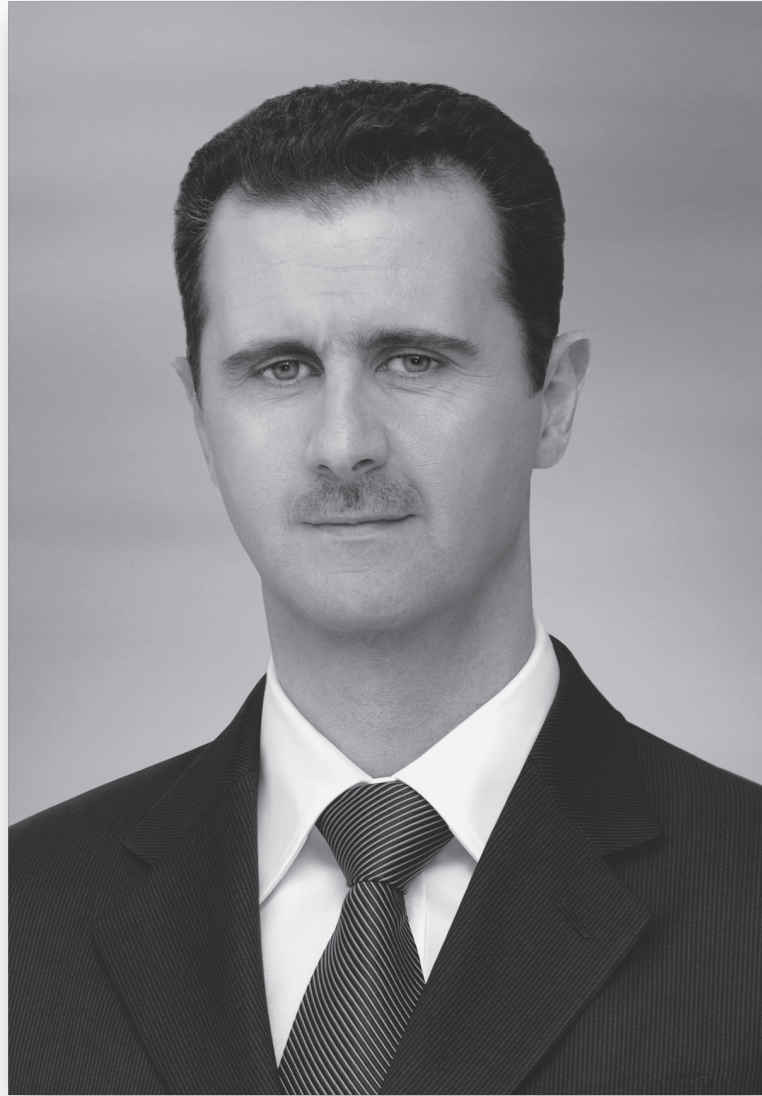




INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - SYRIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2009



**The President of Syrian Arab Republic
Bashar Al-Assad**



A Word by Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, ICC Syria President

Excellencies Members of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria,

2009 marked a remarkable year for ICC Syria, which has been able to set a distinct presence internationally, after I was personally honored by being unanimously elected as a member of the ICC Executive Board in Paris to be the only Arab member on the Board. In fact, I do consider this election to be recognition of ICC, Syria and its contribution to the progress of ICC in Paris. In fact, I do already feel the strong responsibility associated with that election towards Syria and Arab countries.

This election took place during the ICC World Chambers Congress organized by the World Chambers Federation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on June 2nd 2009 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of ICC, with the participation of Chambers of Commerce from 105 countries.

Locally, the financial sector in Syria witnessed in recent years important developments. The number of licensed private banks increased. Insurance companies began to take their place in the market. The number of companies listed in the Damascus Stock Exchange also increased.

Syria has given a particular attention to the private sector in an attempt to promote its contribution to building the national economy through Private Public Partnerships (PPP). In fact, Syria is currently drafting a PPP Law.

As part of its endeavors to support government efforts, ICC Syria held a seminar on that topic with patronage by His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Dardari, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs. Most important British firms that are specialized in this field were invited to transfer Anglo-Saxon experience in PPP to Syria.

It is also necessary to note the significance of financing in PPP projects particularly that they are mostly related to high cost infrastructure projects. Here, we can clearly see the role of banks. Therefore, a resolution was taken to increase the capital of private banks in Syria to help increase their capacity to fund mega projects.

In terms of the ICC publications, the ICC Banking Commission finalized the Unified Rules for Documentary Credits (UCP 600). ICC Syria sought to transfer them to local banks so that they become familiar with these rules and can act according to them.

The Unified Customary Practices Committee is currently finalizing Incoterms 2010. Again, ICC, Syria tried to explain the amendments introduced to the new version.

ICC also launched a workshop to amend Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG). We shall constantly attempt to transfer those amendments which are in line with Syrian interests and laws.

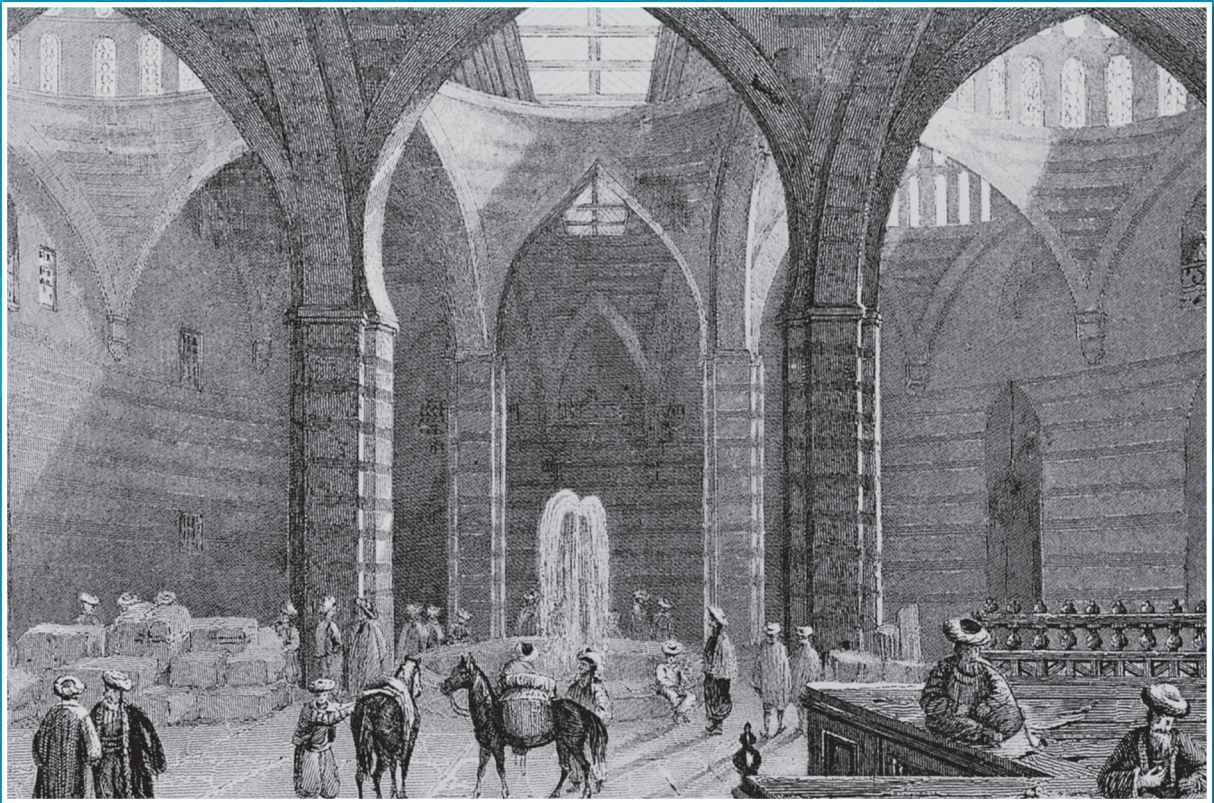
In 2010, ICC Syria will continue to provide its services, transfer scientific as well as foreign expertise through its different committees, including Transport, Customs, Competition, Banking, Trademarks, and Insurance Committees as well as the Licenses Committee.

