

**President's Report**  
ICSB Board Meeting  
10 June 2014

2013 – 2014 has been a very active and productive year for ICSB. We continue to strive for better communication and transparency as an organization. Our network of affiliates and chapters continues to grow. And as president I had the opportunity to visit and participate in several affiliate annual conferences.

At the 2013 ICSB Annual General Meeting the issue of availability of financial information for the organization was raised. To address this issue the US Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for the past three years has been posted to the ICSB website. This form reports not only financial information but information about the organization as well. In addition the financial statements for the fiscal year 2013 - 2014 have been audited by a certified public accounting firm. This report will be presented at the outgoing board meeting in Dublin.

We continue to invest time and effort in the development of the ICSB affiliates. Of note was the creation of the Asian Council for Small Business (ACSB). To a certain extent this regional affiliate organization mimics ECSB in that it brings affiliates from the Asian region together to address the unique challenges of that area. In addition the founding affiliates (South Korea, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, and Singapore) are actively recruiting new affiliates. The first, Malaysia, will be presenting their application in Dublin. Mexico, through the efforts of President-Elect, Dr. Ruben Asqua, will also present. Vietnam and the Philippines have expressed interest as well. In addition, Nigeria will be presenting their application for an ICSB chapter at our board meeting in Dublin.

Over the course of the last year I had the opportunity to visit and to learn more about our affiliates in Australia and New Zealand, Argentina and Brazil, China, and ACSB. Each of these affiliates and the regional Council ACSB are making solid progress towards meeting the mission of ICSB. In addition I participated in the ICSB's Online Learning Excellence (OLE) programs delivered at USASBE and the Entrepreneurship Educators Program (EEP) in Tampa, Florida, USA. And I was a featured speaker on the needs of small businesses at the VISA Payments Forum in March. Our partnership with VISA continues to grow and I am happy that Ms. Janet Zablock, Head of Small Business, Global, will be attending our board meeting briefly to talk about VISA and our partnership.

And in April I had the privilege of serving as a delegate representing ICSB to the OECD working party on small and medium-size enterprises and entrepreneurship. I believe that ICSB needs to be "at the table" of organizations such as OECD. This was a first step in that direction.

VISA renewed their sponsorship of ICSB. Kudos go to Ayman El Tarabishy for nurturing this relationship. 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.

The year has not been without its challenges. ICSB China was awarded the 2015 ICSB World Conference. Unfortunately the expectations and requirements associated with leading up to the conference have fallen short. As a consequence we have informed the Chinese affiliate that they are unprepared to host the World Conference and the agreement for hosting the conference was canceled. This is not the first time that ICSB has found itself in the situation. However, it is frustrating and emphasizes the need for better communication and coordination. We have identified through the work of the committee a replacement for ICSB China. Yet, I also wanted to thank personally the support of ICSB – China, ROC (Taiwan) and ICSB Argentina for stepping up in time of need.

It has been up privilege to serve as your president this past year. I have learned much and gained the friendship of many of our colleagues. I believe that with the new organizational structure and a commitment demonstrated by our affiliates ICSB has a promising future of playing a role in advancing small and medium-size enterprises and entrepreneurship globally.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R Alves