



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

February 2, 2009 - Geneva

More than 270 business leaders gathered in Geneva on February 2, 2009 - Dr. Abdul Rahman Attaer / President of ICC - Syria was attending this event, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

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".

This year of the 90th anniversary celebrations will include also

a series of events in Paris, Kuala Lumpur, New York, Boston and New Delhi, as well as other locations throughout the world.

A new research foundation was also launched during the celebration in Geneva, charged with the task of carrying out studies through research bodies, academic institutions and other experts to promote a deeper understanding among policymakers, the media and the public in general about the benefits of international trade and investment.

A meeting of ICC Permanent heads of National Committees was held as well, the participants discussed ICC's strategy and the National Committee's views on the global economic crisis



Beirut Conference of Franchise

A constitution for the Mediterranean Franchise Federation was drafted at a meeting of the Lebanese Franchise Association held at the Phoenicia Hotel in Beirut - Lebanon from April 7-8, 2009.



Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria (ICC Syria), ICC Syria legal counsel Hussein Khaddour, and ICC Syria members Abdul Ghani Attar and Nazir Sinan attended the meeting.

During the meeting the vision and functions of the Mediterranean Franchise Federation was outlined. Discussions also focused on the opportunities and needs related to organizing

franchise associations in those Mediterranean countries. The structure and organizational hierarchy of the Mediterranean Franchise Federation was also discussed, as was the role that franchises can play in the development of the region and measures which can be taken to prevent the spread of the ongoing global economic turbulence. Attorney Sinan explained that establishing the Mediterranean Franchise Federation falls within the interest of the Syrian economy as it has a main role in improving and protecting Syrian products and achieving clear credibility for their quality and confidence in Syrian and international trademarks as marketing is about awareness and not the product.

The Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria (ICC Syria)



The General Assembly of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria (ICC Syria) held its annual general meeting at the Carlton Hotel in Damascus / Syria on April 30, 2009.

Chairing the meeting, Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of ICC Syria, stressed the important role the chamber plays in the country's economic development by supplying private and the public firms, organizations and bodies with all the scientific documents of the International Chamber

of Commerce (ICC), as well as organizing a number of seminars and conferences. On the Occasion of his nomination as an ICC Executive board member, Dr Attar thanked all members of the ICC Syria for their efforts, He also insisted that without their support, the recognition of ICC Syria would not have been achieved. The assembly also addressed a range of other issues, which included reviewing the Administration Board's 2008 report, as well as the range of local activities undertaken by ICC Syria, along with the external activities which the President and Chamber members took part in. The assembly also reviewed the activities carried out by each administrative department at ICC Syria, as well as the TIR department and the Junior Chamber International Syria (JCI Syria).

Mr. Sulaiman Al Hassan, chairman for Syrian Insurance Company, was nominated as an ICC Syria Board Member during this meeting.

The First Meeting of the Regional Consultative Group for South Asia and the Middle East

May 4, 2009 Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Naji Shawi, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria (ICCS), participated in the first meeting of the Regional Consulting Group for South Asia and Middle East attached to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), held on May 4, 2009, in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

The meeting covered numerous issues and culminated in a series of recommendations being presented to the Executive Board of the ICC. One of the most important recommendations was to establish links on NC websites within the region and to recommend to the ICC for having an appropriate space available on its website for RCGs.

Other recommendations included conveying to the ICC the need for ICC arbitration venues and

hearing centers within the same region as well as engaging the same region in joint efforts for the promotion of ICC and ICC arbitration.



Partnership Between the Public and the Private Sectors in a Symposium

May 25, 2009 - the Headquarter of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr. Abdullah Al-Dardari, the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC Syria) held a symposium about partnerships between the public and private sectors in the presence of experts from Trowers & Hamlins and Pinsent Masons LLP of Britain on Monday, May 25, 2009 at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

During the symposium the British delegation conducted a session outlining the experience of partnerships between the public and private sectors in the UK, the negotiations of public-private contracts, the setting of terms and conditions and the implementation of such projects.

Attending the symposium was the Minister of Transport Dr. Yarob Sulaiman Badr, the Minister of Electricity Dr. Ahmed Qusai Kayali, ICC Syria President Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar and the British Ambassador. Around 140 people attended the event from a large number of private and government organizations.

Speaking at the symposium's opening session,



Dr. Attar stressed that 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, he added that the importance of this symposium relies in the fact that Syria is heading up to the market economy. That's why the most distinguished character of this period is the activation of the private sector role in taking responsibility by benefiting from other experiences and considering whatever suits Syria from the Anglo-Saxons experience which is considered to be one of the most important experience in the public and private partnership

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) looks forward to quick action to implement the commitment from the G8 to conclude the Doha trade negotiations in 2010

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) welcomed the pledge made by the Eight Major Industrial Countries Group (G8) to conclude the Doha round of trade negotiations in 2010.

The group has set many dates in the past for the conclusion of these negotiations, but these deadlines were not respected. The international business community hopes that G8 governments, after years of postponing, are about to launch rapid, concrete and determined actions designed to achieve this ambitious agreement. The ICC also welcomes the directions given to trade ministers in the lead-up to the G20 Summit to be held in Petersburg in September next year.

Despite the difficulties faced in reaching an agreement, significant progress has been made. Numerous measures to promote trade have been agreed on and this represents a significant achievement which should be maintained and not wasted.

The ICC also welcomed the move by major industrialized countries to reaffirm their resistance to the tendency of protectionism, as well as their decision not to introduce any new trade barriers and their support to for the efforts of the World Trade Organization to monitor compliance with the undertaking against protectionist measures.



Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar elected to the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

**during the World Chambers Congress
3 - 5 June 2009 Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia**

The ICC World Council held its meeting in Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia on June 3 ,2009 , where the elections of the new executive board members took place

The following members were elected:

- Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce - (ICC Syria)
- Mr . Yoendra Kr. Modi Chairman of YKM Holdings - India
- Mr. Andrea Tomat Chairman of ICC Italy

Chambers of Commerce from all around the world.

The congress three public meetings addressed a number of important topics.

The most important of these were:

- Global challenges, including how trends in demographics, migration and industrialization are placing stress on the planet's basic resources.
- Food, water and energy shortages
- The implications of climate change will have on the global economy.



During the same meeting, the nomination of Mr. Jean Rozwadowski was also accepted as Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce starting from July 1, 2009.

The congress, organized by the World Chambers Federation WCF, one of the institutions of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and hosted by the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, which includes more than 1200

In addition to the plenary sessions there were 24 workshops divided into three tracks - business, development, and chamber issues.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria (ICC Syria), chaired the Syrian delegation to the congress.

It is worth mentioning that ICC was founded in 1919 and it celebrates this year its 90th anniversary