ICC, Syria will also continue to support JCI Syria in order to support youth and develop their economic potential. JCI has been able to make huge achievements and operate in the most important Syrian governorates, making it an enterprise to be truly proud of.

Finally, I cannot but thank ICC members in general and Board members in particular for their contribution and support to ICC last year.



Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar
President - ICC Syria
Executive Board Member - ICC Paris



Khan Assaad Basha - Damascus - Syria

Local Activities of International Chamber of Commerce - Syria during 2009:

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Partnership between the Public and the Private Sectors in a Symposium

Damascus - Syria, May 25, 2009

Under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdullah al-Dardari, the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC Syria) held a symposium about partnership between the public and private sectors, at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on Monday, May 25, 2009.

The symposium was attended by the Minister of Transport Yarob Sulaiman Badr, the Minister of Electricity Ahmed Qusai Kayali, ICC Syria President Abdul Rahman Attar and the British Ambassador to Syria Simon Collis in addition to more than 140 representatives of many private and public bodies.



Speaking at the symposium's opening session, Dr. Attar, President of the ICC Syria, stressed that the chamber, stressed that the ICC Syria has always worked to be Syria's window to the world and as a conduit to transfer experiences and legal studies in various fields to contribute in the development of international commerce in what serves the national interest.

Attar added that the importance of the symposium comes from the timing in where Syria is heading up to open and market economy where is the most noticeable feature of the present stage is working to activating the role of the private sector to assume its responsibility, and look at the successful experiences of others and take what is appropriate to the national experience.

Experts from Trowers & Hamblins and Pinsent Masons LLP conducted a session outlining the experience of partnership between the public and private sectors in the UK, how to negotiate contracts, the implementation of a project after funding, the setting of terms and conditions and the implementation of joint projects.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Geneva - Italy, February 2, 2009

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of founding the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and with a Syrian participation represented by Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce - Syria, more than 270 business leaders met in Geneva on February 2, 2009.

The ICC Permanent heads of National Committees held a meeting discussing the strategy of the ICC and observations of the national committees on the global economic crisis.



During the celebration “Research Foundation” was launch and it will begin conducting studies by research organizations and academic institutions to promote a deeper understanding of the benefits of international trade and investment by policies makers, the media and the general public. It is noteworthy that in the 90th anniversary of founding the ICC encounter a series of international economic and financial events represented by the global economic crisis that had bad consequences in all different parts of the world. ICC was founded in 1919 by pioneers and businessmen who believed that international trade is a power for peace and prosperity, calling themselves “merchants of peace”.



Beirut Conference of Franchise Beirut - Lebanon, April 7-8, 2009

Chaired by Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, head of the International Chamber of Commerce - Syria (**ICC Syria**), a Syrian business delegation has participated in (Lebanese Franchise Association), a conference held by the Lebanese Franchise Association at Venice Hotel - Beirut between 7 and 8 April, 2009.



The meeting discussed the role of the privileges in the development of the region and preventing the spread of global economic turbulence, in addition to the Mediterranean Franchise Federation vision and functions, opportunities and requirements related to organizing privileges in the Mediterranean countries.

In addition to franchise, the meeting discussed the franchise federation’s constitution drafted at the Mediterranean region and the structure and organization of the federation permits the Mediterranean Franchise Federation. The Syrian delegation has included in addition to Dr. Attar, ICC Syria legal counselor Hussein Khaddour and ICC Syria members Abdul Ghani Attar and Nazir Sinan.

The First Meeting of the ICC Regional Consultative Group for South Asia and the Middle East Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, May 4, 2009



As a representative of the International Chamber of Commerce - Syria (ICC Syria), Naji Chaoui, Secretary General of the chamber, participated at the first meeting of the first meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Regional Consultative Group for South Asia and Middle East, held in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates on May 4, 2009. The meeting discussed many issues and presented a set of recommendations to the Executive Board of ICC. Among the main recommendations were to put links on the websites of the national commissions in the region, and make a recommendation to the ICC to allocate adequate space on its website for groups of regional advisory groups and to convey the ICC of the need for arbitration venues and hearing centers in the region. Additionally, the Conference recommended involving the region in joint efforts to promote the chamber and arbitrating in it, and establishing new committees in the states that have not yet established similar committees.

Unanimously, Dr. Attar is the only Arab at the Executive Board of the ICC

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3-5 June 2009

Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC Syria), has been elected unanimously by the World Council of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to be the only Arab member at the ICC Executive Board, the chamber's governing body at a global level.

The election took place during the organization's biannual World Chambers Congress in Malaysian - Kuala Lumpur on June 2, 2009, coinciding with the 90th Anniversary of the ICC, and with delegates from 105 countries

Attar said that his election would assure the Syrian presence to international forums.

At the same meeting, France's Jean Rozfadowski was elected Secretary General of the Chamber Commerce starting from July 1, 2009.



The International Chamber of Commerce Executive Board meeting

New York, Boston - October 8-12, 2009

Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC Syria), affirmed to Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), that peace in the Middle East is a necessary tool for the development of the local and international economy.

Dr. Attar made the remarks during a session which brought together the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Secretary General of the UN, at the UN headquarters in New York, on the sideline of the Executive Board of the ICC meeting held in New York between 8 and 12 October 2009.

Attar, the only Arab in the ICC Executive Board, stressed to the audience that Syria was and still plays an active role in the global economy. He also said the country was continuing its ambitious process of economic reform aiming to open up the country to the global economy.

