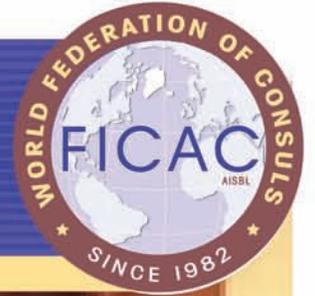




FICAC NEWS



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN REGION EDITION- JANUARY 2015



Latin America & Caribbean Conference an Outstanding Success

Ambassador Paul Robotham of Jamaica, being congratulated by the President of The World Federation of Consuls Hon. Arnold Foote, O.J., C.D., J.P., for his brilliant presentation on Latin America & Caribbean Integration. Looking on is FICAC Secretary General Hon. AykutEken

Hon. Aykut Eken Master of Ceremonies

Welcome address



Hon. Aykut Eken

Greetings and Happy New Year !

Thank you to the God for allowing all of us to see a brand new year.

For some of us, Happy New Year seems to be a “cliché” and quite like a routine. It is some words we just say when the previous year is gone...It is now history what we are actually saying is “Happy New Beginnings !”

Today we are meeting for the FICAC Latin America and Caribbean Consular Regional Conference: our federation is organizing meetings and conferences all around the world, not only to meet our Members, but also to have a better understanding of the problems they have to face as Honorary Consuls.

FICAC is looking to find solutions and to provide useful assistance to any honorary consul whenever and wherever it is possible, without any consideration of the country, the religion or the political situation: working together with our Members as a Team is our main concern.

Among several of FICAC past events, I would like to point out a few ones.

In 2013, during the celebration of

the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention, we organized in New York, our President the Hon. A. Foote received an appreciated letter from the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and we enjoyed the attendance of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations Mr. Vuk Jeremic, we also visited at the United Nations Headquarters.

In Washington DC, a delegation composed by several Members of the FICAC Board, visited several U.S. Congresswomen and U.S. Congressmen, trying to focus their attention on the key role of the honorary consuls: U.S. Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, U.S. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, U.S. Congressman Dan Burton and U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings.

In 2011, FICAC Members of the Board had the privilege and the honour to be received by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI who accepted the FICAC Gold Star, created by the President the Hon. A. Foote, as a mark of highest Honour in recognition of the excellent work of world leaders and awarded to heads of States or Government. The other recipients of this FICAC Gold Stars are :

- The Most Honourable P.J. Patterson, Governor General of Jamaica
- H.E. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey
- H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco
- H.E. John Kufuor, President of Ghana
- H.E. Herman van Rompuy, President of European Council
- H.E. Benigno Simeon Aquino III, President of the Philippines
- H.E. Tomislav Nikolic, President of the Republic of Serbia

All along the past years, we also visited several other religious leaders like His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul.

During our World Congress of Consuls in Izmir, we received an encouraging letter from U.S. Secretary of States Hilary Clinton, confirming the recognition of FICAC as playing a key role to promote and to set forth to the world the existence of the honorary consuls.

Mainly, as Honorary Consuls, we are representing firstly our Sending Country and our Receiving Country. The main role remains to develop and to promote relationships between both countries.

Nowadays, some countries are appointing Honorary Ambassadors. Up to now, the role played by the Honorary Consuls has been considered as not very important, but thanks to FICAC we want to change this. To reach our goal, each of you is important for us and, working together, we can strengthen our worldwide federation: thanks to your assistance, FICAC can expect to be better known by your colleagues, by the Officials of your Receiving and your Sending countries, by NGO's and by your connected friends all around the world.

The world is changing!

Climate and sustainability concerns, new technologies, economic globalization and, last but not least, diplomacy...the role of the honorary consuls is changing so that we need and we have to work together for a better recognized status.

“FICAC ... WORKING HARD TO SERVE YOU BETTER”,
as our President the Hon. A. Foote says !



PROGRAM

FICAC LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONSULAR CONFERENCE

January 15 – 18, 2015 • Sofitel Hotel, Miami, Florida • Theme – “Latin America and Caribbean Cooperation”

JANUARY 14 Arrival of all Directors at Sofitel Hotel, Miami

JANUARY 15

9.30am – 4.00pm Directors Meeting
Arrival of All Delegates

6.00 pm – 8.00pm Welcome Reception - all delegates

JANUARY 16

FICAC LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONSULAR CONFERENCE

9.30am Welcome & Opening Remarks – MC Hon. Aykut Eken – Secretary General FICAC

9.45am Address by President of the World Federation of Consuls, The Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ, CD, JP.

10.00am Address by Ambassador Paul Robotham - Jamaica
Topic: Latin America & Caribbean Integration

10.30am Coffee Break

11.00am Address by Colombian Ambassador H. E. Luis Martinez-Fernandez

11.30am Presentation on Protocol – Mr. Irving Fourcand, Director of Protocol and International Affairs, Miami International Airport

12.00

LUNCH

2.30pm Presentation on Climate Change in the Region – Mr. Arun Kashyap, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative UNDP.

3.00pm CVQO - Cadet Vocational Qualification Organization Presentation
“*Changing lives of children at risk*” – Mr. Guy Horridge – CEO

3.30pm Consular Privileges Protection – Hon. K. L. Ganju

4.00pm Adjournment

7.00pm

DINNER

FICAC AWARDS PRESENTATION – MC Hon. Nikos Margropoulos
Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Hon. Aykut Eken
Keynote speaker – US Congressman Alcee Hasting

JANUARY 17

FICAC LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE – DAY 2

9.30am Opening Remarks – MC Hon. Aykut Eken – Secretary General FICAC

9.35am Address on Homeland Security - **Mr. Michael Meade,**
Deputy Field Office Director
US Immigration & Customs Enforcement

10.15am Address on the European Union – E.U. Ambassador Paola Amadei

10.45am Address on Consular Security – The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP

11.15am Address on Ebola Prevention – Consul General Cecilia Rokusek

12.00 **LUNCH** – Address by Dominican Republic Ambassador H. E. Dr. Jose Tomas Ares German

2.00pm Presentations by delegates representing FICAC Latin America and Caribbean member countries

3.30pm Election of FICAC Regional Executive Committee and FICAC Regional Climate Change Committee

4.30pm Vote of Thanks – Hon Costas Lefkaritis, Vice President of FICAC

7.00pm FICAC GALA BANQUET
Introduction of Guest Speaker – The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP.
Keynote Speaker – Professor Dr. Michael Nobel, Chairman of the Nobel Sustainability Trust Foundation.
Vote of Thanks – Hon. Aykut Eken

JANUARY 18 Departure of all delegates



Ambassador Paul Robotham Brilliant! Regional Integration Needed.



Ambassador Paul Robotham, CD JP Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

In his opening speech, Ambassador Paul Robotham, CD JP Permanent Secretary said:

- Master of Ceremonies, Honourable Aykut Eken
- Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ, President of the World Federation of Consuls, & Mrs. Foote
- Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps
- Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami
- Members of the Latin American and Caribbean Region
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by bringing warm greetings from sunny Jamaica, particularly at this time when Miami has been experiencing some unusual temperatures! I am deeply grateful for the kind invitation

to address this Regional Conference of the World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) on the topic "Latin America and Caribbean Integration".

In its over 32 years of existence, FICAC has grown in strength and influence as an effective international body promoting the office of Honorary Consuls and Consuls worldwide and engendering a better understanding of their duties and responsibilities, as well as their rights and privileges.

It is a source of great pride to Jamaica that one of our very own, Honourable Arnold Foote, OJ, has been the President of the World Federation of Consuls since 2006.

Honourable Arnold Foote, we salute you and commend you and FICAC for the excellent role being played in the service of global consular relations and diplomacy and in the promotion of the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Concept and Rationale for Regional Integration

Regional integration is the process by which two or more states agree to cooperate and work together to achieve stability, peace and prosperity. It recognizes the fact that there is strength in unity of purpose and conviction, especially when you are striving towards a common goal and confronting common challenges.

Globalisation has presented new challenges and opportunities to nation states. One response to the phenomenon of globalization has been to forge closer strategic links among states in order to deal with the

complexities associated with the changes. This is particularly so among developing countries, which see the need to form associations with other states in order to grow and prosper in a sometimes hostile external environment.

The commitment of most countries to regional integration is also rooted in the growing understanding that regionalism strengthens the voice and leverage of individual countries in hemispheric and international affairs and gives them an enhanced role in international decision-making. This is particularly true for Small Island Developing States.

Integration is also propelled by our citizens. The rapid growth in Information Technology (IT) has facilitated increased people-to-people contacts and helped to propel cultural awareness and cosmopolitanism, particularly among young people. Traders and Investors from the private sector have also become more astute and have embraced the opportunities made available by globalization and integration to expand commercial activities regionally and globally.

The mushrooming of regional integration blocs around the world has also changed the way that countries and groups of countries relate to each other. Increasingly, many bilateral partners and development institutions are now opting for a regional approach in their diplomatic outreach and engagement and in the provision of economic and technical assistance.

I submit, therefore, that the need to focus on integration and development can scarcely be contested and it is no

surprise that today, almost every country in the world is aligned to some kind of regional integration arrangement.

History of Latin America and Caribbean Integration

Despite the modern imperatives which propel the need for regional integration, we should not believe that this is a recent phenomenon.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, it dates back to the early 19th Century when there were numerous, mostly failed attempts to promote various political federations in South and Central America.

The political philosophy of the Great Liberator Simon Bolivar is often credited as the foundation on which the ideal of Latin American and Caribbean integration is built.

This year we are celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the historic “Carta de Jamaica” or “Jamaica Letter”, which was written by Simon Bolivar on 6th September 1815 in Kingston.

This foundational document outlined Bolivar’s grand design for a unified Latin America as the best way to protect the continent’s newly-won Independence.

His visionary philosophy is captured in the following lines from the letter, “More than anyone, I desire to see America fashioned into the greatest nation in the world, greatest not so much by virtue of her area and wealth as by her freedom and glory”. He added, “It is a grandiose idea to think of consolidating the New World into a single nation, united by pacts into a single bond”.

His great dream led to the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama in 1826, where for the first time the young sovereign nations of the Hemisphere held discussion on the destiny of our continent for peace, development and social transformation.

Bolivar’s dream was not realised in his time, but how heartened would he be if he were alive today to know that the Summit of Americas, involving all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including Cuba, together with the USA and Canada would be meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government

in Panama in April 2015 to discuss democracy, peace, development and social transformation.

And so, the road to regional integration has been a long one and remains a work in progress. This will always be so as integration is a process, not an event.

In the latter half of the 20th Century, numerous regional and sub-regional institutions have been formed in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote integration, mostly among neighbouring states or like-minded countries. These include: the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in 1973; the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) in 1980; the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) in 1991; the Central American Integration System (SICA) in 1991; the Andean Community of Nations in 1996 (formerly the Andean Pact in 1969); and the South American Union of Nations (UNASUR) in 2004.

A number of States, including those of us in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have entrenched regional integration in our foreign policy objectives. CARICOM is one of the longest continuous integration



From left, Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves – Brazil, Hon. Mohammed Shajahan – Bangladesh, Hon. Peter Daae – Norway.

movements in the western hemisphere. With the creation in 1994 of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), countries of the wider Caribbean recognised that for too long we had allowed the differences of history, culture and language to divide and distract us from getting to know each other better. Instead, we started to focus on what we had in common and how we could cooperate to advance our collective interests. It is no surprise therefore, that one of the greatest aims of the ACS is to gain the recognition of the international community for the designation of the Caribbean Sea, as a Special Area within the context of sustainable development.

