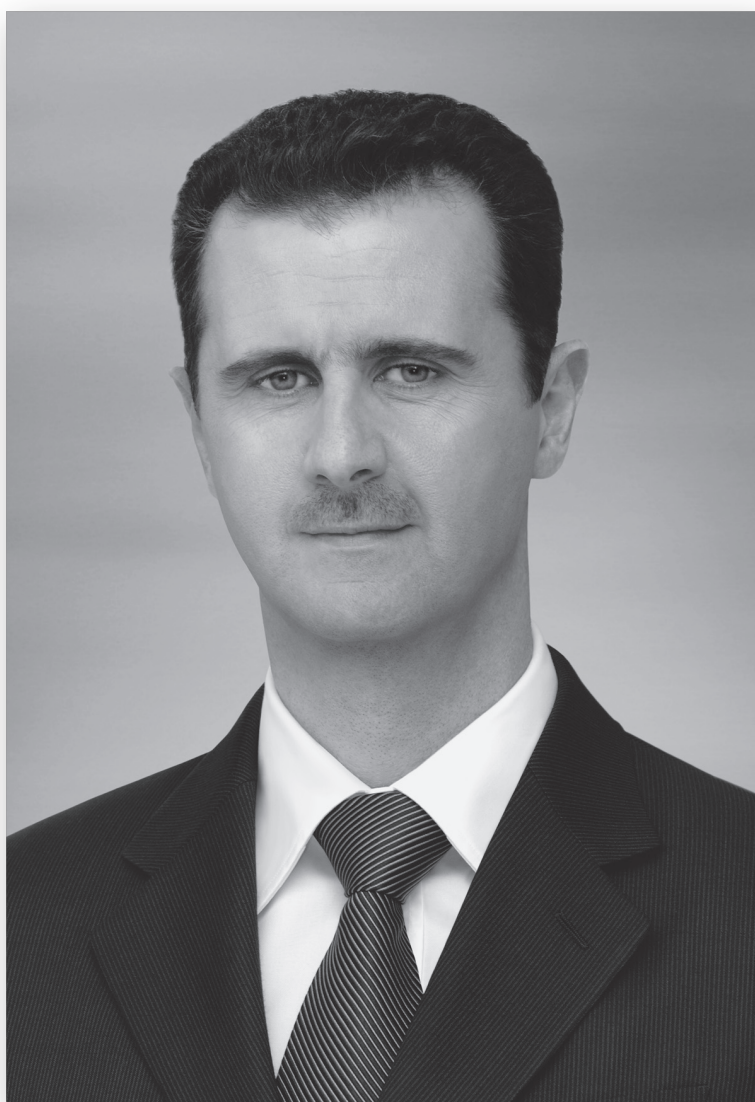




INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - SYRIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2008



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

Ladies and gentlemen members of ICC Syria

2008 was a rich year in its political and economic events.

On the political scene, 2008 ended with broad-ranging political rapprochement with Syria thanks to the wise and steadfast policy of President Bashar Al Assad.

On the economic scene, the global financial crisis that erupted at the end of 2008 was the key global event. Described as the most serious since the Great Depression, this crisis hit every corner of the world and recession was officially declared in many countries.

Fortunately, and given that our economy is diverse and that the country is rich in resources and has virtually no foreign debts, the impact of this crisis on Syria was insignificant.

As you know, the ICC, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, has a key role in setting out a vision to organize the global economy. And in the framework of the current global financial crisis, the ICC took the initiative by putting forward the necessary solutions and remedies and gave an important message to the G20, which may be outlined as follows:

1 - The current global economic crisis is neither the outcome of a defect in the global market economy nor a result of increasing wealth and higher standard of living. This crisis exploded as a result of accumulated money and soft loans over a whole decade, which led to unreal rise in the prices of assets and real estates. The ICC has always been emphasizing that the market economy may only function on a sound basis through certain governing rules, which were insufficient or inconsistent during that very period.

2 - The immediate remedy in order to tackle this economic crisis is to increase demand and loans within governing frameworks and rules and normal interest rates, and focus must be now on small and medium enterprises.

3 - Governments around the world should avoid nationalization and should fight the temptation to shield their countries from the global economic crisis by taking measures to reduce export and foreign investments, which amounts to virtual nationalization of their economies, because this will backfire and deepen the crisis thus resulting in a worldwide depression.

I would like here to make reference to the celebration staged in Geneva, Switzerland on the occasion of the ICC's 90th anniversary. The ICC achievements accomplished over those long years were greatly appreciated through the speech delivered by the President of the Swiss Federation. The speech of ICC President Mr. Victor Fung – one of the most prominent businessmen in Hong Kong – was the highlight of this celebration, in which he underlined the importance of ICC contributions in laying down the principles of global trade through its specialized committees.

ICC Syria was represented in the economic delegation that accompanied President Bashar Al-Assad in his visit to India in 2008, which had a very positive impact on developing the economic ties between Syria and India.

During the World Business Summit held in Sweden in 2008, I chaired the ICC Syria delegation which comprised a number of board members and Syrian businessmen. This summit was exceptionally important given the attendance of HRH crown princess of Sweden, WTO president Pascal Lammy, Swedish prime minister and Swedish economy minister. The summit was also attended by ICC President Mr. Victor Fung and representatives of the national committees of ICC, which gave this summit special importance, particularly concerning the topics of interest to all parties.

In addition to taking part in Davos economic forum, in which the current global financial crisis was a key topic, I also participate in the meetings of the Mediterranean Business Forum.

