



GEMS OF THE INDUSTRY UNITE

CIBJO CONGRESS 2023

JAIPUR, INDIA - OCTOBER 3-5-2023

– A REPORT –



CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction: About CIBJO	4
3. Structure and Operation of CIBJO.....	4
4. CIBJO: Office Holders	5
5. CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur, Rajasthan: A Brief.....	6
6. CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur, Rajasthan: AGENDA.....	7
7. Steering Committee Meetings: 1 st -2 nd October, 2023.....	8
8. CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur, Rajasthan: INAUGURATION.....	9
9. Outcome of CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur	
<u>Day 1: 3rd October 2023</u>	
• Jewellery industry leaders urge freely available data and education to deliver best ESG practices	13
• Education is key to helping coloured stone diggers achieve better lives and livelihoods	15
• Building partnerships and boosting education key to development of industry, brand representatives say	17
• Intellectual property law education can protect careers in the jewellery industry: Ethics Commission	19
• Gemfields urges focus on 'mine of origin,' rather than country of origin, to boost traceability	20
<u>Day 2: 4th October 2023</u>	
• Precious stones commission considers issues related to environmental marketing	21
• Pearl Commission meeting	23
• New standards being developed to control quality of batches of small diamonds	24
• CIBJO Diamond Commission looks at market and prices, still experiencing the aftershocks of the COVID crisis	26
• CIBJO working group developing draft document for internationalisation of Fei Cui standard	28
• Coloured stone sector adopting homogeneous declaration for all coloured gemstone treatments	30
<u>Day 3: 5th October 2023</u>	
• Committee discusses guidelines for implementing ESG principles in laboratory-grown diamond sector	31
• CIBJO Coral Commission reinforces differentiation of precious coral from reef coral	33
• CIBJO Gemmological Commission considering amendments to gemstone variety definitions	34
10. Networking Evenings	35
11. Benefits of CIBJO Congress to Indian Industry	37

Executive Summary

CIBJO Congress at Jaipur. Rajasthan **from 3rd to 5th October 2023**

CIBJO the World Jewellery Confederation held its annual Congress for the first time in India at the hotel Fairmont Jaipur. The Congress was organised from 3rd to 5th October, 2023. Pre-Congress meetings were held on 1st and 2nd October, 2023 at the same venue. The 2023 Congress was jointly hosted by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and the National Gem & Jewellery Council of India (NGJCI) supported by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India.

The inaugural session was graced by Mr. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and PDS, Government of India as Chief Guest and he addressed the gathering through a Video message. Mr. Gaetano Cavalieri, President, CIBJO; Mr. Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC; Mr. Pramod Agrawal, Vice President, CIBJO and Chairman, NGJCI; Mr. R. Arulanandan, Director, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India; Ms. Ferial Zerouki, President, World Diamond Council (WDC); Mr. Yoram Dvash, President, World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB); Mr. Damien Cody, President, International Coloured Gemstone Association (ICA) were present on the dais during the inaugural session held on 03rd October, 2023 at 9.15 AM.

CIBJO Congresses serves as the official gathering place for the World Jewellery Confederation's Assembly of Delegates, and are also the venue for the annual meetings of CIBJO's sectoral commissions, where amendments can be introduced to the organisation's definitive directories of international industry standards for diamonds, coloured stones, pearls, gem labs, precious metals, coral and responsible sourcing, known as the Blue Books. The representatives of member organisations of CIBJO discuss on all aspects of Gems & Jewellery industry and form an opinion on various issues and trade practices which are acceptable to all stake holders.

About CIBJO

CIBJO the World Jewellery Confederation is the primary international jewellery, gemstones and precious metals, jewellery federation, representing the interests of all individuals, organisations and companies earning their livelihoods from the mining, processing, manufacturing and trade of these products. It is the oldest organisation, having originally been established in 1926. The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) is a non-profit association registered in Switzerland, and is officially headquartered in the Swiss capital city of Bern.

The Confederation covers the entire jewellery, gemstone and precious metals sectors – vertically, from mine to marketplace, and horizontally within each of the component parts in the various production, manufacturing and trading centres. Its members are not individuals, but rather representative associations or commercial bodies. They include national and international trade organisations from some 47 countries around the world and many of the international jewellery sector's leading corporations and service providers.

The Confederation is also the only organisation in the international diamond, gemstone and jewellery sectors to have received official consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This enables it to advance programmes and goals of the UN within the industry, serving as a technical expert, adviser and consultant to governments and the UN Secretariat. It additionally is a member of the UN Global Compact and is committed to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The World Jewellery Confederation is organized according to sectors, or areas of interest. They are: Sector A (Gem Materials, Trade and Laboratories), Sector B (Jewellery Distribution) and Sector C (Jewellery Manufacturing/Technology/Precious Metals).

The official bodies of CIBJO are the General Assembly of Delegates; the 30-person Board of Directors; the Executive Committee, which is made up of 15 members of the Board, the President's Council; the Internal Finance and Audit Committee and the External Auditor. The CIBJO Secretariat and Administration represents CIBJO for all routine matters of internal business.

The powers and duties of the General Assembly are to elect the Officers, who are President, Vice Presidents and the Treasurer; to elect the Board of Directors; elect the External Auditor; and to approve any proposed changes to the Statutes and the By-Laws.

Structure and Operation of CIBJO

Commissions are formed to focus on specific topics of interest, and they may cover issues falling under the purview of one or multiple sectors.

Active commissions currently include the Diamond Commission, the Coloured Stone Commission, the Pearl Commission, the Gemmological Commission, the Marketing and Education Commission, the Precious Metals Commission, the Ethics Commission, the Coral Commission, and the Sustainable Development Commission.

There are additionally committees focusing on subjects specific to different parts of the industry. Currently, these committees include the Technology Committee and the Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee and the Responsible Sourcing Nomenclature Committee.

While the various Confederation bodies meet regularly, all gather at the CIBJO Congress. It typically is held each year in a different country, with one or more of the member associations acting as hosts.

CIBJO: Office Holders



Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri
President
Italy



Mr. Jonathan Kendall
Executive Vice President
United Kingdom



Mr. Pramod Agrawal
Vice President
India



Mr. Marc-Alain Christen
CFO (Treasurer)
Switzerland

CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur, India: A Brief



CIBJO held its annual Congress for the first time in India at the Hotel Fairmont, Jaipur. The Congress was organised from 3rd to 5th October, 2023. Pre-Congress meetings, which largely are made up of the steering committees of the sectoral commissions and committees that would conduct full sessions during the three full days of the Congress, were held on 1st and 2nd October, 2023. Two CIBJO Board Meetings were conducted, one immediately before the Opening Ceremony on 3rd October, 2023, and one at the end of the congress on 5th October, 2023

This year Congress 2023 was jointly hosted by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and National Gem and Jewellery Council of India (NGJCI) with the support of Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India.

CIBJO Congresses brings all member organisations and stake holders at one place for deliberations on technology, trade practices and issues of Gems & Jewellery industry. The meetings of CIBJO's sectoral commissions are also held during the Congress, where amendments can be introduced to the organisation's definitive directories of international industry standards for diamonds, coloured stones, pearls, gem labs, precious metals, coral and responsible sourcing, known as the Blue Books.

