – February 6, 2011

The occasion for this conference was the inauguration of the Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh. The president of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Md Zillur Rahman, made the keynote address at the inaugural ceremony of the



His Serene Highness Prince Albert II (centre) with Directors of FICAC (2009-2012) at the FICAC World Congress of Consuls held in Monaco recently. From left, front row, are Honourable Arnold Foote, Hon. Moustapha El-Solh and Dr. Virachai Techavijit; second row, Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio, Hon. Aykut Eken, Hon. Vicente Carlos; third row, Hon. Dr. Mirza Baig, Hon. Kartar Bhalla, Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos, Hon. Lamartine Hollanda Junior, Hon. K.L. Ganju; and fourth row, Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl, Hon. Lefkaritis, Hon Panayotis Touliatos.

Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh and declared the Forum open.

The graciousness and the kind hospitality extended to us by members of the Consular Corps of Bangladesh will never be forgotten.

India – February 15, 2011

The FICAC South Asia Regional Conference was declared the biggest ever. The keynote address was made by H. E. Tejendra Khanna, Hon. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, who declared the conference open. Special mention must be made of Hon. Vivek Burman, president of the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique India, Hon. K. L. Ganju, chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Conference, Hon. Kartar Bhalla, chairman of FICAC South Asia Region and members of the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique India, who worked very hard as a team to make this a very successful event.

Rome, Italy

A FICAC directors meeting was held

at the Marriott Courtyard in Rome on 10th May 2011. The following day, the directors journeyed to the Vatican where His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI received the President of the World Federation of Consuls, and the Secretary General, Hon. Aykut Eken. His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI was presented with the FICAC Gold Star and Citation. The FICAC Gold Star is the highest honour of the World Federation of Consuls given only to world leaders.

The Gold Star was presented to His Holiness on behalf of all the members of the World Federation by its President and Secretary General.

Directors of the World Federation of Consuls who were present at the Vatican for the audience with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI are:

- Hon. Costas Lefkaritis – Cyprus
- Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl – USA
- Hon. Takis Touliatos – Monaco
- Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos – Greece
- Hon. K.L. Ganju – India
- Hon. Dr. Virachai Techavijit – Thailand

- Hon. Lamartine Hollanda Jr. – Brazil
We would like to place on record our profound gratitude to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for honouring us by allowing us to honour him. This is the highest recognition ever given to the World Federation of Consuls

Monaco

On 12th May, a meeting was held with the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco who agreed to host the FICAC World Congress 2012. It was the first World Congress of Consuls Organising Committee meeting held in Monaco. I was accompanied by Hon. Aykut Eken who was honoured for his excellent work with the Vatican.

The following day, I met with Mr. Henri Fissore, Ambassadeur en Mission, auprès du Ministre d'Etat, the chairman, Hon. Takis Touliatos and some members of the WCC 2012 Organising Committee, and the proposed World Congress programme was discussed in detail.

Jamaica

The second FICAC Caribbean Consular Conference was held in Jamaica on 25th July 2011. Hon. Antonio Alma of the Dominican Republic was named the new chairman of the region. The meeting was addressed by Hon. Dr. Kenneth Baugh, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade of Jamaica, who congratulated the World Federation of Consuls on its international work and achievements. The World Federation of Consuls' Award of Distinction was conferred on Hon. Dr. Baugh for the excellent support given to the Consular Corps of Jamaica, a member of FICAC, and his work in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Turkey

The 2nd FICAC Race Cup was held on 21st September 2011. The Race Cup, organised by Hon. Aykut Eken, has proved to be a very successful event as dignitaries from Turkey and Europe attend annually. The first Race Cup was held in 2009. Another successful Race Cup took place in Turkey on 21st September 2012.