For his part, the Secretary General praised the role of the chamber, which is considered the second international organization which has been recognized after the emergence of the UN in 1946. Ki-moon also praised the chamber for its role in the global economy. In cooperation with the U.S. Council for International Business, the ICC Executive Board meeting focused on putting a strategy in place for chamber for the next three years.

The U.S. Council for International Business, one of the strongest U.S. economic organizations, hosted a gala dinner for the gathering, attended by U.S. Secretary of Commerce and a number of Arab ambassadors, including Dr. Bashar Jaafari, the Syria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The ICC Executive Board also visited Harvard University where workshops were held during which senior academics at the university explained their perceptions of the global economy, both now and in the future. Issues discussed included corporate governance, the role of the state in the economy, climate change, the development and drafting of financial laws and the revival of bilateral, regional and strategic trade agreements for integrated business.



The International Chamber of Commerce Executive Board meeting

New Delhi, India - December 2009

A new round of the ICC Executive Board meetings was held in New Delhi, India between 3 and 5 December 2009, where Dr. Abdel Rahman Attar, a member of the Executive Board, President of ICC Syria has participated in.

The meeting discussed several topics related to the work of the chamber's specialist commissions. The ICC's 2010 Program of Action and annual budget were also discussed a ratified. The Copenhagen United Nation's Climate Change Conference decisions were also reviewed, in addition to a number of topics related to the World Chambers Federation.

This ICC meeting was held simultaneity with the (ICC Regional CEO Forum) under the title: "Globalization and the Rapid Growth" on 4-5 December, in the presence of both the President and Secretary General of the ICC, during which a range of topics related to trade, employment, finance and sustainable growth were provided.



International Chamber of Commerce - Syria (ICC Syria): 2010 Strategic Vision and Action Plan

In 2010, ICC Syria will seek to achieve the following:

- Host the second meeting of the ICC Regional Consultative Group for South Asia and the Middle East. This meeting will be part of a series of regional meetings aimed at bringing national committees from one geographic location together. The importance of this series of meetings stems from the fact that they bring together members who face similar challenges in this part of the world to exchange views on how to reach best commercial practices.
- Continue to serve as a link between the different government and private sector agencies in Syria, on the one hand, and the ICC Commission on Commercial Law and Practice, in order to develop the new version of (Incoterms 2010), and hold a seminar on those rules.
- With the announcement of the newly adopted Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG) by ICC, and which become effective as of July 2010, ICC Syria will disseminate these rules and how they are used, through seminars to be organized for stakeholders from Syrian banks.
- Promote the role of arbitration as a fast and confidential means for dispute resolution, particularly in investment projects.
- Create a Banking Commission which includes all Syrian banks which are members of ICC Syria, and try to have them represented in the Banking Commission meetings in Paris, as well as coordinating between the Syrian banks so as to upgrade banking in Syria.
- Create a commission for insurance companies which shall include all Syrian insurance companies that are members in ICC Syria. This Commission shall examine insurance laws in Syria and compare them with the laws of different countries, particularly those advanced in the area of insurance, and transfer such expertise to the Syrian insurance market.

Conferences and Seminars in 2010:

- **In Commercial Practices:** ICC Syria will organize a seminar in 2010 on Incoterms 2010, focusing on most important changes and developments in the new version.
- **In Banking:** ICC Syria will invite most important experts from ICC members as well as executives from important world banks to hold a number of seminars and training courses for Syrian bankers on issues related to documentary credits (UCP), URDGs, as well as other banking related topics.
- **In Arbitration:** ICC Syria is preparing for an arbitration conference to be attended by world renowned arbitrators in the region to discuss issues related to the role of arbitration in reducing the costs of risks calculated by investors, as well as the role of arbitration as a means for dispute resolution, and assuring and encouraging investors.



ICC Executive Board 2010

The Executive Board is responsible for developing and implementing ICC's strategy, policy and programme of action and for overseeing the financial affairs of the world business organization. In particular, it is responsible for recommending to the World Council the appointment of the ICC Chairmanship and Secretary General as well as approving all policy documents.

The Board is composed of ex-officio members, and elected members who serve for a three-year term.

Victor K. Fung	Chairman of ICC
Rajat K. Gupta	Vice-Chairman of ICC
Marcus Wallenberg	Honorary Chairman of ICC
Jean Roswadowski	Secretary General of ICC
Jorma Ollila	Chairman of WBCSD
John Beechey	Chairman of Court of Arbitration
Rona Yırcalı	Chairman of WCF
Abdul Rahman Attar	Syria
John Buchanan	United Kingdom
Andrea Tomat	Italy
Manfred Gentz	Germany
Guillermo de la Dehesa	Spain
Andreas Schmid	Switzerland
Gérard Worms	France
Martin Granholm	Finland
Kees van der Waaij	Netherlands
Peter Mihók	Slovak Republic
Samuel A. DiPiazza, Jr	United States
William G. Parrett	United States
Pierre A. Froidevaux	Mexico
Young Tae Kim	Korea
Mikio Sasaki	Japan
Chen Yuan	China
Yogendra Modi	India

ICC Goals and Achievements

Working for business in a time of challenge

A near-collapse of the international financial system that led to a global economic crisis, the sharpest drop in world trade in more than 60 years, and levels of unemployment not seen in three decades made the year 2009 an exceptionally difficult one for global business.

ICC rose to the challenges posed by the recession by making known the views of international business at the highest governmental and intergovernmental levels, most especially the G20, which is becoming the premium forum for establishing international economic policy.



ICC Achievements

Celebrating ICC's first 90 years

Over the last 90 years the global economy has surged ahead, staking out unprecedented growth, reducing poverty, and delivering untold wealth to its increasingly interconnected nations. During the past nine decades the world's economies witnessed turmoil and challenges ranging from wars and political upheaval to runaway inflation and depression. It was with this historical perspective in mind that ICC celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2009 with a series of events around the world that concentrated on key business issues.

- In Geneva in February the ICC Research Foundation, created to reinforce ICC's role in providing intellectual leadership on long-term trade and investment policy issues, was formally launched. The results of the Foundation's first three research projects - trade and employment, the future of market capitalism, and rethinking sustainable growth - were presented at a regional CEO summit in New Delhi in December.
- In March, a dinner hosted in Paris by French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde honoured former ICC Chairmen, while in Kuala Lumpur, ICC governing bodies marked the institution's 90th anniversary at the 6th World Chambers Congress in June.
- Then it was on to New York in October where UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon was the keynote speaker at an ICC luncheon. He highlighted the long and special relationship between ICC and the UN, from ICC's support for the UN Charter in 1945 to its more recent role in the creation of the Global Compact.



Speaking on behalf of global business

Throughout 2009, ICC campaigned vigorously to express the views of global business and facilitate cross-border trade and investment.

On the eve of the G20 summit in London in April, for example, ICC published a half-page advertorial in the Financial Times urging the conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations to revive world trade. ICC also teamed up with CNN to produce three infomercials on business and trade, intellectual property and copyright protection that highlighted ICC's work in helping global business succeed in the international marketplace.