Other regional groupings, such as The Bolivarian Alliance (ALBA) and PetroCaribe, have been created on the premise of promoting South-South cooperation and the implementation of new approaches to development, based on solidarity, cooperation, and the Bolivarian ideal of Latin American and Caribbean unity.

At the hemispheric level, the Organisation of American States (OAS) was established in 1948, and together with the Summit of the Americas process, remains an important platform for regional and hemispheric engagement on a broad range of issues of common interest. The OAS has four main pillars – human rights, democracy and governance, integral development, and multidimensional security.

The OAS includes all the countries of our hemisphere, including the USA and Canada, but with the exception of Cuba. The rationale for Cuba's exclusion has been rescinded by the OAS and the door is open for Cuba to apply for re-entry to the OAS if it sees fit.

Notwithstanding the existence of the OAS, until recently, there had not existed any grouping that embraced all 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This has been finally rectified with the creation in 2011 of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CELAC was formed through the merger of the Rio Group, which was a Latin American and Caribbean body for political consultations, and the Summit on Integration and Development, which sought to promote the economic integration of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Many will ask why was there a need for CELAC to be created, despite the existence of the OAS. There are a number of good reasons.

First, there is the historical imperative. We have seen where the integration of all the States of Latin America and the Caribbean has been a dream for over 200 years.

There have been many setbacks along the way but the historical aspiration of

our peoples and States has never been extinguished.

We keep coming back to the ideal because there are good reasons for all the developing countries of the hemisphere to unite their efforts to address their common challenges and take advantage of their natural and comparative advantages.

And so, the nation States of Latin America and the Caribbean have resolved to create their own regional space to engender trust and confidence, to project our unique identity and values to the world, and to promote our development, stability and security in all their dimensions.

We do so because we believe that united, we are better able to take advantage of the fact that we are a region of almost 600 million people, representing almost 9 per cent of the global population.

United, we are better able to take advantage of the fact that we have a combined GDP of almost US\$6 trillion, representing a huge potential market for enhanced intra-regional trade, tourism and investment.

United, we are better able to maximise our growth and development based on the fact that our region occupies more than 15 per cent of the earth's surface and possesses a substantial percentage



Hon. Kwang Kong Ly and Mrs. Kong Ly, Hon. Rhee Sunghee and Mrs. Sunghee – South Korea

of the most important mineral reserves; one third of the fresh water reserves; 12 per cent of the arable land; and 21 per cent of natural forests.

United we are better able to address the fact that we are the most inequitable region on the planet, where by some estimates the 10 per cent richest in Latin American receive 32 per cent of the total income, while the 40 per cent poorest receive only 15 per cent.

United we can serve as an example to the world as the first nuclear weapon free zone in a densely populated area, thanks to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

United we can and have declared Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, in which differences between nations are peacefully settled through dialogue and negotiations and in accordance with international law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

CELAC is growing in confidence and is increasingly recognized in the world as the legitimate representative of the collective interests of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Already, CELAC is the vehicle through which we engage with other countries and groups of countries, such as the European Union, China, Russia, and the Gulf States, to name a few.

The upcoming Third CELAC Summit to be held in Costa Rica in February 2015 is expected to reinforce the commitment of the countries of the region to the political objectives of CELAC.

In parallel, the Summit of Americas to be held in April 2015 in Panama will represent a platform for historic breakthroughs in hemispheric diplomacy and a chance to heal a wound that has festered for too long.

It will allow all 35 countries of our hemisphere to move away from what divides us and focus on what unites us.

It will celebrate the removal of a rift that has existed between Latin America and the Caribbean and the United States for more than 40 years and pave the way for us to be restored as a hemispheric family of nations.

It will allow us to begin in earnest to address the problems of the weakest and most vulnerable members of the hemisphere so that every chain in our hemispheric link will become stronger and our collective prosperity and security will be enhanced.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Integration is really an all-embracing concept, incorporating governments, civil society, the private sector and most importantly, the people themselves.

And so, I submit that the success of CELAC and other regional integration movements will depend on the commitment of all its constituent members and the partnerships developed over time among actors at all levels of society.

In this broad scenario, we all have an important role to play, including the World Federation of Consuls.

The historic 50th Anniversary in 2013 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations has highlighted the evolution of the role of consular representatives. Today, your expanded mandate is wide-ranging, covering political, economic and social issues, effectively complementing the work of diplomatic representatives and supporting national development and regional integration.

The Federation is well positioned to assist in creating a broader, sturdier platform of cooperation, that will engage and benefit all the countries of the region both in terms of how we relate to each other and how, together, we relate to the rest of the world.

It is significant that the Federation has also seen it necessary to organise itself at the regional level which is consistent with the approach being taken by our

countries in advancing the regional integration project.

The Federation has through these regional Committees, embarked on initiatives covering security, education, health and maritime issues. Trade and investment continue to be a priority through the successful staging of FICAC International Trade Expos, as well as International Cultural Galas which have not only served to promote direct trade between the sending States and the receiving States but also to build cultural understanding between said States.

In closing, I wish to once again applaud the Federation for its excellent work, vision and innovative ideas for the enhancement of international relations. May you continue to sow the seeds of opportunities in your various jurisdictions to the benefit of our countries and region.

And so, I close where I began – commending FICAC for its dynamism and commitment and urging the organisation and its members to continue to play their part to help make the Americas, in the words of Bolivar: “fashioned into the greatest nation in the world, greatest not so much by virtue of her area and wealth as by her freedom and glory”.

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.
President – World Federation of Consuls

In his opening speech, FICAC President Hon. Arnold Foote said:

I stand before you today, pleased and privileged to be part of the FICAC Latin America and Caribbean Regional Consular Conference in beautiful Miami, Florida.

I would like, on behalf of the Directors of the World Federation of Consuls, to wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous and blessed 2015.

The theme of this conference is Latin America and Caribbean Cooperation.

It is of vital importance that the countries in this region develop an even closer relationship and the World Federation of Consuls can provide an appropriate forum

to assist in the promotion of regional cooperation.

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 first President was Hon. Vagn Jespersen of Denmark who served from 1982 to 1995. Succeeding Presidents were Consul General Andreas Mavrommattis of Cyprus, 1996 – 2000; Hon. Peter Gad Naschitz of Israel, 2000 – 2003, Hon. Roland Dahlman, 2003 – 2006. I had the honour of being elected unopposed to serve our Federation in 2006 – 2009, re-elected unopposed 2009 – 2012 and re-elected unopposed 2012 – 2015.

Our Federation aims to promote and strengthen mutual understanding between Honorary Consuls and Career Consuls worldwide, develop a framework and basis for exchange of current information, ideas and suggestions regarding matters relating to the office of Honorary Consul, promote at national and international levels for a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of Honorary Consuls, to promote at national and international levels the development of trade and cultural exchange programmes between the Sending and Receiving States. Our Federation is incorporated in

Belgium by Royal Decree as a non-profit international organization with its Permanent Secretariat located in Brussels, Belgium at 246 Avenue de Turveren.

In 2006, when I was elected President of the World Federation of Consuls for the first time, I made a pledge to change the centres of influence of our Federation from Europe to be more inclusive towards Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean. I am pleased to say that I have kept that promise and today our Federation has organizations in every region of the world. In keeping with this change we formed the following FICAC regions;

- East Asia – Chairman Hon. Vince Carlos of the Philippines
- South Asia – Chairman Hon. Asif Chowdhury of Bangladesh
- Latin America – Chairman Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves of Brazil
- Caribbean – Co-Chairpersons Hon. Sonia Brouwer of the Dominican Republic and Hon. Dr. Elaine Davis of Trinidad
- East Europe – Chairman Hon. Marko Smole of Slovenia
- South Europe – Chairman Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos of Greece
- West Europe – Chairman Hon. Stelio Campanale of Italy
- North Europe – Chairman Hon. Peter Daae of Norway

- Middle East – Chairman Hon. Khaled Miqdadi of Jordan
- Western Africa – Chairman Hon. Taiwo Afolabi of Nigeria
- Eastern Africa – Chairman Hon. Dimitri Avraam of Ghana
- North Africa – Chairman Hon. Ali Benkirane of Morocco
- Southern Africa – Chairman Hon. Amarkai Amarteifio of Ghana

The FICAC regions are based on the United Nations categorization.

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,
- Vienna Convention Review
- Fundraising
- Advisory Committee
- Consular Security Committee
- 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 are 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, and will work together with them in promoting international awareness of these important matters.

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 recognized 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 recognized

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 organization 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 globalization, wield a vast influence on international decision making.

Non-governmental organizations 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 organizations, to bilateral and multilateral treaties and



Hon. Dr. Cecilia Rokusek – Slovakia, Mr. Irving Fourcand – MIA, Mrs. Arnold Foote.

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 globalization 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 globalization, 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 organize 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 who 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 organized 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 Miami, Florida.

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.

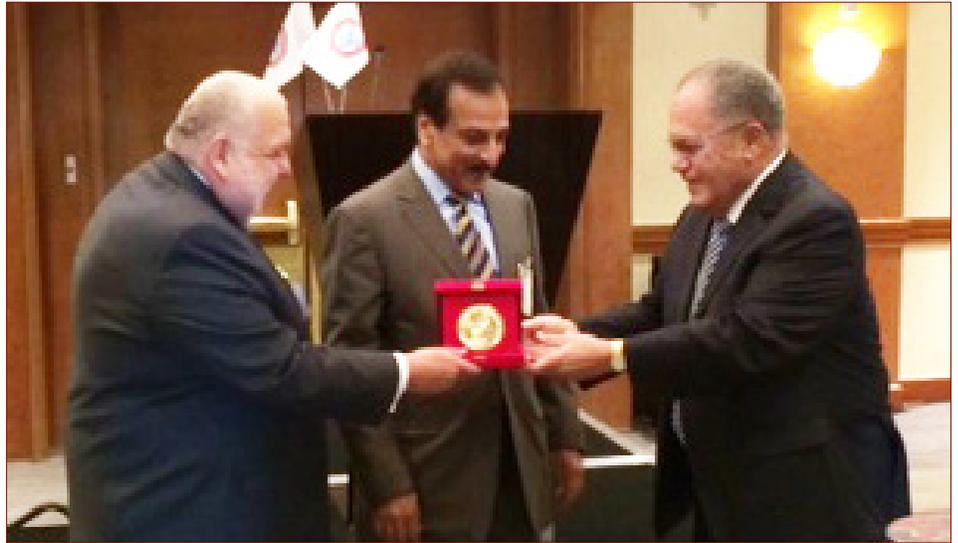


US Congressman Alcee Hastings with the President of FICAC, The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, at the FICAC Banquet on January 16. Congressman Alcee Hastings made an outstanding, interesting and informative presentation at the Banquet. The Congressman's excellent speech will be featured in our next issue of the FICAC Latin America and Caribbean publication.

Tackling Climate Change: The Defining Human Development Issue



Mr. Arun Kashyap – United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the UNDP.



President of FICAC presenting the FICAC Award to Mr. Kashyap for an excellent, informative and interesting presentation made on Climate

- The Honourable Arnold Foote, President of the World Federation of Consuls;
- Honourable Aykut Eken, Secretary General FICAC;
- H.E. Ambassador Paul Robotham, Jamaica
- Directors of FICAC – Latin America & Caribbean Region
- Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Community;
- Distinguished delegates; Ladies and Gentlemen. A very good afternoon to all of you.

