



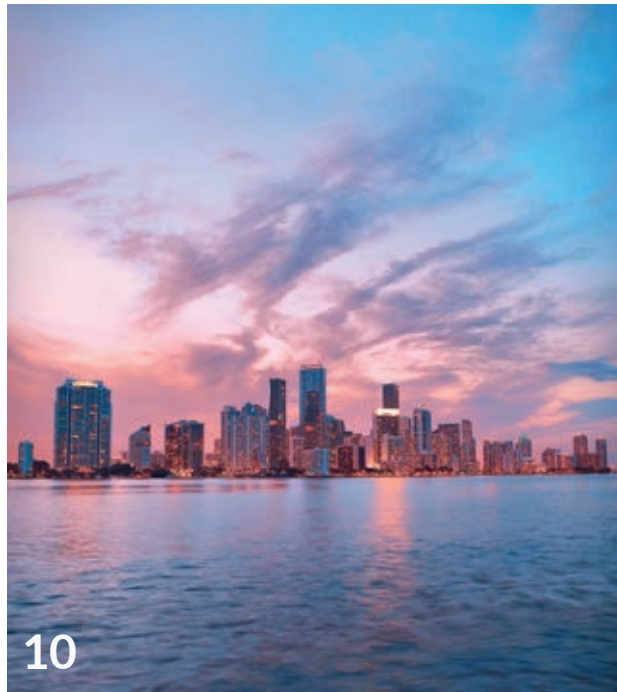
SKÅL

SKÅL
MAGAZINE
275

INTERNATIONAL
Connecting Tourism Globally



**STRENGTH
THROUGH
COLLABORATION**



SKÅL MAGAZINE 275

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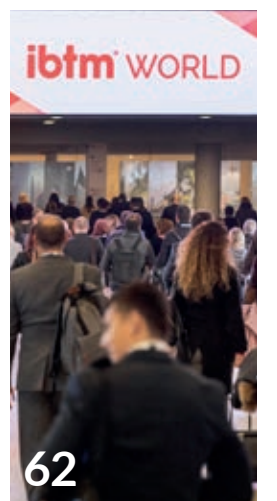


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

I AM EXCITED AND I HOPE YOU ALL ARE!

As I write this message, there is exactly 20 days left before we embark on our much awaited World Congress on Royal Caribbean's Symphony of The Seas.

Our Annual congress is a culmination of a year where Skål International has achieved noteworthy milestones as well as achievements that are thought to be small but all add to our exciting upward trajectory. We tend to overlook all the small changes that have a profound but gentle impact as we wait for the big event but let us stop and take note of these gentle changes as they all add to the successful and exciting mix of our growth and evolution.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Membership has stabilised this year, new clubs have been formed, many countries have introduced Young Skål membership for the first time, the Skål presence has been enhanced and improved at the largest travel and trade shows and we look forward to engaging with other trade fairs in different continents. Our #YouCanTwo membership campaign is already proving to be effective and will be introducing this campaign in 3 phases for ultimate results.

Destination sponsorships have been finalised and our partnerships with our associate partners have intensified as Skål International now has board positions on the UNWTO Affiliate Members and The Code. With the introduction of these positions it shows confidence in Skål International by the outside Travel and Tourism industry which adds value to our Vision statement of "To be a trusted voice in Travel and Tourism since 1934."

Of course our biggest and most innovative achievement is our Digital Transformation project and this of course will revolutionise the way Skål International operates, fundamentally change the way the members communicate with each other and with Head Office and will transform the way the outside world perceives our organization. The effective date is 01 January 2020 but certain clubs have already been part of the pilot project and more technical details of this project will be discussed and shared during our congress.

WORLD CONGRESS

As this issue of the Skål Magazine is the last edition before our World Congress, I thought it would be apt to discuss what makes a congress good and successful, why would members attend and how Skål International and their Local Organizing Committee has appealed to all these expectations.

You would have all received the comprehensive agenda which included all the annual and financial reports as well as pertinent information on all the candidates standing for election which was e-mailed to all members a few weeks ago.

Like many of you, I have attended numerous Skål Congresses and as a member attending a good conference, I would like to feel refreshed and reassured that I have chosen the right organization to belong to after leaving the congress.

The Unique Selling point of attending our Annual congresses is experiencing that "warm, fuzzy" feeling when I see my fellow Skålleagues. Fellow members that have become my trusted and true friends over the years even though our friendships spans oceans and continents.

What is the difference between a good congress and a successful congress and will this congress achieve both?

A good congress offers members new insights, ideas and challenges, an opportunity to mentor new members or first time attendees and a platform to share ideas, challenges and opportunities.

What does a successful congress offer members? Interactive sessions, where a good range of presentations and forums are offered that appeal to members interests as well as an extraordinary venue where all your meetings, entertainment and meals can be enjoyed. No transfers or taxis are needed to move from one location to the next and best of all, you only have to unpack once!

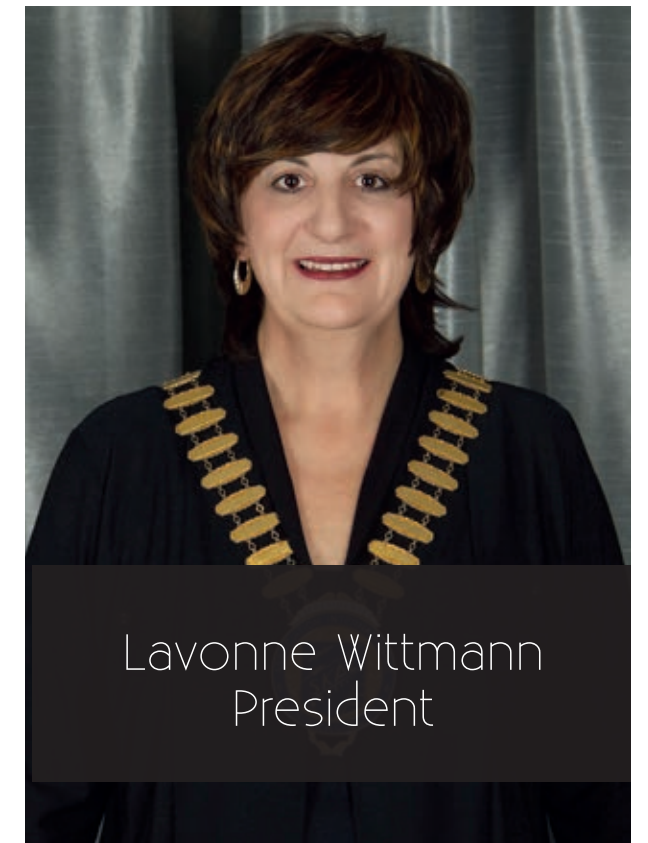
A Social Programme that will enable delegates to network, mingle and socialise with fellow members and family and friends at the numerous restaurants, bars and entertainment areas.

Conference Staff Support and value for money with so many different inclusions like WiFi, unlimited food and fun.

We have ticked all these boxes and can confidently say that this will not only be a good congress but a successful one. The Executive Committee, Skål International staff and the Local organizing committee welcome you and your guests to an unforgettable congress and one that has amended and enhanced all aspects that were marked as negative in the past. The organization of this congress proves again that "STRENGTH THROUGH COLLABORATION" is always the key to success!

I am and always will be a proud member of Skål International and hope you are!

"LIVE THE SKÅL BRAND CONSTANTLY AND CONSISTENTLY."



Lavonne Wittmann
President

NOTE FROM THE CEO



We are in the process of finalising everything to do with the next World Congress. It is an interesting challenge to adapt our “Skål” formalities and requirements on board a cruise ship but we are working together with the Local Organising Committee and the Miami Club to achieve this and make everything to your liking.

During the congress we will update you on the progress of the **digital transformation project**. The work is well advanced and we will share the new look of the new website and demonstrate the concrete benefits that this new technology will bring at all levels with members. As we have already said, the new system will be finished by the end of this year and will be fully operational by January 2020.

This month we are testing the whole system asking different users to give us their opinion. This phase is very important because it will allow us to make fine adjustments that will improve the look and feel in order to achieve the best results.

As I told you, the tool and much of its potential will be seen during the Miami Congress where new features will be presented that will allow Clubs and National Committees to have more direct control over their members, to have as many lists and reports as they need in a self-service model and will make available to users a completely renewed website full of useful information, bringing all Skålleagues closer through different communication tools.

This digital transformation is a wonderful journey and we have only just begun.

We will be delighted to continue to add value with new functions in the future. This is our challenge, because the journey has just begun.

The next Congress will also allow us to unveil the winners of the **Sustainable Tourism Awards**. This year 57 projects from 25 countries have been presented. It has been a success which shows that sustainability, fortunately, is an increasingly important theme.