On the local level, 2008 was characterized by various activities. A number of seminars in various fields were conducted by ICC Syria, such as the national seminar for trade marks jointly organized with the World Intellectual Property Organization "WIPO" according to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), in addition to a seminar on P & I Club. ICC Syria also took part in sponsoring the 1st International Lawyers' Conference.

Allow me to say modestly that I have been nominated for the membership of the ICC executive board in Paris. The members of this board are going to be appointed during the World Congress which will be held on 3-5 June 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I would like here to praise the efforts exerted by the general assembly and board of directors of ICC Syria, without which my nomination wouldn't have been possible.

In 2009, ICC Syria intends to conduct seminars related to arbitration, Incoterms and documentary credits given the importance of these topics in supporting our foreign trade, which will enable Syrian businessmen to keep pace with the latest in these fields, help business to flourish and reduce disputes.

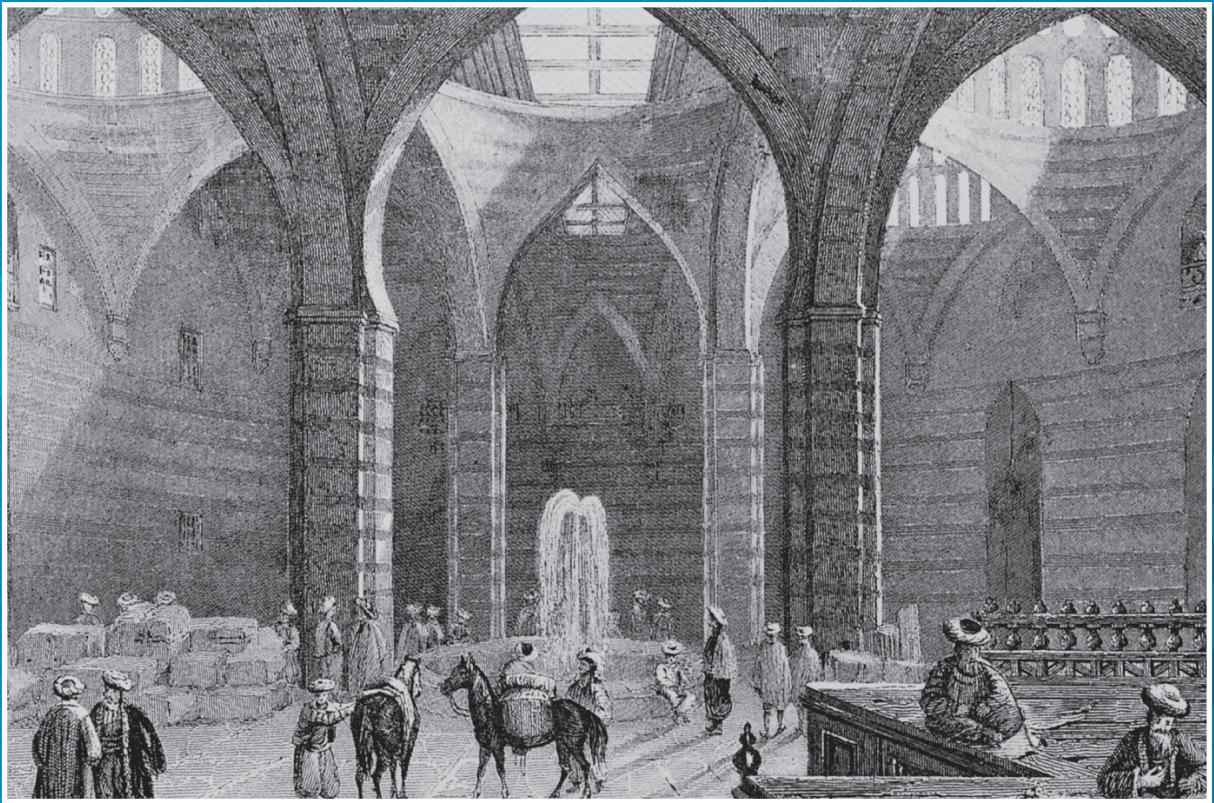
On another level, ICC Syria will continue to support the Junior Chamber International in Syria established in 2004 in order to assume the pioneering role in developing young entrepreneurs who will be the businesspersons of the future.

Worth noting is that the Junior chamber has expanded to cover five Syrian governorates and is functioning according to a scientific and calculated approach.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to ICC Syria general assembly, board of directors and all workers for their contribution in these achievements, and we strive for more achievements in the future.



**President of ICC Syria
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Attar**



Khan Assaad Basha - Damascus - Syria

Local Activities of International Chamber of Commerce Syria During 2008

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

*** National WIPO Seminar on Industrial Property to Implement the Obligations According to TRIPS Agreement in Realization of the Overall Policies and National Objectives:**

28 - 29 May 2008 - Carlton Hotel Damascus

Under the patronage of Dr. Amer Housni Lutfi, Minister of Economy & Trade, the Ministry of Economy & Trade, in cooperation with ICC Syria and the World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO held the "National WIPO Seminar on Industrial Property to Implement the Obligations According to TRIPS Agreement in Realization of the Overall Policies and National Objectives" on May 28-29, 2008 at Carlton Hotel in Damascus with the participation of a number of experts and specialists from Syria and Geneva.