It is my privilege to be here with you all at your regional conference on Latin America and Caribbean Cooperation. I would like to congratulate the World Federation of Consuls and its global network on its laudable efforts to share experiences and co-ordinate efforts to enhance effectiveness of the Consul - the oldest institution serving International bilateral relations. That is quite a distinction! I

congratulate FICAC on the very important conference initiative – Latin America and Caribbean Cooperation. It is also worth noting that FICAC has enjoyed the status of a United Nations NGO (ECOSOC Observer) since 1993.

I am grateful to your President, the Honourable Arnold Foote for providing me an opportunity to contribute to your discussions. I plan to share my thoughts on a colossal threat to human development viz.: climate change, and how to tackle it. Addressing climate change confronts governments with difficult choices as it involves complex issues of ethics, distributional equity across nations and generations, economics, technology and personal behaviour.

And, it requires global cooperation – in fact cooperation amongst all and at all levels. While the humanity is a part of an interdependent ecosphere, we live in a deeply divided world. UNDP's 2007/2008 Human Development Report described Climate Change as

the defining human development issue of our generation. Since its first report in 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has continued to provide compelling scientific evidence of clear human influence on the climate system. The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide (known as greenhouse gases (GHGs)) have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years mostly because of human activity. This, in turn has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.

Recently, the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released last year reported that the climate is already changing and the impacts are already being felt. And, further climate change is inevitable in the coming decades. The scientists have reported, and I quote "Climate change - once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present". And, commenting on the same Report



From left, Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig – Pakistan, Hon. Arnold Foote, Hon. Jethu Amwed – United Kingdom, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis – Cyprus.

the New York Times wrote in a front page story [in May 6, 2014]: “the effects of human-induced climate change are being felt in every corner of the United States with water growing scarcer in dry regions, torrential rains increasing in wet regions, heat waves becoming more common and more severe, wildfires growing worse, and forests dying under assault from heat-loving insects.”

The physical effects of climate change have serious consequences for people across the world and it poses an existential threat to some of the small island developing states (SIDS). Business as usual is not an option as shocking signs are already visible of what may be in store. The adverse impacts of climate change will lead to massive upheavals, increased frequency and severity of floods, water shortages and droughts, more unpredictable weather patterns; frequent storms and weather related disasters, more intense heat waves, decreased agricultural productivity and rising food insecurity.

By affecting livelihoods, coastal settlements, infrastructure, ecosystems, and quality and incidence of vector-borne diseases, climate change will progressively threaten economic growth and economic security in complex ways in Latin America, SIDS and across the world.

In Jamaica we can relate to the above sentiments evidenced by for example,

hotter summers, intense drought and reduced water levels in the reservoirs. While such changes have been attributed to an average warming of less than 2 degrees F in the past century, we can well imagine the scenario of the temperatures exceeding 10 degrees F by the end of the century, if carbon dioxide and methane continue to escalate at a rapid pace. And, that is indeed a conceivable situation.

Climate change is an unparalleled threat. While no country is immune to the impacts of climate change, the distribution of impacts will be unequal, with the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries facing the gravest consequences.

Aptly the debate on climate change has shifted from whether or not the world is warming or whether or not human-induced climate change is responsible for how to tackle the problem. The principle of cross-generational equity is the core of the concept of sustainability and climate change is an integral element of the foundation of sustainable development.

As the Nobel Prize winning economist and philosopher Amartya Sen has argued, human development does not differentiate between the present and the future. There is no long term trade-off between climate change mitigation and the development of human capabilities. Combating climate change with well-defined policies will reflect a commitment

to expand the substantive freedoms that people enjoy today without compromising the ability of future generations to build on those freedoms.

The moral imperative to tackle climate change is imbedded in global and local interdependence and therefore on stewardship, social justice and ethical responsibility. For instance, all the energy I use in my condominium in Brooklyn - be it lighting, heating or air conditioning is linked through the global climate system to some of the world’s most vulnerable people as well as to their and my own children and grand-children. Accordingly, as the HDR highlighted “allowing the world’s poor to bear the brunt of a climate change problem that they did not create would point to a high level of tolerance for inequality and injustice.”

Nearly 15% of the global population continues to live in extreme poverty (less than \$1.25/day) with a majority of them reliant on climate sensitive livelihoods and environments. Increasingly, extreme and costly natural disasters are wiping out the hard fought gains of poor households and communities thereby aggravating inequalities. As per the World Bank, more than 18,000 natural disasters worth nearly \$3800b in economic loss and claiming 1.4m lives were reported between 1980 and 2012. And, as you know, nearly 70% of the poor people globally live in Middle Income Countries that have a greater

inequality compared to low income countries and high income countries.

The Caribbean islands are small in size; frequently geographically dispersed and isolated from the markets and have limited resources. While these islands are economically disadvantaged and face environmental problems and challenges of coastal zones, they are increasingly being classified as MICs and Upper MICs.

In fact, most of the countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region are MICs with the exception of Haiti. The more we disrupt our climate, the greater is the risk for severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts. We still have the possibility to stay within the internationally agreed ceiling of a less than 2 degrees Celsius global temperature rise – a window of opportunity that will close fast under a business-as-usual scenario and no action.

And, importantly the time for this transformational change is now as we have the means to limit climate change and build a more inclusive, prosperous and sustainable future. It would be necessary to ensure coherence through an integrated approach across poverty eradication, disaster reduction, and climate agendas. This includes low emission and climate resilient development to build inclusive, resilient, equitable and healthier societies. Achieving that coherence is a necessary condition for sustainable development.

Equally importantly this has to be a collective action that should include all of society and all countries. In the words of our Secretary General, Mr. Ban ki-Moon, “Climate change affects us all. It is an issue for all people, all businesses, all governments”. And, nationally in Jamaica, Minister Robert Pickersgill, Minister for Water, Land, Climate Change and Environment has a fitting message that “with climate change we must change”.

We are already witnessing the growing awareness for the need for action against

climate change among the general public globally. On September 21 hundreds of thousands of people crowded the streets for the People’s Climate March in New York City and we witnessed a similar commitment for the eco-social movement from Mumbai to Melbourne.

2014 was a crucial year for climate change issues at the global level. The SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway arising out of the recent UN Conference on SIDS (1-4 Sept.) reaffirmed the importance of freedom, peace and security, right to development, and the right to an adequate standard of living for all, reducing inequalities and the special vulnerabilities and challenges of Small Island States in relation to Climate Change.

23 September 2014 was indeed a historic day - when UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon hosted the 2014 climate Summit to catalyze climate action by raising political momentum for a meaningful universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015. It represented one of the largest gatherings of world’s leaders from Governments, business, finance and civil society committed to crystallize a global vision for low-carbon economic growth and galvanize transformative action in all countries to reduce emissions and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

While recognizing that building resilience – both climate and financial – is a smart and essential investment, the Summit delivered on their mandate for bold announcements in 5 key areas, viz; cutting emissions; mobilizing money and markets; pricing carbon; strengthening resilience ; and mobilizing new coalitions. The outputs highlight several valuable and constructive steps forward.

In addition to commitments by several countries to take national actions consistent with a less than 2 degree pathway, leaders of the oil and gas industry, along with national Governments and civil society organisations have pledged to identify and reduce methane emissions by 2020.

New coalitions were announced in the areas of forestry, energy efficiency and transportation and a new alliance of governments, business, finance, multilateral development banks and civil society leaders have pledged to mobilize upwards of \$200 billion to finance low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

The leaders strongly support the Green Climate Fund calling for the Fund’s initial capitalization at an amount no less than \$10 billion with \$2.3 billion pledged at the Summit and additional committed contributions by November 2014.

Private banks announced that they would issue \$20 b of Green Bonds and double the market to \$50 b by 2015. The insurance industry committed to double its green investments to \$82 billion by the same date in 2015. And, a coalition of institutional investors committed to decarbonize \$100 b by December 2015 and to measure and disclose the carbon footprint of at least \$500 b in investments by 2015. Additionally, leaders from pension funds committed to decarbonising investments worth \$100 billion and disclosing the carbon footprint of investments worth \$500 billion.

International support was recognized for the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States that are most at risk, have escalating adaptation needs and need most international support. The Leaders agreed to strengthen and scale up the risk financing mechanisms for Africa and the Caribbean.

The SG’s climate Summit while successfully demonstrating climate change as a top priority for the global leaders, also tried to define the way forward to Lima, Paris and beyond. Even though The Lima Call for Climate Action adopted at the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change does enough to keep the negotiations on track and heading in the desirable direction, it is generally felt that it fell short of what many had hoped it would deliver.

The effort that will be required to arrive at a meaningful universal climate agreement in Paris is undoubtedly greater now than it could have been. And, these efforts will need to go beyond the Conference of the Parties negotiations and must include strong civil society voices including those from the private sector and those of the people who took to streets at the time of New York summit and in Lima. On December 10, 2014 Lima was the site of the largest climate demonstration ever in Latin America with over 20,000 participants from all parts of society.

2015 is therefore a crucial year for advancing climate action and sustainable development. The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March in Japan to determine the succession to the Hyogo Framework on DRR will be followed by the Third UN Conference on Financing for Development that will be held in Addis Ababa. Its success is vital to arrive at an agreement to an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. And, as we all recognize climate finance cannot be separated from development finance. At the September UN General

Assembly, world leaders are expected to agree on the universal post-2015 agenda and sustainable development goals that are inclusive and provide opportunities of progress and a life of dignity for all. All these global endeavors provide us an effective contextual and solution-based framework to finalize a new global climate agreement in Paris at the end of this year.

Development choices impact disaster risk – positively or negatively, depending in large part on the kind of development preferences. Given that the inclusiveness of a development pathway determines the intensity and magnitude of the damages caused by disasters and hazards on people and economies, an unambiguous move towards managing risk, building resilience and strengthening preparedness is not a coincidence; it is a thoughtful choice manifested in the selected development pathway.

In its absence, the scientific evidence confirms that the adverse impacts of climate change will grow and have a devastating effect on inclusive and equitable development.

It would also be important that the new climate agreement builds upon rights based approaches that focus on all people achieving at least the minimum conditions for living with dignity, through the realization of their human rights.

Such solutions will require strong partnerships across the public and private sectors and civil society including those that facilitate South-South and Triangular cooperation. Progressively more experiences are available to tackle climate change through South-South cooperation.

In the words of the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon “Our mission is to build a better world. To leave no one behind. To stand for the poorest and the most vulnerable in the name of global peace and social justice.” And, future generations will judge our action on the issue of climate change. We now have the chance to step over to the right side of history. Let’s seize that opportunity together to shape and advance a meaningful, universal agreement in Paris this December.



From left: Hon. Jean-Michel Itoua – Canada, FICAC President, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis – Cyprus.

New Security Risks & Challenges for Consuls



The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP, President – 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, and more recently the kidnapping of the Turkish Consul and his staff in Mosul, 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 organized 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.

It is estimated that between 1998 and 2009, there were thirty nine attacks aimed at U.S. embassies, consulates or Chief of Mission. It was also recognised that following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, domestic security programmes had to be upgraded and the investigative capacity strengthened. The United States has established a Bureau of Diplomatic Security with global responsibilities, with protection of people and property as its top priority. In addition, there is an Office of Foreign Missions to service and regulate the activities of all Foreign Missions in the United States.