The majority of travellers consider it important that companies in the tourism sector adjust their policies to the needs of sustainability. In addition, most of them try to be eco-responsible travellers, although they recognise, according to the latest statistics, that it is still somewhat complicated for them. The good news is that society's ecological awareness is increasing. Users seem to appreciate it: it is important for 84% of travellers that companies in the tourism sector adjust their policies to the needs of sustainability, although, at the moment, only 24% choose the airline with which to fly or the hotel in which to stay depending on their eco-responsible measures. One important fact, however, is that the sustainability factor already conditions the booking of a quarter of travellers.

It is clear that the tourism industry must opt for a sustainable growth model that is respectful of the environment, which protects the historical and natural heritage, that makes the tourist himself aware of the importance of this model and that introduces quality employment for everyone in the sector.

Tourism currently represents around 10% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) so, as an industry, we must continue to work to ensure that our interests are aligned with those of the entire planet.

Daniela Otero
CEO

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Welcome from Skål International USA,

Our Miami Club is honored to be your host for the 80th Skål International World Congress on the Royal Caribbean Symphony of the Seas. We know you will enjoy this amazing ship and all the events planned for the Congress. This incredible venue will not disappoint you. Skål Miami is planning a welcome cocktail reception on Friday, September 13 at the Intercontinental Hotel, next to the cruise port. It is a great way to meet those coming on the cruise and also Skål members from around Florida who are not able to participate in the cruise. Many of you will take this opportunity to vacation in the United States prior to, or after the congress. Our Skål members are here to make sure you will have an enjoyable visit to our beautiful country.

It is a pleasure to serve as the International Skål Councillor for the United States. I take this role very seriously and understand that **working together is the only way to regenerate our organization.**

As a successful business owner in both Bermuda and the United States for over 36 years, I understand the dynamic changes that have taken place in the Tourism and Hospitality industry and the need for constant updating and willingness to change. Never has it been so important than now as our membership ages and membership numbers drop. Working together with an open exchange of ideas we can turn this organization around.

I am blessed to be a member of Skål International Boston, which I consider the most dynamic Skål club in the world. Skål Boston gets it! Our club has never veered away from the principles of the Skål Organization and we work hard to maintain over 180 members and continue to work to grow membership for the future. We have increased membership every year, except one, for the past 21 years. We allow only the top person from companies to join our club. New travel executives coming into our city want to join Skål Boston. We have been International Club of the Year and 1st runner up. Members from around the world attend our legendary Holiday Luncheon, held on the 3rd Thursday of December. We will have 300 attendees and raise between \$50,000 - \$80,000 for a local charity. I invite anyone who will be in the Boston area on December 19, 2019 to join in the fun. Skål Boston celebrated its 80th Skål Anniversary this past December. It was an honor to have served for many years as a member of Skål Boston's Executive Committee.



Holly Powers
Skål International
USA

International
Councillor

2013-2014 were troubling years for Skål USA and change was needed. A group of dedicated members from across the country formed a committee to effect the needed changes. We worked together and fought hard for almost two years facing many roadblocks. Most of the members were busy business owners and executive who loved the organization but had no desire to run for National Office. We found out that the only way to effect the needed change was to run for office and change it from inside and that is what was done. With no personal desire to run for National Office, I was told I needed to step up for the team. I was nominated for Vice President Administration and was elected with over 90% of the vote. The newly elected Executive Committee again brought forward the suggested changes at our AGM where we had 100% club participation and the changes passed with only 3 no votes and one abstention. I was nominated the following year to run for Skål International USA President and ran unopposed. It was an honor, privilege and challenge to serve as the first President under the new structure. It was very special to have been elected the 3rd female Presidents in the 79 years of Skål in the United States. We set many goals and most importantly we concentrated on membership and making Skål relevant again on the national tourism stage. I am most proud they have saved a club that was going to close because of infighting and for opening two new Skål Clubs, the first in 17 years in the United States. We also changed the way we approached trade shows. Instead of hosting a booth we set up booths in the registration area of show like IPW and greeted every delegate that came to register, walked them to the registration desk and told them about Skål. If they were a member already, we attached the Skål banner to their badge. We walked the show floor each day and visited every American booth and asked if they knew about Skål, got their contact information and followed up with a letter. It was a huge success. At IPW, I met Jack Wert from the Paradise Coast Tourism Board in Florida and together we started the Southwest Florida Skål club that just celebrated its first anniversary.

As a member of the ISC I have worked to effect change with plans to allow electronic voting so that all clubs have a voice in the organization. We have been successful with now allowing clubs to vote for the selection of the location of future Skål World Congresses and hopefully before not to long we will be able to allow electronic voting for elections, statutes changes and other needed changes.

Membership growth and retention must be our first priority but it can't be done by the International Executive Committee, the ISC or your National Committees. We can help but it is up to you the member. Change is not a dirty word. Put yourself out there and offer your help and ideas. No idea is a bad idea. Bring new people onto your board and move them up the chairs. Urge new people to go to your National meetings. Clubs sending the same people every year are not helping their club grow. Work with other clubs and share ideas. We are in the travel business and there should be no reason that clubs cannot fundraise to send people to congress. Plan now for next year. Change your leadership and if there are people who are not willing to change thank them for their service and ask them to move aside for the health of your club.

The upcoming World Congress will be an opportunity to discuss new ideas to move our beloved organization forward. I look forward to welcoming the 600 delegates and friends who will attend the congress and I ask from all of those clubs who are unable to attend that you start planning now for next year's congress in Croatia.

See you in Miami!

SEPTEMBER
2019

80TH SKÅL
INTERNATIONAL
WORLD
CONGRESS

From Miami to the Western Caribbean to the Bahamas, the [Skål International World Congress 2019](#) captivates with an eclectic mix of exciting destinations.





THE CARIBBEAN

When you think of the Caribbean, do you think of the clear turquoise waters of the Bahamas or the green mountains and Spanish history of Puerto Rico? Those are the popular images of islands in the Eastern Caribbean but there is rich history, gorgeous beaches and tasty cuisine to explore in the perhaps less well-known Western Caribbean. And that, fellow Skålleagues, is where we are headed aboard the Symphony of the Seas on our 2019 Skål International World Congress.

The Western Caribbean is an eclectic mix, comprised of charming islands due south of Florida, such as Grand Cayman and Jamaica; famous destinations on Mexico's Caribbean coast on and around the Yucatan Peninsula, such as Cozumel, Costa Maya, and Progreso; and Central American destinations such as Belize and Honduras. Those of us Skålleagues who love a little adventure in their travel will love this amazing itinerary as we can visit ancient ruins near Costa Maya, snorkel around

gorgeous reefs in Roatan or simply soak in the sun and fun in CocoCay, Bahamas.

Our **7 Night Western Caribbean and Perfect Day Cruise** sets sail from Miami – one of the most well-known and popular destinations world-wide. We'll start here with a pre-sail party at the famed Intercontinental Hotel. And those smart Skålleagues who booked a pre- or post stay in the Magic City will have plenty to enjoy.

MIAMI, THE MAGIC CITY

When most people think of Miami chances are they think of a sandy beach with the sun shining – but there is so much more to this tropical city. With a hint of 1930's nostalgia, the beautifully restored buildings within the Art Deco District have a lot to offer on a relaxed day in the Miami Beach area. Do you like nature? Then try Jungle Island – located on Watson Island and formerly known as Parrot Jungle, this park enthralls visitors with a sense of adventure and discovery. If shopping is more your speed, Bayside Market place has it all – hosting over 150 specialty and tourist shops, cafes and restaurants, visitors will find an array of charming boutiques in this outdoor style mall.

History buffs will love a visit to the beautiful Vizcaya Museum and Gardens with its stunning architecture, manicured grounds and rooms full of antiques and artwork. Recognized as one of Miami's greatest treasures, the Renaissance-style villa is filled with the most exquisite European furniture and arts from the 15th to the 19th century. The wild at heart can view over 2,000 animals close to their natural settings at Zoo Miami. With open-air exhibits and a cage free environment, zoo visitors have a chance to enjoy endangered wildlife up close. And a visit to Miami would not be complete without soaking up the Cuban flavor at Little Havana. Savor a cafecito in an open-air café, play dominoes with lively Latin music in the background or visit a gallery filled with colorful island art. Miami's other top attractions include the historic Deering Estate, the world-class Frost Museum of Science, the Miami Seaquarium, Everglades National Park and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. With so much to see and do, you'll definitely want to book a longer stay before or after our cruise.

ROATÁN, HONDURAS

Once we set sail, our first port of call is Roatan, one of Central America's cultural capitals. Located about 65 kilometres (40 miles) off the northern coast of Honduras, Roatan is known around the world for its vibrant coral reefs and diving sites. The island was formerly known as Ruatan and is the largest of the Bay Islands. Originally populated by descendants of the Paya, the Maya, the Lenca or the Jicaque, which were the tribes present on the mainland, you can turn back time as you wander the breathtaking ancient ruins of Copan, a Maya city that dates back nearly a millennium. The site is so rich in artifacts that archaeologists are still uncovering new finds.