On 22nd September 2011, members of FICAC Board of Directors, had the privilege of being received by His All Holiness Bartholomeos I, Ecumenical Patriarch. His All Holiness expressed his appreciation for the visit of the FICAC directors in a letter to our Secretary General which was received shortly after he met with the delegation. The 8th Directors Meeting of the World Federation of Consuls took place on 22nd September 2011 in the beautiful city of Istanbul Turkey after the meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Before starting the Directors Meeting, I had the unpleasant task of informing our members of the passing of Hon. Vagn Jespersen, founder and first president of the World Federation of Consuls. Hon. Jespersen died at 93 years old but he will always be remembered by members of our Federation for his vision and hard work in creating the World Federation of Consuls and leading it for over 13 years. He was a great man and we must make certain that his work and achievements will never be forgotten in the Consular Community of the world. I also informed the directors that my wife and I would be traveling to Copenhagen the same day to represent the members of the World Federation



Hon. Moustapha El-Solh being congratulated by FICAC President, The Honourable Arnold Foote and Secretary General Hon. Aykut Eken after being presented with the FICAC Medal of Distinction

of Consuls at the funeral of Hon. Vagn Jespersen. This we did and our visit was much appreciated by the Jespersen family and their friends. I am now going to ask you, my colleagues, my friends, to stand for one minute in silence, as a mark of respect for our Founder, the late Hon. Vagn Jespersen.

Washington, DC

On 18th January 2012, our Secretary General Hon. Aykut Eken, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis and I met in Washington, where we represented FICAC in meetings with United States Congressmen and Congresswomen. We had meetings with Congressman Dan Burton, Congressman Alcee Hastings, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

At our meeting with Congressman Dan Burton, who is Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Europe and Eurasia, and a senior member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the business of the World Federation of Consuls was discussed. Congressman Burton was impressed with our Federation, the large number of countries that are members and the extent of its activities worldwide.

At the end of the meeting, I thanked the Congressman for receiving the FICAC delegation and invited him to be the keynote speaker at the FICAC European Regional Consular Conference scheduled to take place in Brussels at the Chateau Sainte-Anne, February 23, 2012. Congressman Burton graciously accepted our invitation.

The meetings with Congressman Hastings, Congresswoman Foxx and Congresswoman Clarke went extremely well and we discussed a wide range of subjects, including the possibility of Congresswoman Virginia Foxx addressing one of our conferences next year. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Congressman Alcee Hastings offered our Federation their full support. This was the first time that our Federation had meetings with US Congressmen and Congresswomen in Washington. This was a historic occasion for FICAC.

I would like to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Secretary General, Hon. Aykut Eken, for arranging the meetings, and Hon. Costas Lefkaritis for his excellent support.

Brussels, Belgium

On 23rd February 2012, the FICAC European Consular Conference was held at the Chateau Sainte-Anne in Brussels. At this conference, our keynote speaker was Congressman Dan Burton, Republican Representative of the 5th district of Indiana in the US Congress, a member of the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Oversight and Government Reform. Congressman Dan Burton praised the international work of the World Federation of Consuls. This was the first time in the history of FICAC that a United States Congressman addressed one of our conferences.

On Thursday, 31st May, the 10th meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the

continued on page 18

Secretariat in Brussels Belgium. This meeting, for the most part, dealt with World Congress 2012 and congratulations were in order for Chairman, Hon. Takis Touliatos, and members of the Organising Committee of the World Congress 2012.

Thessaloniki, Greece

On Wednesday 19th September 2012 our Board of Directors meeting was held at the Met Hotel in Thessaloniki. At this meeting, the paper proposing amendments to the constitution of FICAC, dated 4th June 2012, was discussed. The section where it proposed that the president be given the authority to appoint three additional vice presidents from among the elected directors was objected to by the president.