The evenings of 3rd & 4th October, 2023 were organised as networking evenings with cultural programmes showcasing rich Indian heritage on performing arts followed by dinner. Eleven renowned jewellery business houses of India were also awarded by CIBJO during the networking evening on 4th October, 2023.

CONCLUSION:

The Annual Congress 2023 concluded on 5th October, 2023 with vote of thanks given by its President, Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri to all Delegates, Media, support agencies and the hosts GJEPC & NGJCI.

CIBJO Congress at Jaipur, India: AGENDA

SUNDAY: OCTOBER 1, 2023: CIBJO PRE-CONGRESS (DAY 1)

EVENT	ROOM/VENUE
Pearl Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Gemmological Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Coral Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur

MONDAY: OCTOBER 2, 2023: CIBJO PRE-CONGRESS (DAY 2)

EVENT	ROOM/VENUE
Coloured Stone Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Diamond Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Laboratory-Grown Diamond Working Group Steering Committee	Maira Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Responsible Sourcing Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Precious Metals Commission Steering Committee	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur
Meeting of Sector A presidents and vice presidents	Avi Room, Fairmount Jaipur

TUESDAY: OCTOBER 3, 2023: CIBJO CONGRESS (DAY 1)

EVENT	ROOM/VENUE
OPENING CEREMONY & SESSION	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Responsible Sourcing, Sustainability and ESG	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Special Presentations: Sean Gilbertson, CEO Gemfields	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
The Jewellery Brands	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
The Viability of Internationally Recognized Standards in the Jewellery Industry	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Ethics Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur

WEDNESDAY: OCTOBER 4, 2023 CIBJO CONGRESS (DAY 2)

EVENT	ROOM/VENUE
Coloured Stone Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Special Coloured Gemstone Responsible Sourcing Session	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Diamond Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Pearl Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Fei Cui Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Precious Metals Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur

THURSDAY: OCTOBER 5, 2023, CIBJO CONGRESS (DAY 3)

EVENT	ROOM/VENUE
Gemmology Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Coral Commission	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
Sectors A, B & C	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur
General Assembly / Close of Congress	Grand Ballroom, Fairmount Jaipur

CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur, India: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (1st-2nd October, 2023)

Starting two days prior to the official start of the CIBJO Congress 2023 on the 3rd October, two days of steering committee meeting took place in the conference centre at the Fairmont Jaipur. The purpose of these meeting is to prepare for the official sessions of the different CIBJO Commission and Committees during the congress itself, to agree on materials, finding and resolutions that will be presented during the official event, and to discuss other issues that may come during the congress.

In total, nine CIBJO steering committee meetings met over the two-day period, including the Pearl Commission Steering Committee, the Gemmological Commission Steering Committee, the Coral Commission Steering Committee, the Coloured Stone Commission Steering Committee, the Diamond Commission Steering Committee, the Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee Steering Committee, the Responsible Sourcing Commission Steering Committee and the Precious Metals Commission Steering Committee. The session ended with a meeting of presidents and vice presidents of CIBJO's Sector A, which are collectively responsible for all gem materials. The meeting of Laboratory-Grown Diamond Working Group was the only one to take place behind closed doors. All of the meetings of hybrid, meaning that in addition to the delegates in the room, there were participants who joined remotely.



The CIBJO Diamond Commission Steering Committee in session in the Avi Room at the Fairmont Jaipur on 2nd October 2023.

CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur, India: INAUGURATION (3rd October, 2023)

The inaugural session was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and PDS, Government of India, as Chief Guest through a Video message. Mr. Gaetano Cavalieri, President, CIBJO; Mr. Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC; Mr. Pramod Kumar Agarwal, Vice President, India, CIBJO and Chairman, NGJCI; Mr. R. Arulanandan, Director, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India; Ms. Ferial Zerouki, President, World Diamond Council (WDC); Mr. Yoram Dvash, President, World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB); Mr. Damien Cody, President, International Coloured Gemstone Association (ICA) shared the dais for the session and addressed the gathering.

Mr. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, through video message said, CIBJO is an event where gems of the sparkling world unite. In the spirit of Bharat's ancient tradition "Athithi Devo Bhavah", he requested all delegates to enjoy hospitality of the India at Pink City while conducting business engagements.



Hon'ble Minister further said that "this event marks a historic moment as it is the first time that CIBJO Congress is being held on Indian soil. The CIBJO Congress taking place in Jaipur is more than just a location. Hosting the CIBJO Congress here is a testimony to the tremendous potential that India holds not only as a market but as a global manufacturing hub. The G20 summit signifies India's emergence as a global leader. Jaipur is a symbol of the vibrant spirit of artisans and rich history of gems & jewellery industry, which Jaipur represents. The industry has the power and promise to realise the goal of local goes global. The gem & jewellery sector has a key player to India's economy contributing significantly to India's merchandising exports annually and employing nearly 5 million people. Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision is to make India No. 1 in the gem & jewellery global business with Make in India products as well as focussing on the design aspects. India is a destination for jewellery as well as for creativity, ideas and progress. India has always been known as the land of gems & jewels - intricate workmanship and sheer artistry of our jewellery creations is unparalleled. India's legacy in this industry dates back to centuries as continues to evolve embracing modern trends and technology while honouring our traditional roots."

On lab Grown Diamonds Hon'ble Commerce & Industry, said that “our lab grown industry is rising and championing sustainability at every step of the way. Surat Diamond Bourse, the world's largest building, will become the hub of all diamond trading activity. As we move forward, let us explore the possibility for collaboration and sustainable practices and pave the way for a brighter future for gem & jewellery industry. Together we can ensure that CIBJO Congress marks the beginning of a new era of prosperity and inclusivity for the global jewellery and gemstone community. I hope this event will give you an opportunity to engage and expand. May this event be the spark that ignites a brilliant future for all of us.”



Mr. R. Arulanandan, Director, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, said, “CIBJO is one the oldest gem & jewellery organisations in the world. Legend has it that the founder king of Jaipur, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II while establishing the City, invited Jewellers from all over the Indian Sub-continent to set up business in Jaipur. Gems & Jewellery business being in Jaipur since long has a historical significance to the CIBJO Congress being held here. India is committed to furthering gem & jewellery trade and the Foreign Trade Policy of Govt. has a separate section for this sector. India holds an important position in global supply chain network. The Govt. of India has taken many initiatives such as creation of many new harmonised system codes of Jewellery studded with different Gemstones to identify different gem & jewellery industry segments leading to correct classification and valuation. It is good to see GJEPC and CIBJO work together for enhancing trust, traceability and transparency.”

Mr. Gaetano Cavaleri, President, CIBJO, in his welcome address said, “CIBJO is the oldest international jewellery association in the world and will celebrate 100 years in Year 2026. CIBJO Congress is being held again after almost 4 years (2019 CIBJO Congress at Bahrain) and the world and industry has changed considerably. The experience of visiting India is overwhelming as India is a country which excites all the senses. The pandemic was an unimaginable yet transformative event; but the trade has now adapted to the new circumstances showing its inherent resilience. Business models of fine jewellery players are evolving rapidly. G7 countries, which accounted for half of all jewellery sales, will be introducing new norms and standards with respect to traceability, trust and transparency. CIBJO is a trusted organisation, which protects interests of



members. It prescribes policy framework to enable and empower industry to put in place tools to operate within law to remain as transparent, honest, sustainable and responsible. We shall discuss and review all matters of international relevance for the trade. However, of 17 sustainable goals of the UN - Partnership is the most important one.”



