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**FIABCI**

the International Real Estate Federation, Completes Successful World Congress



FIABCI, the International Real Estate Federation, has completed its 65th World Congress in Luxembourg. This was FIABCI's 65th World Congress, which annually attracts global real estate industry leaders. This year's event included over 1,000 attendees who participated in opportunities to network, build business, share experiences, advance industry knowledge and stimulate conversations. Luxembourg guests included **His Royal Highness Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, François Bausch, Minister of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Pierre Gramegna, Minister of Finances, Lydie Polfer, Mayor of Luxembourg City and Maggy Nagel, Minister of Housing.**

This year's FIABCI 2014 World Congress theme focused on "***Building Humanity.***" Each day of the meeting was tailored to highlight specific topics designed to stimulate conversations including: "***Architecture & Urban Design,***" "***Cities & Technology,***" "***Real Estate Marketing,***" and "***Finance & Taxation.***" Several renowned experts and internationally recognized business leaders from the global real estate and development industries lead the discussions and presented information and cutting-edge ideas that coincided with the theme. Presenters included **Jeremy Rifkin**, an economic and social theorist, who delivered the Keynote Address and discussed his recent book, "***The Third Industrial Revolution.***" He is the President of the "Foundation on Economic Trends" and an author of 19 books that focus on the impact of scientific and technological changes in the economy, the workforce, society and the environment. **Zhang Yue, Chairman and President of BROAD Group, led a discussion on the topic of: "Cities and Technology."** Mr. Yue is internationally known as the man who built a 30-story building in only 15 days. There was also a presentation by **the Honorable Michael Jeffery, Former Governor General of Australia and Founder and Chairman of Future Directions International, and Paul James, Professor of the RMIT Global Cities Institute/Director of the UN Global Compact Cities Program** who led a workshop on: "***Sustainability, Cleaner Environments and Friendly Alternatives.***" **Award-winning French architect and engineer Rudy Riccotti** provided a thought-provoking presentation focused on the importance of architecture and urban design which was followed by a lively panel conversation about "***Building Tomorrow's Cities***" which included **Rudy Ricciotti, Claude Turmes, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the European Parliament's Green Group, Nils Kok, Executive Director, GRESB and Maastricht University's Associate Professor of Finance and João Crestana, President of FIABCI's World Council of Developers/Investors.** The panel was moderated by Architect **Tatiana Fabeck, Vice-President of the Fondation de l'Architecture et de l'Ingénierie de Luxembourg (Luxembourg Foundation for Architecture and Engineering).** The FIABCI World Congress also provided an abundance of informative panel discussions and workshops from leading real estate thought leaders throughout the world including a "City Panorama" with **Taichung City Mayor Jason Hu and Budapest Chief Architect Eva Beleznyay.**

In addition, the FIABCI World Congress provided a broad range of **international marketing sessions, as well as recreational and study tours in which** participants saw, experienced and heard about local culture and important real estate, landscape and development projects in Luxembourg. The new FIABCI *Meet & Match* initiative enabled participants to connect with professionals based on their personal and business profiles and interests to generate new leads and benefit from the great business expertise at the World Congress.

The **prestigious FIABCI World Prix d'Excellence Award Dinner** took place with winners represented from all over the world. It is considered the "Oscars" of the global real estate industry and honors the "best of the best" in the global real estate industry. Winning a Prix d'Excellence award is one of the highest awards that can be received. It is a significant honor that signifies outstanding achievement.

During the Closing Ceremonies of the World Congress, the FIABCI World Presidency was transferred from **Flavo Gonzaga Nunes (Brazil) to Robyn Waters (Australia)**. **Australia** was well represented at the FIABCI World Congress with over **50 attendees**, including FIABCI long-term member and Robyn Waters' father, **Barry Waters**. Another highlight of the World Congress included **the signing of an official agreement of cooperation between FIABCI and the United National Global Compact Cities Programme**. The agreement confirmed a strategic collaboration that began earlier this year in Dubai to write a Charter for Sustainable Property Development and to develop a set of associated tools and assessment processes.

FIABCI
17 rue Dumond d'Urville F-75116 Paris
Phone: +33 1 73 79 58 30
website: www.fiabci.org