

IH&RA Announces New President & Board of Directors

2006-11-01

Dr. Ghassan Aïdi Elected IH&RA President

The International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH&RA) is honoured to announce a new slate of IH&RA Board of Directors effective 1 November 2006, following the Association's Annual General Assembly held in Nice, France, on 28 October.

Congratulations to new IH&RA President Dr. Ghassan Aïdi, President, Cham Palaces & Hotels.

Dr. Aïdi takes over from Mr. Dieter Huckestein, President, Yellowstone Club World, former Chairman & CEO, Conrad Hotels and former President, Hilton Global Alliance - USA.

'This is a tremendous honour,' says Dr. Ghassan Aïdi, 'I embrace the challenge and privilege of being IH&RA President and look forward to serving IH&RA members worldwide.'

Dr. Ghassan Aïdi is a long-time IH&RA member and served on the IH&RA Board of Directors in the year 2006 as Vice President for Hotels. As President of Cham Palaces & Hotels and Royal Regency International Hotels, a US-based Hotels Management Company, Dr. Aïdi embodies the global hospitality industry. He maintains offices on three continents, and manages Cham Palaces & Hotels' luxury properties in USA, France, Lebanon, UAE, Syria and Jordan.

The new IH&RA Board is comprised of a distinguished group of international hotel and restaurant chain leaders, chief executives of national hotel and restaurant associations worldwide and a representative of independent hotels, with two representatives appointed to represent IH&RA Worldwide Partners. The new Board of Directors takes office immediately and will direct the Association from now and throughout the year 2007. The new IH&RA Board of Directors includes:

The IH&RA Executive Committee

President

Dr. Ghassan Aïdi

President

Cham Palaces & Hotels

Past President

Mr. Dieter Huckestein

President & CEO

Yellowstone Club World

Vice President - Hotels

Mr. Yannick Rouvrais

COO & Member of the Management Board

Orbis S.A. (Accor)

Vice President - Restaurants

Mr. Bruce Cotton

Director Emeritus

NRA - National Restaurant Association of America

Treasurer

Mr. Joseph Spinnato

President

Hotel Association of New York City, Inc.

Secretary

Mr. Alain-Philippe Feutré

Vice-President

Royal Regency International Hotels

Also on the Board of Directors:

Regional Vice President: Europe

Mr. Joan Gaspart Solves

President

Grupo Husa, SPAIN

Regional Vice President Asia-Pacific

Mr. Hiran Cooray

Vice-President

Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka

Regional Vice President Middle East

Mr. Fakhri Twal

Jordan Hotel Association

Regional Vice President Latin America

To be appointed

National Association Chief Executives Council

Mr. Timur Bayindir

President

Touristic Hotels & Investors Association -TUROB - TURKEY

Mr. Robert Cotton OBE

Chief Executive

British Hospitality Association - UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Florian Hew

Director

GastroSuisse - SWITZERLAND

Mr. R.K. Puri

Secretary-General

Hotel Association of India (HAI) - INDIA

Mr. Xi Yanping

Vice-Chairman

China Tourist Hotels Association - CHINA

Chains Council

Ms. Nancy Johnson

Executive Vice-President, Full Service Hotels

Carlson Hotels Worldwide

Mr. Reas M. Kondraschow

SVP & Managing Director

Wyndham Hotel Group

Independent Operators Representative

Mr. Mats Östblom

Managing Director

Hotell Liseberg Heden, Sweden

Worldwide Partners Representatives

Mr. Frank I. Wolfe, CAE

Executive Vice President & CEO

Hospitality Financial & Technology Professionals (HFTP)

Mr. Robert Grimes

Chairman & CEO

Accuvia

Also serving as a member of the Executive Committee on the IH&RA Board is Mr. Avi Rosental, who has been appointed IH&RA Director-General effective 1 November, replacing David McMillan who served in this position for the past two years (2005-2006).

The next meeting of the new IH&RA Board of Directors will be held in January, 2007. The next meeting of the Chains Council will be held in March 2007 and the next meeting, the IH&RA NACE (National Association Chief Executives Council), in June 2007. (Dates & locations to be announced shortly)

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