These examples illustrate that diplomatic and consular relations 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, organized 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 and the 2014 kidnappings in Mosul have 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.

The security risks are further compounded in the case of Hon. Consuls who are mostly citizens and residents of the country to which they are accredited. Neither the local governments nor the countries who have accredited them are in positions to guarantee their personal safety and the security of their premises in times of civil disturbance or

against criminal activity.

Traditionally, these Consuls had not attracted the visibility that they now enjoy. Their increasing role in promoting trade, protecting travellers and citizens of the accrediting state and in some cases the increasing migration across borders impose new challenges and risks to their security.

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 practice of mutual respect and adherence to the principles recognized in the Vienna Convention will continue to guide the promotion of consular cooperation in each member country.

The Convention recognized that honorary consuls, who had been extensively utilized 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. 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.

In this context, the Federation would wish to use this conference to urge the international community and individual governments to take those measures that will address the new threats and improve the safety and security of Consuls so that they may be able to discharge their responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner.



Together after the FICAC Medal of Honour was presented to Hon. Tomas Abreu – Miami by the FICAC President; from left: Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtar Baig and Hon. Costas Lefkaritis

The vision of Homeland Security is to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure and resilient against terrorism and other hazards

– Meade.



Mr. Michael Meade, Deputy Field Office Director, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I would like to thank President Foote and the Federation for the opportunity to speak to you today about the Department of Homeland Security. I am truly honored for this opportunity.

Most people of my father's generation remember exactly where they were on November 22, 1963, when President Kennedy was shot. For me and my generation, most will remember exactly where they were on September 11, 2001.

The Department of Homeland Security was formed in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as part of a determined national effort to safeguard the United States against terrorism. The Department became the third-largest Federal department, bringing together 22 different Federal agencies with over 200,000 federal employees, each with a role in this effort. Some of these

agencies were very well known, such as the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Secret Service. There were also agencies such as the Plum Island Animal Disease Research Center. Before this, I only knew Plum Island as the title of a book by Nelson DeMille.

Eleven days after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge was appointed as the first Director of the Office of Homeland Security in the White House. The office oversaw and coordinated a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard the country against terrorism and respond to any future attacks.

With the passage of the Homeland Security Act by Congress in November 2002, the Department of Homeland Security formally came into being as a stand-alone, Cabinet-level department to further coordinate and unify national homeland security efforts, opening its doors on March 1, 2003. I was privileged to be in attendance when Secretary Ridge gave his first public address to future Homeland Security employees on January 30, 2003. Secretary Ridge was a larger than life figure and just what we employees needed at that time, he was our John Wayne.

An interesting fact about the Department of Homeland Security is that the outline and overall purpose of the Department had been proposed both by the U.S.

Commission on National Security in January of 2001 and Congressman Mac Thornberry of Texas in March 2001.

Our Mission

The vision of homeland security is to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards.

Three key concepts form the foundation of our national homeland security strategy designed to achieve this vision:

- Security,
- Resilience, and
- Customs and Exchange.

These missions are enterprise-wide, and not limited to the Department of Homeland Security.

Hundreds of thousands of people from across the federal government, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and other nongovernmental organizations are responsible for executing these missions.

These are the people who regularly interact with the public, who are responsible for public safety and security, who own and operate our nation's critical infrastructures and services, who perform research and develop technology, and who keep watch, prepare for, and respond to emerging threats and disasters.

The Core Missions of DHS

There are five homeland security missions:

1. Prevent terrorism and enhancing security;
2. Safeguard and secure cyberspace
3. Ensure resilience to disasters
4. Enforce and administer our immigration laws;
5. Secure and manage our borders;

I believe there are areas within each of our five missions that will be of interest to the Federation and its members.

Preventing Terrorism and Enhancing Security

Recent events in Paris and Belgium have made this an important topic and it remains the number one priority of the Department.

Protecting the American people from terrorist threats is our founding principle and our highest priority. The Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism responsibilities focus on three goals:

1. Prevent terrorist attacks;
2. Prevent the unauthorized acquisition, importation, movement, or use of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials and capabilities within the United States; and
3. Reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and key resources, essential leadership, and major events to terrorist attacks and other hazards. Global Aviation Security – In response to both 9/11 and evolving threats, and with the help and support of Congress, DHS has significantly adapted and enhanced its ability to detect threats through a multi-layered, risk-based system.

Cargo Screening – Securing the global supply chain, while ensuring its smooth functioning, is essential to our national security and economic prosperity.

Strengthen International Partnerships – DHS works internationally not only to maintain our physical security, but also protect our economic security.

Critical Infrastructure Protection - DHS works closely with international

partners to strengthen the security of the networks of global trade and travel upon which the nation's economy and communities rely.

Safeguard and Secure Cyberspace

The Department has the lead for the federal government for securing civilian government computer systems, and works with industry and state, local, tribal and territorial governments to secure critical infrastructure and information systems. The Department works to:

- analyze and reduces cyber threats and vulnerabilities;
- distribute threat warnings; and
- Coordinate the response to cyber incidents to ensure that our computers, networks, and cyber systems remain safe.

Ensuring Resilience to Disasters

The term “resilience” refers to the ability to adapt to changing conditions and withstand and rapidly recover from disruption due to emergencies. Whether it is resilience towards acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters, our national preparedness is the shared responsibility of all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and individual citizens.

The Department of Homeland Security provides the coordinated, comprehensive federal response in the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other large-scale emergency while working with federal, state, local, and private sector partners to ensure a swift and effective recovery effort. The Department builds a ready and resilient nation through efforts to:

- Bolster information sharing and collaboration
- Provide grants, plans and training to our homeland security and law enforcement partners



From left, Mr. Michael Meade, his dear wife Patty Meade and Mr. Jorge Garzon of the European Union.

Ensuring Rapid Recovery

- FEMA released the National Disaster Recovery Framework which was developed in partnership with stakeholders representing local, state, tribal and federal governments, private organizations, professional associations, academic experts, and communities recovering from disasters. The Recovery Framework defines how federal agencies will work together to best meet the needs of states and communities in their ongoing recovery, by aligning key roles and responsibilities among all our partners.
- FEMA's Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Certification Program encourages the adoption of continuity standards and practices by businesses everywhere as a way to build the Nation's resilience.
- Launched in February 2003, FEMA's Ready campaign is a national

public service advertising (PSA) campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to get the public involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation.

- Superstorm Sandy, which the Northeastern United States in October of 2012, reinforced the need to be resilient and have disaster recovery plans in place. Reports commissioned by The President, the Governor of New York and Mayor of New York all underscore its value; particularly in the realm of rebuilding resiliently.

In the wake of Hurricane Ike in September 2008, I was placed in charge of several Special Response Teams and was dispatched to Houston, Texas to assist with the relief efforts. I learned a valuable lesson that you could use should you ever have the misfortune of being in the midst

of a natural disaster. Upon arriving in Houston, our first assignment was to secure lodging. Power outages were widespread. We found a hotel that appeared to be occupied.

We went inside to find a large group of electric company technicians checking in. There was no electricity, but we were fortunate that they had rooms for us and clean water. As we waited to check in, the electric company technicians told us not to worry, as they did not want to sleep without a hot shower or air conditioning, so the hotel would be the first location to which they would restore power. So, the lesson is, look for the hotel being used by the electric company and you should be in good hands.

Secure and manage our borders

In addition to the often controversial topic of enforcing immigration laws, a key part of our mission to secure and manage our borders involved commerce and trade.

Facilitating Commerce

- International commerce is critical to America's economy, and the entire world. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is committed to keeping it safe and vibrant.
- CBP creates and implements programs using sophisticated technologies, and trains personnel to help achieve the goals of securing U.S. ports and borders while also expediting trade. CBP works closely with other governments and the private sector to ensure the efficient flow of goods throughout the world.

A New Trade Strategy

- To address the growth, risks and complexities of international trade, CBP developed a trade strategy to guide our efforts toward a system that is swift, safe and secure for legitimate imports and exports.
- The strategy works to modernize CBP's processes to enforce U.S. trade laws, collect revenue accurately, and advance national and economic security.

Prioritizing Trade Issues

CBP prioritizes trade issues based on impact of non-compliance. Currently, CBP focuses on achieving results for seven priority trade issues:

- Agriculture
- Anti-dumping and countervailing duties
- Import safety
- Intellectual property rights
- Penalties
- Revenue
- Textiles

My agency within DHS, ICE, is heavily involved in the area of intellectual property rights.

The (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) led National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) stands at the forefront of the United States Government's response to global intellectual property (IP) theft and enforcement of its international trade laws.

The mission of the IPR Center is to ensure national security by protecting the public's health and safety, the U.S. economy, and our war fighters, and to stop predatory and unfair trade practices that threaten the global economy.

To accomplish this goal, the IPR Center brings together 23 partner agencies, consisting of 19 key federal agencies, Interpol, Europol and the governments of Canada and Mexico in a task-force setting.

The task force structure enables the IPR Center to effectively leverage the resources, skills, and authorities of each partner and provide a comprehensive response to IP theft. The IPR Center is led by an ICE-HSI Director with Deputy Directors from HSI and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

IPR Center partners employ a strategic approach to combat IP Theft. That approach includes:

Investigation – Identifying, disrupting, prosecuting and dismantling criminal organizations involved in the manufacture and distribution of counterfeit products.

Interdiction – Using focused targeting and inspections to keep counterfeit and pirated goods out of U.S. supply chains, markets and streets.

Outreach and Training – Providing training for domestic and international law enforcement to build stronger enforcement capabilities worldwide. Our global economy and e-commerce have made combating IP theft a more complex challenge. There are more

threats to border security, national security, and U.S. economic stability. The IPR Center is prepared to take on these challenges.

Some key successes in this area were represented in cases where the IPR center played a key role in shutting down the sale and distribution of:

- Counterfeit and unsafe vehicle airbags, hazardous children's toys, and counterfeit prescription medication.

The Department's internet site, DHS.GOV, is highly recommend for those that reside within the U.S. or spend a great deal of time here. It even has useful information for people that may not reside here, but travel here or may be planning to travel here. Some of the information available to the public includes:

- Protect Myself from Cyber Attacks
- Report Cyber Incidents
- Prepare My Family for a Disaster
- Report Suspicious Activity
- Find Overseas Travel Alerts
- Get a Homeland Security Job
- Do Business with DHS
- Verify Employment Eligibility (E-Verify)
- Get a Green Card
- Check the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)
- File a Travel Complaint (DHS TRIP)

Before I go, I would like to share with you some statistics that illustrate just some of the functions performed by the Department of Homeland Security every day. We refer to this as a Day in the Life of DHS.