Mr. Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC, said, “Jaipur is a fitting location for CIBJO Congress as it is a living, breathing testament to the craft and artistry that our industry possesses. As a global leader, India continues to shape the gem and jewellery landscape, serving as both a beacon of time-honoured craftsmanship and a hub for innovation. India is the only beacon of hope as far as jewellery demand goes. Befitting its leadership position in processing of diamonds and gemstones like emerald and tanzanite, India adheres to ethical sourcing practices as well as contributes to the development of industry standards. The Kimberley Process Source protocol for rough diamonds which started based on demand from consumers, is going through a reform cycle and we are committed to support such reform. Consumer’s confidence should be protected at any cost. So, our Government is also discussing with G7 countries the new measures for segregation of diamonds that they are demanding from the trade based on current geopolitical situation. The 2023 CIBJO Congress will also address the pressing issues and opportunities that define our industry.”

Mr. Pramod Agarwal, Vice President, CIBJO and Chairman, NGJCI, in his inaugural speech said, “We are glad that more than 135 overseas delegates, including representatives of some of the top global jewellery brands are attending the CIBJO Congress. A few of them must have come to Jaipur for the first time. Today, we estimate that our industry employs around 2 lakh skilled individuals in and around Jaipur, carrying on a tradition of enamelling and gem-cutting that has stood the test of time. The city of Jaipur is playing a very important role in Coloured Gemstones and Jewellery. There are two Gems & Jewellery Special Economic Zones, one Domestic Tariff Zone of Gems & Jewellery, a world class training institute, IIGJ, a Gem Certification Laboratory and Exhibition and Convention Centre, all located are at one place. Jewellers Association, Jaipur and GJEPC will be developing the largest gem bourse in the world in Jaipur, India. The delegates at CIBJO Congress can exchange the views with each other and explore the possibility of future business. CIBJO is actively working on Sustainable Development Goals, it is in support of Supply Chain Traceability and a policy of Accurate Product Disclosure, which is need of the hour too.”





Dignitaries at the dais of Inauguration ceremony, 3rd October 2023

Outcome of CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur: 3rd October 2023

- Jewellery industry leaders urge freely available data and education to deliver best ESG practices



W&J 2030 Executive Director speaking during the session on ESG in the jewellery industry. She is flanked (from left) by Edward Asscher, RJC Vice President; John Mulligan, CIBJO Sustainable Development Commission President; Ferial Zerouki, WDC President; Melanie Grant, RJC Executive Director; and Helen Mitchell and Jon Key, ESG consultants.

Senior jewellery industry leaders, in a panel discussion conducted on the opening day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, India, called for the delivery of more freely available data and better education by jewellery industry bodies to foster best practices.

In panel discussion focusing on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and responsible practices, speakers also urged industry players to engage in more and better storytelling to communicate jewellery products better to consumers. The session was moderated by John Mulligan, President of the CIBJO Sustainable Development Commission, who also is the Climate Lead at the World Gold Council.

“Fundamental changes are needed through partnerships. We need more ambition, and we need systematic change,” said Iris Van Der Veken, Executive Director and Secretary General of the Watch and Jewellery Initiative 2030.

Ms. Van Der Veken appealed for the creation of an integrated data system to capture the needs of the industry as it works to raise responsible standards across the board.

Melanie Grant, Executive General of the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), said that, based on her experience as a journalist, freely available data about key trends in the global jewellery business was hard to find.

“The industry needs more access to data,” she said, adding that more effective story telling was an essential component for brands and suppliers to communicate their strengths to consumers.

ESG consultants Jon Key and Helen Mitchell also spoke of the need for more insightful story-telling to increase the quality of communications about jewellery offered across the retail spectrum.

Milan-based jewellery historian and author Alba Cappellieri, who heads the jewellery design department at the Politecnico di Milano, said the jewellery industry needs to invest more in education to raise standards in the future.

“Please believe more in education and support more education in the jewellery industry,” she said, calling on CIBJO to establish an education forum.

Professor Cappallieri added that AI will transform the future of the jewellery industry in a multiplicity of ways, and can be used to help boost standards and responsible practices.

Feriel Zerouki, President of the World Diamond Council (WDC), spoke of the need to foster fairness among industry players in order to achieve ESG goals and sustainability.

“To be ethical we need to be equitable,” she said, referring to the path to sustainability from responsible practices to improving ethical standards. She made her point by a describing two people, one short and one tall, paying the same price for a concert ticket, even though the taller one is likely to see the performance, while the other’s view is impeded. “True equality exists only if opportunity if equitable,” she said. “In some cases, people deserve to be boosted.”

She further said “Responsible sourcing also means ‘do no harm. Ethical means be kind and good

Education is key to helping coloured stone diggers achieve better lives and livelihoods



Panellists discussing responsible sourcing in coloured gemstone industry (from left): Sunil Agrawal, CEO of Vaibhav Global Ltd.; Jenna White, a doctoral student the Colorado School of Mines; John Ford, of the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA); Kimberley Collins, President of AGTA; Sean Gilbertson, CEO of Gemfields; Damien Cody, President of the International Coloured Stone Association (ICA); Douglas Hucker, CEO of ICA; Longo Mulaisho-Zinsner, a founder of the Jewellery and Gemstone Association of Africa (JGAA); and David Brough, Editor and Publisher of the global digital trade magazine Jewellery Outlook, who was the panel's moderator.

Education and training will be key to helping artisanal gemstone diggers achieve better lives and livelihoods, a panel at the CIBJO Congress 2023 has heard. The session featured a discussion about future steps that need to be taken to bring in more effective responsible sourcing in the coloured gemstone industry.

Among the key messages stressed during the session was the sector, led by industry associations, needs to invest more in the education and training of diggers, including how to run their own businesses. Coloured gemstone companies were also called on to invest in beneficiation projects in impoverished mining areas, to bring much-needed infrastructure to artisanal diggers, such as potable water supplies. Sustained efforts are also needed to instil gender equality across all mining communities.

Some 20 million artisanal miners are estimated to mine coloured gemstones around the world, accounting for around 80 percent of total production.

Jenna White, a doctoral student the Colorado School of Mines, presented a research paper conducted with the support of the American Gem Trade Association, which looked at the development of responsible supply chains in the coloured gemstone sector. While conducting the research, she lived in a Kenyan mining community, and learned the importance of helping diggers to help themselves.

Kim Collins, President of the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA), addressed the urgent need to work to achieve gender equality along the coloured gemstone supply chain, as part of ongoing efforts to meet the UN-backed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

John Ford, CEO of AGTA and Douglas Hucker, CEO of the International Coloured Gemstone Association (ICA), agreed that it currently is challenging to introduce new technologies such as blockchain in the highly fragmented artisanal coloured gemstone supply chain.

Sean Gilbertson, CEO of industrial miner Gemfields, highlighted steps taken by his company to enhance working conditions of employees.

Gilbertson also spoke of the low officially declared coloured gemstone annual export revenue declaration by Madagascar of up to \$15 million, adding that miners in origin countries should in his view receive a fair, market-value share of the income they are generating. Madagascar is an important supplier of gemstones such as sapphires.