The majority of today's permanent population of Roatán originated from the Cayman Islands near Jamaica. They arrived in the 1830s shortly after Britain's abolition of slavery in 1838. Discovering local food is the best way to immerse yourself in the local culture of the Roatan, so make sure you try local specialties like a McCoy or tapado, stews made in large pots over an open fire; conch soup; whole fried fish or the Garifuna soup called machuca, a creamy coconut milk fish soup.





COZUMEL, MÉXICO

Our next stop, also in Mexico, is Cozumel, an island and municipality off the eastern coast of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, opposite Playa del Carmen. The name Cozumel was derived from the Mayan "Cuzamil" which means "the island of swallows." Today, Mexico's largest Caribbean island is better known for its seaside resorts, scuba diving, and snorkeling and is famous for its magnificent coral reefs. Drift diving is popular in Cozumel, because of the perfect current that flows along the island, allowing divers and snorkelers to use very little energy to enjoy the reefs.

Once you've enjoyed, snorkeling and the beach, there are marine-life encounters, botanical gardens, trails and shopping in the town of San Miguel. Taxi service in Cozumel is so plentiful, that getting around is not only simple, it is also economical. If you choose to go to the mainland, there are beaches and shopping in Playa del Carmen in close proximity to the ferry. Cozumel is rich in history and Mayan culture. The island was once a central part of the Mayan Empire. Mayan ruins dot the island and the mainland, which is home to Tulum, Mayan cliffside ruins overlooking the Caribbean. Visiting the ruins is a premier shore excursion for those looking to experience the history of this island. There are lots of other things to see and do in Cozumel that can give you a glimpse beyond tiki bars and margaritas. Cozumel is known for jewelry, Mexican artisanal handicrafts, leather goods, and plenty of tourist souvenirs. And remember to stop in on of the local restaurants that serve up more authentic Mexican cuisine.

COSTA MAYA, MÉXICO

Our next stop on SWC2019 is the Puerto Costa Maya in Mexico. Located in the municipality of Othón P. Blanco in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico, this is the only Mexican state bounded by the Caribbean Sea to its east. As its name implies, Costa Maya is home to Mayan art and architecture, but you can also find the Spanish fort called Fuerte San Felipe Bacalar, just over an hour from the port, where you can also go diving in a cenote. If the ancient Maya call to you, take a tour of the Chacchoben ruins – standing in the shadow of the stone pyramids and temples, you'll be able to fully appreciate the grandeur of this ancient landmark.

Costa Maya's port has a new and modern shopping mall. The centre has a central plaza with saltwater pools and 'swim-up' style bars. There are several jewellery stores and many small shops selling souvenir items. Hungry for an authentic Maya experience? Then indulge in an exclusive tasting of the best tequilas of Mexico or the history of one of the world's most popular flavors – chocolate – at Kakaw. Then, go up to the hanging bridges to meet colorful feathered friends in the bird sanctuary or take a guided tour of the beach and the surrounding Mayan jungle while riding an ATV. If you are traveling with kids, treat your family to a fun day at Maya, Lost Mayan Kingdom Adventure Park. It boasts thrilling water slides, zip-lines, and the 400-meter Zip Coaster that goes over land and water. If at some point you need to relax and recharge, there are resting areas throughout the park that you can use to do just that.



COCOCAY, BAHAMAS

This private island, exclusively for passengers aboard Royal Caribbean is also known as Little Stirrup Cay – one of the Berry Islands, a collection of cays and small islands and is located approximately 55 miles north of Nassau. RCL enthusiasts know that CocoCay is a perfect place to chill, thrill, and unwind. Whether your ideal beach getaway involves larger-than-life thrills or unwinding at a peaceful waterfront chill spot, you'll find it here.

Towering slides and rushing tides await at Thrill Waterpark where you can bounce, climb and swing your way through the obstacles in Adventure Pool; get swept up by the biggest wave pool in the Caribbean or take on the tallest slide in North America – Daredevil's Peak. Or, you can take your adventure to the skies on a bucket list staple, a balloon ride 450 feet up to highest vantage point in The Bahamas. While the "Up, Up and Away" ride is gentle, you'll still feel the thrill as you ascend high above the island. If relaxing by the water is more your speed, kick back in a cabana at Chill Island, make your way through the different coves of Oasis Lagoon freshwater pool or sip a delicious cold Coco Loco at the swim-up bar before lounging on one of three swim-up islands.

The LOC and members of Skål International Miami chapter looks forward to welcoming you onboard the Symphony of the Seas for Skål International's 80th World Congress this September. Visit ww.Skålworldcongress2019.com to check out pre and post cruise hotel packages, and don't forget we have Business Forum tables/sponsorships available to help you promote your business during what promises to be an unforgettable World Congress.



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Emre Gezgin Skål International Izmir Turkey

Through national tourist guiding practice combine with the post-graduate education in France and United Kingdom, my 30 year adventure as a Tourism Professional carried me to Paris, to headquarter of Groupe Teker (Pacha Tours – Rev'Vacance) International Tour Operator. After my International professional experience through 2000 to 2007 where I held positions including Groupe Department Specialist, e - tourisme department founder and auditor, I finally founded the Vispo travel in Izmir and I still hold the position of General Manager of this firm. In addition to our expertise in incoming and outgoing group organisations, I also continue organisations for Rotary wherein I also assume International duties.

We managed to get NGO presidents to become Skål members to create a common platform with Tourism NGOs, and we realised projects aimed to enrich our city as a Tourism destination thanks to this alliance and collaboration. We managed to attract public attention to Urla, a county of Izmir, promoting the county with inspection and workshop events on olive tasting and wine tasting, as well as cultural and historic heritage. In scope of the annual "Tourism Awards" given by Izmir Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism in various fields to the best in the sector, the Izmir Skål Club was rewarded with the Honour Award for "Contributions to Tourism in Izmir and Creating a Difference in Tourism Awareness". The importance of this award lies in the fact



that it was given to an NGO for the first time! Along with my membership in FIJET this award held an irreplaceable importance for promoting Skål in many printed and visual media channels with all our power.

On the matter of promoting Skål, our club was including Skål Turkey to the UZAKROTA Travel Summit, which is seen as one of the biggest Travel Technology and Marketing Events around the world. Our next goal is to bring this event in Izmir on 05 June 2020 after its instances in London, Istanbul and New York.

For me **Skål is an organisation deriving its Dynamic, Constructive and Progressive structure from human virtues of friendship and brotherhood** integrated in its founding philosophy. Therefore, I became a member of Skål to share with professionals who possess the same professional values and ethical qualities. Another personal reason for my membership was the fact that it represented a unique opportunity for me in regard of contributing more to society in my non-profit socioeconomic researches and thematic tourism projects on tourism.

Everlasting Skål.



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL NADI FIJI

Skål International Nadi Fiji, a club of 26 members, meeting for lunch on the third Wednesday of each month, varied with some evening or special event functions. Our attendance runs to about 2/3 of our membership for each meeting. Our membership is primarily Tourism oriented which entails many of our members travelling at any one time as well as a continual change in our membership due to most being on fixed term contracts. There are however some permanent fixtures among our members. We also welcome visiting Skålleagues from around the world.

We attempt to hold our meetings at new venues each month in order to display what is available in our market and to allow the venues to market their facility within the Tourism community.

Since January this year we have featured the following:

Eco Café, a new entrant in the market featuring wood fired pizzas, a family owned business, very enjoyable lunch and networking.

Mumbai Dhab, again a new entrant located in Nadi Town excellent food.

Softel Resort and Spa, top of the line established major resort, food and service as one would expect.

Hilton Fiji Resort and Spa, Hilton opened an exclusive adults-only wing with restaurants, beachfront pools, bars, dining, entertainment all within the resort.

MV Maximum, high speed charter catamaran, located at Port Denarau, this seagoing venue was selected to hold our annual Skål Nadi Members function during the Fiji Tourism Expo. This year we had an extremely successful event aboard the MV Maximum, the evening was enjoyed by Nadi Skålleagues and visiting Skålleagues from the Suva Club, Auckland Club, Sydney Club and our special guest the President of the Christchurch Club, Caroline Blanchfield. We had a great mix of members and guests on the evening. In all another enjoyable networking event held during the FTE.

Pullman Nadi Bay Resort and Spa, Nadi newest entry into the 5 - star category accommodation. Impressive complex right in the heart of Nadi. Again service and food exactly what you would expect.

Finally, this last month we enjoyed an excellent lunch and relaxing time at the **NEW Nadi Airport Golf Club**. A couple of our members are attempting to re-establish and revitalise this centrally located Golf Club. Showing support for our members we spent our time networking but did not play a round. It is a 5882-yard par 70 course easily accessible and very inexpensive. A work in progress but should be finished this year.

