



FICAC NEWS

JUNE 2015



BRAZIL

FICAC MEETINGS VERY SUCCESSFUL



The new President of ACONBRAS, Hon. Luiz Fernando Del Valle, was congratulated by FICAC President, Arnold Foote, at a very successful meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 16th April, 2015. Also present in the photograph are Past President of ACONBRAS, Hon. George Antoine, FICAC Secretary General, Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Directors, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis, Hon. Sylvain Cohen and Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves, along with Consul General of the Dominican Republic in Sao Paulo, Hon. Geomar Garcia and others. The President of ACONBRAS, Hon. Luiz Fernando Del Valle, pledged his Consular Corps' full support for the World Federation of Consuls and looks forward to working even closer with the Federation.



Chairman of WCC 2015 Committee Presents WCC 2015 Programme

Hon. Sylvain Cohen

Dear Honourable Colleagues,

As Chairman of the Events Committee of the World Federation of Consuls, « Fédération Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires a.i.s.b.l. », I'm pleased to invite you to register to the 11th World Congress of Consuls, which will take place at the « Hilton Bosphorus » in Istanbul, Turkey, 18th - 22nd of November 2015.

In order to have this congress the most successful one, I would be very grateful to you to forward this invitation to all Colleagues.

A dedicated website will be launched shortly, with all the practical information as well as a « Registration and Hotel booking form » to fill in.

I strongly recommend you to send the registration form filled in at your earliest convenience since places are limited and any registration is subject to availability and to confirmation from the Congress Registration Secretariat.

Looking forward to the great honour and the pleasure to welcome All of You in Istanbul for a memorable event,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvain Cohen,
FICAC Director & Chairman of the FICAC Events Committee



PROGRAMME

11th WORLD CONGRESS OF CONSULS

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME (on 05.06.2015)

NOVEMBER 18, 2015 - WEDNESDAY

10:00am - 06:00pm • Night Free

Congress registration at secretariat desk during all the day (Hilton Bosphorus)

NOVEMBER 19, 2015 - THURSDAY

10:00am - 06:00pm • Night Free

Congress registration at secretariat desk during all the day (Hilton Bosphorus)
Pre-Congress Istanbul City tour - hosted by organizing committee.

Visit of Istanbul highlights; Topkapi Palace, St. Sophie, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Citerne Basilique, Church St. Sauveur in Chora (Kariye Church)

02:00pm - 05:00pm

FICAC Executive Committee Meeting

07:00pm - 09:00pm

Official Welcome Party - hosted by the Consular Corps of Turkey

Venue : Rahmi M. Koç Museum **Dress:** Informal

NOVEMBER 20, 2015 - FRIDAY

08:00am

Congress registration at secretariat desk (Hilton Bosphorus)

09:30am

Opening ceremony of the congress (Hilton Bosphorus)

11:00am - 11:20am

Coffee break

11:10am

Departure to visit Dolmabahçe Palace

Dolmabahce Palace built in 19 th century is one of the most glamorous palaces in the world. It was the administrative center of the late Ottoman Empire with the last of Ottoman Sultans was residing there. After the foundation of the Turkish Republic in Ankara, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk transferred all government functions to the youthful capital but on his visits to Istanbul Ataturk occupied only a small room at Dolmabahce Palace as his own. He stayed, welcomed his foreign guests and made a practical center for national, historical and language congress and for international conferences.

01:00pm

Lunch at Bahcesehir University Campus, along the Bosphorus

03:00pm

Visit Sabanci Museum

04:30pm

Tea party and return to the hotel

07:00pm - 11:00pm

Dinner on boat navigating on the Bosphorus

NOVEMBER 21, 2015 - SATURDAY

09:30am

Departure to visit most famous "Grand Bazaar" (Kapali Çarsi)

12:30am

Visit of Armanan, the most luxury and well-known shop for Turkish articles and clothes.

01:15pm

Lunch at the Nar Restaurant

03:00pm

Visit Mall Istinye Park or Zorlu Mall and return to the hotel

07:30pm

Transfer for the Gala Dinner in a wonderful venue at The Marmara Esma Sultan historical palace at the Bosphorus.