As part of this campaign, ICC's chairmanship met privately with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, respectively the hosts of the G20 summit in London and the G8 summit in L'Aquila, to convey the views of world business on the global economic crisis, climate change, and intellectual property and innovation.

In the run up to the G20 summits, the ICC Banking Commission published the results of two global surveys showing a sharp decline in trade finance. Its efforts



provided important input to the April G20 summit decision approving US\$250 billion of support for trade finance over the next two years.

ICC's network of national committees worked with local business and governments to convey ICC's messages on the world economic crisis to their media and local leaders. The first Regional Consultative Groups, informal groups of ICC representatives from a specific geographic area, held highly successful gatherings to exchange best practices in Rotterdam, Santiago de Chile, and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Throughout the year, ICC policy commissions, the World Chambers Federation, and the International Court of Arbitration continued their work on a wide variety of issues.

Rules-writing for business

ICC adopted a major revision of the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG), which are applied to hundreds of billions of dollars of demand guarantees, securing monetary and performance obligations in a wide array of international and domestic contracts. In the past, the URDG rules, which have gained increasing worldwide acceptance over the years, were adopted by the International Federation of Consulting Engineers in their model guarantee forms and later incorporated by the World Bank in all of its unconditional guarantee forms. The former rules were also endorsed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and national lawmakers have used them as a model for independent guarantee statutes. They also benefit from a unique dispute resolution mechanism under the ICC DOCDEX rules.

Dispute Resolution

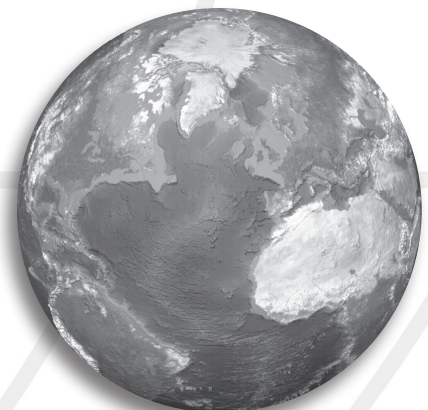
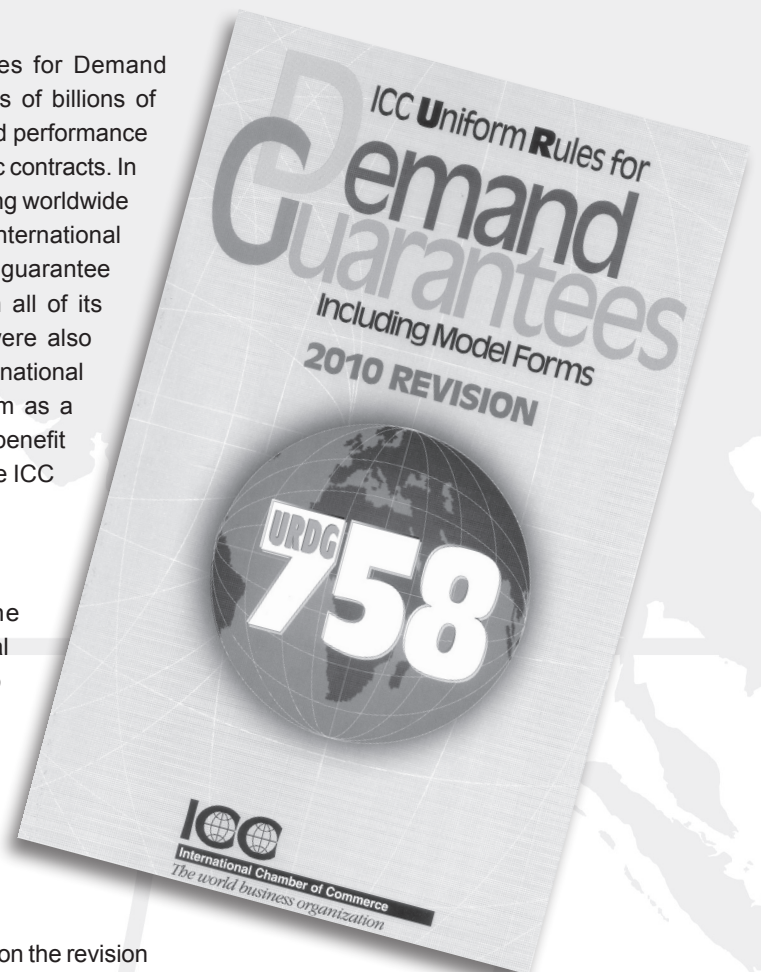
The ICC International Court of Arbitration, the world's leading institution for resolving international commercial and business disputes, continued to expand its global presence. A total of 817 new requests for arbitration were filed in 2009 under the ICC Rules of Arbitration, the largest number of requests in the history of the Court since its inception in 1923. The total number of cases received by the Court in its 87-year history has now passed the 16,500 mark.

The ICC Commission on Arbitration continued its work on the revision of the ICC Rules of Arbitration, the role and needs of states and state entities in arbitration, and the production of electronic documents. Work is also ongoing to produce recommendations for the use of tribunal appointed experts in the conduct of arbitration proceedings.

In recognition of the growing importance of the Asia Pacific area, ICC expanded its regional office in Singapore and named a Director of ICC Arbitration and ICC Dispute Resolution Services in Asia.

Working towards a cleaner planet

The past year was particularly significant for the environment, with attention focused on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen. Throughout the year, the ICC Commission on Environment and Energy advocated business views to governments, intergovernmental organizations and the media, calling for an agreement in Copenhagen that would provide business the



clarity to increase investment and develop and deploy existing and new technologies to solve the climate challenge.

ICC put forward a clear plan to successfully tackle what may be the most important challenge of our time. Despite the disappointment of Copenhagen, ICC hopes that the coming year will see substantial progress on a binding global agreement so that an accord can be reached in Mexico in December.

Promoting Internet and communications technologies

The Commission on Electronic Business, IT, and Telecommunications (EBITT) mobilized business in a large group of countries to encourage their governments to oppose a proposal by some member states in the International Telecommunications Union to establish a “tax” that would increase communications costs and reduce services between developing and developed countries.



The Commission also represented global business interests in the development of a draft recommendation by the Council of Europe that in ICC’s opinion endorsed ill-informed and overly restrictive government intervention in online profiling. The commission successfully advocated for broader input from the many different business interests that would be significantly affected by these recommendations. This effort culminated in the Council making their document public and holding a consultation for stakeholders not already participating in the process. The commission advanced development of cross border data transfer principles and practice tools for the 21 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation countries and issued business recommendations to improve data protection processes in the European Union.