The above provides a good sample of our restaurants and watering holes that we attempt to support and promote through the auspices of Skål.

Continuing, as we do with our monthly meetings, all members have been able to successfully share information and insights about our industry both locally, nationally and internationally. All members to continue to offer any input they feel beneficial for our members.

This is what our Skål club is all about.

SKÅL

INTERNATIONAL

MUMBAI SOUTH

Skål International Mumbai South nr. 732, set up yet another cracker of a monthly Networking event with an invitation extended to Skål Pune members and their families to join us at The Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Karjat, about two hours out of Mumbai.

The journey to and from was so refreshing and breathtaking, thanks to RNK – for arranging a comfortable and luxurious VOLVO coach, courtesy Mr. Vaibhav Kedia our 1st Vice President. Everyone on board, enjoyed the scenery of the river, mountains and different hues of green pastures along the way and the monsoon magic, added a romantic touch. With the stereo PA system on the coach switched on, we started to entertain ourselves with an extended Quiz & Karaoke session with all and one gleefully participating.

The Radisson Hotel and staff had their hands full with more than 400 in house guests, as it was a long holiday weekend, yet they gave us a Royal Welcome and a late breakfast of lip smacking Vada Pao and hot tea and coffee with vanilla cake and cookies.

The icing on the cake was when our Pune Club team members arrived, braving the incessant rain and terrain. It was truly such a pleasure to see familiar faces once again. Ms. Lesha, daughter of one of their members celebrated her birthday with us with a cutting of the cake.

The day's events kicked off as scheduled, in the huge ballroom set up especially for the Skål International Mumbai South event. The five star venue, added to the "JOSH". Our standard protocol followed, which included the Skål Anthem and the upcoming events update with the Managing Committee of Skål Mumbai South Club lead by Arun Raghavan, Jason O'Connor, Sujata Mariwala, Sunil - Honorary Secretary and Young Skål member Ritesh called on stage. We introduced all the Pune Skål members and thanked Mr. Debasish Chakraborty, the owner and our member, for hosting the event at his beautiful property. We will always be ever so grateful for being privileged and honored with this kind gesture and for making this event such a memorable one.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Anubhav Bhan the GM – who gave us a crisp inside view to the Hotel with his charming personality and presentation.

Our appreciation to Mr. Dibyajit Sutradhar for setting up the ball room in grand style, days in advance, with lights, sound (audio visual) equipment we requested.

Our 2nd VP Jason O'Connor not only took on the role of master of ceremonies but also hopped behind the bar to help the lone barman ensure the ladies got their drinks on time and with everyone raising their glasses echoed the Skål Toast led by our senior most Skålleague Jason Samuel.

Next the much awaited games began for the next two hours, with the professional event management team, who got everyone onto the floor for some heart pumping and weight reducing group activities which had all the kids to the seniors, lying on the floor, jumping as high as they could and scampering across the floor to win prizes.

A sumptuous lunch followed and the hotel really outdid themselves with the delicious and varied cuisine offered.

All in all, an action packed day with enthusiastic participation by all members and many memories to treasure. The feedback received from one and all is so heartening that we the Managing Committee, just can't stop ourselves from planning the next exciting event.

“
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SKÅL INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

Dear Fellow Skålleagues around the world greetings from Down Under. We've had a busy month leading up to our **100th National Assembly** which was held in Sydney on the 23rd-24th August 2019.

Our clubs around Australia held a variety of monthly events...

Skål International Cairns turned 35 and they had an amazing Gala Dinner where they transported members and guests back to the 80's which was the theme of the night. Titled '1984: Dynasty', we transported our 122 guests back to the year of our club's formation with the fabulous theme of '80s Elegance' - whilst it was a black tie/formal occasion, a few channeled their 80s prom look, with some ladies taking a few fashion tips from Joan Collins!



From Left to Right: Fiona McFarlane - International Director, Past Presidents Stephen Olle, Ivana Patalano, Cheryl Kelly, Ben Woodward, Robbie Bastion, Peter Blackburn, Kim Thomas, Gordon Wellham, Ron Livingston and Philip Slater.

Skål International Southern Gold Coast Club held its 4th Annual 'Wheels in Motion' event on Sunday August 4th. Better known as a Car Rally.

50 happy Skålleagues and guests took off in 19 vehicles with questionnaires and route details in hand heading south along the Tweed Coast. The afternoon was spent at the brand new World Class Husk Distillery at Tumbulgum sipping pink Gin prior to a spectacular sunset river cruise with Mt Warning Cruises And Tours. A grand day was had by all.



Congratulations to Nicola Strudwick - Skål International Perth President for taking out the **2019 AFTA NTIA Award for Travellers Choice - 2019 Best Travel Agency Group.**



Happy Anniversary to Skål International Albany Club who turned 13 on the 9th August and our **Skål International Sunshine Coast Club** who turns 24 years 16th August.

If any Skålleagues from around the world are travelling to Australia please get in touch with me vpcomms@skal.org.au so I can put you in contact with our members. We have 23 Clubs with 1051 members Australia wide.

Yours in Skål,

Ivana Patalano
Vice President
Skål International Australia

SKÅL EXPANSION

Montenegro

Zorka Raicevic

Founder and Executive Director
Eastwest Voyage DMC
eastwestvoyage.com

Dear members of Skål and future partners,

Did you hear about Montenegro? Balkan country where east meets west, where beauty is wild and where adventure is new luxury. We look for a partners who would like to sell Montenegro packages.

My name is Zorka Raicevic and I am founder and executive director of Eastwest Voyage Montenegro. Having spent 10 years both travelling and working around the world, I have a deep passion for exploring new countries and new cultures! But I choose to be the best ambassador of Montenegro, country where beauty is wild, where the east meets west and where luxury meets adventure.

When I founded Eastwest Voyage Montenegro in 2011, I wanted to share those treasured experiences... At Eastwest Voyage Montenegro DMC, we are dedicated to creating the finest holidays imaginable. We design the very greatest experiences in Montenegro and we pride ourselves on combining expert knowledge, passionate customer service and honest, transparent pricing to deliver those experiences.

Our international team have expert knowledge about the destination simply because they are born here either came from and stay to live here and work in Tourism. As a full-service destination management company, we are advisers for personalised travel planners, designers of tailor made programs, conferences, meetings and incentive organizers.

As they say... adventure speaks louder than words. So please do call us, ask us about trips in Montenegro and former Yugoslav countries, for inspiration and for ideas. I hope you will see that we are passionate about what we do, and knowledgeable about what we create, so we do believe that we are good parner for you and new adventures in Montenegro.



The **Individual membership** is an excellent opportunity for those travel executives based in countries or regions where there is no Skål Club within a reasonable distance to join Skål International.

Skål International has recently expanded to new countries and regions worldwide and **we are featuring two of our newly approved Active Individual members.**

United Arab Emirates

Jude Manuel Alphonso

Manager
Gray Mackenzie Travel Services
gmpttravel.com

A big hello to all Skål Members.

My name is Jude Manuel Alphonso, a new member of the Skål family. I am based in Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

I am sure most of you have heard or visited the UAE or probably transited through Dubai or Abu Dhabi Airport. Just to give a brief introduction about my destination... UAE consists of seven emirates, but Tourism is mainly concentrated towards Dubai and Abu Dhabi for their Luxury Hotels, Shopping Malls, Spice & Gold Souks, The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Ferrari World Theme park, Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum to name a few. But not to forget the natural desert which offers endless options like sand boarding, quad biking & Hot air balloon rides and of course the Archaeological and Heritage sites of UAE.

I have been in Travel Industry for over 20 years and currently working as a Manager for Gray Mackenzie Travel Services – Abu Dhabi. We specialize in Corporate and Leisure Travel.

I am extremely happy to be a part of Skål and glad that I was introduced to Skål by an industry friend. The objective of joining Skål is to connect with likeminded industry colleagues around the world and hopefully do business.

Looking forward to getting connected and meeting the members during one of the Skål events.



YOUNG SKÅL GOA

Skål International Goa (691) is pleased to announce the **launch of Young Skål Goa on 20th August 2019** in association with the Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Porvorim, Goa.

The launch function was hosted at the Institute premises from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm and a group of 24 Young Skål Student Members were inducted at the launch event. The entire event was planned, coordinated and conducted by this very group of students. The launch event was graced by the presence of **Ernest Dias** - President Skål International Goa, **Ranjini Nambiar** - President Skål International India, **Shalini Charles** - Director Young Skål & Student Exchange - Skål International Asian Area, **Shekhar Divadkar** - Secretary Skål International Goa / India / Asian Area, **Ms. Donna D'souza** - Principal IHMCT and **Carl Costa** - Director Young Skål Goa.