The Seminar discussed several issues such as: International Protection of Industrial Property: the Major Principles



and Obligations and Flexibility Limits; the Syrian Law on Trade Marks, Industrial Drawings and Models; the Latest Developments in the Field of Trade Marks and Madrid System of International Registration of Marks; Overview of the Syrian Draft Law of Patents; the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Agreement on the Trade-related Intellectual Property Sides (TRIPS Agreement); the Latest Developments in the Field of Industrial Drawings and Models and the Hague Agreement on International Registration of Industrial Drawings and Models; the intellectual Property holders in the WIPO: the Current Dissuasion and the Challenges Addressed; Geneva Document of 1999 of The Hague Agreement on International Registration of Industrial Drawings and Models.

P & I Club Seminar:

24 April 2008, Meridian Hotel - Latakia

Under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Transport, Dr. Eng. Ya'arub Suleiman Badr and in his presence, the ICC



in Syria held a seminar on P & I Club on 24th April 2008 at the Meridian Hotel - Latakia to explain the working mechanism of those clubs and their representation around the world, in cooperation with the International Group of P & I Club in Britain.

In addition to the British experts, the lawyers Hanna Hubeishi, Omar Haroun and Husein Khaddour have lectured in the seminar. Attendants have amounted to 72 people with distinguished attendance by the members of the Board of Directors of the Maritime Navigation Chamber. The sessions have been successively chaired by Mr. Farouk Joud, ICC Syria Vice Chairman; Dr. Imad Abdul Hai, Deputy Minister of Transport and Mr. Abdul Kader Sabra, Chairman of the Maritime Navigation Chamber.

Several issues have discussed in the seminar including: a Historical Overview of P & I Clubs and their Role; the Clubs' Role in Securing Protection in General; Clubs Relationship with International Organizations such as the International Maritime Organization; the Legal Framework of Letters of Insurance Issued by P & I Clubs; Decree # 151 and its Applications regarding P & I Clubs; in addition to how Ports' Authorities Deal with Violating Ships and their Releasing Procedures.

1st International Lawyers' Conference:

6-8 July 2008 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Damascus

The ICC Syria participated as a bronze sponsor in the 1st International Lawyers' Conference organized by the Syrian-British Society under the patronage of H.E. President of the Syrian Arab Republic on 6-8 July 2008 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Damascus. The Conference discussed several legal issues that are highly important for businessmen and people working in the field of law.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

ICC World Business Summit:

11 - 13 June 2008, Stockholm

In a time of economic uncertainty, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) assembled successfully a select group of business and government leaders to address two of the most urgent issues for international business today: growing trade and investment protectionism and the rampant counterfeit and piracy of goods and intellectual property.



The ICC World Business Summit, held in Stockholm on 11-13 June 2008, was a dynamic series of meetings and networking activities leading up to the ICC World Council meeting on Friday 13 June.

ICC Syria was represented in attending this summit by: Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar- President of ICC Syria, Mr. Naji Shaoui – Secretary General, Mr. Farouk Joud - Board member, Mr. Khalil Sara- Board member, Mr. Marwan Fawaz - Board member and Mr. Saeb Nahhas- Businessman.

The agenda of the 195th session of ICC World Council in its headquarters in focused on: the amendments to ICC Constitution to reflect the decisions taken at the last world Council meeting, report by the Secretary General on functioning of new governance structure, International Court of Arbitration, Financial report, National Committee developments, 12008 G8 Summit, Toyako (Japan) 7-9 July 2008.

During the meeting Mr. Victor Fung was elected as the next ICC Chairman for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010, Mr. Rajat Gupta was elected as the next ICC Vice - Chairman for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010.

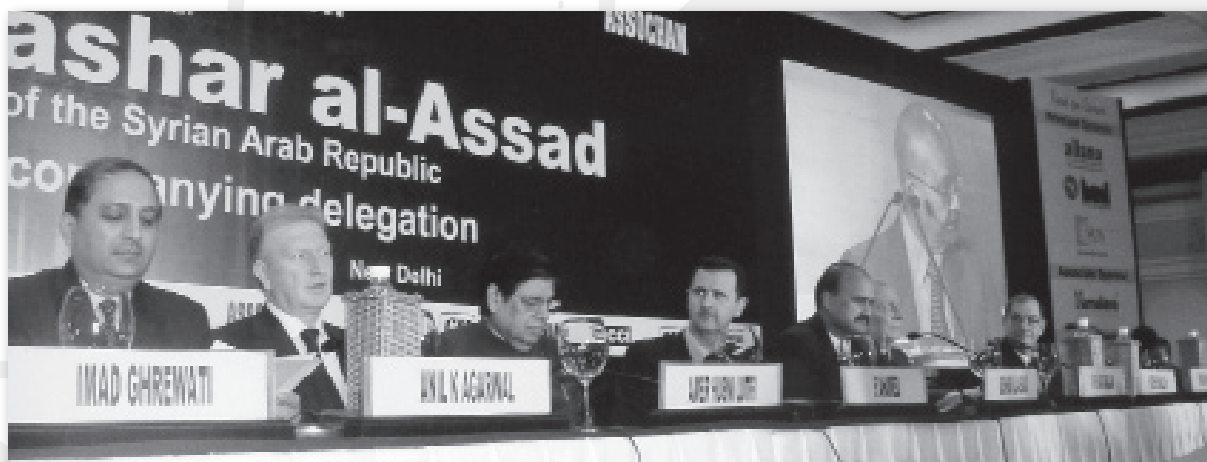
The council also elected Mr. John Beechey as Chairman of the International Court of Arbitration for the period from 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012.

It worth mentioning that Dr. Attar - ICC Syria President sent a congratulation letter for the above elected individuals and invited them to visit Syria.