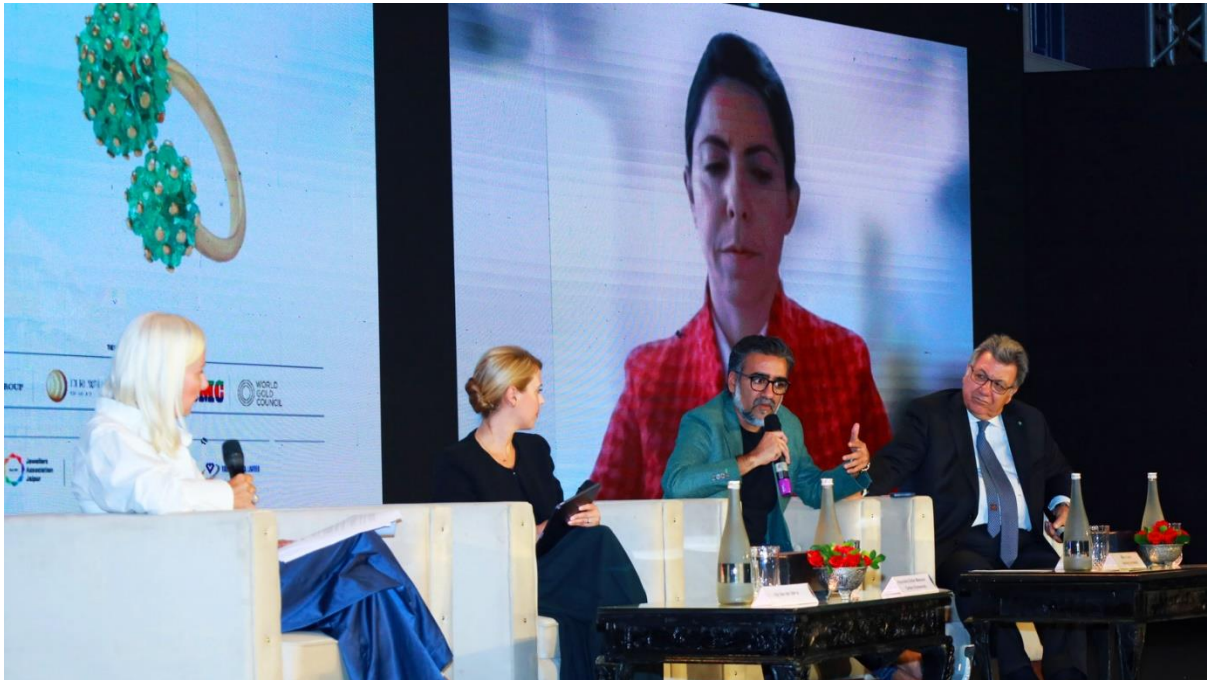
Sunil Agrawal, CEO of Jaipur gemstone manufacturer Vaibhav Global Ltd, spoke of actions taken by his company to improve working conditions along the coloured gemstone supply chain.

Longo Mulaisho-Zinsner, a founder of the Jewellery and Gemstone Association of Africa (JGAA), addressed the difficulties of jewellery makers in Zambia to obtain tools for their work and their challenges in affording coloured gemstone raw materials against a backdrop of rising prices.

There was a sad and poignant moment at the start of the session, when industry journalist Jennifer Heebner informed participants of the death a day earlier of a well-known and greatly respected colleague, Hedda Schupak. Ms. Schupak was the former editor-in-chief of JCK magazine and the Centurion newsletter, and is remembered for her integrity, commitment to the industry and her fierce loyalty to the reporters who worked with her.

The panel was moderated by David Brough, Editor and Publisher of the global digital trade magazine Jewellery Outlook.

- **Building partnerships and boosting education key to development of industry, brand representatives say**



Leading jewellery brands were featured in a special session on the opening day of CIBJO Congress on October 3, moderated by Iris Van der Veken (left), Executive Director of the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030. Together with her on the podium are (from left) Anouchka Didier-Mansour, International Sustainability Director at Cartier; Milan Choksi, a senior executive at India's Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and a luxury jeweller; and CIBJO President Gaetano Cavalieri. Joining as a online panellist from Italy is Francesca Manfredi, Head of Sustainable Innovation Watches & Jewellery at Kering.

Building partnerships and new multi-stakeholder initiatives will be key towards creating a more sustainable future in the global jewellery industry, senior jewellery brand executives said during a panel discussion on the first day of the CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, India, on October 3.

The session was moderated by Iris Van der Veken, Executive Director and Secretary General of the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 (WJI 2030), which is an organization established by Cartier and Kering to accelerate positive measurable impact, particularly in respect to building climate resilience, preserving resources and fostering inclusiveness. She set the scene on how the WJI 2030 is based on a partnership model with United Nations Global Compact and UN Women.

Anouchka Didier-Mansour, International Sustainability Director at Cartier, said she expected a surge in new collaborations over the next seven years as stakeholders seek to achieve the UN-backed Sustainable Development Goals by the 2030 target date.

“At Cartier, sustainability has been deeply rooted in our DNA,” Ms. Didier-Mansour said, adding that Cartier set up a dedicated sustainability department 18 years ago.

“The next seven years will be decisive for our industry. We have to accelerate,” she stated.

Ms. Didier-Mansour said that she expected increasing commitments of stakeholders to deliver progress.

“It is important for Cartier to support projects that have concrete impact on the ground,” she noted.

Francesca Manfredi, Head of Sustainable Innovation at the Kering Group, told the panel that collective efforts are needed to achieve a more sustainable future in the global jewellery industry.

Milan Choksi, a Member of Indian Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and a luxury jeweller, shared the importance of being authentic on disclosure and claims. He also spoke about the opportunity to grow talent in our industry.

He said that India offered scope to build many jobs in the gem and jewellery industry, embracing those who may not have had a full education as well as those who were well-educated.

Both Cartier and Kering backed the establishment of the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 in recent years, which is driving forward efforts to invest in knowledge, partnerships, traceability and social justice in the global industry.

“When I think of my four-year-old daughter, I think that I must work to do whatever I can to make a better world,” Francesca Manfredi said.

“Whatever we do, we can do more and better,” CIBJO President Gaetano Cavalieri said.

Ms. Van der Veken concluded that it is key for the industry to be united and bring everyone on the journey. All the learnings of WJI 2030 will be shared with the wide industry and stakeholder ecosystem. This is a responsibility to bring along the full value chain especially the SMEs, she said.

- **Intellectual property law education can protect careers in the jewellery industry: Ethics Commission**



Looking on (from left) are Lisa Koenigsberg, President of Initiatives in Art and Culture; Tiffany Steven, Ethics Commission President; and Sara Yood, Deputy General Counsel, JVC and Sabyasachi Ray, Executive Director of India's Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, making a point during the Ethics Commission session on October 3.

Imparting education about intellectual property (IP) law can protect careers of members of the jewellery industry including designers, a panel heard. The discussion took part on October 3, 2023, during the Ethics Commission session at the CIBJO Congress.

The session was also the third part of a three-part series on IP organised by CIBJO in collaboration with the U.S.-based Initiatives in Art and Culture focusing on the protection of IP in the jewellery industry.

The first part, which took place in New York in July, looked at the subject from an American perspective, concentrating mainly on smaller jewellery designers and manufacturers. The second part, which took place in Italy in September, studied the European industry, with an emphasis on how jewellery brands defend their IP. The third part at the CIBJO Congress was Asia-focused.