Ms. Rucha Lele, a second year student was the anchor through the function. The Student Mentors **Ms. Quintina Fernandes** and **Mr. Avinash Bhonsle** played a vital role in identifying the students for the Young Skål Membership. **Mr. Avinash Bhonsle** introduced the Executive Committee comprising of 5 Members - **Ms. Selena D'souza** - President, **Ms. Mitali Keluskar** - Secretary, **Mr. Marcellino D'souza** - Treasurer, **Mr. Harshal Sonawane** and **Ms. Renuka Sahasrabhojane** as the Executive Committee Members. President Ernest administered the oath to Young Skål member. The keynote address was offered by Skål International Goa President

Ernest D. and the Guest of Honor **Shalini Charles** made a brief presentation on Young Skål, the activities and benefits to the student in their growth plan.

Skålleague **Ranjini Nambiar** offered words of encouragement to the Executive Committee and members of Young Skål Goa. Principal **Ms. Donna D** addressed the gathering and talked about the benefit that the students would stand to gain by joining Young Skål and encouraged them to participate in all activities with total commitment.

Director Young Skål Goa **Carl C** is the guiding spirit for Young Skål on behalf of Skål International Goa and he announced that there would be various activities conducted wherein the Young Skålleagues would participate, learn and grow.

Shekhar Divadkar conducted the activity of pinning the lapel pins for the Young Skålleagues at the hands of Skålleague Members from Skål International Goa who were attending the Young Skål launch function.

The function saw the raising of the customary Skål toast by **Ashrafali Nizari**, Past President of Skål International Goa. Past President **Menino G Proenca**, Past National President and current International Councillor India **Mario Sequeira** also graced the occasion with their presence along with Executive Committee Members **Reshma Alves**, **Glafy C**, **Jack S** and **Guitry V**.

The function ended in high spirits with service of High Tea.

“
Lunch
Young
Skål in
Goa
”



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARDS



Skål International launched the [Sustainable Tourism Awards](#) in 2002 to recognize best practices in terms of responsible and sustainable tourism around the world.

We are honoured that **three prominent judges** from distinguished organizations have concluded the evaluation of the **56 entries submitted** from all over the world.



TOMAS DE AZCARATE BANG
President - [Responsible Tourism Institute](#)
[Professional career](#)



MARIO HARDY
CEO - [PATA](#)
[Professional career](#)



SAMANTHA BRAY
Managing Director - [Center for Responsible Travel \(CREST\)](#)
[Professional career](#)

The winners will be kept confidential until the official announcement is made during the Awards Ceremony that will take place on **Sunday 15 September**, in the frame of the **Opening Ceremony of the 80th Skål World Congress**.

The 2019 edition of the Sustainable Tourism Awards has once again been a success with 56 entries from private sector companies, government bodies or NGO's submitted in eight out of nine available categories.

In its 18th edition, Skål International has partnered with [Biosphere Tourism](#) and the [Responsible Tourism Institute](#) to give the '[Special Skål Biosphere Award](#)' that will be presented to one of the submissions.

The winner will be selected based on the pillars of sustainability of the Responsible Tourism Institute. Biosphere Tourism will present the winner with a one-year free Biosphere Certification in one of their available categories.

HAVE A
LOOK AT THE
PARTICIPANTS
CLICKING
HERE →

SKÅL CLUB OF THE YEAR

In keeping with tradition since the launch of the Michael O'Flynn Perpetual Trophy in 1981 and following the online voting period (from 1 to 31 August), the winner will be presented during the Opening Ceremony of the 80th Skål World Congress onboard the Royal Caribbean 'Symphony of the Seas'.

A complimentary double registration for the 2020 Skål World Congress will be offered to the winner.



The votes cast by the Clubs worldwide represent 60% of the total while the remainder of the 40% votes come from the Executive Committee.

The winner will be the Club getting the highest number of votes.



Have a look at the presentation videos of the **seven nominees**:



BAHIAS DE HUATULCO
MEXICO | [VIDEO](#)



BANGKOK
THAILAND | [VIDEO](#)



NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
USA | [VIDEO](#)



ROMA
ITALY | [VIDEO](#)



SEOUL
KOREA | [VIDEO](#)



TAXCO
MEXICO | [VIDEO](#)



VICTORIA
CANADA | [VIDEO](#)

SAVE THE DATES

IMEX AMERICA

10-12 SEPTEMBER'19

Las Vegas, USA

Skål International stand: E653

[Register](#)

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONGRESS

14-21 SEPTEMBER'19

Aboard Royal Caribbean's 'Symphony of the Seas'

[Full Information](#)

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SKÅL CLUB DELEGATES

17 SEPTEMBER'19

Royal Caribbean's 'Symphony of the Seas', Costa Maya (Mexico).

Agenda and reports of the meeting available in the Members Only Area of the Skål International website or [here](#).

TTG TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

9-11 OCTOBER'19

Rimini, Italy

Skål Meeting Point: Pavilion C3, Stand 015

Happy Hour on 9 and 10 October at 4.30pm.

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

4-6 NOVEMBER'19

London, UK

Skål International stand: TBC (to be confirmed).

Skål Dinner on 5 November. More info to follow shortly.

SKÅL ROME DAYS

14-17 NOVEMBER'19

Rome, Italy

70th Anniversary
Rome & Stockholm Twinning
International B2B
Skål Europe Meeting

IBTM WORLD

19-21 NOVEMBER'19

Barcelona, Spain

Skål International stand number to be confirmed.

ROME SKÅL DAYS

#RomeSkalDays - 75 days

Skål Rome turns 70, but still very young!

From 14th to 17th November Skål Rome has organized a big event including the **ceremony of 70th anniversary**, the **twinning with Skål Stockholm**, the first **Skål Europe Day**, a **LAB on CRM for Young Skål** and the **B2B of Skål International**.

On **November 15th**, Skål International Roma will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of its foundation. The ceremony will be held in Rome's city-hall, Michelangelo's Capitol.

On the same day, Skål International Roma and Skål International Stockholm will sign their twinning. Stockholm will be the 7th club twinned with Roma.

On **November 16th** will be 'Skål Europe Day'. Two major events are in the program: the B2B and the Forum on the Future of Skål Europe. The attendance includes the Presidents of European Skål Clubs, the President and the CEO of Skål International, the President of Skål Roma, the delegates from Europe and Rome, official authorities, entrepreneurs and tourism specialists.

During the Forum **Mr. Armando Ballarin**, President of Skål Italy will assign Awards of Excellence to European Clubs with outstanding results in Tourism and Art, Tourism and Culture, Tourism and History, Accessible tourism, Tourism and Sport, Active Tourism, and Wine & Gastronomy Tourism.

The social events of **Rome Skål Days** are:

- **November 14th**: Welcome Happy Hour, by Rome's Young Skål Team.
- **November 15th**: Skål Style Gala Dinner - Saint Regis Hotel.
- **November 16th**: Farewell Dinner in Rome's countryside.

During the farewell dinner, the Executive Committee will decree the host city for the 2020 Skål Europe Day.

All clubs will soon be informed on how to be a candidate.

- ➔ MORE INFORMATION
- ➔ REGISTRATIONS
- ➔ PRESS RELEASE





2019
Skål
International
...
Candidates
for
elections



PETER MORRISON

FOR PRESIDENT

After leaving his Secondary Schooling at Wellington College where he was the Head Boy (Head Prefect) in his last year 1975, Peter Morrison started working for Lion Nathan Ltd. He was chosen at 17 years of age to be a Management Cadet in their Hotels Division. Peter completed a Diploma in Hotel Management in his first 2 years with Lion. He worked for Lion for 15 years, managing his own Hotel at the young age of 20. His career with Lion culminated in him being appointed to the position of General Manager of their "Flag-Ship" Hotel – The Hotel Russley in Christchurch. He held this position for 10 years. When Lion decided to sell all their Hotels in 1991, Peter with a group of local businessmen purchased the Hotel Russley.

At this time Peter started his own company – Morrison Hospitality Management Ltd. A few years later Peter sold his shareholding and opened a number of award winning Restaurant Bars in Christchurch, namely Morrisons on Merrin and Mansfield House.

Since 2006 his company has had the Management Contract of The Classic Villa. This is a Qualmark 5 Star Boutique Hotel of 12 luxurious rooms and small convention areas. It has won many accolades and is one of the leading sponsors in Christchurch City of the Arts, Culture and Music. (Peter loves playing the Piano).

During his career Peter has been heavily involved in the Hotel Association of New Zealand (now called Hospitality NZ) – 3300 members.

He has been a Director (Board Member) of Hospitality NZ for the past 12 years and was (last 6 years) in charge of Finance as the National Treasurer. He is now entering his third year as the National Vice President.

Peter is also entering his 16th year as President of the local branch of Hospitality NZ – Canterbury- 440 members.

Peter is also the past Treasurer of The Friends of The Arts Centre in Christchurch. He remains on the committee.