The visit of India: 18 - 20 June 2008

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Attar, President of ICC Syria, participated in the government visit to India carried out by President Bashar al Assad accompanied by a group of businessmen on June 18-20, 2008. Dr. Al Attar made clear that the Syrian-Indian relations are very old, and that the government visit of H.E. President Bashar al Assad is very important in terms of timing and content; it is not only political, but economic as well; economy is interrelated with politics and has great effects on it.

Regarding the relationships between the two countries, Dr. Al Attar confirmed that investment cannot be activated and trade exchange cannot be optimally raised between the two countries without concluding some agreements



between the Syrian Government and the Indian Government, particularly those related to the prevention of double taxation, and the guarantees made for Indian investors in Syria, as well as for Syrian ones in India. When those agreements are effective, the Indian and Syrian private sectors may activate their roles between the two countries. He added that India has a lot of industries we can benefit from in Syria particularly in the field of IT.

Under the title of "Economic and Industrial Cooperation between Syria and India", a dialogue session was held in Obrai Hotel - New Delhi among Syrian businesspersons and the Indian Federation of the Chambers of Commerce



and Industry with a view to discuss the existing capacities of both countries, increase trade exchange and promote investments, during which a number of businesspersons from both sides made speeches; also, bilateral sessions of dialogue were held among a number of Syrian and Indian corporations' directors.

After the meeting, on the honor of H.E. President Bashar al Assad, an official launch banquet was made and attended by the Indian Prime Minister and the Syrian delegation. The delegation was honored, as well, with a special dinner for the official delegation and some members of the economic delegation, that was attended by Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of ICC Syria.



Med Business Days: 3 - 4 July 2008, Marseille

Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar - ICC Syria President participated in the Med Business Days which was held last 3rd and 4th of July 2008 in Marseille.

This event gathered almost 4000 entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean and from the European Union during two days, 2500 business meetings and about a hundred of High level speakers.

This summit, widely covered by the national and International media, enabled to make the voice of business heard by the heads of state and Government gathered last July 2007 in Paris for the launching of the Union for the Mediterranean, but also to build up links between the entrepreneurs of both sides of the Mediterranean.

Dr. Attar contributed to the success of this event, by a very remarkable speech on the 3rd of July under the theme of "EURO-MÉDITERRANÉE, an opportunity in a globalizing world"

ICC Syria Strategic View and Action Plan in 2009

ICC Syria hopes to achieve the following in 2009:

- To work as a link between all government and private parties in Syria with ICC Commercial Law and Practice Committee in Paris to work out a new version of INCOTERMS 3000, a revised version of INCOTERMS 2000.
- To keep abreast of all legal and economic developments in Syria, and in particular with regard to the establishment of a Stock Exchange market in Damascus, and private banks and insurance companies, and to link to the European experience and to provide advice and secure ways of collaboration between the parties.

- With application of the new version of UCP600 and eUCP, the ICC Syria will hold sessions necessary for the local banks and their staff to ensure the professional practice of the new issue.
- To work on finding different methods for collaboration with other national committees and other trade organizations to promote free trade exchange and increase investment opportunities.
- To provide the most important international studies pertaining to characterizing the global crisis and the best methods for dealing with it.

Conferences and Seminars during the year 2009:

1. **In the Banking Field:** The UCP 600 and eUCP remain the most important achievements of the International Chamber of Commerce, and due to the importance of this matter, ICC Syria will hold a symposium in Syria on this matter and will invite experts from the most important members of the International Chamber of Commerce and staff of the most important international banks for presenting the developments in the version amended, as well as conducting training courses to increase the efficiency of people and staff working on the documentary credits.
2. **In the Field of Arbitration:** With the release of the new Arbitration Law in Syria, ICC Syria will hold a symposium on the provisions of the new law and explain the most important amendments contained therein and their field of application, as well as comparing it with the arbitration laws in neighboring countries, and to propose the most important changes that will improve services provided to business companies that ensure the least possible conflicts.
3. **In the Field of Transport:** ICC Syria, during 2009, will focus on various topics related to transport, especially the issue of marine speedways and Syrian ports, also on the partnership between the public and private sectors, particularly transport projects, whether roads or ports or airports.



ICC Program of action 2009

Rules-writing for business
Arbitration

Mandate

As a forum for pooling ideas on issues relating to international arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution, the Commission aims to:

- promote on a worldwide scale the settlement of international business disputes by means of ICC
- arbitration, mediation, expertise, dispute boards and other forms of ADR;
- study the juridical aspects of arbitration and other modes of settlement of disputes of an international business nature and examine them in view of current developments;

Projects for 2009

- Start the revision process of the ICC Rules of Arbitration.
- Publish in a practical guide covering more than 70 countries, the national rules of procedure for recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards pursuant to the 1958 New York Convention.
- Produce recommendations for the use of experts in the conduct of expertise proceedings.
- Study and identify the essential features and effects of the disclosure of electronic documents in international arbitration and establish a report in the
- form of notes or recommendations in this regard.

* Commercial Law and Practice

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 2009

- Continue the revision of Incoterms 2000.
- Participate in the revision of the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees in cooperation with the Commission on Banking Technique and Practice to ensure representation of users' views.
- Monitor the proposed development of a Common Frame of Reference for European contract law and provide input to EU legislators as required.
- Develop the ICC Model International Mergers and Acquisitions Contract (Asset Purchase Agreement).
- Update the ICC Model International Sale Contract.