To prevent terrorism and enhance security, TODAY, DHS will:

- Screen approximately 2 million



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves presenting The FICAC Medal of Honour to Hon. Dr. Elaine Davis.

passengers and their checked baggage before they board commercial aircraft;

- Intercept 90 prohibited items at checkpoints (TSA outbound and CBP inbound) and prevent 1,945 prohibited items from entering federal facilities;
- Deploy thousands of transportation security officers and federal air marshals to protect the traveling public;
- Minimize the wait times of passengers' security screening to an average of less than 10 minutes;
- Monitor 1,428 radiation portal monitors to scan 100 percent of all containerized cargo entering from Canada and Mexico; 100 percent of the personally owned vehicles entering from Canada and Mexico; and 99 percent of all arriving seaborne containerized cargo for illicit radiological/nuclear materials;
- Process nearly 1 million travelers entering the United States at air, land and sea ports of entry;
- Inspect more than 47,000 truck, rail and sea containers;
- Process more than \$88 million in fees, duties and tariffs;
- Seize 11,435 pounds of narcotics at or near ports of entry nationwide;
- Seize or remove 1,100 pounds of illegal drugs via maritime routes;
- Issue 200 credentials to qualified merchant mariners to ensure the safety, security and efficiency of the maritime supply chain; and
- Manage 3,500 commercial vessel transits through the Marine Transportation System to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.
- Make an average 728 administrative arrests and 638 criminal alien arrests;
- Seize approximately \$400,000 in undeclared or illicit currency at and between U.S. ports of entry nationwide;
- Litigate nearly 1,500 cases in immigration court and obtain 6,161 final orders of removal including 933 for criminal aliens;
- House 33,429 illegal aliens in detention facilities nationwide;
- Process 24,371 applications for immigration benefits; and
- Naturalize nearly 2,583 new U.S. citizens.
- Patrol 3.4 million square miles of U.S. waterways
- Save 13 lives, respond to 64 search and rescue cases and prevent loss of \$260,000 in property damage.

To secure and manage our borders, TODAY, DHS will:

In closing, I would once again like to thank the Federation for the honor of this opportunity and especially to President Foote. I am blessed to count such a man as my friend. He is a man deeply committed to his family, his country, and the Federation. Once again, thank you.

One of the European Union's greatest achievements is the creation of the single European Market

– Ambassador Paola Amadei.



Ambassador Paola Amadei.

I am honoured to be speaking before such a distinguished audience, and I am pleased, as always, to be able to talk about the European Union and its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. The relations of the European Union with Latin America and the Caribbean remain as strong as ever: inspired by shared values; rooted in a common history and culture; and inextricably bound together by human and economic exchange. To cite Mexico's most

celebrated novelist, Carlos Fuentes, "América Latina es lo mejor de Europa fuera de Europa"; "Latin America is the best of Europe outside Europe." A similar sentiment is echoed by Nobel Prize-winning Caribbean poet Derek Walcott, whose epic odyssey 'Omeros' takes the reader on a journey from his native Saint Lucia to the winding streets of London, Lisbon, Dublin and Rome: "I needed to become omnivorous about the art and

literature of Europe to understand my own world." Today, I shall be speaking to you about the European Union, its origins, its aspirations and its accomplishments; as well as its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, a relationship that goes well beyond trade and development. Our regions share common values, among them democracy and respect for human rights, as well as global responsibilities, such as international security and climate change, where we both recognise that the benefits of working together by far exceed what we could ever hope to accomplish unilaterally.

The European Union: its origins, aspirations and accomplishments
 The origins of the European Union
 The idea of a united Europe emerged from the ruins of two world wars. Then French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman conceived the European Coal and Steel Community, premised on the firm belief that binding states together in the production of coal and steel, the two elements necessary to manufacture weapons of war, would "make war not only unthinkable but also materially impossible". Much has been accomplished since then. The original six members have been joined by 22 others, over successive waves of enlargement, the largest of which brought the countries formerly hidden behind

the Iron Curtain into the EU fold. Many other countries are waiting to join; which encourages us to believe that the prospect of European Union membership remains a powerful incentive for countries to embrace sweeping political and economic reforms. We have also moved from a limited community focused only on the production of coal and steel, to a closely integrated union of states, sharing a single market of 503 million consumers, a common foreign and security policy through which we speak with one voice on the world stage, and a common body of laws which allow us to guarantee the highest standards of consumer, environmental and human rights protection. What is more, another European war has become unthinkable. France and Germany, whose rivalry marked centuries of European history, are now the closest of allies. The image of President Hollande and Chancellor Merkel marching side by side through the streets of Paris says it all.

Because of its commitment to peace within and beyond its borders the European Union was honoured in 2012 with the Nobel Peace Prize by a unanimous decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee for having “contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe”.

A single market of 503 million people

One of the European Union’s greatest achievements is undoubtedly the creation of the single European market, which has

enabled individuals, consumers and businesses to benefit from the opportunities provided to them by direct access to a market of 28 countries and 503 million people. The single market is founded on what are often called the ‘four freedoms’: the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital.

In practice, this means that individuals have the right to live, work, study or retire in another country. For consumers it means increased competition leading to lower prices, a wider choice of things to buy, and higher levels of protection. And for businesses, it means that it is now much easier and cheaper to do business across borders.

In many cases, various individual sets of national rules have been replaced by a common European rule, thus significantly reducing the complexity and costs involved in marketing a new product throughout the Union, while, in other areas, the Member States opted to give each other’s laws and technical standards the same validity as their own. The European Union is committed to opening up this market of 503 million consumers to Latin American and Caribbean businesses, which benefit from tariff preferences and customs duty exemptions as a result of the European Union’s generalized system of preferences. Moreover, CARIFORUM exporters benefit from an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, the first such agreement ever signed by the EU, which removes all tariffs and quotas on Caribbean exports to the EU. While long-standing export

relationships already exist with countries like Spain and the United Kingdom, the European Union wishes to see Latin American and Caribbean products being marketed in a wider range of European countries. This is one reason why we have set up an easy-to-use online Export HelpDesk, which provides businesses with the information they need to access the single European market.

The challenges of a single currency as a case for “more Europe”

On 1st January 2015, Lithuania became the nineteenth member to adopt the euro as its currency. As Mario Draghi, the President of the European Central Bank, told a Lithuanian audience last year, “The way in which Lithuania has striven to become part of the euro area shows that our common currency is attractive – despite the difficulties experienced in some member countries.” Paradoxically for the Eurozone’s critics, it is clear that these difficulties were the result of incomplete integration, of “too little Europe”, of a Eurozone lacking a united front. This realization has provided European leaders with a strong impetus to integrate even further. Provisions have been made to grant emergency loans, or bail-outs, to member states in serious trouble, provided that they deliver significant economic reforms. Under new rules, the European Commission, which is the European Union’s civil service, has gained the right to verify that Eurozone countries’ national budgets comply with EU rules, and may demand changes if they do not. And the European Central Bank has pledged to do “whatever it takes”,



From left: Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig - Pakistan, Hon. Rhee Sunghee - South Korea, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis - Cyprus.

in the unforgettable words of its President, to protect the Eurozone from collapse. Given this unrelenting commitment to nursing the Eurozone back to health, I am optimistic about Europe's economic recovery.

A global leader in environmental policy

An undisputed feather in the European Union's cap is its avant-garde environmental policy. The European Union is considered to have the most extensive environmental laws of any existing international organisation. According to the Institute for European Environmental Policy, the corpus of EU environmental law currently amounts to over 500 pieces of legislation covering acid rain, the thinning of the ozone layer, air quality, noise pollution, waste and water pollution. The European Union also plays an influential role in international environmental negotiations: it participates as an observer in international environmental negotiations within the United Nations framework. Moreover, since it enjoys

full international legal personality, the European Union has become a full party to all the major multilateral environmental agreements.

In particular, the European Union strives to provide leadership in the fight against global climate change. As the newly appointed European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy recently told the European Parliament: "we are called to lead on climate action and show the world that a better climate and economic growth go hand in hand". Last October, EU Member States bound themselves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40% and achieve 27% renewable energy use on a European level, both by 2030. The EU's leadership role is also evident in international negotiations on climate change. The EU was instrumental in the development of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and continues to act as a driving force for a new post-Kyoto global climate change agreement. The sheer extent of the

EU's commitment to the fight against climate change is also evidenced by its consistent provision of climate finance to developing countries, amounting to just over €7.3 billion in "fast start" financing between 2010 and 2012 alone. It is with this same heavy sense of responsibility that the European Union will be approaching the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris later on this year, where we hope our Latin American and Caribbean Partners will join us in calling for an ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding climate change agreement among all of the world's nations.

The EU as a global actor

The international negotiations on climate change are but one example of the EU member states' conviction that there are significant benefits to speaking with one voice on the global stage. By crafting a common foreign and security policy, which has emerged gradually over the years, the twenty-eight member states have been able to exercise far greater influence on world affairs than if they were to speak solely on their own behalf.

This ability to speak with one voice was greatly strengthened in 2009, with the creation of the post of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, currently occupied by former Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, which essentially gave the European Union its own highly visible Foreign Minister. Today, the European Union has its own diplomatic service, which is physically present all over the world through 139 Delegations and

Offices, including a dense network of Delegations in the LAC region, which promote and protect European values and interests worldwide.

The European Union has proven its mettle in a host of thorny global issues. In 2008, the European Union helped broker a ceasefire between Georgia and Russia and provided humanitarian aid to people displaced by the conflict. In the Middle East, the European Union is pushing for a two-state solution, through its participation in the Middle East Quartet. For several years now, military forces contributed by several EU member states work together under one EU flag to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. And in Central America we have been addressing the root causes of internal conflict so as to build long-term peace and stability.

Our commitment to exercise international leadership has been bolstered by efforts to coordinate our positions and actions in multilateral fora with our Latin American and

Caribbean partners. The successful entry into force of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty last December is a testament to the positive influence our two regions can exercise on world affairs when we work together.

The European Union is also the world's leading development donor, providing 50% of the world's development aid. The core values at the heart of EU development policy are outlined in the European Consensus on Development, a policy statement jointly signed by the main EU policy institutions, which stresses the importance of aligning EU development interventions with national development strategies drawn up by the beneficiary countries themselves. Crucially, EU development policy emphasises targeting aid to those countries in greatest need, particularly fragile states.

It follows therefore, that countries already experiencing sustained growth, or having sufficient resources of their own, should obtain different types of EU assistance. The European

Union has responded swiftly to the ebola crisis, committing over €1 billion in contributions from both the Member States and the European Commission's budget to fight the epidemic. The European Union has also been sending emergency supplies, such as ambulances and field hospitals, and has deployed a number of its humanitarian experts to the three most affected countries. In order to celebrate its successes as a global development donor, the European Union has designated the coming year, 2015, as the European Year for Development, and a number of events will be organised around the world to commemorate this year.

The EU is Charlie

Europe's role in the world is deeply rooted in its core values of tolerance, democracy and human rights. The widely circulated image of François Hollande walking arm in arm through the streets of Paris with his European counterparts, and foreign leaders including Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestine's Mahmoud Abbas, and Mali's Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, on the 11th January was a unique show of international solidarity and resistance against those forces of terror which seek to undermine our societies.

Perhaps one reason the 'Je suis Charlie' slogan has mobilized millions of citizens to march in unison across Europe's streets is that the horrifying attacks in Paris were understood as an assault on those values that are so profoundly European and which our partners also share: fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and tolerance.



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves, FICAC Director, presenting the FICAC Medal of Honour to Hon. Wolfgang Albert Schratter – Mexico. Looking on is Hon. Sylvain Cohen – Monaco.

One thing is certain: the solution to the complex threat posed by terrorism cannot come from any individual country acting alone, but must be based on global cooperation guided by these very same values we hold so dear. As Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi told the European Parliament this week: “Without freedom, there can be no security.” “We should not invest in fear” he said. “We should not invest in failure. We should invest in success and in a future for our children.”

The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean – a valued relationship

Now I shall turn to a theme which I am sure will be of particular interest to this audience: the relationship of the European Union with Latin America and the Caribbean. The European Union enjoys a Strategic Partnership with Latin America and the Caribbean, premised on the common belief that both partners benefit from collaborating together in today’s interdependent world, both at the bi-regional level and directly on an individual basis.