This is a huge complex of Heritage buildings across the Boulevard from his hotel. They were badly damaged in the Earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. The repairs are costing NZ\$320 million. Our aim is: "to assist with fundraising, promote and encourage the use and enjoyment of the Arts Centre as an outstanding cultural centre for the benefit of the people of Christchurch, New Zealand and Internationally".

Peter is also involved with a number of other Tourism related associations in Christchurch, such as Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism and Christchurch City Council & Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Events Strategy.

Peter in 2017 was awarded a prestigious British Commonwealth award of an Order of Merit in the Queen' Birthday Honours for services to the hospitality and tourism industry.

Peter has attended 8 Skål World Congress and 15 International Skål Council meetings.

TERESA DIAZ COMAS

FOR PRESIDENT

María Teresa Díaz Comas is a specialist in Tourism Politics, Tourism Regulations, Management of Excellence Processes in Human Resources, Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, Digitalisation in Tourism and Customer Experience.

She holds an Official Master's Degree in Hospitality Business Management and a University Degree in Economics granted by Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, having taken optional subjects in Business Management.

- **SGS España.** She has implemented the business strategy plan for the commercialisation of certification, statutory regulations and customer experience services. She has certified hundreds of organisations under ISO 9001,14001 and EMAS standards as well as UNE standards for hotels, apartments, camping sites and beaches granted by the ICTE (the Spanish Institute for Quality in Tourism) (2017 – currently)
- **NYURON SYNAPTICS.** Founder Member. She is developing the DNA of several companies of the tourist industry. She has contributed to obtain the CDTI (Centre for the Industry's Technological Development) certificate to develop all the technology to predict human behaviour (2015 – currently)
- **EUROCERT-SPAIN.** Operations Director in Catalonia and the Balearics. She has certified hundreds of private and public organisations under the ISO 9001, 14001, EMAS and UNE standards. (2015-2017).
- **CETT-UB School of Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy.** Sponsor of Fundación Gaspar Espuña – CETT. President at CETT Alumni. Part-time Professor. She has delivered the English for Tourism Degree subject "International Hospitality Management" and the following subjects of the Official Master's Degrees in Tourist Business Strategic Management: "Experience Management", "Financial and Economic Management" as well as "Total Quality Management and Sustainable Tourism". (2007-currently). She is also leading the development of the new communication and value creation strategy for all the CETT Alumni (over 19,500 worldwide) (2010-currently).
- **LANGLE Coneixement i Qualitat. Founding Member.** She has implemented the management of subsidised training in over 100 companies of the tourist industry. She has designed and implemented the profiles of the job positions for various hotel and restaurant groups. She has leaded a team of 16 employees where over 2,000 lecturing hours have been delivered every year in courses that were applied to the needs of the companies including: languages, customer service, quality management and process enhancement, graphology and managing skills, amongst others. (1995-2013).
- **Escuela Universitaria EUHST.POL BARCELONA.** Parttime Professor. She has delivered the subject "Total Quality Management and Sustainable Tourism" in English (2014-2017).
- **AROMAR Hoteles y Restaurantes. HH. RR. and Quality Coordinator.** She has implemented and certified several quality systems as well as being in charge of training her 250 employees in risk prevention of each of their job positions (1996-2012).

She has perfect command of the three official languages in Skål.



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL GIRONA SPAIN

SGS - KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL SPAIN AROMAR HOTELS & RESTAURANTS SALES OFFICER www.aromarhotels.com teresadcomas@gmail.com

SKÅL CV

- 2000 - 2004 Founding Member of Young Skål, Skål International Girona
- 2004 - 2019 Member, Skål International Girona
- 2009 - 2014 International Skål Councillor, Spain
- 2010 - 2013 President, Skål International Girona
- 2010 - 2013 Vice-President, Skål International Spain
- 2013 - 2015 President, Skål International Spain
- 2016 - 2017 Director, Business Development and Trade Fairs, Skål International
- 2017 - 2018 Director, Young Skål and Membership Engagement for Middle East, North Africa and Mediterranean coast, Skål International
- 2018 - 2019 Junior Vice President, Training/Resource Development, Membership Engagement Southern Europe and Latin America, Skål International

María Teresa was a Founding Member of the Young Skål group of Girona and attended the first seminar of Young Skål held in Frankfurt in 2001.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL CHRISTCHURCH | NEW ZEALAND

THE CLASSIC VILLA www.theclassicvilla.co.nz peter.morrison@skal.org

SKÅL CV

- 2004 - 2019 Member, Skål International Christchurch
- 2006 - 2008 Vice President, Skål International Christchurch
- 2008 - 2010 President, Skål International Christchurch
- 2008 - 2010 Vice President, Skål International New Zealand
- 2011 - 2012 President, Skål International New Zealand
- 2012 Acting International Skål Councillor, New Zealand
- 2013 - 2017 International Skål Councillor, New Zealand
- 2017 - 2018 Director, Finance & Florimond Volckaert and Membership Engagement for Australasia, Asia and Oceania, Skål International
- 2018 - 2019 Senior Vice President, Finance & Florimond Volckaert Fund, Membership Engagement Australia, New Zealand, Oceania and Asia, Skål International



FIONA MCFARLANE

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Fiona McFarlane is a professional Managing Director with over 20 years experience in the Travel and Tourism industry, she has successfully held management positions in small and large corporations. She has been actively involved in all facets of the industry: Airlines, Foreign Exchange, Hotels, Retail, Tourism Media including Print and Television, Product Development, Email Marketing, website design and Social Media.

Her work and experience has encompassed destination management and marketing, product and sales management, product planning and development, contract negotiation, pricing and distribution, business development, strategic planning, marketing, plus budgeting and sales targets.

- **March 2015 to date:** Managing Director, cherrygift.
- **September 2012 to date:** Managing Director, Gateway Media Group – Queensland.
- **January 2010 to August 2012:** General Manager, Domain Serviced Apartments – Brisbane.
- **September 2008 to January 2010:** Sales Manager, Gateway Media Group – Cairns.
- **January 2008 to August 2008:** Senior Sales Consultant, Complete Business Travel – Brisbane.
- **April 2004 to December 2007:** Sales Consultant, Qantas Airways Limited – Brisbane.
- **February 2003 to April 2004:** Foreign Exchange Sales Consultant, Travelex Limited – Brisbane.
- **April 2000 to January 2003:** Customer Service Agent, Qantas Airways Limited – Cairns.
- **January 1999 to April 2000:** Foreign Exchange Sales Consultant, Thomas Cook Limited – Cairns.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL CAIRNS AUSTRALIA

CHERRYGIFT
www.cherrygift.com
GATEWAY MEDIA GROUP
www.gatewaymedia.com.au
fiona.mcfarlane@skal.org

SKÅL CV

2009 - 2010
Member, Skål International Cairns

2010 - 2014
Member, Skål International Brisbane

2011 - 2013
Secretary, Skål International Brisbane

2013 - 2014
Vice President, Skål International Brisbane

2014 - 2019
Member, Skål International Cairns

2014 - 2016
Vice President, Skål International Australia

2015
Chairman, 2020 Project leading Social Media Committee

2016 - 2018
President, Skål International Australia

2018 - 2019
Director, PR & Communications and Social Media, Membership Engagement Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, Skål International

In 2016 Fiona McFarlane was awarded the Skål International Cairns Skålleague of the Year and the Skål International Skålleague of the Year.

In 2017 Fiona launched the two new Clubs of Skål Alice Springs and Skål Mackay in Australia.



BILL RHEAUME

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Bill is a Certified Hotel Administrator and an honours graduate from British Columbia Institute of Technology with a diploma in Hospitality Management and Business Administration.

Bill's career in Hospitality Management began in 1975 as the Banquet Manager for an independent hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada where he learned the value of hard work, guest relations and team collaboration. Bill's career has evolved over the last 40 years of senior management experience in destination hotel & resort operations including positions with Canadian Pacific Hotels (Fairmont), Radisson Hotels and several elegant Boutique Hotels.

In 2007, Bill became an independent Hospitality Management Contractor, joining Inntegrated Hospitality Management Ltd. ("IHM") in 2009, where he is currently Director of Management Services.