* Banking Technique and Practice

Mandate

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

Projects for 2009

- Complete the revision of the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG) in cooperation with the Commission on Commercial Law and Practice.
- Seek endorsement of the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits ('UCP 600') by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.
- Begin the drafting of a set of international rules on forfaiting.
- Monitor developments and trends in trade finance practice.

* 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 2009

- Advance self-regulation globally by promoting the Consolidated ICC Code on Advertising and Marketing Communication Practice, the ICC Direct Selling Code and the ICC/ESOMAR Code of Market and Social Research.
- Work towards a successful launch of the Business Action for Responsible Marketing and Advertising (BARMA) project to educate marketing and advertising practitioners, strengthen existing selfregulation regimes, and promote self-regulation in markets where it is underdeveloped.

* 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 2009

- Strengthen ICC's role as the key business voice in the International Competition Network and help formulate its recommendations on competition policy implementation, cartels, mergers and unilateral conduct.
- Support the recognition of attorney-client privilege by the European Commission through an intervention in the Akzo Nobel appeal before the European Court of Justice.
- Provide guidance on the implementation of EU competition rules by EU member state competition agencies, and on reform of EU rules on abuse of dominance and enforcement by private parties and vertical restraints.



* Customs and Trade Regulations

Mandate

To encourage the reduction of barriers to cross-border trade related to customs policies and procedures.

Projects for 2009

- Continue to lead world business input into multilateral negotiations on trade facilitation.
- Contribute to intergovernmental discussions on the enhancement of supply chain security and encourage the development of mutual recognition whenever possible.
- Revise and update the ICC Customs Guidelines.
- Enhance ICC's working relationship with the World Customs Organization (WCO) on a variety of topics including customs classification and valuation.
- Strengthen ICC's leadership role in customs modernization and the simplification of trade procedures, in close collaboration with the WCO, the World Bank, and other bodies.

* Financial Services and Insurance

Mandate

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

Projects for 2009

- Develop business recommendations to contribute to restoring the stability and effectiveness of financial markets.
- Produce tools and scenarios to better understand the policy implications of the financial crisis.
- Produce guidelines for independent board members and non-listed companies in collaboration with other interested ICC commissions.

*** Intellectual Property**

Mandate

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

Projects for 2009

- Actively promote the proposal for an international treaty on client privilege for IP advice.
- Coordinate cross-sectoral input to negotiations on an international regime on access and benefit sharing with respect to genetic resources in the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Develop the ICC IP tool-kit for chambers of commerce by producing a manual with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on intellectual property programmes.
- 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.
- Contribute views to EU discussions to reform its patent regime.

*** Taxation**

Mandate

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

Projects for 2009

- Deepen relationship with the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.
- Promote ICC recommendations on transfer pricing documentation requirements by organizing a seminar on this subject.
- Provide business input to the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on value-added tax on services and intangibles, with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD.
- Prepare a policy statement on withholding taxes.
- Establish working relationships with nongovernmental organizations that advocate tax policy positions.
- Provide input on relevant tax-related climate change measures to the ICC Commission on Environment and Energy.

*** 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 2009

- Maintain ICC's advocacy campaign in support of bringing about a successful conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.
- Contribute to ICC's overall 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.
- Develop an ICC policy statement on trade and climate change together with the Commission on Environment and Energy.

*** Transport and Logistics**

Mandate

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

Projects for 2009

- Address issues relating to the environmental impact of transport, including air transport and vessel emissions.
- Update the ICC policy statement on air transport liberalization, in light of ongoing US-EU open-skies negotiations.
- Provide input on new regulations for transport security, including those of the WCO, with the Commission on Customs and Trade Regulations.
- Continue to advocate the need for investment in transport infrastructure, so that transport can better meet the needs of world trade.
- Contribute to the revision of Incoterms 2000.
- Work with the Banking Commission to improve understanding of the new ICC rules on documentary credits (UCP 600) in the transport community.



* Business in society issues

Anti-Corruption

Mandate

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 2009

- Publish and promote an updated version of the Fighting Corruption handbook.
- Provide business input to strengthen the UN Convention against Corruption implementation process, in the run-up to the 3rd Conference of the State Parties to take place in Doha at the end of 2009.
- Work with the OECD on the review of the OECD instruments on combating bribery of foreign public officials.
- Foster greater alignment between the ICC rules for combating extortion and bribery and the business principles developed by other relevant organizations.
- Develop ICC guidelines on the use of intermediaries.
- Promote the ICC Guidelines on Whistleblowing.

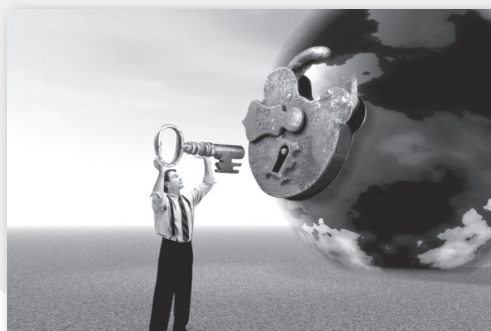
* Business in Society

Mandate

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.

Projects for 2009

- 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 Environment and Energy

Mandate

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

Projects for 2009

- 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.
- Facilitate the adoption of international selfregulation in the areas of IT compliance and governance.
- Advocate business priorities regarding the technical management and coordination of the domain name system through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and other forums.
- Submit ICC policy positions, standard contractual clauses, and best practices to data protection authorities, including the EU Commission and APEC to facilitate the transfer of personal data globally.

