



8TH ANNUAL MEETING
VICENZA, ITALY
13-14 MAY 2012

Dr .Roberto Ditri, President of Fiera di Vicenza

Mr. President, Delegates of the World Diamond Council, Dear Guests, welcome to Vicenza.

A warm welcome and many thanks to the WDC President, Mr. Eli Izhakoff, the members of the Board, the Delegates and all the staff.

I wish also to thank Mr. Gaetano Cavalieri, President of CIBJO, for the great support he gave us for preparing this event.

A special welcome to Ms. Susan Shabangu, Minister of Mineral Resources of South Africa; Ms. Gillian A. Milovanovic, US Ambassador for the Kimberley Process; Ms. Amal Medani, Associate Director UNITAR; Mr Tung-Lai Margue, Director, head of Service Foreign Policy Instruments.

It is a great honour to have you here at Fiera di Vicenza and VICENZAORO. The 14 May 2012: the day that will be remembered in the history of Fiera di Vicenza and our city, the city of the great architect, Andrea Palladio.

This is the first time that Italy is hosting the two annual world meetings of the most important organisations in the sector, the World Diamond Council and CIBJO, in the same week and for us it is a great honour.

The WDC has achieved great results in the past few years in the battle against conflict diamonds, and hosting it here at Fiera di Vicenza confirms the importance of working together to divulge awareness on these topics and the importance of applying the principles of CSR.

Fiera di Vicenza and VICENZAORO are not only international reference points for business but also a workshop for issues and projects concerning Corporate Social Responsibility and ethical and sustainable jewellery.

Topics of extreme current importance are on the agenda, especially the very delicate negotiation work that sees the WDC committed to the fight against Conflict Diamonds by means of the **Kimberley Process**, which aims at achieving traceability along the entire diamond production line.

For some years now, Fiera di Vicenza has been assisting in the work to encourage CSR and has organised training programmes on the subject through congresses, meetings and projects.

We are the first and only international exhibition management company to be a partner of CIBJO and UNITAR (the UN's training and research institute) in the project to create a communication and awareness campaign on CSR in the jewellery sector.

Initiatives like the World Jewellery Forum lead us hope that Vicenza could become a permanent reference point for CSR updating and training in the gold and jewellery business.

Many thanks again to the WDC for its efforts: Fiera di Vicenza is totally behind it and will continue to contribute to the cause.

I wish you every success in your work and the very best of luck.