I reminded the Board that the General Assembly, which is the supreme body of our Federation, has the authority to elect one vice president only. I went on to state that it is in my opinion that no president of our Federation must ever be given more authority than the General Assembly, no matter how temporary it may be. I also stated that the positions that the new vice presidents would occupy are currently covered by regional chairmen, and that these regional chairmen can carry out their responsibilities in an efficient and productive manner. I asked the Board of Directors to withdraw the amendment to the constitution and send it to the Legal Committee for further consideration. It was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

Thessaloniki 100th Anniversary

Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos organised and hosted this Directors Meeting in Thessaloniki, and a special meeting with His Worship the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Hon. Yiannis Boutaris was arranged. It was an excellent event as we were able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Thessaloniki's independence from the Ottoman Empire. I had the honour of addressing the meeting and presenting the Mayor with a FICAC Medal of Appreciation to mark the occasion.

FICAC Website

I am pleased to report that the FICAC website continues to do a good job for our Federation. The average visit to www.ficacworld.org

in terms of time spent on the site is 25:11 (Twenty-five minutes 11 seconds). The average number of pages viewed on www.ficacworld.org per visit by each unique visitor is 13 pages. For the period of January 1, 2012 to August 31, 2012, the www.ficacworld.org domain has had a total of fifty thousand, two hundred and ninety-seven (50,297) unique visitors at an average monthly rate of six thousand, two hundred and fifty three (6,253.44) visitors each month.

The statistics show a low of 5,676 visitors in May and a high of 7,439 in August. This indicates a high volume of viewership over the period in review with consistent levels of visits from Sweden, Russia, Germany, South Africa, Singapore, Ukraine, India, The Czech Republic, Brazil, Romania, Canada, China, Belgium and Mexico. Interest in the website has been varied and extensive, with all pages enjoying an unprecedented level of interest.

In February of 2012, over 12,890 page views were recorded and this represents the largest number of the period. The most popular pages remain the main page, the news and the ever-popular FICAC News magazine, which is now produced in a flash enhanced version. Over the same period, visitors to the website have visited on average 12 pages and spent an average of 21 minutes perusing the pages of the site.

'FICAC Who's Who'

The first publication of the FICAC Who's Who was presented at the World Congress of Consuls held in Izmir, Turkey in 2009. The second publication of the FICAC Who's Who has been presented at the World Congress of Consuls 2012 in Monaco.

I must place on record my sincere appreciation and thanks to Hon. Kartar Bhalla of India for his hard work in collecting material from Consuls, editing their CVs and bringing out an impressive Who's Who.

It is planned that the Who's Who should be published every three years and the second Who's Who has been published in that time frame. Congratulations Hon. Kartar Bhalla. Well done.

Information and Networking

FICAC members are actively networking with each other and the sourcing of

goods and services is one of the more frequent requests from members. The communication between consuls from member countries has improved and will continue to improve.

Membership

Membership has improved considerably and we now have our Federation represented in every region of the world. This increase in membership makes our Federation a very important organisation for our members to use for lobbying purposes, and from reports I have received, our lobbying has brought positive results.

I would like to thank the chairman of our Membership Committee, Hon. Dr. Virachai Techavijit, the members of his Committee and the regional chairmen for their work in expanding their regions considerably.

30th Anniversary

Our 30th Anniversary Committee, under the chairmanship of Hon. K. L. Ganju, organised an excellent 30th Anniversary Awards programme last night and I would like to again congratulate Hon. Ganju, his committee and all the awardees for the excellent work they have done in the countries in which they have the honour to serve.

Several member corps have had successful 30th Anniversary celebrations and I am personally very pleased with our awards programme and how it has developed.

General

As I close my report, I would again like to thank all the directors, chairmen and members of the World Federation of Consuls for the excellent contribution they made during the term of office of this administration.

My administration has put many measures in place to serve you better, and there is no doubt that in the last three years, the World Federation of Consuls has become a strong source of influence worldwide.

I am very proud of what has been achieved so far and thank you all for making it possible and for giving me the honour of serving you as your president from 2009 – 2012.