The sheer extent of the political landscape covered by the ongoing dialogue between us, which spans trade and investment, climate change, migration, the fight against organised crime, the promotion of human rights, education and culture, to name a few, reflects the common vision we share of our role in the world.

We both approach the world with a sense of leadership and responsibility, whether this means safeguarding international security, or leading the

global fight against climate change. Our actions are both guided by shared values, an affinity which emerged from our common history and culture, but has been reinforced by centuries of human and economic exchange. The European Union remains committed to the region’s steady economic development, by facilitating the flow of trade and investment between us. The numbers speak for themselves:

- The European Union is Latin America and the Caribbean’s second most important trading partner, after the USA.
- Trade in goods between the EU and Latin America has more than doubled over the last decade, up to €202 billion, while trade in services has grown more than six-fold since the 1990s.
- The European Union is the leading foreign investor in Latin America and the Caribbean, contributing over 40% of the region’s total FDI. The EU’s investments in the region are greater than those in Russia, India and China combined.

We hope that the next bi-regional EU-CELAC summit, hosted this year on European soil in Brussels, will serve as yet another occasion to reaffirm our commitment to our commercial relationship, as well as to intensify political dialogue on our common interests in today’s interdependent world.

Concluding Remarks

Ladies and gentlemen;
Almost sixty five years since its birth,

the European Union endures as one of the most successful political experiments of our time. Despite recent economic challenges, the European Union remains a powerful symbol of political progress. The European Union has not only succeeded in living up to its original promise of turning warring neighbours into friends, but has since then established itself as a leader in many fields. Its environmental standards are unrivalled; it is an undisputed leader in the fight against climate change; it has succeeded in providing its members with a more visible, coherent presence on the world stage; and it has established itself as the world’s leading development actor.

As European Council President Donald Tusk told the European Parliament just this week: “Europe is not old, haggard or barren. Europe is young, dynamic and vital. Our continent remains the best place in the world to live.”

Many of the values we hold dear in Europe, and which international leaders collectively reaffirmed last week in the streets of Paris, are mirrored in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus providing a solid foundation for our Strategic Partnership, based not only on traditional trade and investment, but also our increasingly similar approaches to a host of global challenges, including climate change, security, and the fight against organised crime. We can only overcome these shared challenges by building on our joint successes, learning from one another, and cooperating more closely in the search for effective multilateral solutions.

Thank you.

FICAC praised for its excellent contribution internationally

– Professor Michael Nobel.



Hon. Arnold Foote seen above welcoming Professor Michael Nobel to the podium to make his keynote speech at the FICAC Gala Banquet.

It is great to be here tonight and I am honored to have been invited to participate in this prestigious dinner so I thank Arnold and Patricia Foote for hosting this event and for asking me to speak tonight.

I am indeed honored to consider myself a friend of Arnold Foote; with a curriculum like his listing a breathtaking number of awards and different important positions over more than 50 years, many of them in pro-bono and honorary work. And I am very proud to meet you, the directors and members of the World Federation of Consuls. But I am also proud of many other people here tonight.

Why am I honored: well let me tell you what I learned from a speech made by The Honorable Ayku Eken:

I quote "In accordance with international practice, honorary consuls do not receive any regular payment or salary for their work. Honorary consuls do exactly the same work as career diplomats of the same rank. They are heads of missions. The economic sense underlying their functioning has made honorary consuls more and more sought after and has led to more and more honorary consuls being appointed in preference over career consuls.

They have earned high praise for their work from heads of state and governments and are emerging as significant components of diplomatic power in the scheme of traditional diplomacy exercised by embassies."

I felt the words of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic sums it up nicely "...a good honorary consul is a dream of every Prime Minister, every Minister of Finance and every Minister of Foreign Affairs. He carries out his mission as a career diplomat, but free of charge."

When people talk of diplomats they usually refer to ambassadors, charge d'affaires, military and commercial attaches and other career positions.

But I feel the real and hard work is being done by you, the members of FICAC, the honorary consuls.

You are facing all the practical and onerous problems of the world, replacements of lost passports and money, visits to prisoners, helping stranded and sick people and who have lost their money back to their home country, attending frequent, drawn out diplomatic events, having to explain and impose ever-changing and complicated rules from the home country and this without pay. You are the unsung but real heroes of the diplomatic corps and I am honored to meet you tonight.

With your permission I'll like to move on to another issue. I have been told that a speaker has to tell a story or two to keep the audience interested so I'll talk about age and what impact it has.

A group of English chaps, all aged 40, discussed where they should meet for a reunion lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Eastbourne, because the waitresses had voluptuous figures, plunging cleavages and wore mini-skirts.

- ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again agreed that they would meet at there because the food and service was good and the beer selection was excellent.
- ten years later, at age 60, the friends again agreed that they would meet at the same restaurant because there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and quiet, and it was good value for money.
- ten years later, at age 70, the friends agreed that they would meet at the same restaurant because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a toilet for the disabled.
- ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Eastbourne, because they had never been there before.

What has this to do with anything you might ask. Well, time passes quickly as we all know. In a few weeks I will be 75 years old so the story might have relevance to me and others here tonight in the same age group.

Looking back at your life at your sunset years I do feel that everyone should have tried to do something worthwhile in his or her life before retiring from work. So that, when you look back upon your life you should be able to say: "Well, I did do something good for others" or at least I tried to do so".

Even if you feel you did not succeed it does not matter. My philosophy would be: don't be discouraged, do not lose faith in what you do or have done as long as you did the best you could.

And to be a decent human being pays off, as you will learn from the following story. My great grandfather Ludwig, and his brother Robert, Alfred's brothers, came to Baku in the middle of the 19th century. The prevalent working conditions in Baku for the oil workers at that time were simply appalling. Pictures show them standing up to their chests in oil in their daily work and living in hovels you would not want your pets to live in.

Ludwig and Robert Nobel brought with them many revolutionary social concepts from Sweden. The Nobel Company built hospitals; food stores, schools and housing for its workers, they even had one of the world's first profit sharing plan for their employees and in doing so they attracted the anger and criticism from the other oil barons who treated their own workers worse than cattle.

Then came the Russian revolution Most of the other petroleum barons were killed; many of them by their own irate workers, blood were literally flowing in the gutters. The Nobelites, as the Nobel workers were called, surrounded the Nobel family home and protected them from the Bolshevik's

attacks saying they were good and decent people who had always treated them well so they should be spared.

Emanuel Nobel my grand uncle was actually offered to assume the directorship of the entire oil industry by the communist regime but wisely refused and retired to Sweden

I, for one would not stand here today if it were not for such values in my ancestors.

But motivation also plays a vital role in life. To do a job really well you have to be convinced that what you do is worthwhile and not only for money and material rewards like the great majority of our fellow men do.

Most people undertake a lifelong pursuit of what they believe is happiness: make more money, buy more things, and consume more, a philosophy that leaves little or no trace of them when they are gone from this earth.

This life is not a dress rehearsal. Unless you believe in reincarnation you might assume you only have this one life and that your only hope of immortality is by passing your genes on to your children. The most important thing in life is then not to leave them a lot of material possessions but to leave a legacy of spiritual values that hopefully will make them good persons and to help others like you do in your profession.

It is not easy; take drug prevention work as an example. I worked in the field for little or no pay for four years in Switzerland and found that maybe 10 percent of our patients ever became free of their affliction. The rest died or went to prison or simply disappeared. I used to feel frustrated, and discouraged in my work.

I then used to recall a story. A woman

walked on a beach. It was a hot summer and the waterline had receded, leaving hundreds of sea dwellers; mussels, starfish and oysters exposed to the sun.

She saw a little girl at water's edge picking up starfish and throwing them back into the sea. She walked over to her and said: "little girl, look at you, all dirty, and look around you, there are hundreds of starfish dying in the heat, you can only save a few of these; do you really think what you do will make any difference at all?"

The little girl looked up to her, held out her hand with a starfish and said smiling: "Yes, maybe not, but to this one, it makes all the difference in the world".

It is the same for your work, it might not influence the course of history but you when you provide an invaluable help and assistance to the individuals you encounter, you leave a spiritual legacy.

I will tell you another one, also directly

related to your work, a true story about a miracle. A little girl named Tess went to her bedroom and pulled a jar from its hiding place in the closet. Slipping out the back door she made her way to the drug store and waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention.

Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the counter. "And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked annoyed. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages"

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back. "He's really, really sick and I want to buy a miracle." "I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist. "His name is Andrew" said Tess, "and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says that only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little. "But,

said the little girl, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs for a miracle."

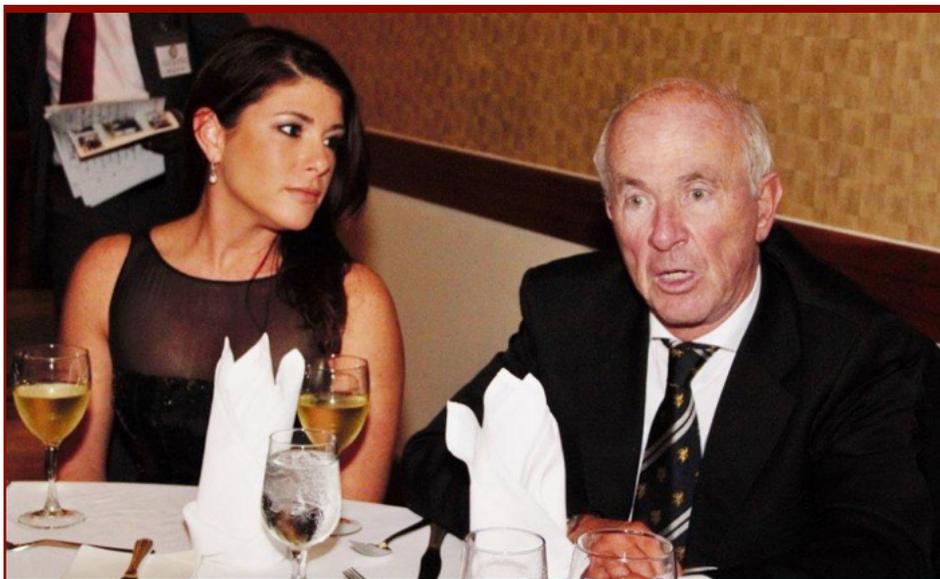
The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?" "I don't know," Tess replied, with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's very sick and Mommy says he needs an operation but my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my own money".

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago. "One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly." And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if you need it. "Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents is the exact price of a miracle for little brothers". He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said "Take me to where you live. I want to meet your brother and your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you need."

That well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a famous neuro-surgeon, The operation was successful and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led to this. "That surgery," her Mom whispered. "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?"

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost. It cost one dollar and eleven cents plus the faith of a little child.

This story also reflects your job, as honorary consuls you provide invaluable services to individuals,



Professor Michael Nobel with his dear partner, Ms. Monica Alfonso.



From left, Hon. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig – Pakistan, Carole Dixon-Cohen – USA, FICAC President, Professor Dr. Michael Nobel and Ms. Monica Alfonso.

without requiring any compensation, this is true dedication like Dr. Armstrong manifested in this story.

I'll finish with a brief mention of the Nobel Prizes. You have probably received the impression that it is one of the foremost and most prestigious prizes in the world and it certainly is. Basically every scientist and scientific medias in the world agrees to that. So bear with me if I criticize it.