The panellists stressed that communications about how international IP law can protect the interests of creators of intellectual property were a vital means of generating a just framework in the jewellery industry.

"If designers can get information earlier in their careers about what is legal and is not legal, this will serve them well for their careers and not infringe others," said Sara Yood, Deputy General Counsel of the New York-based Jewelers Vigilance Committee.

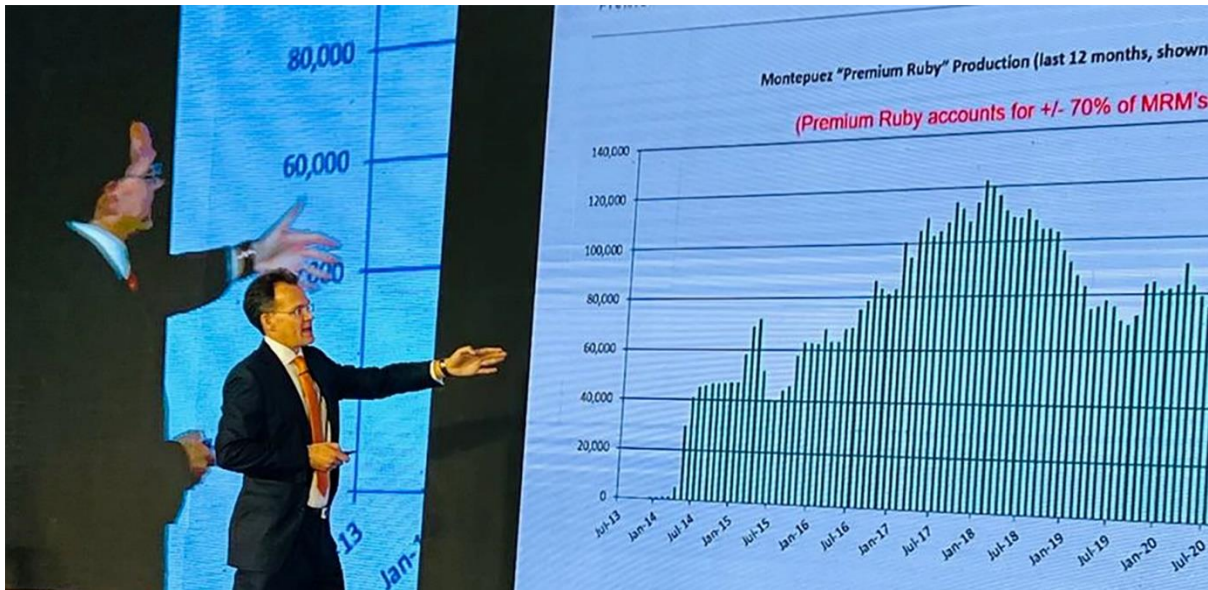
Sabyasachi Ray, Executive Director of India's Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), said Indian jewellery making communities need to protect themselves against possible infringement of their intellectual property.

"The whole patent can be developed in the community," he said, referring to communities of hand-made jewellery makers in India, a leading origin of handcrafted jewellery.

"Give them their legal right and let them enjoy their own product" Sabyasachi added. Lisa Koenigsberg, President of Initiatives in Art and Culture, thanked the JVC for their guidance on legal protection of intellectual property in the jewellery industry.

The panel was chaired by Tiffany Stevens, the CIBJO Ethics Commission President and CEO and General Counsel, JVC.

- **Gemfields urges focus on 'mine of origin,' rather than country of origin, to boost traceability**



Sean Gilbertson, CEO of Gemfields, providing an overview of the coloured gemstone market during the 2023 CIBJO Congress on October 3 in Jaipur.

Gemfields, a leading industrial miner of rubies and emeralds in Mozambique and in Zambia, called for a focus by downstream market players on the “mine of origin” rather than country of origin in order to boost traceability.

Gemfields has released transparent data on its supply chain from mine to auction, CEO Sean Gilbertson said in a presentation on the first day of the CIBJO Congress.

“We need to move to a ‘mine of origin’ model, not the country of origin,” Gilbertson said.

“If you don’t know which mine it (a gemstone) came from, don’t buy it.”

Gilbertson also spoke of Madagascar which he said had published figures showing a low export value of its gemstones.

Prices of both rough rubies and emeralds had been rising due to a combination of tight supplies of high-quality goods and rising demand, Gilbertson said.

He said that prices of the precious gemstones had been firm despite an increase in mining output in recent years.

In separate presentations, David Tait, CEO of the World Gold Council (WGC), speaking by video link, urged accelerated efforts to raise standards and move towards greater sustainability in the global jewellery sector.

Marco Carniello, jewellery show director of the Vicenza Oro trade fair in northeast Italy, spoke of strong growth of Vicenzaoro since 2017, which has seen an increase in the number of exhibitors and the variety of its offering to the global trade. The next edition of Vicenza Oro will take place from January 19 to 23, 2024.

Outcome of CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur: 4th October 2023

- Precious stones commission considers issues related to environmental marketing



The Precious Metals Commission in session on 4th October , 2023 (from left): Larry Drummond, Executive Director at International Precious Metals Institute (IPMI); Sara Yood, Deputy General Counsel, JVC; Jonathan Jodry, Business Development Director at Metalor Technologies SA, and Chair, ISO Technical Committee 174, covering the fields of jewellery, diamonds, gemstones and precious metals; Huw Daniel, President of the CIBJO Precious Metals Commission; Karina Ratzlaff, Vice President, CIBJO Precious Metals Commission; and Doug Henry, CEO and Assay Master of the Birmingham Assay Office.

During the session of the Precious Metals Commission on October 4, 2023, the second day of the congress, a range of issues related to the sector were raised, including new regulations in the United States related to making environmental claims when marketing jewellery, recycled gold, and impacts on health of certain metals.

The Precious Commission panel was chaired by Platinum Guild International CEO Huw Daniel, supported by Vice President Karina Ratzlaff.

Sara Yood, Deputy General Counsel at the Jewelers Vigilance Committee (JVC) reported that the organisation is awaiting guidance from the U.S. government's Federal Trade Commission on environmental marketing.

Based on its survey of members, Ms. Yood said that its advice was not to use the term "sustainability" in marketing jewellery pending guidance from the FTC or based on their definition of the term.

The Federal Trade Commission's Green Guides Review began in December 2022.

The JVC submitted, along with 16 additional signatories, including CIBJO, proposals intended to strengthen the jewellery industry's position on the importance of truth and fairness in environmental marketing claims.

Of note in the JVC submission included feedback on the definition of “recycled”, which currently only applies to products intentionally diverted from the waste stream.

From the JVC submission, “The inherent value of the products used in the jewellery industry meant that almost all of the component parts used to make fine jewellery are reused in the jewellery life cycle.

“Fine jewellery components, including gemstones and precious metal, are holders of wealth (and sometimes treated as commodities); there are thousands of years of tradition of reusing, recycling, and passing down jewellery through generations.

“Rarely does this material get discarded. Precious metals and gemstones will be refined, recut, and reused over and over again.”

Yood said during the panel that while nothing in precious jewellery was wasted because of its inherent value, fast fashion jewellery was often thrown away.

“Fast fashion products end up in the ground; jewellery products start in the ground and stay out,” the JVC submission said.