ICC Program of Action 2010:

1. Policy and Business Practices:

Rules-writing for business

Arbitration:

Mandate

The Commission aims to:

- draft and amend Rules of arbitration, ADR, expertise, dispute boards and other forms of dispute resolution
- study the juridical and other aspects of arbitration and other modes of settlement of disputes of an international nature and examine them in view of current developments and produce reports, guidelines or best practices; and

Projects for 2010

- Complete the revision process of the ICC Rules of Arbitration.
- Prepare a study the role and needs of states and state entities in arbitration.
- Finalize the report on the essential features and effects of the production of electronic documents in international arbitration.
- Study the criteria that arbitrators may take into account in exercising their discretion in allocating the costs of the arbitration.

Commercial Law and Practices:

Mandate

To promote a balanced self-regulatory and regulatory legal framework for international B2B transactions by setting global business standards, and by providing a business viewpoint on commercial rules being developed by intergovernmental organizations

Projects for 2010

- Finalize the revision of Incoterms 2000.
- Provide input as required into the development of key international commercial law initiatives, including the common frame of reference for European contract law.
- Influence international public procurement policies, and develop a new ICC model confidentiality clause for public contracting.
- Develop new ICC model contracts, including a mergers and acquisitions asset purchase model and a subcontracting model.

Banking Technique and Practice:

Mandate

To serve as a global forum and rule-making body for the banking community.

Projects for 2010

- Act as the primary business interlocutor on trade finance.
- Revise the International Standard Banking Practice (ISBP) to conform to UCP 600.
- Promote the newly adopted Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG).

Marketing and Advertising:

Mandate

To promote high ethical standards in marketing by business self-regulation through ICC international marketing codes, and formulate world business positions and initiatives to address government actions that affect marketing and consumer protection.

Projects for 2010

- Advance self-regulation by promoting the Consolidated ICC Code on Advertising and Marketing Communication Practice, the Direct Selling Code and the ICC/ESOMAR Code of Market and Social Research, and by developing tools to facilitate code implementation.
- Launch and promote the framework on responsible environmental marketing communications
- Develop a framework to provide enforceable global standards for digital media marketing

2. Trade, investments and globalisation

Competition:

Mandate

To ensure that modern business needs and the realities of global markets are taken into account in the formulation and implementation of competition laws and policies.

Projects for 2010

- Continue to reinforce ICC's role as the key business voice in the International Competition Network and contribute to its work in areas such as competition policy implementation, cartels, mergers and unilateral conduct.
- Provide guidance on reform of EU rules on enforcement by private parties and vertical restraints.

Financial Services and Insurance

Mandate

To contribute to the elaboration of sound supervisory and self-regulatory frameworks, and to promote the liberalization of trade in financial services and insurance.

Projects for 2010

- Develop business recommendations to enhance the stability of capital markets in light of the financial crisis.
- Support a substantive financial services result as part of the Doha Round.
- Finalize a policy statement on principles for outsourcing in the financial services sector.

Intellectual Property:

Mandate

To promote a balanced, efficient and sustainable system for the protection of intellectual property.

Projects for 2010

- Actively promote within the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) the proposal for an international instrument on client privilege for IP advice.
- Develop further tools and projects in the ICC IP tool-kit for chambers of commerce.
- Develop business views on the role of IP protection in the development and deployment of clean technologies in collaboration with the Commission on Environment and Energy.
- Publish the tenth edition of the IP roadmap for business and policy makers
- Prepare recommendations on the role of patents in standard setting.

Taxation:

Mandate

To promote an international tax system that eliminates tax obstacles to cross-border trade and investment.

Projects for 2010

- Promote ICC recommendations on transfer pricing documentation requirements by organizing a seminar on this subject.
- Prepare business views on the tax treatment of international mergers and takeovers.
- Contribute business input to the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on value-added tax on services and intangibles, together with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD

Trade and Investment Policy

Mandate

To break down barriers to international trade and investment so that all countries can benefit from improved living standards through increased trade and investment flows.

Projects for 2010

- Intensify ICC's advocacy campaign in support of bringing about a successful conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations in 2010.
- Contribute to advancing the debate on major trade policy issues in a post-Doha world, including through the ICC Research Foundation and in association with relevant think tanks where appropriate.
- Uphold ICC's mission to defend open markets, including the free flow of goods, services and investment, and continue to urge governments to avoid trade and investment protectionism, especially in a global economic downturn.

Transport and Logistics:

Mandate

To promote intermodal transport and competitive, efficient transport markets worldwide.

Projects for 2010

- Advocate the need for investment in transport infrastructure, to help stimulate new economic activity, and so that transport can best meet the needs of world trade.
- Elaborate ICC policy recommendations on the regulation of the environmental impact of transport, including for air transport and vessel emissions.
- Strongly advocate ICC recommendations for the liberalization of all transport modes to governments and intergovernmental organizations.

3. Business in Society issues:

Corporate Responsibility and Anticorruption

Mandate

The Commission has two main functions:

- to define the role of business in the context of globalization and changing societal expectations, and develop world business views on key corporate responsibility issues; and
- to encourage self-regulation by business in confronting issues of extortion and bribery, and to provide business input into international initiatives to fight corruption.

Projects for 2010

- Track developments and provide world business input in major international initiatives on corporate responsibility including:
 - the Global Compact
 - the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility
 - the mandate of the UN Special Representative on business and human rights.
- Develop an ICC perspective on the "business case" for corporate responsibility, based on company experience and existing research

Electronic Business, IT and Telecoms

Mandate

To promote the continued use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) through policies, standards of practice and guidelines to encourage the growth of e-commerce, competition, growth, predictability, compliance and, the secure and free flow of information.

Projects for 2010

- Update and adapt existing policy positions to encourage legal, regulatory and policy environments that facilitate the use of ICTs for economic growth and social development.
- Advocate ICC positions on key international initiatives, including the removal of regulatory barriers to the deployment of new technologies, telecoms liberalization, and information and network security.
- Develop an issues paper on cloud computing.

Environment and Energy

Mandate

To develop business recommendations on major environmental and energy issues, and maintain ICC as the primary business interlocutor and partner in key intergovernmental negotiations and deliberations in these areas.