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 2009

- Elaborate business policy recommendations for the intergovernmental negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change looking towards a post-2012 framework, and lead the business delegation at

the 15th Conference of the Parties meeting in Copenhagen where the framework is to be concluded.

- Further elaborate ICC policy recommendations on energy efficiency, diversification, security, investment, and access. Continue ICC collaboration with international organizations and forums such as the International Energy Agency and the G8
- Lead business participation in the UN Sustainable Production and Consumption process via participation in 2009 International Experts Meeting through the Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- Co-organise business participation and input in the 5th World Water Forum process through the Business Action for Water initiative.
- Continue work on biodiversity-related issues leading to the UN Convention on Biodiversity Conference of the Parties meeting in 2010.

Special projects

Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP)

Mandate

To raise public awareness of the economic and social harm of counterfeiting and piracy and to encourage governmental efforts to combat it.

Tasks for 2009

- Improve national intellectual property enforcement regimes by creating BASCAP country-level action plans and coalitions, leveraging existing local business voices to push for tangible and measurable results.
- Launch a global awareness campaign to educate consumers, decision makers and supply chain partners on the harms of counterfeiting and piracy.
- Promote higher international standards in the enforcement of IP rights by providing input into the negotiation of an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) .
- Promote the IP Guidelines for Business providing information to businesses on steps they can take to assess the effectiveness of their IP management policies, to protect their own IP, and improve management of risks associated with counterfeiting and piracy.
- Continue to co-host the Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy - the single most important annual summit aimed to generate recommendations to national governments.



Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS)

Mandate

To project the views of global business on critical information society issues, notably Internet governance and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to spur development, in forums created at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Tasks for 2009

- Provide business input to the WSIS action lines activities.
- Represent world business in the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID).

ICC DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

- Further the use of ICC dispute resolution services, and especially the pre-arbitral referee procedure, arbitration, expertise, dispute boards and ADR.
- Promote the use of Netcase - a secure and dedicated intranet for the conduct of ICC arbitration proceedings in an online environment.
- Modernize existing procedures and practices to better meet the needs of users.
- Strengthen the promotion of ICC dispute resolution services worldwide.
- Ensure the proper operation and functioning of the International Court of Arbitration Secretariat in Asia.

ICC INSTITUTE OF WORLD BUSINESS LAW

Mandate

To provide research, training and information to the legal profession, executives and academics concerned with the development of international business law, and particularly arbitration.



Projects for 2009

- Propose innovative and advanced training, in line with the philosophy of excellence of the Institute.
- Strengthen links with the academic world through the second award of the Institute Prize, designed to recognize outstanding legal writing in the field of international commercial law.
- Expand the visibility of the Institute as a think-tank by continuing the annual publication of members' work on topical issues.

ICC SERVICES

* ICC Events

Objective

To promote ICC's expertise to a wider audience through events such as seminars and conferences, and raise awareness of ICC's work in the fields of dispute resolution services, rules-writing and policy advocacy.

Projects for 2009

- Work more closely with the Department of Policy and Business Practices to help increase the visibility of ICC commissions' activities and products, in particular the UCP 600, data protection, and ICC model contracts.
- Reinforce partnerships with professional organizations and international institutions.

* ICC Publications

Banking

- ICC Banking Commission Collected Opinions 2005 - 2008
- Annual Survey of Letter of Credit Law and Practice 2009 (Institute of International Banking Law and Practice)

Commercial Practice/Trade Policy/Investment

- Model International Transfer of Technology Contract
- Model International Mergers and Acquisitions Contract

Law and Arbitration

- Dossier VI: Written Evidence and Discovery in International Arbitration
- Transfer of Ownership in International Trade (Kluwer)
- ICC Arbitral Awards 2001-2007 (Kluwer)
- ICC Arbitration, 4th edition (Oxford)
- ICC Court of Arbitration Bulletin

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Mandate

Strengthen ICC representation across the globe by reinforcing its network of national committees.

Projects for 2009

- Support national committees in their activities, including event management, brand marketing, membership recruitment and policy advocacy towards governments.
- Assist the five ICC Regional Consultative Groups chaired by a Regional Coordinator, each Group consisting of the Permanent Heads of national committees in a region.
- Organize the twice-yearly meeting of all ICC Permanent Heads of national committees with a view to improve communications between ICC International Headquarters and national committees, and to promote best practice among national committees.
- Support implementation of the ICC Charter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mandate

To promote ICC, its products, its services and its policies in the media and establish ICC as the advocate of world business in the public debate on global economic issues.

Projects for 2009

- Increase awareness among senior business executives of the valuable services that ICC provides to world business, especially through its rules-writing function and special projects.
- Target CEOs in ICC's growing media outreach campaign.
- Develop ICC's website as the most effective way of communicating with the media and public and disseminating news releases and articles.
- Maintain the flow of by-lined ICC opinion pieces and letters to leading international publications.
- Assist national committees to develop domestic coverage of ICC initiatives by emphasizing their own national priorities and concerns.
- Work with national committees and secretariat staff to help ensure ICC's image is promoted in a consistent fashion, including the correct use of all ICC logos and other branding materials.
- Promote ICC's 90th anniversary throughout the year, with special focus on a series of major events scheduled to take place in different parts of the world.

WORLD CHAMBERS FEDERATION (WCF)

Mandate

To provide the global forum for chambers of commerce, focusing on the exchange of best practice and experiences, the building of personal relationships, and the development of new products/ services to support chambers at a local level.



