

**Welcome to the ICSB 63<sup>rd</sup> World Congress**  
**ICSB President Report to the Board**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to my home, Taipei!

We are delighted to host the 63rd annual ICSB World Congress this week in Taiwan. Together, we have worked hard to put the program together and hope this will be a truly memorable event.

ICSB-ROC (Taiwan) joined in 1991 with quite ambitious activities including organizing the ICSB World Conference in 2001. The ICSB World Conference returns to Taipei, ROC Taiwan after 17 years. We are very proud to be one of the few affiliates to host the ICSB World Congress again in the same city. I want to thank the late Kai Yang, my predecessor, for his great contributions and we will be honoring him soon in a special ceremony.

In 2014 ICSB Korea led a Board initiative, passed by the membership in 2013, to create regional councils to enable greater collaboration among ICSB affiliates and chapters. Thus, the Asia Council for Small Business (ACSB) was established under the umbrella of ICSB and ICSB Korea. We are delighted to see ICSB's global push to Asia and very forward thinking of ICSB. Asia, my colleagues, represents dynamism, innovation, history, culture and more importantly a focus on humanity and happiness. I would like to thank ICSB Japan that is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> ACSB conference this September. Continue the good work.

At the 61st annual World Conference in June 2016 at the United Nations, ICSB convened a Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) Ministerial Roundtable at the United Nations Headquarters. Seven distinguished ministers were in attendance from the United States, South Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, New Zealand, and Argentina. Under the theme of "The Role of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", ICSB brought international attention to the importance of SMEs in a globalized economy. Cooperation with the United Nations having been a longstanding goal, the Conference achieved a key step forward for our organization.

ICSB hosted on May 12 (last month) its third consecutive forum at the United Nations and will continue to do so with our magnificent partners the Mission of Argentina. On June 27th, it will be the second anniversary of the United Nations Micro-, Small and Medium-sized International Day (MSMEs Day) that ICSB proposed back 2016.

ICSB, I believe, changed the world with Argentina in creating such an important and symbolic day. We all should be proud of this accomplishment. We plan to continue our efforts and with our dear partners, the Mission of Republic of Korea, Egypt, UNCTAD, and recently DESA. We will create new initiatives to support MSMEs globally.

ICSB's Journal for Small Business Management (JSBM), continues to shine under the leadership of Dr. George Solomon. We have more work ahead but steady hands and a clear vision is our focus with JSBM.

In addition to working with the UN, ICSB enjoys close relationships with the OECD, the World Bank Group, and other major international stakeholders. In terms of partnerships, ICSB continues to add global partners such Entrepreneur Organization, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and the World Bank Youth Summit, St. John University, Salerno University, Qatar University, and San Diego State University.

I, as president, of ICSB have made it a priority to continue these efforts and have instructed the ICSB Board to continue in achieving the ICSB 2020 strategy.

Over the past year, the International Office (IO) has been busy carrying out the Board's strategic vision and expanding the ICSB brand to new horizons. In terms of development, we expect a new group to join from Qatar this week and we have also been in contact with representatives from the Turkey, Algeria, and South Africa and more about forming new affiliates and chapters.

The IO Office also launched its ICSB Global initiative with three new certificates: Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity and Global Entrepreneurship. This is a major initiative for ICSB that will expand rapidly in the next three years. We want to thank all ICSB global faculty that supported it time and dedication. We also welcome all affiliates and chapters to join.

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*Overall, I believe the organization is on the right path. There is still much to be done, but we stay on course for our goal, by 2020, to sit at the table with more of the world's most influential organizations.*

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With your help, there is nothing we can't achieve.

Welcome to Taipei,

Robert Lai  
President of ICSB