His senior management experience includes General Manager positions at the following destination hotel & resort operations:

- **Brewster Hospitality Division, Banff;**
- **Nita Lake Lodge, Whistler;**
- **Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre, Canmore;**
- **Mount Royal Hotel, Banff;**
- **Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary;**
- **Banff Rocky Mountain Resort, Banff; and**
- **Lake Okanagan Resort, Kelowna**

Bill is a dedicated industry professional and over the past 25 years has pledged his commitment through the following association executive positions, including: President, Banff Lake Louise Hotel Association; ViceChair, Canadian Rockies Tourism Destination Region; Board Member, Tourism Banff / Lake Louise; Board Member, Tourism Canmore; and Board Member, Canmore Economic Development Authority.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL CANADIAN ROCKIES | CANADA

INTEGRATED HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT LTD.
www.inntegratedhospitality.com
brheaume8805@gmail.com

SKÅL CV

1992 - 2019
Member, Skål International Canadian Rockies

1992 - 2000
Board Member, Secretary, Treasurer, Skål International Canadian Rockies

2000 - 2002
President, Skål International Canadian Rockies

2005 - 2007
Vice President, Skål International Canada

2007
President, Skål International Canada

2012 - 2016
International Skål Councillor, Canada

2014 - 2016
Vice President, International Skål Council

2015
Chairman, 2020 Project leading Organization Structure Committee

2016 - 2018
President, International Skål Council

2018 - 2019
Director, Statutes and Governance, Membership Engagement North America, Skål International



VIJAY MOHAN RAJ

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Vijay Mohan Raj is graduated in Economics and Post Graduate in Marketing Management from Bombay University. He has been the Managing Director of Sameera Travel & Tours Pvt Ltd., South-India's fastest growing Leisure and Corporate Travel Management Company in Hyderabad since 1988. Obtain a challenging leadership position applying creative problem solving and lean management skills with a growing company to achieve optimum utilization of its resources and maximum profits.

Vijay is also a member and was the Chairman of the Travel Agents Association of India, AP Chapter and Managing Committee.

From 1975 to 1988 he played First Class Cricket for Mumbai and Hyderabad in the National Tournament (Ranji Trophy). From 2004 to 2018 he has been trainer of trainers and coaches at the faculty of National Cricket Academy.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL HYDERABAD INDIA

SAMEERA TRAVELS & TOURS
www.sameeratravel.com
vraj@sameeratravel.com

SKÅL CV

2002 - 2019

Member, Skål International Hyderabad

2014 - 2018

President, Skål International Hyderabad

2017

Chairman, Skål World Congress

Hyderabad 2017

2018 - 2019

Director, Industry Relations and Sponsorships, Membership Engagement Asia, Skål International

Vijay was awarded the Skål Asia Personality of the Year 2016.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR

As the ideal number of three candidates for the position of Director of Skål International was not received by the deadline date of 30 June 2019 and still not after the extended deadline date of 14 July 2019 allowed by the By-laws, we present the two candidates for the position of Director below.

RESPONSES FROM THE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR TO THE SURVEY SENT BY THE SUCCESSION COMMITTEE

[Jane A. Garcia](#) | [Burcin Turkkan](#)

The Succession Committee approached Jane Garcia to consider candidacy and is endorsing her for the following reasons:

Jane Garcia has been actively involved in the development of Skål International Mexico serving e.g. in the National Committee; in the Mexican World Congress organizing committee, and as a founding President of Skål International Isla Mujeres - Puerto Morelos. Her international experience includes being a chair in the Skål 2020 sub-committee, and a chairman 2018 NASC congress. Jane speaks all the three official Skål languages fluently.



JANE A. GARCIA

FOR DIRECTOR | VIEW VIDEO

October 2001 - May 2009: Regional Marketing Manager, Royal Holiday - Cancun, Cozumel, and surrounding area, Mexico.

May 2009 - March 2010: Vice President of Operations, Caracol Group / PRECASA Marketing.

April 2010 - December 2012: General Director / Legal Representative, Cancún Omni Vacation Club, Travel Agency & Call Center.

December 2012 - Present: President / CEO, Mayab Caribbean Hospitality & Tourism – Mexico (Private-Public Advisor/Consultant – Tourism Industry).

January 2013 - August 2013: Executive Management - Marketing, Human Resources, and Training Planner, Royal Resorts Group Cancun.

March 2016 - Present: Member of the Organizing Committee Annual Convention for AMDETUR Asociación Mexicana de Desarrolladores Turísticos, A.C., Mexican Republic.

June 2017 - April 2018: Latin American Business Development Consultant, INTUITION Brand Marketing.

August 2017 - October 2018: General Director of Municipal Tourism, Cancun

(Benito Juárez), Mexico.

October 2018 - Present: Hospitality Ambassador, GigNet / Cobalt Brand Services.

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

My main personal aim is to enhance my professional experience and to have the opportunity to be part of the Skål International Executive Committee, based on my twenty-five years of experience in the tourism sector.

Having said that, the opportunities are endless when working with the guiding aims and objectives set forth by Skål International.

I strive for –and aim to achieve– positive results that will enable an ongoing worldwide tourism organization to become stronger and more reputable. This, in turn, will help to provide me with overall personal motivation and satisfaction.

📍 SKÅL INTERNATIONAL ISLA MUJERES-PUERTO MORELOS MEXICO

🌐 Private / Public Advisor - Tourism SECTOR
janeagarcia@prodigy.net.mx

SKÅL CV

2012-2017

Member, Skål International Cancún

2015-2016

President, Skål International Cancún

2016

2020 Project Chairman (Structure/ Membership/Organization), Skål International

2014

Support to the Organizing Committee, World Congress, Mexico City

2017-2019

Founding President, Skål International, Isla Mujeres - Puerto Morelos

2017

NASC Member, National Committee, Skål International Mexico

2018

Chairman - Organizing Committee of the North American Congress, Playa Mujeres, Quintana Roo, Mexico

2019

Vice President II - Board of Directors, Skål International Mexico

Jane received the Skål Order of Merit at the 2016 World Congress, and Cancún was chosen as the Skål Club of the Year during her term as president in 2015/2016.

BURCIN TURKKAN

FOR DIRECTOR | VIEW VIDEO

Burcin Turkkan holds a BSc in Tourism and Hotel Management/Graduated as Valedictorian by the Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, as well as a Certification as Tourism Information Councillor, (English-German) by the Turkish Ministry of Tourism (1995).

July 2001 to date: USEH-International Services, Inc., Atlanta, GA, USA. International HR Consulting; Specialized in Tourism & Hospitality Industry Founder / Director of Operations.

July 2015 to date: Travel To Turkey Now, Inc, Atlanta, GA, USA. Founder/ Managing Director. Travel To Turkey Now is established to offer exceptional, reliable and professional service for personal travel or group travel and/or professional Meetings, symposiums, Incentives or conventions in Turkey.

July 2008 to date: American Hospitality Academy, AHA-IHMS, Hilton Head Island, SC, USA Associate Partner/ Academic Board Member. As a member of the AHA Academic Board; designing/executing the academic programs for the AHA campuses around the globe. Providing consultancy for the Executive Board in investing to new markets around the globe and establishing proper academic calendar based on markets targeted.

2000 to 2003: USEH-Uluslararası Staj ve Eğitim Hizmetleri, Istanbul, Turkey. International Staffing & Cultural Exchange Organization. As Founder/Director of Operations, she established offices for full operation in three major cities of Turkey and one in North Cyprus. USEH Turkey has been selected as the best academic and professional consultancy in Turkey and North Cyprus and it is still accepted as #1 ranking company in its field in Turkey.

1996 to 1997: Setur Travel Agency, Ankara, Turkey. Employed in Ticketing, Tours & Ground Operations, Accounting departments. Burcin is also a member of I-CHRIE, Cobb Chamber of Commerce and Circle D'Orient.

1997 to 1999: EI of AH&LA/ Bilsit International, Ankara, Turkey. Academic Instructor; Front Office Operations / Human Resources Management.

1997 to 1999: Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey. Academic Instructor; Organizational Behavior/Human Resources Management.

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

I am asking for your support in electing me as Director for the Skål International Executive Committee and allow me to volunteer further for our great organization as a friend, a passionate Skålleague. Being a goal -and -result oriented person I would like to offer you my loyalty, my friendship, my time and my professionalism in serving as Director with integrity and highest moral ethics.

If elected as Director I would like to assist with the efforts in finding additional resources to create additional funding for our organization and membership development. I also would like to contribute to existing projects or work on creating new ones with the focus on increasing visibility, adding direct value to membership and regaining our status as 'Trusted Voice' in the industry which will lead us to grow membership worldwide.



📍 SKÅL INTERNATIONAL ATLANTA U.S.A

🌐 USEH INTERNATIONAL
www.useh.org
www.traveltoturkeynow.com
www.ahaworldcampus.com
burcinturkkan@useh.org

SKÅL CV

2009-2019

Member, Skål International Atlanta

2012

Secretary, Skål International Atlanta
Treasurer, Skål International Atlanta

2013

Vice President, Skål International Atlanta

2014

President, Skål International Atlanta

2014-2016

Chairman, 2020 Project leading Young Skål Committee

2015-2016

Vice President, Board Region IV, Skål International U.S.A.

2017

Vice President Administration, Skål International U.S.A.

2018

President, Skål International U.S.A.

Burcin was recognised by the Skål International Executive Committee with a Certificate of Appreciation during the 2015 Skål World Congress and she received the Order of Skål Merit in 2016.