JVC asked specifically for the FTC to either refine their definition of recycled, or provide the industry with alternative terminology, such as “repurposed”, “reprocessed” or “reclaimed”.

Jonathan Jodry, Chair, ISO Technical Committee 174 for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), said he expected to report back to the CIBJO Congress next year on results of a project to investigate whether standards on responsible sourcing of precious metals, including recycling, are in line with ISO standards.

In another presentation, Birmingham Assay Office called for implementation of standards to reduce risks to consumers from hypersensitivity to gold that may be linked to allergic reactions to nickel and cobalt, which can be used in gold alloys.

“The impact of allergens on society is immense,” Doug Henry, CEO and Assay Master of the Birmingham Assay Office, said.

He referred to increased costs to healthcare and risks of market impact to the jewellery industry.

Mr Henry spoke of a need for international standards, and advocated clearer labelling in order to protect consumer interests and reduce risks of allergenic reactions.

In an address by its Executive Director Larry Drummond, the International Precious Metals Institute appealed for more collaboration with CIBJO on events and in dissemination of information to members of both organisations.

- [Pearl Commission meeting](#)



Pearl Commission President Kenneth Scarratt, speaking during the Pearl Commission Steering Committee meeting. He is flanked by Rui Galopim de Carvalho (left), and, Vice President of CIBJO's Sector A, and Shigeru Akamatsu, the Pearl Commission's Vice President,

The spread of microplastics in the world's oceans will erode the quality of pearl molluscs and nacre if unchecked, potentially limiting the supply of higher quality natural and cultured pearls in the longer term, said Kenneth Scarratt, President of the CIBJO Pearl Commission, which met on October 4 at the congress taking place in Jaipur, India.

Speaking after a Pearl Commission meeting Mr Scarratt said, "The potential impact is on the quality of the nacre being produced by the molluscs."

Asked to elaborate on the impact, he added, "The higher quality (pearls) would be proportionately less."

Mr Scarratt said that efforts to limit or halt the spread of microplastics in the world's oceans, could reverse any impact.

"The whole point of this is to clean the oceans up," he said.

"If fishermen didn't let their nets go into the ocean, there would be less of an issue."

The Pearl Commission document, presented to the CIBJO Congress, said that one of the most dominant sources of fibres in the marine environment was fishing gear.

"Since the areas studied host significant fishing and shipping activities, these would likely contribute to the larger number of fibres found in the areas," the study said.

The Pearl Commission panel was chaired by Mr Scarratt, who was joined on the podium by Shigeru Akamatsu, the commission's Vice President, and Rui Galopim de Carvalho, Vice President of CIBJO's Sector A.

- **New standards being developed to control quality of batches of small diamonds**



The industry standardization panel in session at the 2023 CIBJO Congress (from left): Jonathan Jodry, Chair of ISO Technical Committee 174, covering the fields of jewellery, diamonds, gemstones and precious metals; moderator Edward Johnson; Tom Moses, GIA Executive Vice President and Chief Laboratory and Research Officer International Organization for Standardization (ISO); Patrick Loetscher, Head of Watch Industry Standards Department at the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry; and Dominique Dubugnon, Special Project Manager, Product & Process improvement, Standardization, Swatch Group Quality Management. Joining the session remotely was Jean-Pierre Chalain, Convenor of the Working Group on Diamonds, gemstones and) related products, Technical Committee 174, who also is the CIBJO Diamond Commission Vice President.

Standards are being developed at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to control the quality of batches of small diamonds to protect consumer interests.

High quality small diamonds, many of 0.2 carats and less, are widely used in the Swiss watch industry.

“We want to maintain the confidence in our product,” Dominique Dubugnon, Special Project Manager, Product & Process Improvement, Standardization, Swatch Group Quality Management, said in a panel discussion on the first day of the CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, India.

“All of you know that the Swiss watch industry is high quality, so we need to be sure that the customer has information on the product line.”

In September 2020, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) published International Standard 24016, specifying the terminology, classification and the methods to be used for the grading and description of single unmounted polished diamonds over 0.25 carats in weight. Jean-Pierre Chalain, a panellist in the session and Vice President of CIBJO's Diamond Commission, was convenor of TC174 Working Group 2 that oversaw the project.

More recently, work began on International Standard 24016, which would focus on quality control of diamonds of 0.25 carats and less. Once more, CIBJO's Diamond Commission Vice President was appointed the convenor of the working group overseeing the project.

Already in 2015, the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry FH had voiced its need for an ISO standard for harmonizing the quality control of small diamonds.

The still-to-be-approved Standard 6893 will deviate from International Standard 24016 in that it will describe under which conditions the quality control of batches of small diamonds can be performed. It will provide recommendations using a statistical tool, known as Acceptable Quality Level, which will enable laboratories to perform the quality control of large quantities of small diamonds – including parcels of 500, 2,000 and even more than 50,000 diamonds – based on random samplings.

Patrick Loetscher, Head of Watch Industry Standards Department at the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry, said, “Consumers should know what they are buying.”

Jonathan Jodry, Chair, ISO Technical Committee 174, ISO, said that if different checks were applied to a batch of diamonds, it would be very difficult to have a standard.

“It (standard) will give a single tool. The standards are not mandatory.”

Mr. Chalain said development of the new standards would create more work for diamond laboratories.

Tom Moses, GIA Executive Vice President, said he agreed with efforts to develop the standard.

“I fully agree with this initiative. More than 90 percent of polished diamonds weigh less than one tenth of a carat.”

The panel was chaired by Edward Johnson, Corporate Social Responsibility Director at Gemfields and a veteran gemmologist.

- **CIBJO Diamond Commission looks at market and prices, still experiencing the aftershocks of the COVID crisis**



Mahiar Borhanjoo, CEO of UNI Diamonds, addressing the session of the Diamond Commission at the 2023 CIBJO Congress. Also, on the podium (from left) are Sabyasachi Ray, Executive Director, The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC); Udi Sheintal, President of the Diamond Commission; and Simon Hui, Director of the Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group's Diamond Management Centre.

The session of the CIBJO Diamond Commission on October 4, the second day of this year's CIBJO Congress, focused largely on the currently complicated state of the natural diamond market.

But the session opened with Diamond Commission President Udi Sheintal paying special tribute to Roland Naftule, Sector A President, who he referred to as his mentor in CIBJO, and Harry Levy, who served at different times as President and Vice President of the commission, both of whom passed away earlier this year.

Mehul Shah, Vice President of the Bharat Diamond Bourse in Mumbai, spoke of India's historic connection to diamonds, which he said dates back 2,500 when goods were first mined in the country. There are today 1 million families involved in the trade, he said.

Co-presenting with Mr. Shah was Sabyasachi Ray, Executive Director of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). Describing India as the land of limitless opportunities, he noted that rough imports have fallen this year, and this has a direct impact of the level of manufacturing in the centre. The Chinese market has performed less strongly than many originally thought it would after emerging from its government's zero-COVID policy.

The world industry today is largely financed by the Indian banks, Mr. Ray stated, providing about 85 percent to 90 percent of financial credit.

Simon Hui, Director of the Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group's Diamond Management Centre, spoke of the fundamentals of the Chinese market, which he said are essentially strong. While demand for natural diamonds may be impacted by long-term volatility, consumer sentiment is still very positive, he added.

