



Reinforcing confidence in the diamond and gold supply chain

The CRJP Monitor

The Quarterly News from the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices

CRJP Holds AGM and Stakeholder Meeting in London

The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP) explains the implementation of its system, beginning in 2008; the group also hears constructive feedback from stakeholders

CRJP held its annual general meeting (AGM) and a stakeholder meeting in London on 14 May 2007.

The CRJP welcomed the election of two new members to its board of directors. Vicki Cunningham, Cunningham Fine Jewelry was elected to represent the Retailers Forum and Nawal Ait-Hocine, Metalor Technologies SA, was elected to represent the Gold Refining, Hedging and Trading Forum.

The stakeholder meeting was attended by nearly 20 organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and representatives of the worldwide diamond and gold jewellery industry.

The stakeholder session, arranged by CRJP's leadership team and attended by many CRJP members as well, was held to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on CRJP's planned introduction of a third-party monitoring system in 2008. CRJP CEO Michael Rae conducted the AGM and facilitated the stakeholder meeting, with input from CRJP Chairman Matthew A. Runci, CRJP committee chairs and secretariat staff.

At the stakeholders' meeting, CRJP Standards Committee Chairman James Evans Lombe explained the complexity of the Council's undertaking, pointing out that no responsible practices initiative had yet attempted to monitor



Michael Rae leads a discussion at the CRJP AGM and Stakeholder Meeting in May, assisted by Programme Director Santiago Porto, Standards Committee Chairman James Evans Lombe and Chairman of the Board Matthew A. Runci.

a range of ethical, social and environmental practices across such a complicated supply chain. Evans Lombe stressed that CRJP will introduce the monitoring system in phases, based on the different sections of the CRJP Code of Practices, to ensure that members fully understand their responsibilities and have sufficient time to self assess their practices, as well as to hire independent monitors.

CRJP Programme Director Santiago Porto explained the current plan for CRJP's implementation system, emphasizing that it will be a system of continuous improvement. "As long as our members are getting better year on year, we will accept their phased approach to changing practices," said Porto.

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New members

CRJP has welcomed 14 new members since January 2007, bringing the current membership to 76 organizations. There is a comprehensive list of the entire CRJP members on the website – www.responsiblejewellery.com

CRJP warmly thanks the members that have demonstrated the commitment and energy to the mission of the CRJP since its inception and please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Argos Ltd – retailer

Boite d'or Srl Gioielli
– manufacturer

The Birmingham Assay Office
– service industry

Carrera y Carrera – manufacturer

Chanel Horlogerie/Joaillerie
– retailer

Christian Bernard – manufacturer

Richemont – supporter

Cristofol Paris – manufacturer

Element Jewellery – retail

Jewellery by Varouj – retail

Libman & Company – manufacturer

Montblanc – retailer

Regal Imports Ltd – wholesaler

Simms II Jewelers – retail

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But CRJP CEO Michael Rae also emphasized that the Council will develop sanctions and enforcement actions, as well as a complaints mechanism, to identify members that, ultimately, do not make progress on adherence to the group's Code of Practices. In response to stakeholder questions, Rae outlined the CRJP's intentions to create a committee that's transparent and credible, to evaluate and, if necessary, discipline member companies that fail to meet the CRJP's standards.

How the CRJP system will work

CRJP's working plan is that each member will be required to map its supply chain, self-assess each facility the company runs, and share the self-assessment with an independent monitor and CRJP. CRJP will provide a variety of tools for its members to use in the self-assessment process.

Once the self-assessment is complete, members will hire independent monitors that will: 1) Review members' reports; 2) Identify facilities to visit; 3) Conduct inspections, identify good practices, and offer corrective action plans where needed and, 4) Prepare summary reports for members, which will be filed with the CRJP secretariat.

CRJP will begin to pilot some of its self-assessment tools and systems during the northern hemisphere's summer and fall. By January 2008, the group aims to require members to start their first self-assessments, based on specific parts of the CRJP Code of Practices, such as those that address adherence to the Kimberley Process and World Diamond Council's System of Warranties, as well as adherence to anti-money-laundering (AML) practices.