Dress: Black tie

NOVEMBER 22, 2015 SUNDAY

Departure or Post-Tours



ACONBRAS MEETING

16th April, Sao Paulo. FICAC President's Address.



Dr. The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ.

I stand before you today, pleased and privileged to be in conference with the President and members of ACONBRAS in beautiful Sao Paulo, Brazil.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the World Federation of Consuls, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected administration of ACONBRAS; President, Hon. Dr. Luis Fernando Del Valle, Vice Presidents, Hon. Guilherme de Karam Curi, Hon. Fiorella Baggio, Hon. Antonio Munhoz Bonilha Filho, Hon. Thomas Augusto Amaral, Secretary General, Victor Nacim Abbud and Treasurer, Ricardo Cateb Cury. I wish you all a very successful term in office as members of the new administration of ACONBRAS.

I was delighted to receive an e-mail from the former President, Hon. George Antoine, advising us that ACONBRAS will be re-activating its membership with the World Federation of Consuls, and I would like to congratulate him on the excellent work he did as President of ACONBRAS and ask you all to give him a big round of applause.

It would be remiss of me if I did not mention the excellent work being done internationally by Hon. Thomas Amaral, who is one of your Vice Presidents and also the FICAC Director representing the Latin American Region. He has earned our admiration and respect. Please give him a big round of applause.

ACONBRAS is one of the finest Consular Corps in Latin America and it has the ability to not only contribute greatly in building the Caribbean and Latin American region of FICAC, but can also make a meaningful contribution to the Consular community of the world.

It is of vital importance that member countries in this region develop a 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 Mavrommatis 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



President of Aconbras Hon. Luiz Fernando Del Valle in discussion with FICAC President Arnold Foote, as FICAC Secretary General Hon. Aykut Eken and Hon. Costas Lefkaritis look on.

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. I would like to publicly thank Hon.

Thomas Amaral for bringing the date of the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention to my attention and working very closely with me in building the presentation that I made at the United Nations. It was he who designed and produced the Order of Merit Medal associated with this programme and I would like to give him a big round of applause for his work. Congratulations Hon. Thomas. 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



Past President of Aconbras, Hon. George Antoine warmly welcoming FICAC President, The Honourable Arnold Foote to Aconbras meeting. In the background is Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves, Director of FICAC.

a commitment to the charters of international organizations, to bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions, and to the growing body of international law and jurisprudence affecting every sphere of life.

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

Consular operations can no longer be confined to the issuance of travel documents and attention to the welfare of nationals of the countries that we represent, as 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 Sao Paulo, Brazil.

We look forward to working closely with ACONBRAS and may I close by reminding you of our slogan: FICAC....Working hard to serve you better.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves recently elected as President of CC Parana



Seen above are Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves, the new President of the Consular Corps of Parana, with his beautiful wife, Dolores.

FICAC Directors take this opportunity congratulate Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves on his election, and wish him and his Directors a very successful term in office.

FICAC welcomes its new member, the Consular Corps of Parana



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Above are some of the members of the Consular Corps of Parana in discussion with the then President of the Parana Consular Corps, Hon. Mariano Czaikowski, and the FICAC President.



President of CC Parana, Hon. Mariano Czaikowski, FICAC President, Hon. Arnold Foote, Hon. Aykut Eken, Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves and Hon. Dr. Joao Castillio of CC Parana discussing FICAC programs used internationally.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Consul General of the Dominican Republic, Hon. Geomar Garcia, in discussion with Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves, Director of FICAC



Hon. Aykut Eken presenting the FICAC Medal of Honor to Parana CC President, Hon. Mariano Czaikowski, for his excellent work and contribution to the development of the CC Parana.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Thomas Amaral Nevis and Dr. João Casillo Consul of Belgica



The President of Consular Corps of Paraná, Hon. Mariano Czaikowski, FICAC President Hon. Arnold Foote and FICAC Secretary General Hon. Aykut Eken, are caught on camera at the end of a very successful meeting in Curitiba with the Directors of the World Federation of Consuls and the President and members of the Paraná Consular Corps. The Paraná Consular Corps is now a member of the Federation.



FICAC
Working Hard to Serve You Better