President Arnold Foote receives ACHM Plaque d'Honneur



The Honourable Arnold Foote receives the ACHM's Plaque d'Honneur from Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, President of the ACHM. At left is Mrs. Patricia Foote,

At the 10th WCC, the Honourable Arnold Foote was presented with the ACHM's Plaque d'Honneur for his outstanding work in FICAC. The following is Hon. Moustapha El-Solh's tribute to the FICAC president:

It is this time of the evening where I will ask you for five minutes of your attention and I promise that they will be extremely short. Your Excellency, dear colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen, tonight, on behalf of all my colleagues of the ACHM, as well as FICAC Members from abroad, I would like to pay a special tribute to an exceptional man who has devoted an average of 15 hours a day for the last six years, towards

the development and promotion of the Consular Function. A dynamic man, known for his competency, his objectivity and integrity; a man with many professional and human qualities, devoted to the service of the World Federation of Consuls. Such a man could not have achieved such tremendous accomplishment without the support of his spouse; and, as we all know, "behind every successful man there is a wonderful woman".

I ask the Honourable Arnold Foote and his lovely wife, Mrs. Patricia Foote, to join me to the stage.

The Honourable Arnold Foote, in recognition for your exceptional devotion to the Consular Function, to building bridges among different consular corps and to strengthening the effectiveness of honorary consuls, I have the great privilege to offer you the ACHM "Plaque d'Honneur".

FICAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDEES

Awardee	Sending Country	Receiving Country
Hon. Mohammed Shajahan	Moldova	Bangladesh
Hon. Mrs. Nasreen Fatema Awal	Mongolia	Bangladesh
Hon. Photos Ja. Photiades	Dominican Republic	Cyprus
Hon. Panayiotis Antoniadis	Norway	Cyprus
Hon. Christian Borenius	El Salvador	Finland
Hon. Bernt Ehrnrooth	Burkina Faso	Finland
Hon. Pierre Orloff	Belgium	Georgia
Hon. Hon. Teymuraz Chichinadze	Philippines	Georgia
Hon. Soy Martua Pardede	Jamaica & Macedonia	Indonesia (Jakarta)
Hon. James Rachman Radjimin	Hungary & Austria	Indonesia (Surabaya)
Hon. Thorstein Selvik	Romania	Norway (Bergen)
Hon. Mads Langaard-Lund	Armenia	Norway (Oslo)
Hon. Erling Johansen	Latvia	Norway (Kristiansand)
Hon. Marko Kryžanovski	Monaco	Slovenia
Hon. Rajko Maric	Slovenia	Serbia
Hon. Mirza Ihktiar Baig	Morocco	Pakistan
Hon. Kamal Chinoy	Cyprus	Pakistan
Hon. Terina Armenakis	Ethiopia	Greece
Hon. Nikolaos Soutos	Liberia	Greece
Hon. Monique De Decker	Sri Lanka	Belgium
Hon. Jean-Marie Roberti	Mexico	Belgium
Hon. Gonul Eken	St Kitts & Nevis	Turkey

AWARDS DINNER



Mrs. Patricia Foote (left), wife of the president of FICAC, the Honourable Arnold Foote, was honoured for her gracious contribution to the work of FICAC at the WCC 2012. Presenting the award is Hon. Gonul Eken and Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl.



Hon. Terina Armenakis, Dean of the Consular Corps of Greece receiving the FICAC Medal of Honour from Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl.



FICAC President, the Honourable Arnold Foote, presents FICAC Medal of Honour to Hon. Mohammed Shajahan. At centre is FICAC Director, Hon. K.L. Ganju.



FICAC President, the Honourable Arnold Foote, presents the FICAC Plaque of Appreciation to Colonel Thierry Jouan.



Hon. Moustapha El-Solh making a presentation to Hon. Kartar Bhalla in recognition of his work in developing the FICAC Who's Who. At left is Hon. K.L. Ganju.



The Association of of Honorary Consuls of Monaco members, from left, Hon. Takis Toulitatos, Hon. Sylvain Cohen and Colonel Thierry Jouan lighting the candles of a huge cake to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Federation of Consuls.

FICAC WCC 2012 Gala Banquet



The Honourable Arnold Foote and Mrs. Patricia Foote arrive at the Gala Banquet at the Hôtel Hermitage in Monaco at the end of the 10th WCC.



Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Secretary General, and Hon. Gonul Eken



Hon. Kartar Bhalla, FICAC Director, and Mrs. Bhalla



Hon. Leif-Kristian Sverstad, FICAC Director, and Mrs. Sverstad

FICAC WCC 2012 Gala Banquet



Hon. Annie Jacob and Mr. Elijah Jacob



Mr Luis Ablaza and Hon. Amelia Ablaza



Hon. Rene Ledesma and Hon. Fortune Ledesma



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves and Sra. Dolores Bustelo



Hon. Vince Carlos and Mrs. Carlos



Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos and Mrs Margaropoulos

FICAC WCC 2012 Gala Banquet



Hon. Peter Daae and Mrs. Daae



Hon. Henry Chan and Mrs. Chan



Mr. Patrick Debus and guest



Hon. Lamartine Hollanda Jr. and Hon. Marialuisa Hollanda



Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig and Mrs Baig



Hon. Rajko Maric and Mrs. Maric

FICAC WCC 2012 Gala Banquet



Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC, presenting Hon. Aykut Eken with the FICAC Medal of Distinction.



Honourable Arnold Foote, President of FICAC, congratulates Hon. Sylvain Cohen after presenting him with the FICAC Medal of Honour.



His Excellency Michel Roger is seen in conversation with Hon. Count Niccolo Caissotti di Chiusano and Hon. Debi Williams.

FICAC WCC 2012 Gala Banquet



Seen above - HSH Prince Albert II receiving the number one limited edition FICAC 30th Anniversary watch produced by the Ciribelli Monte Carlo watch company. The limited edition Swiss watches, with the FICAC logo on the face, were commissioned by the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco. The watches number 1 to 99.



FICAC WCC 2012 Gala Banquet



Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio and Mrs. Amarteifio



From left are, Hon. Willy Deswaef, Mrs. Piers, Mrs. Deswaef and Hon. François Piers.



Hon. Antonio Alma and Mrs. Alma



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



FICAC delegates and guests dining in the beautiful Salle Empire at the Hôtel Hermitage at the end of the first day of the 10th World Congress of Consuls 2012.



Hon. Amarakai Amarteifio, FICAC Vice President, being welcomed by Hon. Moustapha El-Solh, President of the Association of Honorary Consuls of Monaco.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Sribhumi Sukhanetr and Mrs. Sukhanetr



Hon. Jonathan Warren and Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl seen in conversation at the Hotel Hermitage at the end of the first day of the World Congress of Consuls 2012.