Feedback from stakeholders

Among the feedback given to the Council during the 14 May meeting was the concern that outside stakeholders have not been sufficiently consulted on a formal basis, on the details of the Council's work in developing its implementation and monitoring system. CRJP's secretariat has been regularly consulting, on a one-on-one basis, with individual NGOs, on various aspects of the system, but it also pledged at the meeting to consider a proposal being developed by a group of NGOs concerning more formal NGO engagement going forward.

Stakeholders also suggested that CRJP consider outside certification of its approved monitors, by organizations completely independent of CRJP, for the greatest assurance to consumers that the system is credible.



Programme Support Manager Sylvia Pong, Programme Director Santiago Porto, and Director, North American Operations Catherine Sproule prepare to welcome attendees at CRJP's AGM and Stakeholder Meeting.

In addition, some stakeholders asked questions concerning the specific practices CRJP will require of its large mining members. Rae explained that CRJP is participating in the ongoing Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), a multi-stakeholder initiative that eventually could allow independent monitors to assure mines are operating responsibly. When the IRMA system is complete, CRJP hopes to recognize a miner's IRMA assurance as credible evidence of its adherence to responsible mining practices. In the short term, however, CRJP will also require that its mining members adopt existing credible codes of responsible practices, such as the "International Cyanide Management Code For The Manufacture, Transport and Use of Cyanide In The Production of Gold."

Finally, other stakeholders also asked questions about CRJP's commitment to improving working conditions among artisanal, small-scale miners (ASM). Rae cited CRJP members' active involvement in Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) projects, which are aiming to improve conditions among artisanal diamond miners; he also referenced CRJP's founding role in the Madison Dialogue, another multi-stakeholder group seeking to encourage the sourcing of gold, diamonds and other minerals from responsible artisanal and small-scale producers. It is CRJP's plan to continue to liaise with other organizations' efforts to certify small-scale miners, such as the certification system planned by the Association for Responsible Mining (ARM). CRJP hopes to be able to recognize such certification systems as being in accordance with CRJP's Code of Practices, too.

Richemont recognised as a Supporter of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices

The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP), which promotes responsible ethical, social and environmental practices throughout the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain, has announced that Compagnie Financière Richemont SA (“Richemont”) has been recognised by the CRJP as a “Supporter of the Council.”

“As a Supporter of the CRJP, Richemont is recognised for its significant in-kind and financial contribution to the Council’s work promoting responsible practices in the diamond and gold supply chain and to evidencing that commitment through independent third-party monitoring,” says CRJP CEO Michael Rae.

Several Richemont brands – Cartier, Piaget and Van Cleef & Arpels – are established CRJP members. Through its association with the Council, Richemont lends its support to those companies, by promoting responsible business practices.

Based in Geneva, Richemont is one of the world’s leading luxury goods groups. The Group encompasses several premier jewellery and watch brands, including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Piaget, Vacheron Constantin, Jaeger-LeCoultre, IWC, Panerai, Baume & Mercier, A.Lange & Söhne, Alfred Dunhill and Montblanc.

CRJP Recognises Eli Izhakoff as a “Friend of the Council”

At the CIBJO Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in March, CRJP recognised Eli Izhakoff, Chairman of the World Diamond Council, as a “Friend of the Council,” acknowledging his outstanding commitment to the promotion of responsible practices in the international diamond industry.

CRJP Chairman Matthew A. Runci, President and CEO of Jewelers of America, presented Izhakoff with his award on the opening day of the CIBJO Congress 2007 in Cape Town, in the presence of CRJP’s inaugural “Friend of the Council,” Gaetano Cavallieri, president of CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation. Joining in the presentation were De Beers Chairman Nicky Oppenheimer, and CRJP CEO Michael Rae.

“I am delighted that Eli Izhakoff has honoured the CRJP by accepting this award,” said Runci. “Eli Izhakoff has provided dynamic leadership over many years to the diamond industry’s efforts to ensure responsible practices from mine to retail.



Eli Izhakoff (centre) is congratulated by CRJP and industry colleagues, after he received CRJP’s “Friend of the Council” designation. Joining him are (left to right) CIBJO President Gaetano Cavallieri, CRJP Chairman Matthew A. Runci, De Beers Chairman Nicky Oppenheimer, and CRJP CEO Michael Rae.

“Eli, in his role as the chairman of the World Diamond Council and in many other senior positions in the diamond industry, is an inspirational leader,” Runci continued. “Eli tirelessly promotes the good that the diamond jewellery industry does throughout the world and, equally tirelessly, drives the industry to strive to do better.”