Savings in China are up, Mr. Hui stated, and thus the potential for natural diamond sales remain high. Disposable income rose by 6.5 percent, and brand jewellery sales are expected to rise 10 percent to 14 percent over the coming year.

In China, Mr. Hui continued, natural diamonds are still supreme, when people want to mark a special occasion. Chow Tai Fook research shows that about one-third of Chinese women say they intend buying a diamond product over the coming year.

Mahiar Borhanjoo, CEO of UNI Diamonds, a data aggregator that provides information to the industry and service providers, like financial institutions and insurance companies, focused his attention on diamond price movement.

When there is more supply prices go down, and when there is less prices go up, he stated. The industry is cyclical, and is now going through a challenging time. But, he added, it should be noted that much of the current data is being compared to spectacular sales registered in 2021.

"I blame COVID," he stated, "because there was pent up demand and high sales, inventories were depleted, and this led to short supply that caused people to go to other products. But that unusual demand is gone, partly because people feel less of a need to celebrate loved ones than they did at the height of the crisis. Many had expected the huge demand in 2022, just like 2021, but that did not happen."

But, added Mr. Borhanjoo, "We are now seeing a flattening out of price decreases, which is a positive sign as we approach the holiday season."

- **CIBJO working group developing draft document for internationalisation of Fei Cui standard**



Kent Wong (fourth from left), Chairman of Jewellers' and Goldsmiths' Association of Hong Kong (JGAHK) and Managing Director of Chow Tai Fook, moderator of the Fei Cui session, together with team from Hong Kong that organised and participated in the hybrid session (from left): Peter Chan, Barry Yu, Norman Siu, Edward Liu, Lau Hak Bun, Stephen Tse and Irene Leung.

The second day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, India, featured a hybrid session chaired from Hong Kong, delivered by a working group that is investigating a branding and market development strategy for what is referred to as Fei Cui, which includes the development of an international standard for identifying and describing the material.

Hugely popular in China and other parts of Asia, although relatively unknown in the West, Fei Cui is a granular to fibrous polycrystalline aggregate, composed solely or principally of the mineral's jadeite, omphacite and kosmochlor, or any combination of these minerals.

The "Fei Cui" discussion document is essentially a blueprint for stringent trading standards, including full disclosure of the material offered for sale in a jewellery product. Fei Cui is understood to be jadeite jade throughout Asia, as mentioned in GBT 16553-2017, a Chinese national standard document.

It also envisages Fei Cui accredited gem labs operating in compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 a laboratory quality management standard.

The presentation during the congress was moderated by Kent Wong, Chairman of Jewellers' and Goldsmiths' Association of Hong Kong (JGAHK), who also is Managing Director of Chow Tai Fook, the world's largest jewellery retail chain. He was joined by Dr Edward Liu, Chairman of Gemmological Association of Hong Kong (GAHK), in Hong Kong; Prof Dr. Yang Mingxing, former Dean and Professor of the Gemmological Institute at the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan, China, who is the convenor team drafting the international Fei Cu standard; and Dr. Norman Siu, Director of GAHK, the deputy convenor, who was in Hong Kong.

On the podium in Jaipur was Sumed Prasongpongchai, Director of Gem and Jewelry Institute of Thailand (GIT); Kenneth Scarratt, President of CIBJO's Sector A, in Jaipur; and Hanco Zwaan, President of CIBJO Gemmological Commission.

During the discussion, panellists noted draft said that both industry members and consumers should be aware that in some Asian market places the term "Fei Cui" is used more loosely. It is vital, therefore, if the name "Fei Cui" is used in sales, it shall be clearly stated which minerals are being referred to.

Fei Cui accounts for around a fifth of the Chinese jewellery market.

The discussion draft will be available as a reference standard for an ethical approach to trade and as training materials to enhance the skills of key lab personnel.

Speaking after the session, Dr. Zwaan said that, for the global harmonisation of nomenclature of jade terminology, some issues needed addressing. These included worldwide recognition of nephrite and jadeite as jade, based on their exceptional toughness and similar appearance, and differentiating the green omphacite variety, which is gemmologically indistinguishable from green jadeite, and the omphacite present in metamorphic rock, as well as the status of Maw-sit-sit and associated kosmochlor.

- **Coloured stone sector adopting homogeneous declaration for all coloured gemstone treatments**



Emmanuel Piat, (centre), Vice President of the CIBJO Coloured Stone Commission, chairing the body's session at the 2023 congress. He is flanked by Jeanette Fiedler (left) and Melissa Wolfgang Amenc.

The global trade has embraced a homogeneous declaration of all coloured gemstone treatments, which is now incorporated into the CIBJO Coloured Stone Blue Books, said Emmanuel Piat, Vice President of the Coloured Stone Commission, who chaired the session of the body on October 4, the second day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress.

“I am amazed, because we have been fighting for the last 20 years on this subject,” Mr. Piat, said after the session, during which no objections were raised regarding the decisions taken during the pandemic.

“It might be difficult for the trade and the retailers to face this requirement,” Mr. Piat added.

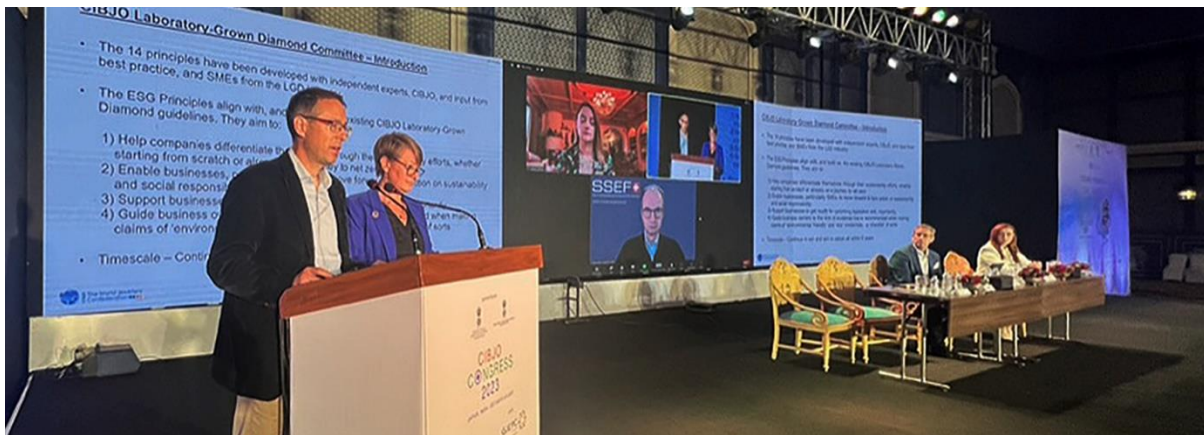
Now wholesalers and jewellery retailers must declare the same way any and all treatments that have been applied to gemstones whether set or not in jewellery and offered for sale.

For example, irradiated topaz, dyed agate onyx, heated sapphire and oiled emerald must be listed as such in all the invoices.

Supporting Mr. Piat on the podium during the session was Melissa Wolfgang Amenc and Jeanette Fiedler.

Outcome of CIBJO Congress 2023 at Jaipur: 5th October 2023

- Committee discusses guidelines for implementing ESG principles in laboratory-grown diamond sector



ESG consultants Jon Key (left) and Helen Mitchell, addressing the session of the CIBJO Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee on October 5, 2023. They are joined on the podium by Wesley Hunt (second from right), the committee Chair, and Ralika Anghel. Joining remotely as panellists are Joanna Park-Tonks, President of the International Grown Diamond Association (IGDA), Andrey Zharkov and Jean-Pierre Chalain, Vice President of the CIBJO Diamond Commission.

