

DEFENDING THE INTEGRITY OF JEWELLERY'S SUPPLY CHAIN

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- Good morning to everyone and welcome to this seminar. First of all, **I would like to thank Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri, President of CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation, for collaborating with us** in organizing this meeting, and for the other initiatives in which IEG and CIBJO cooperates. I would also would like to **thank our other co-host today, Mr. Gabriel Aprea, President of Club degli Orafi Italia.**
- This seminar focuses upon important and strategic themes in the gold and jewellery industry, all falling under umbrella of **Corporate Social Responsibility**. More specifically it addresses the challenge of defending the integrity of the jewellery and the jewellery industry by **ensuring that all the components in jewellery have been responsibly sourced**. And when we say “responsibly,” we mean that they **have not caused any harm to the safety and health of the people sourcing them, nor to the communities, countries and environments in which they live.**
- The seminar deals with the practicalities of ensuring the integrity of the jewellery supply chain, from mine to market. It covers the subjects of standards and codes of practice, third-party monitoring and auditing, and the certification of compliant companies.
- **VICENZAORO**, which is among the world’s leading jewellery Shows, **has been committed to promoting the values and practices of CSR and sustainability** within its business sector for several years already, and has become an **authoritative and recognised interlocutor** on a global scale.
- **Thanks to this commitment, the Italian Exhibition Group, the new trade show company created through the merger between Rimini Fiera and Fiera di Vicenza, the new organizer of VICENZAORO, recently received prestigious international recognition.**
- Several days ago in New York, the **IEG Group was awarded formal accreditation through CIBJO, from ECOSOC, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, for promoting and implementing activities relating to Corporate Social Responsibility along the jewellery and precious metal and gemstone supply chain.**

- In so doing, **IEG inherited the role played by Fiera di Vicenza**, and it is now about to **embark** on its own **mission to contribute directly to the promotion of ethical social and environmental practices**, under the **ECOSOC umbrella**. Like Fiera di Vicenza before it, **IEG is the only trade fair organizer, anywhere in the world, to be recognized by ECOSOC** in this manner.
- To focus attention on the elements involved in Corporate Social Responsibility in the sector, the recurring theme of **VICENZAORO January 2017** is **“The Responsible Gold.”**
- The **goal of the show**, and particularly of this seminar, is to **provide** participants, visitors and media with the **knowledge and tools necessary to meet both the industry’s and the consumer’s expectations**.
- **IEG**, as a **contemporary provider of exhibition services and content**, is totally committed to using our resources to **promoting and providing information** about CSR and sustainability, and for leveraging such activities to **create value – both social and financial – for our clients and stakeholders**.
- This edition of **VICENZAORO January** featured the fifth edition of the Andrea Palladio International Jewellery Awards, which are today the most prestigious recognitions of excellence in the industry. One of the nine awards handed out is one for distinction in the field of **Corporate Social Responsibility**.
- All these activities reflect our belief that CSR and sustainability must become integral components of the way in which we do business. This is **fundamental truth for the jewellery sector**. It is not just an ethical choice, but a strategic one as well, for it protects the long-term stability of our value chain, and **generates and maintains consumer loyalty**.