ATA Carnet

- Take a leading role in the Working Group established by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop an international e-ATA Carnet System.
- Persuade business organizations and transnational chambers (TnCCIs), especially in Latin America and Asia, to encourage their governments to accede to the WCO Istanbul Convention on temporary admission.
- Organize ATA briefing and educational sessions during the 6th World Chambers Congress to identify potential new ATA Carnets countries.



Certificates of Origin

- Develop an international certificate of origin (CO) training programme.
- Support chambers in accessing opportunities to deliver preferential certificates of origin.
- Start work on electronic certificates of origin.
- World Chambers Congress
- Organize and secure sponsorship the 6th World Chambers Congress, 3-5 June 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Manage the 2009 World Chambers Competition.



World Chambers Network (WCN)

- Identify and assess the ChamberTrust programme as a means to assist chambers fulfill a potential role as Authorized Economic Operators.

WCF General Council

· Establish the election process of chamber members to the WCF General Council and the role of WCF's Transnational Chambers Board (formerly the WCF TnCCI Forum)

ICC COMMERCIAL CRIME SERVICES (CCS) Mandate

To provide services aimed at preventing fraud and malpractice.

International Maritime Bureau (IMB)

- Provide members with online review of their membership package, services used, tracking their enquiries and upgrades available.
- Develop a risk analysis programme highlighting irregular and high risk cargo movements for member banks.
- Establish an on-line reporting function for vessels to report piracy information and access risk trends.

Financial Investigation Bureau (FIB)

- Upgrade the Extranet On-line Search Service to provide members with enhanced due diligence services.
- Prepare an updated manual on the detection and prevention of financial instrument fraud.
- Provide members with an enhanced financial fraud and intelligence product and risk assessment model.



Junior Chamber International in Syria activities in 2008

1 - Individual Area:

JCI Syria gives great importance for the individual development at the personal and professional aspects, and Chamber always seeks to organize a number of debate and Public speaking sessions and training seminars for the development of pioneering young businessmen, in addition to a range of different social activities. JCI is very concerned also with the diversity of experiences lived by the member and always works at the selection of local and international activities and experts to keep members up-dated of the world of business and the development of communication and organization skills, and others believing that the individual is the foundation which is the society core and the starting point of its development and growth.



It should be noted that JCI Syria has certified through JCI Academy more than 40 authorized trainers during its “JCI Trainings in 2008” which is the academic institution that has graduated thousands of international trainers distributed over 120 countries in the world.

2 - The Community Area:

Since the foundation of JCI Damascus, the community area has adopted as a main objective to spread the culture of volunteerism among school students, believing that the consolidation of the culture of volunteerism among the youth generation ensures many benefits to the community through the following projects:

A - Kindergartens Renovation Project: 18 - 19 April 2008:

JCI Damascus has launched this project to give a number of kindergartens a more welcoming and friendly environment for the children, through painting the wall, desks and shelves, drawing on the walls of the courtyards and corridors and planting some flowers in their gardens.

B - The 4th Children Fair for school students volunteers: 17 - 18 October 2008:

It was organized by the members of the community area in JCI Damascus in Al Faiyhaa Sports Club with the participation of six private schools and five public schools. This fair has afforded the school students the opportunity to live the volunteering experience and made them aware of its importance and benefits on both personal and social levels.

“IBDAA” Project 2008:

JCI Syria, through its three Chapters (Damascus, Aleppo, Homs) has launched “IBDAA 2008” project under the title of “Best Drawing Competition,” which aims at discovering and developing the various creative talents of teenagers aged 14 to 18 years and to encourage them to express these talents and skills to help them develop and refine them. The aim of this project is to bring positive change in the lives of our youth through the creation of a motivating environment for creativity.

Save for Syria Project:

One of the other goals of the Community Area in JCI Damascus is to promote the social responsibility of the companies which falls under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category, which enhances companies' image in terms of citizenship, social partnership and their responsibility towards their community.

The project started in August 2008 and is envisaged to end in July 2009. which reaches out to the Syrian corporate society. The campaign's objective is to encourage business entities to limit wasted resources as a way of reducing the negative outcomes of climate change and pollution. The project will be inviting leading companies of their sector to participate in the designed program and to discuss as a team the best business practices that will ensure optimal utilization of the available resources.

“Career Day” Exhibition:

JCI Aleppo has carried out this project, which aims at helping the students in exploring closely different professions; which will facilitate and help them choosing their future career.

Signing the Contract for “JCI Sports Stadiums”:

JCI Homs has signed a contract with Homs City Council, on 1 May 2008, since JCI Homs won a grant from the European Union within the framework of the project for Modernizing the Administration of the Municipality in 2007, and built 4 multi-purpose stadiums (football and basketball). The objective of these stadiums is to provide a safe environment for the children and youth and to protect them from the dangers of the streets.

3 - Business Area

* Best Business Plan Competition:

From their diligent efforts “to create positive change” in the society and promote the spirit of leadership among the younger generation, the Junior Chamber International in Syria, and through its four Chambers (Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Lattakia), has launched the 2nd Competition for the Best Business Plan, which coincided with a series of lectures and workshops to demonstrate the concept of the business plan and its relevance to young pioneering business.

* Monthly Lectures:

At the desire of the Business Area team in the Junior Chamber International in Damascus to keep JCI members and society members in general informed of all economic changes in Syria, they organized a series of monthly lectures on various economic topics and a high level of importance. The speakers were of high importance as: Dr. Adeeb Mayyaleh, Mr. Bassel Hamwi, Mr. Nashaat Sanadiqi and other leading persons in Damascus.