In its session on October 5, the final day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress, the Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee focused on the implementation of ESG (environment, sustainability and good governance) in the laboratory-grown diamond sector. The session was moderated by its chair, Wesley Hunt.

Consultants Jon Key and Helen Mitchell, who had been retained by CIBJO to develop a system outlining the incorporation of ESG practices in the sector, outlined 14 broad principles to guide companies in contributing to a more sustainable future. They are designed to be adopted voluntarily, Ms. Mitchell noted, “But in today’s world there are only three absolute certainties – death, taxes and WSG regulation.”

The diagram of the principles was presented, showing a wheel divided by environmental, social responsibility and governance principles, provided clear definitions of each plus practical and measurable action items, including how each will contribute to meeting one or more of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Among these were recommendations on renewable energy, such as switching to a renewable energy provider, monitoring energy use, and acquiring energy saving equipment.

The social responsibility principles covered areas such as health and safety, and paying fair wages.

“Consider the principles as a checklist as a means to move to sustainable and socially responsible action,” Mr. Key told the Congress.

Ms. Mitchell said she has sounded out CIBJO Congress participants and heard comments such as, “My company is too small to make a difference.”

“If we do take action [on ESG], we create new norms and others will follow,” she stated.

Ms. Mitchell urged jewellery companies to take simple steps, under the principles, such as monitoring water usage.

“Last year I worked with a manufacturing company that saved 20 percent of funds spent on water, by identifying their use of water,” she said. “I also worked with a company that removed all plastics from packaging.”

Laboratory-Grown Steering Committee members Joanna Park-Tonks, who heads the International Grown Diamond Association (IGDA), and Andrey Zharkov, founder of Ultra C, a lab-grown diamond jewellery company, said they welcomed the initiative as a means to create a more sustainable future for the lab-grown diamond sector.

“We are all feeling our way,” Park-Tonks told the congress.

- **CIBJO Coral Commission reinforces differentiation of precious coral from reef coral**



The Coral Commission in session on October 5, the final day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress (from left): Rui Galopim de Carvalho, the commission's Vice President; Vincenzo Liverino, the commission's President; and Kenneth Scarratt, also a commission Vice President.

CIBJO's Coral Commission has reinforced its differentiation of the definition of precious coral from reef coral, in order to more clearly identify the precious coral used for jewellery.

The Coral Commission met on October 5, during the third day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress in Dubai. It was chaired by Vincenzo Liverino, the body's President, supported by Vice Presidents Rui Galopim de Carvalho and Kenneth Scarratt.

Summing up the deliberations of the Coral Commission report to the CIBJO Congress in Jaipur, India, members of the group had agreed upon some minor semantic changes.

But a major effort of the commission is educational, and in particularly assisting both members of the industry and the jewellery consuming public about precious coral varieties, which reside in deep and colder water and are less impacted by global warming and ocean acidification, and the better-known reef and common coral, which are considerably more impact.

The CIBJO Commission has recommended that precious corals of the type that can be used in fine jewellery, should only be fished from a depth of more than 50 metres below the ocean's surface, with a trunk width of at least 7 millimetres.

Specialist, highly trained scuba divers can reach depths in excess of 50 metres to reach precious coral.

On the other hand, common corals, including reef corals are not generally used in precious jewellery, and considerably more likely to be considered endangered by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

There currently are no precious coral varieties restricted by CITES, and a good proportion of the material being used by the industry at present were processed from corals that died many years ago.

- **CIBJO Gemmological Commission considering amendments to gemstone variety definitions**



The Gemmological Commission in session on October 5 (from left): Thanong Leelawatanasuk, commission Vice President, Hanco Zwaan, the commission's President; and Claudio Milisenda, another of the commission Vice President.

Reporting in its activities during the third day of the 2023 CIBJO Congress on October 5, Gemmological Commission detailed the operation of a working group it is leading to consider amendments to definitions of gemstone varietal names, which should reduce risks of inconsistencies by laboratories and help to protect consumer confidence.

The commission was chaired by Mr Zwaan, supported by Vice Presidents Claudio Milisenda of the German Gem Lab and Thanong Leelawatanasuk of the Gem and Jewellery Institute of Thailand (GIT.)

The Commission is working on a gemmological book of amendments to more clearly define minerals and gemstones, incorporating 278 entries of different names, such as actinolite, agate, and so on.

“This list is to help with definition of names,” said Gemmological Commission President Hanco Zwaan, he stated.

“Does a name refer to a mineral or a gem variety name or a trade name? For example, Fei Cui is designated as a trade name in the document.”

Dr. Zwaan added, “It could be that trade names today could become variety names after some time.”

He said, “This document is a baseline from which we can start discussions on borderline cases. The labs will later decide what to do with this information.”

Gemmologists have noted inconsistencies in lab reporting of gemstones, for example over a colour definition surrounding green beryl and emeralds, or the origin of sapphires.

Speaking from the audience, Wesley Hunt, Director, Programme Management, at De Beers Consumer & Brands, who also is Chair of the CIBJO Laboratory-Grown Diamond Committee, noted that laboratory grown diamonds are diamonds, but they are not gemstones because they are not minerals.

The ongoing research will aim to reduce risks of inconsistencies, enabling a more level playing field for lab reporting which in turn will help to underpin consumer confidence in gemstones set into jewellery.

Networking Evenings

After the intense discussions and hectic engagements of whole day the evenings were organised in manner that the delegates sum up the whole day discussions with an entertainment followed by dinner so that they attend the next morning sessions with full of energy.

A Rajasthani Folk Dance programme was arranged in the Majestic Courtyard of Chandra Mahal Palace (City Palace) of Jaipur followed by gala dinner on 04th October, 2023. The foreign delegates enjoyed the performance by following the steps of Artists or having the photograph with them. participating in the performance.



On 04th October, 2023 also a gala dinner was arranged at Hotel Ram Bag Palace a heritage property of Taj group of hotels in Jaipur. Before dinner, CIBJO awarded eleven renowned jewellery industry companies of India for their outstanding performance in the jewellery business. This was followed by a cultural performance on contemporary Indian dance styles which entertained the delegates.



Benefits of CIBJO Congress to Indian Industry

The CIBJO Congress gave Indian Industry an opportunity to interact with various Global Stake holders of Gems & Jewellery Industry. The representatives of overseas organisations and Jewellery companies exchanged their views with the representatives of Indian Industry which will create a better understanding between the two on the front of Technology, Trade Practices, Trends, manufacturing process, etc. The overseas delegates got to know the prowess of Indian Gems & Jewellery Industry which is going to increase their confidence on Indian Industry.

Post Congress the representatives of some of the renowned brands visited the manufacturing units and other facilities like Gemstones Certification Laboratory, Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery, at Jaipur. With this visit they got to know about the ecosystem of Indian Industry and their capabilities which was appreciated by them. Their will enhance the image of Indian Industry which will culminate in new export orders in due course.

As a result of deliberations in Congress the knowledge of Indian Manufacturers on technology and latest technique in use will updated which will increase their productivity and export competitiveness. This will increase our exports and employment generation.

