

ICSB President Report (2014)

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As the current ICSB President, I am happy to present the yearly ICSB President's Annual Report for the 2014 calendar 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 2015.

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. The IO has also received interest from groups in Mexico, South Africa, Israel, Ghana, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tibet, Qatar, and more recently, 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 2nd annual Asian SME Conference, which brought over 200 individuals from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia to Seoul.

We are also very focused on preparing and planning for the highly anticipated **2015 ICSB World Conference in Dubai, UAE**. Offering keynote speeches, parallel sessions and workshops, the conference will explore the theme “Entrepreneurship at a Global Crossroads”. Additionally, the program committee is working on exciting new initiatives and events to add to the conference program, ensuring that we provide program activities for members from ICSB’s various pillars. The conference will be held from **June 6-9th – book your calendars now!**

In June 2014, ICSB was proud to launch our new, dynamic website. If you haven’t already, visit us at 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!

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.

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. Throughout the New Year, we will continue to provide members with a unique opportunity to foster an understanding and appreciation for each country’s contribution to the international marketplace. I look forward to a successful 2015 together!