



PRESS RELEASE

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34th World Diamond Congress to be held in Moscow, July 11-13 role of WFDB, bourses in 'new normal' economy to be focus of discussion

Antwerp, Belgium - June 17, 2010 - The 34th World Diamond Congress will be held in Moscow, Russia, from July 11-13. The event is the biennial congress of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and its sister organization, the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA). It is the first time a World Diamond Congress has been held in Russia. The event is coordinated by the Moscow-based WFDB affiliated bourses, the Diamond Chamber of Russia (DCR) and the Moscow Diamond Bourse (MDB).

WFDB President Avi Paz said he looked forward to greeting his colleagues in Moscow where a wide range of important debates would be held. "More than ever before, the role of the WFDB and the added value the organization needs to bring to its member bourses will be at the centre of our discussions," Paz said. "Therefore, I hope that we will be greeting delegations of all 28 bourses that are affiliated to the WFDB, and I look forward to the working sessions where we'll take forward plans to advance the diamond business in what is now called the 'new normal' economy. In particular, I hope to enhance the role of the smaller bourses within the WFDB, and encourage them to become more proactively involved in the global efforts that the WFDB is pursuing," the WFDB president stated.

The 34th WDC programme is packed into just two and a half days, with the plenary and working sessions all taking place within a 24-hour period. "As part of the extensive agenda, we'll have the elections of the WFDB Executive Committee, and there will be the discussions and vote of the general assembly on the admission of the South Korea Diamond Exchange to the ranks of our organization. In other words, we'll have to work fast and we'll need to be very effective and decisive," WFDB Secretary-General Michael Vaughan noted.

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Note to Editors:

The following pages offer you some background on Moscow and the Congress programme.

Background info about Moscow, Russia, on occasion of the 34th WDC

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In 2010 the World Diamond Congress takes place in Moscow, Russia's political, financial and commercial center. Among Europe's oldest cities, it was founded in 1147.

INTERESTING FACTS: Russia is known as a country of two capitals. In 1328, Moscow became a capital of all Russian lands. In 1712, Peter the Great gave capital status to St. Petersburg. In 1918, the communists returned the capital to Moscow. Today, Moscow is known worldwide as the main city of Russia, but St. Petersburg still has an informal status of "the cultural capital".

Today Moscow is one of the top 10 biggest cities in the world. There are over 14 million citizens on a territory of 11,000 sq. km. It is one of the world's major cities and continues to grow.

The main architectural and cultural monuments of world significance located in Moscow are: the Kremlin, St. Basil`s Cathedral, Red Square amongst others.

INTERESTING FACTS: The Moscow metro is possibly the best in the world. It combines reliability, comfort and high speed in the tough conditions of a modern metropolis. It is the most popular kind of transport, and is used by approximately nine million passengers annually. At present, the Moscow metro's share compared to other kinds of transport stands at 56 percent. Every day, 9,829 trains run over the 12 lines of the system (2,982 km and 180 stations) at minimum intervals of 90 seconds.

All meetings and conferences within the Congress will be held in the RITZ CARLTON that offers the highest level of congress facilities to guests. The opening ceremony will be attended by the executives of the state bodies of Russia and representatives of Russian and world diamond enterprises.

On the first day of the Congress all participants are invited to have an amazing boat trip along the Moskva River. The modern yacht that can hosts about 200 persons will be re-organized in a floating restaurant for one night. All guests will enjoy champagne, light talks and wonderful views of night Moscow.

The Gala Dinner will be a big surprise for all participants of the 34th World Diamond Congress. The organizers predict that the main event of the Congress will allow guests to feel the real Russian hospitality and will leave an unforgettable impression from the show.

PROGRAM FOR ACCOMPANYING GUESTS

Within the cultural program the accompanying guests will be able to see the city's amazing architecture, visiting the most striking and amazing historical and cultural monuments of Moscow.

The Kremlin

The Kremlin is located in the very heart of the capital of Russia. Its monumental walls and towers, golden-domed cathedrals and ancient palaces stand high on the Borovitskiy Hill above the Moskva River forming a magnificent architectural ensemble. The Kremlin is a complex of buildings enclosed within a wall, originally designed as a medieval fortress. The buildings within the Kremlin include churches, palaces, armories, and a variety of watchtowers. The Kremlin also integrates beautiful gardens and a forest, which are well maintained with footpaths so that visitors can walk through them. It has long been associated with Russian government and culture. In 1990, the Kremlin complex was recognized as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

The Congress guests will have the unique opportunity to see the secret halls and buildings of the Kremlin which are usually closed to visitors.

The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts is considered to be one of the largest museums of European art in Russia, demonstrating one of the richest world collections of fine arts from the ancient times to nowadays. There are over 560,000 works of art exhibited in the halls of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts that is favorably situated in the very center of Moscow, close to the Kremlin, just opposite the most famous Cathedral of Christ the Savior. The museum treasures Egyptian mummies, antique amphorae and craters with images of Greek and Roman gods and heroes, old steles and sarcophagi, paintings by Rembrandt, Botichelli, Canaletto, Guardi, Tiepolo, impressive collection of Little Dutch Masters, impressionists, postimpressionists and modernists and many other works that form the gold collection of world art heritage. In the last few years the Museum got several new premises that render possible the

exhibiting of many private collections that for years stayed inaccessible to the public.

Zurab Tsereteli Art Gallery

The gallery is located in one of the most beautiful neo-classical buildings in Moscow constructed in 1788. The splendid palace includes a suite of magnificent vaulted rooms on the ground floor maintaining the architectural space of the 18th century and majestic rooms on the first floor decorated in the middle of the 19th century, and several astonishing covered inner courts.

Guests will certainly appreciate the beauty of the ancient mansion and magnificent collection of art created by the one of the most famous Georgian-Russian painters, sculptors and architects.

Tsereteli's monuments can be seen in many cities throughout the world such as "Good Defeats Evil" - bronze sculpture of St. George the Victorious on the north lawn of the United Nations Headquarters in New York; sculptural composition "To Break the Wall of Distrust" symbolizing the end of the "Cold War" in London; the monument to the Russian novelist Nikolai Gogol in Rome, Italy; "Holocaust" sculptural composition in Jerusalem, Israel; monument to Itiro Hatoyama (2007) in Tokyo, Japan and many others.