The science prizes were meant to be given to young researchers on the way to greatness and to honor those who during the preceding year had done the discovery or invention with the greatest benefit to mankind. Instead it is most often given as a lifetime achievement award to people in the twilight of their careers for discoveries made twenty or more years ago and which since long has been replaced by others more advanced.

And what about the prize in literature? Some wit have said that in order to gain it you should preferably live in a totally forsaken place, write in a language no one has ever heard about and not distribute it in more than a few hundred copies.

But the real controversial award is the Nobel Peace Prize. Alfred Nobel, in his will, emphasized that the Prize should go to the person who has done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of the standing armies and for holding and promotion of peace congresses.

As a former chairman for 15 years of the Nobel Family Board of Directors I have become increasingly critical in recent years of the Nobel Peace Prize being given to individuals and organizations that do not fulfill the

conditions established by Alfred Nobel in his testament in 1895.

Political opponents to regimes, environmentalists, human rights proponents and agricultural innovators are all worthy persons but should not be included among the true peace activists and conflict resolution organizations that my great grand uncle intended to recognize with his award. Instead I believe that organizations like FICAC should be honored for the many years of devoted service to mankind you have committed yourself to.

In finishing let me propose a toast to your president Arnold Foote for the many years he has dedicated to the impressive development of your organization.

Your excellences, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, please rise. Arnold, here is a toast to you from all of us.

A Global Perspective on Ebola



Hon. Dr. Cecilia Rokusek – Slovakia



FICAC President pinning Medal of Honour on Hon. Dr. Rokusek in recognition of her excellent work for Slovakia in Florida.

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., M.Sc. RDN
Slovak Honorary Consul
for Florida
Assistant Dean for Education,
Planning, and Research
Nova Southeastern University-
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Even though the world has known about the deadly Ebola virus, the diagnosis of the first Ebola patient on U.S. soil put Americans in a panic, fearing the virus that ironically few knew about even though it has been around for almost 40 years. Even the annual seasonal flu (influenza), both in the U.S. and worldwide, kills significantly more people and is a far greater threat than Ebola, everyone appeared concerned and some politicians even over-reacted. As part of a worldwide network of honorary consuls, it is our responsibility to

be informed and help spread the facts about Ebola so as not cause unnecessary and inappropriate panic and fear.

Even though the recent outbreak of 2014 in West Africa was the largest in the history of the known virus, it has killed approximately 5000 people. In contrast, the seasonal flu in the U.S. takes almost 50,000 lives each year and hospitalizes over 200,000 persons. It is so important that this Ebola crisis be taken in true perspective.

Even though the West African Ebola mortality rate has been around 70%, Ebola is not easy to transmit. If we look at the first case diagnosed in the state of Texas, we can see that it is not easily transmitted. The infected man from West Africa lived with his relatives in an apartment in Texas before he was hospitalized. None of

his relatives living with him got Ebola. Ebola as a virus is difficult to spread as it can only be spread through bodily fluids. As of now, Ebola cannot be spread in the air. This is unlike Measles which has come back in the U.S. Measles spreads rapidly in the air. Ebola is spread through bodily perspiration, urine, saliva, blood, sperm, breast milk, and fluids from the eyes and nasal passages. Standing or sitting by someone alone without transmission of fluids will not spread the virus.

Caution of course needs to be taken when there are open sores or openings in the body as the transmission can easily cross over. Also body fluids on surfaces can be a danger. When a person is exposed, there is always a 21 day quarantine period.

This is so important because the spread can occur quickly in large

crowds if anyone coughs or sneezes. Thus it is critically important for anyone exposed and in isolation in their homes that experiences a fever during this 21-day period to immediately call the health department to come in appropriate personal protective equipment to confirm the symptoms and diagnosis of Ebola. One should never go in a car or taxi with these symptoms as the chances of spreading the virus increase.

It is important to understand that one of the reasons that Ebola has spread so widely in Africa has been that the country's most affected are extremely poor and few if any such basic medical resources as hydration pumps. There is little to no access to hospitals or medical professionals in many of the isolated rural areas in Africa or large urban areas where Ebola is rampant.

In the Africa there are also many customs dealing with health,

illness, and death in which chances for transmission are enhanced because of contact with body fluids. For example, if one family member comes down with Ebola, there is a very strong chance that others in the home environment will become there's a good chance that others in the home will become infected, especially if patients bleed and vomit profusely. Families without modern toilets and washing machines have trouble cleaning up after patients who lose control of their bowels and produce huge amounts of diarrhea.

Most families and even some medical facilities and make shift hospitals have no washing facilities with clean safe water and no soap or disinfectant such as simple bleach. Even burying the dead can spread Ebola in these countries, because common burial rites involve washing the dead, preparing the bodies, and then carrying them by hand in no casket to be buried.

It is very important for everyone to understand that Ebola is far less lethal in a developed country that has access to modern intensive care and basic measures, such as keeping patients hydrated, maintaining a steady blood pressure, and following isolation protocols.

There is still much to be learned about the Ebola virus and about what the real preventive precautions should be taken. For example, it is estimated that males infected with the virus who survive, may have the virus living in the semen for up to 82 days. The virus may also survive in breast milk for up to 50 days.

It is important that as leaders in our communities, states, and regions that we communicate the known facts about Ebola without igniting fear and undermining public trust in health officials and researchers.

Facts by themselves cannot overcome fear but we can help people better understand what is known with the reality that new knowledge and scientific discovery is an infinite and ongoing endeavor. Science is not always fact....and that is good or we would stifle new discovery.

We must help people understand what is known and that science doesn't happen immediately and that learning from errors is a sign not of incompetence but of experts simply doing their jobs.

Ebola will be contained and eventually a vaccine will be developed. We are very close. The world community has come together to work on this. We can help this effort by helping to communicate the known facts and reduce fears through education and proper prevention and precaution.



Hon. Mrs. Catherine Chee-A-Tow receiving her Medal of Honour from Hon. Costas Lefkaritis – Vice President, FICAC.

Changing lives of children at risk through education – Guy Horridge



Mr. Guy Horridge, Chief Executive, CVQO



Mr. Guy Horridge receiving the FICAC Award from Secretary General Aykut Eken for the excellent work done by his organization

Good morning President Foote and honoured members of the councils. It is a great privilege to be with you today to talk about my organisation, CVQO, leading the way and, in particular, how we work with youth at risk.

CVQO is an education charity which was established in its own right in 2001. It is based in the United Kingdom but covers many countries throughout the world. Our vision is to improve the lives of young people and adults through vocational education, training and development. We exist because we wanted to meet a need.

Originally, this was for young people in youth groups who were at risk. We wanted to validate their experience and show that what they had learned within their youth organisations had value outside, in both the workplace and beyond. CVQO exists today

because more and more people need an alternative to traditional education to show that they are clever, creative and capable of achieving great things.

CVQO exists and thrives because more and more people like you, in many countries, are realising the value of a vocational education and how vital it is to the balanced development of their education system, workforce and, ultimately, the growth and development of their communities and commerce.

CVQO is particularly proud to be accredited by three of the world's leading education bodies. These are:- Pearson/Edexcel, City and Guilds and the Institute of Leadership and Management. I think I can safely say that there are few organisations that can rival such an approval system from three such august awarding bodies.

That, in itself, is a great accolade for the young people who wish to do our qualifications.

So what do we do?

Quite simply, we improve lives through vocational education. Over 100,000 young people over the past 10 years have benefitted from our imaginative and varied awards.

We believe that the knock-on effect of these qualifications is that by improving the individual there is a benefit to communities and, therefore, de facto to the wider social public and society. We work in partnership with youth organisations, schools, governments and any other relevant bodies to offer bespoke vocational qualifications.

We recognise that there is a global skills gap in leadership and management and our programmes are designed to

help close this gap. Thus, CVQO can be seen as an enabler. It is a catalyst for change to education that leaves a lasting legacy of benefits and often with immediate results.

So what else do we do?

We enable young people and adults to show what they know by what they do. It is that practical aspect that shows that they have the capability. Therefore, our programmes are a long way from classic classroom learning. They are innovative and progressive training and include development activities that enable the learner to discover and develop their skills, confidence and self-worth.

At one extreme, this means that we take young people at risk who are struggling at school or facing exclusion and have an unsure future and we help them get back on track. In one overseas country, this has meant that our programmes are being used to rescue young people from a life of crime. We are involved in their youth rehabilitation service with their prison services for some of their young people who have not yet committed serious crimes but they are at risk of being sucked in to a downward spiral, perhaps drug taking and involved in petty theft. On some occasions we have actually had to deal with stabbings and gun crime as well.

The heart of what we do is progressive learning. We believe that learning is like an escalator. You get on to this escalator at the appropriate level for where you are and then you seamlessly move up and get off when you have reached your limit. For us there are no limits. We take young people and adults to where they need to get to.

Therefore, we have qualifications from a Level 1 for school-aged children, all the way through to a Level 7 Master's degree. No other organisation, I believe, offers such variety and such intensity. We are extremely proud of this. For example, many of our adult learners who, for whatever reason did not go to University, have now achieved a Master's level qualification. Understandably they are hugely proud of this because they have proved to the world and, more importantly, to themselves that they are very capable people.

A lot of vocational qualifications are about building self-confidence and this leads to respect and achievement. Thus, with this confidence, they have a sense of value and the empowerment to become an effective leader to make positive change.

So, you ask, why vocational qualifications? What is our goal for that? My answer is simply that learning can and must take many routes. Not everybody learns in the same way and because of that many people are denied those life-changing opportunities that are afforded by having a recognised qualification. So often, the less obvious skill sets are the ones that enable people to bring about change and, of course, they become great innovators and, hopefully, leaders as well. You only have to look at some of the most charismatic people that the world has seen and their formal qualifications were not always high level ones but they nonetheless showed great leadership and vision. Nelson Mandela and Gandhi are perhaps two obvious examples. Let us not forget too that good,

confident leadership is a powerful skill and is valuable wherever you are in the world. It is a fact that business is looking to invest in new territories and will be looking for an effective workforce that has good leaders in place.

Let me give you an example here of Steven. Steven had family problems and left home at a young age. This was followed by a period of not going to school and ultimately living on the streets. By the age of 12 he faced a very bleak future. Steven decided to join a uniformed youth group and he enrolled for the CVQO-led BTEC Level 1 in Teamwork, Personal Skills and Citizenship which he passed with flying colours.

This was the very first qualification he had ever obtained, in fact, it was the first time that anybody had ever said, "Well done", to him and shown him some respect. His self-confidence grew, his whole personality changed because he had found a way to show off his skills. It could be seen that more traditional methods did not allow him to show his true worth. The course he undertook develops life skills to improve employability, encourages a sense of community, responsibility, problem-solving, teamwork and career support.

The great news is that as Steven went through his youth organisation, completing our qualifications, this led him to an offer of an apprenticeship with British Gas with a course in electronic engineering at college. None of this would have been possible without somebody changing his life. Another example is of an adult, Adrian,

who had never achieved a high level qualification at school, he just had a handful of very modest certificates. He studied through CVQO and underwent a Graduateship in Leadership and Management with City and Guilds. This helped him to gain a place at University to study for a BSc in Professional Practice in Emergency Care. Soon after this course he told me that it had helped him on to a management role in the Ambulance Service and he became what is called a Clinical Practice Tutor (what you and I might know as a paramedic). He uses his CVQO-led qualification to teach future clinicians. The key to this story is that Adrian succeeded and CVQO was able to offer him that life-long learning opportunity and his age was irrelevant. This is what is so wonderful.

