

**President's Report**  
ICSB Board Meeting  
5 June 2015

As the current ICSB President, I am happy to present the yearly ICSB President's Annual Report for this year. The goal of this report is to highlight the 2014 milestones for our members and partners so we can reflect back on what we have accomplished together throughout the year and also look forward to our goals and milestones for the incoming year.

One of our key areas of focus for the year was affiliate development and we are proud of the inroads we've made in this initiative. During the 2014 ACSB Conference in October, we officially welcomed our newest affiliate ICSB Malaysia, The International Council for SME & Entrepreneurship (ICSMEE) Malaysia. The goal of ICSMEE is to gain a better understanding of local SMEs and entrepreneurs in Malaysia as well as the ecosystem in which they operate. Launching strong, they already have 5 corporate and 50 individual members and have held 6 major events during the year. During this year Mexico presented its application to launch an affiliate and received the approval in Tampa, during the mid term Board Meeting, Also Indonesia, through the efforts of President-Elect, Dr. Ki-Chan Kim, has presented its application. The IO has also received interest from groups in South Africa, Israel, Ghana, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tibet, Qatar, and Macedonia.

One of the most significant changes within the structure of ICSB occurred during the 2014 ICSB World Conference in Dublin, Ireland when the new Board of Directors were officially appointed. In the fiscal year 2012-13, the members of ICSB voted in favor of reducing the board size from 28 to 11 members to make the board more agile and to reduce operating costs. Now comprised of only four elected members – myself as President, Dr. Jeffrey Alves as Immediate Past President, Dr. Ki-Chan Kim as President Elect, Dr. Geralyn Franklin as VP Finance & Control, and Dr. Luca Iandoli as VP Development – we are focused on our initiatives for the new year.

One of our main goals is the formation and promotion of the new ICSB Regional Affiliate Councils; bringing together ICSB affiliates in geographic regions around the world to offer regional programming and events. This initiative will not only allow ICSB to strengthen our network and brand in these areas, it will also provide members with additional opportunities to connect with new members and expand your network globally. We have already seen tremendous movement in Asia with the Asian Council for Small Business hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Asian SME Conference, which brought over 200 individuals from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia to Seoul.

We were also very focused on preparing for the highly anticipated 2015 ICSB World Conference in Dubai, UAE. The conference explores the theme "Entrepreneurship at a Global Crossroads" and in its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is held from June 6-9<sup>th</sup>. For the last 60 years, ICSB members from around the world have met to promote and celebrate the growth and development of small and medium businesses worldwide. For our 60th annual event, ICSB and the conference hosts at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) have put together an excellent line-up of keynote speakers in the plenary and parallel track sessions and also have incorporated various social and networking events for delegates. I would like to thank our colleagues at UAEU for being a

tremendous host and partner for the conference. Be sure to visit our social media channels regularly throughout the event for updates and highlights from the event. Use the hashtag #ICSB2015 to join the conversation.

In June 2014, ICSB was proud to launch our new, dynamic website. If you haven't already, visit us at [www.icsb.org](http://www.icsb.org) and take a look around. Through this new platform we are able to better connect and communicate with members. The new ICSB blog, The Latest, is focused on highlighting news and updates from the various ICSB affiliate events as well as tracking industry news and trends. The ICSB Portfolio highlights information on the various ICSB programs that are offered throughout the year and the affiliates page highlights our 16 global affiliates, providing contact information and details about their activities so that new and existing members can learn more about each ICSB location. Finally, the ICSB Calendar provides details on the variety of affiliate events happening throughout the year. With 16 affiliates globally, there is no shortage of ICSB events for members take advantage of!

It's important to point out the launching of ICSB Academy in Dubai 2015 through the special efforts of Luca Iandoli (Academy Chair). The ICSB Academy is a 3 days full immersion entrepreneurship bootcamp, plus 3 days participation to the ICSB conference. The program is articulated in three moments: Create, Implement, Communicate. We need also to recognize Geoff Archer, Walter Ruda and Geralyn Franklin, for their support to this initiative.

Throughout the year we made sure to attend as many events as possible to continue to support our partners in their efforts to bring together members and the international community. In October, ICSB was pleased to once again partner with The George Washington University to host the GW October Global Entrepreneurship Research & Policy Conference. The 4-day event brought together almost 150 delegates from the United States and beyond to discuss trends and best practices in the areas of entrepreneurship policy and research. Additionally, ICSB representatives attended various affiliate events throughout the year including the annual meeting of Brazil and Argentina at the end of September, the ECSB Rent Conference in Luxembourg in November, the ICSB Russia Chapter Entrepreneurial Conference, and the EIF Conference with our affiliates in Taiwan. ICSB was also proud to attend and participate in the OECD meetings in Paris, France at the end of October 2014 and last April

VISA renewed their sponsorship of ICSB and Hyundai also added as new sponsor. We continue to seek ways to leverage this partnership. One area in which ICSB can play a role is the promotion of financial literacy for SMEs.

In closing, I would like to say thank you! It is because of your continued support and dedication that we are able to continue to deliver programs and events that help establish an industry where entrepreneurs can grow and prosper. It has been up privilege to serve as your president this past year. Thank you for this exceptional opportunity for me. I have learned much and gained the friendship of many of our colleagues.

Sincerely,

Ruben Ascúa

ICSB President