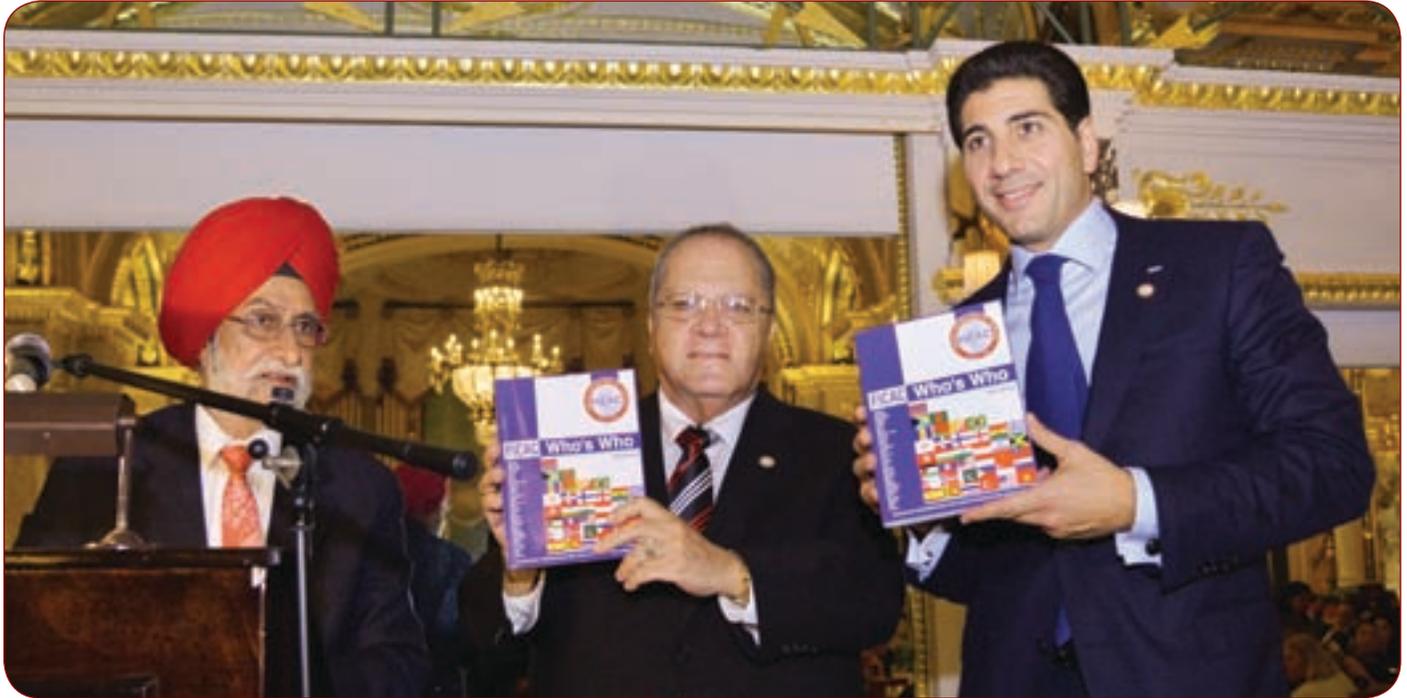
Hon. Antonio Munhoz and Mrs. Munhoz



Prime Minister Roger seen with Hon. Aykut Eken, Secretary General of FICAC, and Hon. Gonul Eken.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



The latest edition of the FICAC Who's Who was formally released at the 10th World Congress of Consuls 2012. The first two copies were presented to The Honourable Arnold Foote (centre) and Hon. Moustapha El-Solh (right) by the creator, editor and producer, Hon. Kartar Bhalla.



Seen at a reception at WCC 2012 are (from left) Hon. Dr. Virachai Techavijit, Mrs. Techavijit, Hon. Moustapha El-Solh and Ms. Techavijit, daughter of the FICAC Director.



Seen at a reception at WCC 2012 are (from left) Hon. Sonia Brouwer, His Excellency Michel Roger, Mrs Modesta Alma and Hon. Antonio Alma.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Wilhelm Brouwer, Hon. Sonia Brouwer and Hon. Moustapha El-Solh.



The Honourable Arnold Foote (left) and Mrs Patricia Foote were guests of HSH Prince Albert II at the opera to celebrate Monaco's National Day. FICAC Director Hon. Takis Touliatis, Chairman of the Organising Committee of WCC 2012, is with them.



Hon. Ilhami Aygun and Mrs. Aygun



Hon. Stelio Campanale and Mrs. Campanale



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



FICAC DIRECTORS 2009-2012 - From left, Hon. Dr. Virachai Techavijit, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis, Hon. Dr. Mirza Ihktiar Baig, Hon. Kanahiya Ganju, the Honourable Arnold Foote, Hon. Aykut Eken, Hon. Lamartine Hollanda Junior, Hon. Paulina Biggs Sparkuhl, Hon. Kartar Bhalla, Hon. Vicente J. Carlos, Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos and Hon. Panayotis Touliatos. Absent from photo is Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio.

CONGRATULATIONS - INDONESIA WCC 2015



FICAC Directors Hon. Vince Carlos (left) and Hon. K.L. Ganju congratulate Hon. Soy Pardede, Dean of the Consular Corps of Indonesia after Indonesia won the election to host the 2015 World Congress.