



Press Release

35th World Diamond Congress 2012 Mumbai

For immediate release

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Eli Izhakoff presented with Diamantaire of the Year award at 35th World Diamond Congress in Mumbai, India

Mumbai, India – 16 October 2012: Eli Izhakoff, honorary lifetime president of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and president of the World Diamond Council (WDC), was presented with the Diamantaire of the Year award at a gala dinner held last evening at the 35th World Diamond Congress in Mumbai, India.

Avi Paz, outgoing WFDB president, congratulated Izhakoff on his award and said: “Izhakoff has dedicated his life to the diamond industry and is devoted to serving our interests at the Kimberley Process. I can’t think of a more deserving recipient of this award”

Ernest Blom, newly elected WFDB president, concurred: “This award, given only every four years, is not bestowed lightly and my friend is a most deserving recipient for all he has done and continues to do for the diamond industry.”

Izhakoff first joined the board of directors of the Diamond Dealers Club of New York (DDC) in 1979 and in the years that followed held several senior positions, including chairman of the board and secretary. He was elected to serve as treasurer-general of the WFDB in 1986 and was appointed a member of its Executive Committee.

In January 1990, Izhakoff was elected president of the DDC and immediately conceived and formed the Diamond Industry Steering Committee, an umbrella organisation of the four diamond trade associations in New York and served as its first chairman. At the World Diamond Congress held in May 1991 in London, England, Izhakoff was unanimously elected president of the WFDB and was unanimously re-elected for a second term at the following World Diamond Congress, which was held in Antwerp, Belgium in June 1993. At the World Diamond Congress held in Tel Aviv, Israel in May 1996, he was again re-elected for an unprecedented third term as WFDB president.

Upon his retirement from the position at the World Diamond Congress in Bangkok, Thailand in July 1998, he was elected as honorary lifetime president of the WFDB. In 2006, Izhakoff was also named honorary life president of CIBJO, The World Jewellery Confederation, at its Congress in Vancouver, Canada.

He is a member of the board of directors of several organisations and has also been named honorary chairman of the Diamond Industry Steering Committee of New York, honorary president of the Diamond Dealers Club of New York and honorary chairman of the Bangkok Diamonds and Precious Stones Exchange in Bangkok.

From Left to right Mr Avi Paz (Honourary President WFDB), Mr Eli Izhakoff and Mr. Ernie Blom (President WFDB)