WFDB welcomes the CRJP's commitment to cooperation and collaboration

The World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) welcomed CRJP's continuing commitment to engagement and collaboration recently.

"WFDB congratulates the CRJP and its membership on constructive engagement held with the jewellery industry and NGO stakeholders at its recent Stakeholder Meeting," said WFDB President Ernie Blom. "The meeting was an excellent forum for all participants to share their ideas and experiences.

"WFDB shares the CRJP's desire to reinforce consumer confidence in the diamond industry. Both organisations are committed to promoting ethical accountability in our industry through credible systems of auditing, monitoring and enforcement," said Blom.

"We look forward to further cooperation with CRJP as we work to ensure that the WFDB Mark and the CRJP's verification system serve to reinforce consumer confidence throughout the entire diamond supply chain," Blom concluded.

CRJP Members Address CIBJO Congress

CRJP CEO Michael Rae, and a number of CRJP members took part in panels on sustainable practices, held at the CIBJO Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in March. The panels were organized by CIBJO's Ethics Commission, and moderated by CRJP Chairman of the Board Matthew Runci and CRJP Standards Committee Chairman James Evans Lombe. The panels featured 16 speakers from companies and associations representing all aspects of the jewellery supply chain, from large- and small-scale diamonds, gold, platinum and coloured gemstone mining, to jewellery manufacturing and retailing, and laboratories.

Among the CRJP member/panellists were miners John Hall of Rio Tinto Diamonds; Martin Leake of BHP Billiton Diamonds; and Steve Lenahan of AngloGold Ashanti; plus diamond supplier Davy Lapa of Overseas Diamonds, Antwerp. CRJP retail members were represented by U.S.-based



CRJP retail members Vicki Cunningham and John Hayes, wait their turn to speak about their commitment to responsible practices, at the CIBJO Congress in Cape Town.

companies, including: Bev Hori of Ben Bridge Jeweler, Seattle, WA; Vicki Cunningham, H. Cunningham Fine Jewelry, Tulsa, OK; and John Hayes, Goodman's Jewelers, Madison, WI.

Around the World with CRJP

The CRJP secretariat and committee chairs have been attending various worldwide jewellery industry events during the first half of 2007, in order to liaise with its various stakeholders, gather information to assist in the creation of its Responsible Practices Framework, and meet CRJP members. CRJP has also been holding regular Standards Committee meetings throughout the year, in preparation for the rollout of its Responsible Practices Framework in 2008. The following is a partial list of staff and member activities.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

IJL Show – London

CRJP Standards Committee Meeting – London

Hong Kong Jewellery Show

– Hong Kong

CRJP will participate in a CIBJO panel discussion on Tuesday, September 25

OCTOBER

Madison Dialogue – Washington DC

This meeting will discuss artisanal and small-scale mining issues.

HRD Diamond Conference

– Antwerp

Geneva – UN/CIBJO meeting

NOVEMBER

CRJP Standards Committee Meeting – London

JANUARY

JA Show – New York

Twenty-Four Karat Club – New York

JSA meeting – New York

CRJP Standards Committee Meeting – London

FEBRUARY

Rapaport Diamond Conference – New York

Matt Runci and Michael Rae participated in the industry panel.

MARCH

CIBJO Congress – Capetown

Matt Runci, James Evans Lombe and Michael Rae participated in industry panel on CSR.

CRJP Standards Committee Meeting – London

APRIL



CRJP retail member Bev Hori of Ben Bridge Jeweler, who serves on the board of the U.S.-based American Gem Society (AGS), introduces CRJP CEO Michael Rae at the AGS Conclave.

American Gem Society Conclave – Denver

Michael Rae delivered a CRJP presentation

MAY

CRJP AGM – London

CRJP Stakeholder Meeting – London

CRJP organized an industry dialogue including CRJP members, industry leaders and participants from the NGO community.

Standards Committee Meeting – London

JUNE

JCK Show – Las Vegas

Matt Runci led an industry panel that addressed CSR practices and their importance in the industry.

WFDB and IDMA Presidents' Meeting

– Amsterdam

Michael Rae updated IDMA members on CRJP's activities.

JULY

CRJP Standards Committee Meeting – Paris

JA Show – New York



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