Projects for 2010

- Develop business positions on climate change based on outcomes of the 15th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties meeting in Copenhagen, including issues such as: energy markets and security, technology transfer, carbon markets, and financing,
- Lead Business delegation at UNFCCC 16th Conference of the Parties meeting

4. ICC Publications

Banking

- ICC Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG 758)
- Guide to ICC Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees
- Annual Survey of Letter of Credit Law and Practice 2010 (Institute of International Banking Law and Practice)

Commercial Practice/Trade Policy/Investment

- Incoterms 2010
- Model International Mergers and Acquisitions Contract
- Model International Franchising Contract, Update

Law and Arbitration

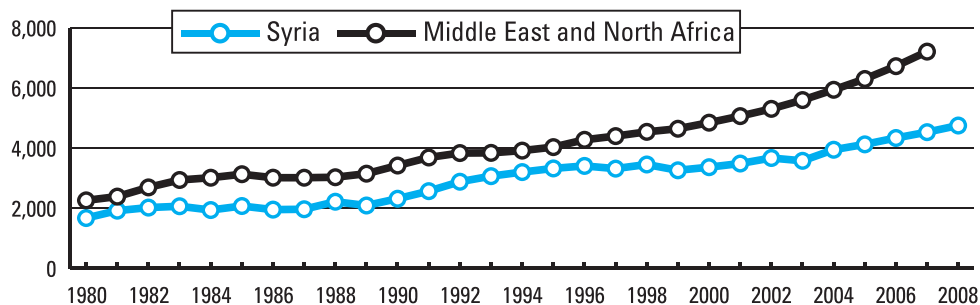
ICC Court of Arbitration Bulletin



Key indicators

Population (millions), 2008.....	20.4
GDP (US\$ billions), 2008.....	54.8
GDP per capita (US\$), 2008.....	2,756.6
GDP (PPP) as share (%) of world total, 2008.....	0.13

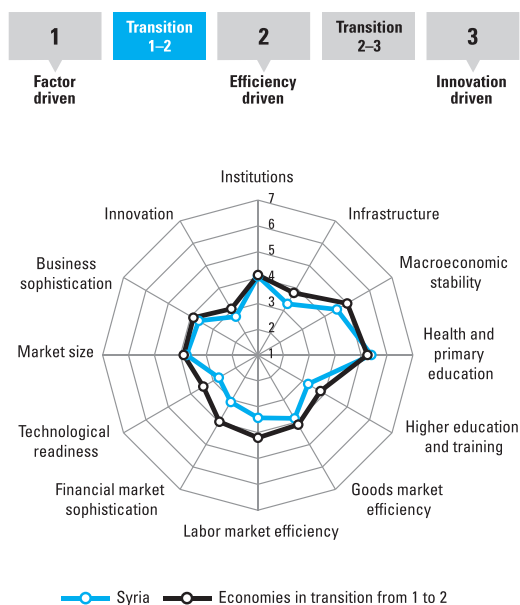
GDP (PPP int'l \$) per capita, 1980-2008



Global Competitiveness Index

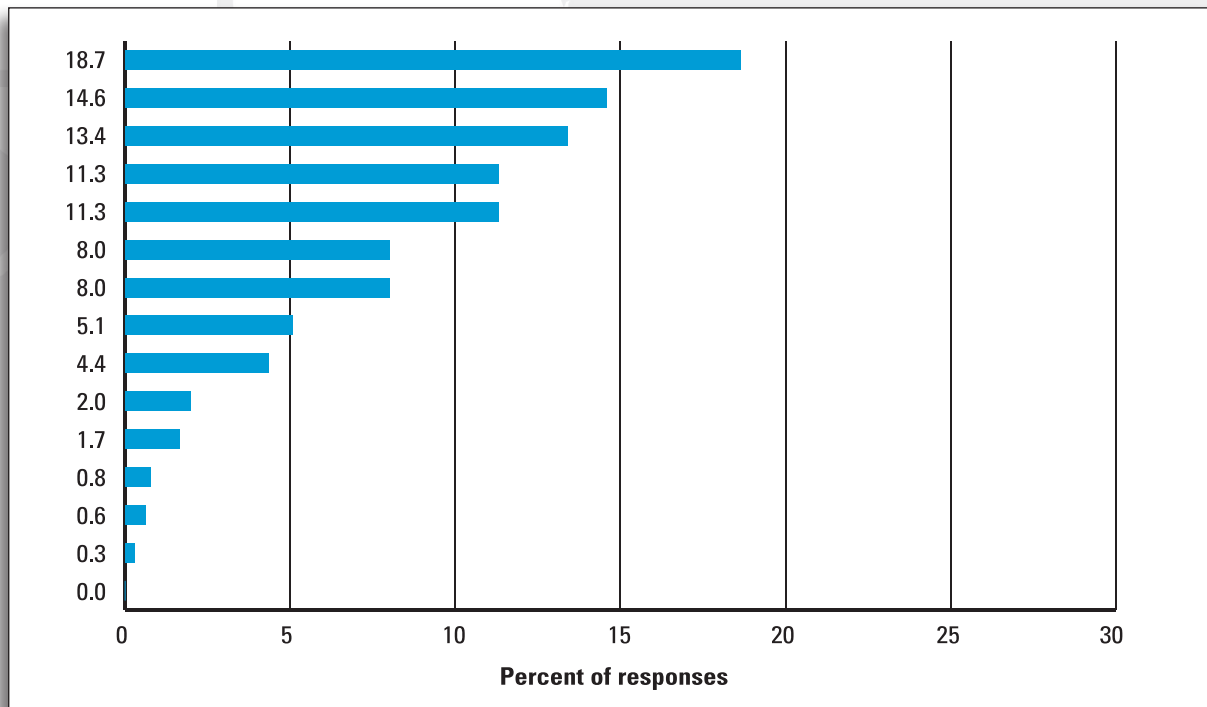
	Rank (out of 133)	Score (1-7)
GCI 2009-2010	94	3.8
GCI 2008-2009 (out of 134).....	78	4.0
GCI 2007-2008 (out of 131).....	80	3.9
Basic requirements	72	4.3
1st pillar: Institutions.....	57	4.0
2nd pillar: Infrastructure.....	79	3.3
3rd pillar: Macroeconomic stability.....	80	4.5
4th pillar: Health and primary education.....	70	5.4
Efficiency enhancers	112	3.4
5th pillar: Higher education and training.....	104	3.2
6th pillar: Goods market efficiency.....	101	3.8
7th pillar: Labor market efficiency.....	128	3.4
8th pillar: Financial market sophistication.....	123	3.1
9th pillar: Technological readiness.....	108	2.8
10th pillar: Market size.....	64	3.8
Innovation and sophistication factors	100	3.2
11th pillar: Business sophistication.....	90	3.6
12th pillar: Innovation.....	110	2.7

Stage of development



The most problematic factors for doing business

Inefficient government bureaucracy.....	18.7
Restrictive labor regulations.....	14.6
Inadequately educated workforce.....	13.4
Access to financing.....	11.3
Inadequate supply of infrastructure.....	11.3
Poor work ethic in national labor force.....	8.0
Corruption.....	8.0
Foreign currency regulations.....	5.1
Tax regulations.....	4.4
Inflation.....	2.0
Tax rates.....	1.7
Policy instability.....	0.8
Poor public health.....	0.6
Crime and theft.....	0.3
Government instability/coups.....	0.0



Note: From a list of 15 factors, respondents were asked to select the five most problematic for doing business in their country/economy and to rank them between 1 (most problematic) and 5. The bars in the figure show the responses weighted according to their rankings.



Junior Chamber International Damascus
Worldwide Federation of Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs

JCI Syria Achievements in 2009

2009 marked distinct achievements by JCI Syria. In fact, JCI World President visited Syria in October, while the International Vice President visited Syria in February. Moreover, JCI Syria participated in many important events, in addition to the notable increase in its membership by 20%.