I would like to tell you now about the Schools Partnership Project that we run. This is a relatively new project that is based in schools where we have, so far, enrolled over 850 disengaged

learners between the ages of 12 and 15. These are young people who were truanting from school and their education was falling behind. They were not chosen by us but by the schools and by the community.

Of these pupils, over 750 achieved their BTEC Level 1 in Teamwork, Personal Skills and Citizenship. This is an amazing achievement rate of 88%. Let me be quite clear here that these young people probably would not have achieved any qualification in their lives had it not been for this course. Therefore, this means that 88% of them came back into education. Not only did they achieve an education but the schools reported a 75% increase in improvement of behaviour and one school, for example, reported a 45% decrease in exclusions throughout the school. So this project really does make a difference. These young people are taught self-respect, how to respect other people and how to survive. They are put in scenarios which will be a little bit different for them and they have

to respond. It is challenging but also extremely rewarding.

CVQO works all over the world and I could list the countries but, suffice to say, that we work in the United Kingdom, through Europe, into Africa, into the Far East and the Caribbean. Over the past decade more countries and more partners are wishing to join up with us. Why? Because our courses can be mapped to suit their local needs. The BTEC, ILM and City and Guilds qualifications are internationally recognised and are probably the most valued in the world. CVQO can train people locally to deliver courses and all of our materials can be translated into other languages if so required. Most importantly, in territories where overseas inward trade investment is being looked for. These overseas investment businesses will value CVQO's international qualifications and this will allow the local workforce's skills to be properly recognised.

One aspect I am very proud of, out of the many things we do, is how well we are run as a charity. As a registered charity we are bound by very strict rules over how we manage our money and, therefore, it is incumbent upon us, as it is of course on anybody else, to ensure that every pound we spend goes to the benefit of the learners. This means keeping our costs low, working hard with our partners to raise funds and to deliver effective support for the young people. In fact, I am very proud that for every dollar we spend on education, over 98% of it goes on our charitable activities. Why is this important? Because every pound or dollar investment in education spent wisely is going to deliver significant



Turkish Consul General, Ozgur Kivanc Altan – Miami, receiving a FICAC Award from The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ. Looking on is Hon. Aykut Eken – Secretary General.

returns in the long run. To be candid, and this is something I want to emphasise, I believe CVQO is very good value for money.

Let me tell you about a couple of other activities we have been involved in internationally. CVQO sponsored a project called “CVQO and Education – Caribbean Youth at Risk”. This project is all about how young people are at risk and struggling and very vulnerable to crime in certain Caribbean countries. CVQO’s courses have helped bring them back into meaningful employment. One very successful example of this is MILAT.

MILAT, the military-led training academy in Trinidad, hosted a 3 year full-time social intervention programme for at risk young men aged 16 to 20. These MILAT cadets were registered for the CVQO-led BTEC Level 2 in Public Services and some of them also for the ILM Level 2. This gave these young people the chance to earn a meaningful qualification they could take into the workplace and it is

interesting to note that they are finding employment partly as a result of the CVQO qualification.

In addition, CVQO has been approached to begin the development of ILM qualifications for the MILAT staff and to work more closely with the government in Trinidad and Tobago on new educational programmes. So far, on a trial, over 30 members of the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force have completed their BTEC Level 2.

Whilst our qualifications are all about helping young people, striving for excellence must not be seen as a negative. Each year CVQO runs the Duke of Westminster Award with the aim of finding an outstanding young person who has achieved something special, perhaps a deeply personal achievement. It is a very tough competition and we look to find the best out of 20,000 possible candidates. Last year’s winner was Daniel who has an interesting story. At 3 years of age he saw his father being stabbed to death by his mother. He

then spent the next 10 years in foster care before finding himself on the verge of a life of crime and prison. Luckily he made a life-changing decision and joined a youth organisation and, as a result, took a CVQO-led BTEC. He has now transformed his life, completed a second qualification with CVQO and was awarded the St John Ambulance First Aider of the Year Certificate. Amazing that from these roots such a flower has blossomed. A very impressive young man.

There is one persistent element that runs through all that I have said today. It is that by working together through vocational education there is an opportunity to build a brighter future for so many people.

I would like to leave you with the following points:-

- CVQO programmes are proven to work
- They are easy to run and administer
- They are cost-effective with very low financial investment
- Importantly, they also provide a lasting legacy of benefits
- They are a long-term solution but they give immediate results

Finally, I finish with this Chinese proverb:- “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Thank you very much for this opportunity to share with you the wonderful things that CVQO does to help youth at risk and others to achieve their maximum.



Hon. Don Chee-A-Tow and his wife Hon. Catherine Chee-A-Tow enjoying the FICAC Gala Evening.



FICAC Congratulates the Miami International Airport on developing the Consular Lounge.



A special award was presented to Mr. Irving Fourcand, Director of Protocol and International Affairs, Miami International Airport, in recognition of this excellent project developed by MIA. We thank them most sincerely for the excellent service they are providing to all Consuls in Miami.

The World Federation of Consuls is very impressed with this development and urges other international airports to provide similar Consular services where necessary as it is of great assistance to our membership and gives us more time to provide even better service to the Sending and Receiving States that we have the honour to represent.

The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP,
President - World Federation of Consuls

Congratulations

Dear Hon. Arnold Foote OJ, CD,JP

President !

It was a honour for my Vice Consul, Hon. Professor KPOSSI meeting you in Miami Florida for the FICAC Conference. Thank you for giving us such an unforgettable opportunity. We are very thankful.

On behalf of the Honorary General Consulate for Turkey in Togo , we present our deepest gratitude. We are also thankful for the Médailles that was given to our Vice Consul at the diner.

Kindly, pass our greetings to the General Secretariat of FICAC in Belgium.

We would also like to have the timetables of events in this year 2015 in order to get prepared ahead of time.

Best wishes,

M. SESSOU D. Dovi Franck
Consul Honoraire de Turquie au Togo
Honorary Consul of Turkey in Togo

Dear Arnold,

Thank you so much for everything!
 You are both such warm and beautiful people! Have a fabulous 2015!

Always,
Monica

Dear Arnold,

Still in transit at New York airport on my way home, I just want to let you know how much I appreciated the whole regional conference put on by you and your FICAC - congratulations indeed! It was both interesting and stimulating, and as always, I got acquainted with some very nice, new (for me) consul colleagues.

My greetings also goes to your wife - the way you and Patricia have been able to develop FICAC is remarkable. Yes, I know, - two distinctive roles, but still, a joint effort over your 9 year tenure.

Most likely, we will not meet again before/ until the 2015 Congress in Brussels, but I am already looking forward to that event. Your grand finale! And I am eager to tell Liss about all this when I am back in Oslo to-morrow morning for an early breakfast at home.

Warm regards
Peter

H.E. Mr. Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP
Hon'ble President
World Federation of Consul (FICAC)

Your Excellency

Hope this e-mail finds you in best of everything. It was indeed my great pleasure and honour meeting you once again in FICAC Latin America & Caribbean Regional Conference held in Miami, USA on 15th - 18th January, 2015. I consider myself fortunate to be there and meet the distinguished personalities like you. I wish we would meet again in near future.

I take privilege in presenting compliments to you and the Entire FICAC team in organizing such splendid event. The dynamic and able leadership of you and FICAC have achieved its present position and made this effort successful. I do believe FICAC will have many more success and will reach in new height under your guidance in the days ahead.

Excellency, It will be my great honour, if you could spare some times to visit Bangladesh being my guest at any of your convenient time. I am looking forward to continue our tie towards coming days. May Almighty bless you peace prosperity and sound health always.

Thanking you,

Best regards

Reshadur Rahman
Honorary Consul of the
Republic of Poland in Bangladesh



Hon Chairman & Secretary Consular Corps Nigeria,

The FICAC Conference of Latin America & the Caribbean was an outstanding success!!

In addition to Nigeria Consular Corps being represented we also had Togo from West Africa and Congo representing Central Africa.

Our FICAC President Hon Arnold Foote was phenomenal, having worked extremely hard together with his very supportive wife Patricia to bring off a most spectacular star studded event! From Michael Meade on Homeland Security, Ms Paola Amadei from the European Union, The President's keynote speech on Consular Security (perfectly on target with current world events) and the keynote speaker at the Banquet Dr Michael Noble (of the very famous and world renowned Noble Family). to what was an exciting 3 days with focus on issues to move the organisation forward.

The friendship & camaraderie were exceptional.

Thank you President Arnold Foote & Mrs Patricia Foote for an exceptional Conference and hosting, deeply appreciative.

We now look forward to West Africa's launch of her first Conference

Warmest regards

Hon DR Wallace W Williams
Vice-President
Consular Corps of Nigeria

**Honourable Arnold Foote
OJ, CD, JP,**

President of FICAC,

On behalf of the Swedish Consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico, we express our deepest gratitude for the invitation and opportunity to participate in the FICAC Latin America & Caribbean Regional Consular Conference in Miami, Florida, USA.

We would be thankful for your follow up and communication to develop our bilateral and individual relations. It would be a great honour, which we appreciate.

With kind regards,

**Wolfgang Albert Schratte
Raúl Corral Pelayo
Hon. Consul of Sweden in Guadalajara
Consular Assistant**

*Con saludos cordiales,
Raúl Corral
Asistente Consular*

**CONSULADO DE SUECIA
Guadalajara**

Hello President Foote,

It gave me a great pleasure to have met you at the FICAC conference. As you know, our functions are very large combined with our personal commitments; you are a man full of useful experience for us.

It is with pleasure that I will take the commitment to talk about FICAC in Canada, Congo and Central Africa.

Also, I have a lot to exchange with you personally for business opportunities that the Republic of Congo has, knowing that you are a man who has connections in the world.

We can develop business together on your advice. I hope to keep in touch with you for assistance, guidance and advice for our future collaboration.

Cordially,

**Consul of Congo
Jean-Michel Itoua**

**CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CONGO**





FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Judith Edwards, seen above receiving a medal of honour from Hon. Dr. Mirza Ihktiar Baig and FICAC President.



Mr. Irving Fourcand receiving an award of appreciation from the President of FICAC. Looking on is Looking on is Hon. Aykut Eken – Secretary General.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Gonul Eken of Canada, seen after receiving the FICAC Medal of Honour in recognition of her excellent contribution to FICAC events from Hon. Costas Lefkaritis while FICAC President looks on.



Hon. Dr. Mirza Ihktiar Baig, Dr. Elaine Davis after receiving her Medal of honour from Hon. Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Dr. Mirza Ihktiar Baig congratulates Hon. J. Picollo of Paraguay after presenting him with the FICAC Medal of Honour. Looking on is Hon. Costas Lefkaritis



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves congratulates Professeur Kpossé Marius on receiving the FICAC Medal of Honour for excellent work done in Togo.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Lois Sherwood, delegate of Jamaica, in discussion with a delegate from Paraguay.



Ambassador Paola Amadei of the European Union and Hon. Dr. Cecilia Rokusek enjoying the entertainment at the FICAC Gala Dinner



FICAC Director, Hon. Sylvain Cohen, seen above presenting the FICAC Medal of Honour to Hon. Jean-Michel Itoua



The Hon. A.J. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica seen above receiving a presentation from The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP, President of The World Federation of Consuls his book on some of his works and speeches for FICAC.



FICAC ... Working Hard to Serve You Better