* Young Entrepreneurs Award:

The Junior Chamber International in Damascus, launched and for the third time successively and at the national level, the Creative Young Entrepreneurs Award, this international contest honors and celebrates outstanding Young Entrepreneurs, and also highlights the role of creativity in their success.

* The Launch of the “SWITCH:

Syrian Working Internationally toward business- Business networking events”

From its belief in the role of youth and the importance of contributing to the creation of relationships, opportunities, networking in the business community, and continuation of its diligent work in supporting the development of the business world within the Syrian society, the Junior Chamber International in Damascus launched this project in three events during the year: This project comes as a consecration of the strategy set by the Chamber to support the various economic business sectors in Syria, through the provision of opportunities for practical acquaintance among these sectors.

4. International Area:

One of the uniqueness of an organization such as JCI is its international trait. Each year many international events are organized across the world and JCI Syria members try to participate in most of them as much as possible.

the Syrian participation has been characterized in the international events with its strong presence, where the Syrian flag flew several times in many countries in the world, both when JCI Syria received several international awards for the achievements it accomplished, or when JCI Syria had its first representative ever to serve on the international board as Mr. Mazen Mourtada, the first JCI Syria National President was elected to the post of International Vice President assigned to Africa and the Middle East, and also Mr. Saleh Rustom was elected to the position of AMDEC Counselor then he was assigned to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Members of JCI Syria participated in each of:

- AMDEC Conference, which was held in Marrakech – Morocco.
- Area A conference, in Burkina Faso.
- JCI world Congress in New Delhi – India.
- The JCI-UN Summit in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.
- “Conference Organizing Committee” Academy in Vienna - Austria.

TIR Activities for 2008

The most important activities of TIR Department for 2008 may be briefed as follows:

1. After the invitation of the Ministry of Transport to attend the International Conference on Multimodal Transport in collaboration with ISMF Institutional and Sector Modernisation Facility, on 27/01/2008, a steering committee under the presidency of the Minister of Transport was formed to discuss the multi-modal transport project. The President of the International Chamber of Commerce participated in it for being the Senior Chancellor for the Minister of Transport in these issues.
2. TIR management joined the invitation of the Ministry of Transport for studying the Draft Arab Convention for organizing international transport among the Arab countries. The TIR delegation consisted of Mr. George Hilal, General Director of TIR and Mr. Shawki Faitarouni, Manager of TIR Department in Syria.
3. The participation was with a large delegation, headed by H.E Minister of Transport and H.E Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, in Istanbul / Turkey on 15-16 May 2008, where important interventions were made by the Syrian delegation. This reflected the status of the development of transport world in Syria and the adaptation with the latest developments in the world of international transport.



4. The participation of the TIR President, member of the Advisory Committee of the Minister for Transport, was in the closing meetings on the multimodal transport project. Decisions were taken and recommendations were set for implementation.
5. On 21-23 October 2008 a delegation from IRU in Geneva visited the TIR offices in Syria for auditing the work accomplished by the TIR management during the last three years. They presented an important report showing the success of the International Chamber of Commerce, the grantor of TIR Convention implementation in Syria, and the actual monitoring of the TIR activities for controlling TIR operations, local, transit and abroad, and following up the latest information in this regard. The delegation even referred to the application of the TIR system in Syria in the optimum way.
6. The success of the TIR system in Syria is due primarily to the diligent follow-up efforts by H.E Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria, Chairman of the TIR Board of Directors. Furthermore, and at his directives to provide better services, a new office was opened at Bab Al-Haw Centre at the Syrian-Turkish border, to offer the best services for the carriers under TIR system. This office was equipped with the best means to ensure the success of this work from electronic devices and communication facilities with IRU in Geneva through transfer of information on the movement of TIR convoys through the TIR Management central office in Damascus at the International Chamber of Commerce. The companies located in Syria are provided in due time with the latest information received from IRU to upgrade the Syrian fleet and back them up with the information necessary for passing through the world countries operating under the TIR System.
7. The TIR Department prepared several training courses for the employees working at the General Customs in Damascus, Aleppo and Lattakia in order to familiarize them with the TIR latest development to upgrade the services that support Syria in the world of development and modernization and to keep abreast of the latest regulations so as to promote export and facilitate transport operations with the world countries that work on expediting the exchange of commodities throughout the world of global trade.

The International Chamber of Commerce

ICC is the world business organization, a representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world.

The fundamental mission of ICC is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Its conviction that trade is a powerful force for peace and prosperity dates from the organization's origins early in the last century. The small group of far-sighted business leaders who founded ICC called themselves "the merchants of peace".



ICC has three main activities: rules-setting, dispute resolution and policy. Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business, ICC has unrivalled authority in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders. Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of the fabric of international trade.

ICC also provides essential services, foremost among them the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the world's leading arbitral institution. Another service is the World Chambers Federation, ICC's worldwide network of chambers of commerce, fostering interaction and exchange of chamber best practice.

Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment policy as well as on vital technical and sectoral subjects. These include financial services, information technologies, telecommunications, marketing ethics, the environment, transportation, competition law and intellectual property, among others.

ICC enjoys a close working relationship with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization and the G8.

ICC was founded in 1919. Today it groups hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations from over 130 countries. National committees work with their members to address the concerns of business in their countries and convey to their governments the business views formulated by ICC.

ICC Syria founded in 1987 comprises among its members lots of Businessmen, leading companies, business associations, banks and insurance companies. It works as Syria's bridge to the International business community.