1. Membership:

JCI Syria membership witnessed a notable increase by 20%. Thus by the end of 2009, there were 590 registered members in the different Syrian chapters as follows: 206 in Damascus, 156 in Aleppo, 76 in Homs, 70 in Lattakia, and 82 in Deir Azzour.

Accomplishments in 2009

1. IVP Anis's Visit to Syria (22-26 February 2009)

In February 2009, JCI Syria welcomed International Vice President Anis Chehabi in 4 Chapters, Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and Lattakia. IVP Anis attended Board of Directors meetings, General Assembly.

The objective of the visit was to observe the developments of JCI Syria, identify the level of professionalism and motivation of the chapters, and to provide recommendations regarding the difficulties and weaknesses facing the NOM.

2. AMDEC North 2009 (5-8 March 2009)

JCI Syria coordinated and assisted JCI Aleppo in hosting the AMDEC North 09 Conference in Sheraton, Aleppo. AMDEC North 09 incorporated over 13 countries and 250 participants. The objectives of the conference were to inspire young leaders from 13 countries to share cultural, business and social experiences and opportunities and to provide a series of training courses.

The conference included 4 official JCI training courses (JCI Achieve, JCI Admin, JCI Presenter, JCI Trainer) and three free training courses on Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Team Building). The opening ceremony was initiated by H.E the Minister of Economy and Commerce as well as the Mayor of Aleppo and other officials. The closing ceremony and gala combined over 500 VIPs and Jaycees.

JCI Lattakia was fully affiliated during the National GA in AMDEC. In addition, the closing General Assembly included recommendations for tackling three main areas of concern for JCI in the Area: membership growth, identifying partners and sponsors, and facing environmental challenges.

3. Trainers' Committee

JCI Syria trainers developed the JCI Syria Trainers' Committee in order to build a reliable and professional database of trainers for JCI Syria. The long term objective is to make use of this database for local and outside training missions.

4. JCI Deir Ezzor

JCI Syria worked hard to support JCI Deir Ezzor which achieved 82 members and several flagship projects in Deir Ezzor such as the Drugs Free Home Project. With the backing of JCI Syria, JCI Deir Ezzor succeeded in the delivery of numerous orientations, lectures, workshops and seminars. JCI Deir Ezzor was established in 20th of February 2009.

5. BBPC

The Best Business Plan Competition is a yearly initiative by JCI Syria in order to spread the concept, importance and know-how of writing a business plan in Syria.

- JCI Syria received 60 entries of professional plans from 8 Syrian cities
- Great BBPC Training Program (>150 participants)
- A final ceremony was held in Damascus order to award the three finalists of the BBPC.

6. MoUs

- Signing the Agreement with UNGC as part of JCI Syria's initiative to strengthen its ties with its partners and show support and commitment to the ten principles of the Global Compact
- Signing an MoU with SEBC for collaboration with the Business Incubating Service in order to benefit from the business counselling and training services which were offered to the participants of the BBPC and to provide future possibilities for incubating their businesses as a start-up.

7. Silatech

Silatech is an initiative by H.H Sheikha Moza of Qatar in order to bring 50 young entrepreneurs from the Arab World for 5 days training and workshops. The main goal of the conference was to provide leadership tools and inspire young businessmen/women to be more entrepreneurial and assist their developing economies.

The Conference was organised by Silatech Organisation and the British Council. 2 members represented JCI Syria in Doha, Qatar.

8. UN Summit

Delegates gathered at the UN offices in Geneva in July 28 to 30 to face the problem of climate change and take action against it

Participants from JCI Syria attended

9. National Convention in Lattakia

The NC is the mid-term annual meeting for JCI Syria whereby its local chapters meet in one venue in order to receive training, network, attend the semi-annual report for the chapters, nominate next year's national board members and discuss national issues facing JCI.

H.E. Dr. Dardari attended the opening ceremony and participated the next day in the General Assembly whereby he praised the work of JCI in Syria and motivated the youth attending to follow their vision. Dr. Dardari also allowed a long session of Q&As.

- Members participated: 143
- Non-members participated: 137

10. MDG (Millennium Dev. Goals)

- JCI Syria focused on the 5th MDG which is to Improve Maternal Health
- The goal was to improve the awareness through seminars held in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Lattakia and Deir Ezzor with the help of specialized people and JCI Trainers to focus on spreading awareness to youth (JCI and Non-JCI members)
- The MDG Seminars took place during the month of September 2009

11. President Shin's visit to Syria

JCI Syria welcomed JCI World President 2009, Mr. Jun Sup Shin to Syria on the 11th of October 2009 for two days. The purpose of the visit was for the President to visit and meet government officials and VIPs of the country in order to provide support for JCI Syria. President Shin met with H.E Dr. Dardari, H.E. Dr. Al Haj Aref, Dr. Attar and Mr. Ghrewati in addition to a series of meetings with NOM and LOM members and a final press conference.

Successes in 2009

JCI Syria wins 6 awards in Area Conference as follows:

Area	Project	National/Local
Best Business Development Project	Best Business Plan Competition 2008	Syria
Best International Development Project	Mission Impossible	Damascus
Best Community Development Project	IBDAA 2008	Syria
Best Youth Activity Program	Children Fair 2008	Syria
Best International Development Project	Syriantelism 2009	Syria
Most Outstanding Chapter President	Mhd Tabbaa	Damascus

And 1 award in World Conference:

Best Youth Activity Program	Children Fair 2008	Syria
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JCI Damascus Program of action 2010:

Individual Area

Book Basket Your old book is my new book. The book exchange project aims to motivate people to read more and exchange books they have already read.

Reading Campaign: This campaign will promote benefits of reading through different activities. i.e. invite prominent Arab authors for book-signing events, distribute vouchers to grant discounts in 30 publishing houses in Syria.

JCI Speak Smart Championship We hold monthly competitions in public speaking and debating among our members.

The qualified speakers and debaters will get the chance to represent Syria in the world championship in Osaka, Japan.

Adventure! This project aims to enhance the emotional intelligence comprehension and skills among members. Each adventure is divided into two phases: Training and the experiment/the adventure.

Community Area:

IBDAA 2010 The theme this year is "The Best Journalist". This project targets youth (14 - 18) to encourage creativity and to discover hidden talents.

Public Speaking Competition for Students It aims to improve the students' (11th Grade) individual and communication skills, which will effect their professional and personal lives in the near future.

People with Disabilities Recruitment Project This pioneer project aims to raise awareness about "Corporate Social Responsibility" and to qualify people with special needs to integrate them in the work environment.

Save 4 Syria To raise awareness among corporate and individuals towards the importance of reducing consumption of our natural resources especially power and water.

Promoting Volunteerism Concept among Students "Toward a Generation of Volunteers" is the slogan of this project, which targets school students in order to plant the early seeds of volunteerism among them.

Business Area:

BLS 2010 (Business Lecture Series) These lectures tend to encourage young leaders and entrepreneurs to develop their knowledge of the current economic and financial issues in Syria and the world around.

STEP (Students Towards Experience in Profession) Gives 30 university students (public and private) chances to be interns in local and international enterprises after a series of workshops and personal interviews.

CYEA 2010(Creative Young Entrepreneurs Award) Recognizes and celebrates exceptional young entrepreneurs who use creativity in their workplace to increase productivity or solve obstacles.

Stock your life Spreads the stock-exchange culture and knowledge. This campaign will be through lectures, workshops and real-case simulations.

SWITCH (Syrians Working Internationally Towards Chances) It is one of the most famous business-networking events that JCI organize all over the world during regional and international conferences and fairs through effective tools of networking to guarantee maximum exposure in less time.

Women Empowerment This project aims to encourage and support women in one of Damascus countryside villages to become entrepreneurs and secure markets for their hand-made production.

International Area:

Everybody Knows Syria Project Promote the Syrian history, culture and figures in a modern way through competition using the web.

Be My Guest Project Hosts 20 JCI members from around the world (home hospitality) to promote 2012 area A Conference in Damascus, reflect the right image of Syria and enhance the ties with other JCI LOM's & NOM's.

Cultural Fair Project Organize a Cultural Fair in cooperation with 20 embassies (of the same 20 countries of the home guests) to encourage intercultural affairs and knowledge.

2009 TIR ACTIVITIES

Most important 2009 TIR activities can be summarized as follows:

1. On 10/03/2009 Syrian Transport Ministry invited the International Chamber of Commerce, Syria (ICC, Syria) to participate in the development of a working mechanism for implementation of the tripartite memorandum of understanding signed by and between Syria, Lebanon and Jordan on the following:

- Application of axial loads
- Transportation of hazardous materials
- Adoption of transit and stay carnet
- Unification and harmonization of transport documents

ICC, Syria contributed to the discussions by proposing several solutions in order to bring the workshop held regarding this issue to success.

2. The Advisory Board of the Transport Ministry was re-formed pursuant to Resolution No. 513 dated 22/03/2009, including the membership of Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar. The purpose of the Board is to assist the Ministry by expanding participation in decision making and support, as well as providing the Ministry with specialized expertise and possible consultancy and studies.

3. Transport Ministry invited ICC, Syria representative to be part of the official delegation that visited Bulgaria on 11-12/05/2009 to discuss the bilateral agreement signed between both countries. ICC, Syria was represented by Mr. Shawki Faitrouni, Executive Manager of TIR Department in Syria. Present in the meeting was Mr. Ibrahim Issa, Syrian Ambassador to Bulgaria. The agreement was discussed in detail, while the Syrian delegation requested the Bulgarian side to reciprocate by granting the Syrian drivers entry visas into Bulgaria because Bulgarian drivers obtain entry visas at the Syrian borders, since this would facilitate travel and would address all obstacles, hence improving Syrian exports to Europe.



4. Upon invitation by Transport Ministry, ICC participated in a delegation formed by the latter to visit Turkey to discuss the objections to the entry of Syrian trucks due to their breaching lengths. The Committee was represented by Mr. Fouad Badawi, member of ICC, Syria and TIR consultant at border checkpoints. The 2004 bilateral agreement between both countries was discussed irrespective of the lengths, in order to facilitate exports and transit between both countries. Turkey, however, decided to suspend the agreement and reconsider its contents in order to benefit from the new reality of the new Turkish trucks.

5. Upon the request of His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Dardari, Deputy Prime Minister to form a committee from the Prime Ministry and Transport Ministry, ICC, Syria as well as several other agencies participated in developing the unified policy for the purpose of unification of policies in Syria.



6. Upon an invitation from the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in Geneva to attend the 5th IRU Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 11-12/06/2009, ICC invited Transport Ministry to participate in an official delegation that accompanied ICC, Syria delegation which consisted of Mr. George Hilal, TIR Director General and Mr. Shawki Faitrouni, Executive Manager of TIR Department in Syria. Our participation had a huge impact in demonstrating Syria's cultural role. ICC printed a brochure at its own expense and distributed it in the conference which was held under the heading: "The Reopening of the Silk Road: From Vision to Reality". The brochure highlighted Syria's important geographic location as a crossroads between Asia and Europe.

7. Upon an invitation from the Arab League ICC, Syria participated in the international conference that was held in Cairo, Egypt held under auspices of Mr. Amr Moussa, the Secretary General. The title of the conference was "The International Conference on Arab and International Agreements in the Field of Inland Transport and their Role in the Development of Arab Trade" on 25-27/10/2009 with the participation of IRU and Mr. Shawki Faitrouni, Executive Manager of TIR Department in Syria. The Conference discussed inter-Arab states transport and trade, as well as the relationship with other countries, in addition to the importance of promoting the TIR system in the Middle East, since this system would guarantee more freedom of transport, hence enhancement of commercial exchange which would be generally reflected on Arab economy. In fact, Arab countries would benefit from the exchange of commodities in addition to the fact that they are geographically located on a crossroads between Asia, Europe and Africa. This geographic location has given Arab countries a very important advantage so that they would benefit from transit between the East and West.



8. ICC, Syria invited IRU experts on 07/12/2009, at the request of Transport Ministry, for the purpose of cooperation in the issuance of the new transport law, which was drafted by the Ministry in order to regulate transport of goods in Syria. The delegation has prepared an analytical report to harmonize the new road law with international laws. IRU is currently preparing a plan to open a regional institute (Academy) in Syria to provide training to those who are interested in working in the field of road transport in order to improve the concept of road safety, strengthen the capacity of drivers on international roads, and improve the image of this profession. IRU shall undertake a complete needs analysis for the Syrian training school so as to provide the requested assistance.

9. The TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at UN called for increasing the TIR guarantee in all states that are members to this system, from \$ 50,000 to Euro 60,000. However, IRU, Geneva objected to this amendment and requested all the countries operating under TIR system to send letters to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General to object to the Executive Board's resolution which would have a negative impact on the current operations of TIR system, and would limit the conceptualization of continuous update of TIR international regulations. The Committee sent its objections through Foreign Affairs Ministry, in the name of Syria. Thus, efforts exerted by the Syrian Arab Republic with the remaining countries have led to the revocation of this resolution due to the negative impacts that it will have on the TIR member states, and consequently on the economies of these states.

10. As part of keeping up with the latest technical developments, IRU began to develop a new electronic transmission system called (AskTIR). It is a very sophisticated and advanced system for immediate exchange of information using technological facilities. Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, ICC Chairman, has called to immediately join this system and pay all the costs whatever they may be, because it is in the interest of Syria to use the most updated technology in order to support the Syrian transport fleet and benefit from such technologies to upgrade exports to the European countries.