DAVID J. FISHER

FOR AUDITOR | VIEW VIDEO

David Fisher started work with the Bank of America in the United Kingdom in 1968 as an operations clerk. He was then selected to go on a management trainee programme. Upon its successful completion, he was sent to Birmingham, England as Deputy Operations Officer of that unit. After a 5-year stint there he was sent on short-term assignments as a trouble-shooter, mainly operational/auditing activities, to Cairo, Bahrain and Luxembourg after which he was assigned to the Commercial Bank of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya as Special Projects Officer, with specific responsibilities for assisting NCR and Price Waterhouse computerise the operations of the Bank and created a team who established the standard operating procedures for all operational activities of the Bank. In 1993 after a 25-year career in banking he moved on and for the next six years did various consultancy work and also co-owned two restaurants. In 1999 he joined Maniago Travel and Cruises as a shareholder and Director, a role he continues in today. He is involved in all aspects of the company. David has attended 12 world congresses and 10 International Council Mid-Year meetings.

📍 SKÅL INTERNATIONAL NAIROBI KENYA

🌐 Maniago Travel & Cruises
www.maniagosafaris.com
djfisher@maniagotravl.com

SKÅL CV

- 2003-2019**
Member, Skål International Nairobi
- 2004-2005**
Director, Skål International Nairobi
- 2005-2008**
Treasurer, Skål International Nairobi
- 2007-2011**
Treasurer, Skål International Kenya
- 2008-2009**
Vice President, Skål International Nairobi
- 2009-2011**
President, Skål International Nairobi
- 2009-2013**
International Skål Councillor, Kenya
- 2010-2011**
Secretary, International Skål Council
- 2011-2013**
Vice President, International Skål Council
- 2013-2014**
Director, Finance and Florimond Volckaert Fund, Skål International
- 2014-2015**
Vice President, Finance and Florimond Volckaert Fund, Skål International
- 2015-2016**
Vice President, Business Development & Trade Fairs, Skål International
- 2016-2017**
President, Skål International

JOHN J. RUZICH, OBE

FOR AUDITOR | VIEW VIDEO

John J. Ruzich began his tourism career with Eastern Airlines in 1968 where he worked until 1983. From 1983 to 1988 he worked for British Caledonian Airways where he rose to the position of Regional Vice President. From 1988 to 1992 he was Managing Director – North America Sales for Pan American World Airways in New York. In 1992 he moved to Regency Cruise Lines as Vice President – Sales until he moved to Go America Tours in 1996 as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Office. One year later he moved to Tower Air as Vice President – Marketing and Sales. In 1998 he moved to Spirit Airlines in Fort Lauderdale also as Senior Vice President – Sales and Marketing. In 1999 he returned to the New York area to work with ARCORP- NY Waterway as Vice President – Sales and Marketing. In 2004 he became President of the TIMM Group, LLC that is the US representative of the Worldwide Travel Alliance Marketing Group that has offices in Australia, the Arabian Gulf, Asia and Europe, a position he holds today. John is immediate past President of the Lower Manhattan Marketing Association, a past President of the British American Chamber of Commerce, Past Chairman of the European American Chamber of commerce. He currently serves as a Director of Big Apple Greeters and the Lower Manhattan Marketing Association. In 1994 he was awarded an O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) from Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to transatlantic trade.

WORLD CONGRESS PARTICIPATION

Zagreb, Antalya, Budapest, Turku, Seoul, New York, Hyderabad, Mombasa



📍 SKÅL INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK U.S.A

🌐 TIMM Group
www.timmgroup.com
ruzichtgroup@aol.com

SKÅL CV

- 1997-1998**
Member, Skål International Miami
- 1998-1999**
Member, Skål International Detroit
- 1999-2019**
Member, Skål International New York
- 2002-2003**
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, SI New York
- 2003-2004**
Treasurer, Skål International New York
- 2004-2005**
Secretary, Skål International New York
- 2005-2006**
Vice President, Skål International New York
- 2006-2007**
President, Skål International New York
- 2007-2009**
SIUSA Representative, Skål International U.S.A.
- 2008-2009**
Deputy Auditor, Skål International
- 2009-2010**
Junior Auditor, Skål International
- 2010-2011**
Senior Auditor, Skål International
- 2011-2012**
Junior Auditor, Skål International
- 2012-2013**
Senior Auditor, Skål International
- 2013**
Chairman of the 74th Skål World Congress Organizing Committee (LOC)
Honored with "Order of Skål Merit" for contributions to Skål International
- 2013-2016**
Deputy Chairperson Skål 2020 Project
- 2017-2018**
Junior Auditor, Skål International
- 2018-2019**
Senior Auditor, Skål International
- 2019**
2019 World Congress Consultant to Miami LOC



CARLOS R. BANKS

FOR MEMBRE D'HONNEUR

1975 - 1994: District Sales Manager, Mexicana Airlines
1994 - 1998: Sales Manager, Garuda Indonesia Airlines
1998 - 2001: Sales Manager, North American Gateways
2001 - 2003: Sales Manager, Berkley Tours & Travel
2003 - 2004: Sales Manager, North American Gateways
2004 - 2006: Sales Manager, Malaysia Airlines
2007 - 2008: Sales Manager, Palm Coast Travel
2008 to Present: Business Devolvement Manager, Pleasant Holidays

SKÅL CV

1979 - 1982: Member, Skål International Kansas City
1980: Executive Committee Board Member, Skål International Kansas City
1981 - 1982: SIUSA Representative, Skål International Kansas City
1982 - 2004: Member, Skål International Detroit
1985 - 1995: By-Laws Committee, Chairman, Skål International Detroit
1985 - 1989: Member - Executive Committee, Skål International Detroit
1986 - 1988: Program Committee, Chairman, Skål International Detroit
1988 - 1989: SIUSA By-Laws Committee to rewrite the Duties of the Officers
1989 - 1991: SIUSA Representative, Skål International Detroit
1989 - 1990: SIUSA By-Laws Committee to assist in rewriting the SIUSA Standard Constitution and By-Laws
1990 - 1991: SIUSA By-Laws Committee to write the SIUSA Standard Constitution, SIUSA By-Laws, and the sample Club By-Laws into a computerize program
1991: Member - Executive Committee, Skål International Detroit
1991 - 1993: Secretary, Skål International Detroit
1993: Nomination Committee, Skål International Detroit
1993 - 1994: Membership Committee, Chairman, Skål International Detroit
1993 - 1994: Vice President, Skål International Detroit
1993 - 1994: SIUSA By-Laws Committee to evaluate the possibilities of updating local Club By-Laws, by computer, to reflect changes in the SIUSA Standard Constitution
1994 - 1995: President, Skål International Detroit
1995 - 1999: SIUSA Vice President - Region II
1996 - 1999: SIUSA Manual of Instructions Committee, Chairman. Responsible for rewriting and updating the Manual of Instructions
1998 - 1999: SIUSA By-Laws Committee, assisted in simplifying local Club By-Laws.
1999 - 2004: By-Laws Committee, Chairman, Skål International Detroit
2001 - 2003: SIUSA Vice President - Region II
2001 - 2002: SIUSA By-Laws Committee, assisted in proposing modifications to the Skål International Statutes and Skål International By-Laws. Assisted in writing the SIUSA By-Laws and proposed SIUSA Constitution to comply with Skål International
2002: SIUSA Manual of Instructions Committee, assisting in rewriting the Manual of Instructions
2002 - 2004: President, Skål International Detroit
2002 - 2003: 50th Anniversary Committee, Co-chairman. Skål International Detroit
2003 - 2004: SIUSA Vice President – Administration

2003 - 2004: SIUSA Manual of Instructions Committee, Chairman Responsible for rewriting and updating the Manual of Instructions
2004: Member, Skål International Miami
2004 - 2019: Member, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches
2004 - 2013: Membership Committee, Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches
2005: SIUSA Representative, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches
2005 - 2006: Member - Executive Committee, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches
2006 - 2007: Statutes Committee Chairman, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches
2006 - 2007: Treasurer, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches
2007 - 2019: Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches (non-voting member of board)
2009: AISC Statutes Committee, Member, responsible for reviewing and offering suggestions to National Committee Statutes
2010 - 2013: SIUSA Standards and Procedures Committee, Member. Responsible for rewriting and updating the Manual of Instructions. Updating SIUSA Articles of Incorporations and SIUSA By-Laws
2011 - 2012: SIUSA Vice President – Finance
2012: SIUSA Vice President – Finance
2013: SIUSA Vice President – Administration
2014: SIUSA President
2016: SIUSA Standards and Procedures Committee Responsible for rewriting SIUSA Articles of Incorporations and SIUSA By-Laws
2016 - 2019: SIUSA Representative, Skål International Ft. Lauderdale & Palm Beaches

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL FORT LAUDERDALE & PALM BEACHES U.S.A.

PLEASANT HOLIDAYS
www.pleasantagent.com
skalbanks@gmail.com

HONORS:

2017
 "Skål International USA Member of Distinction" by the Skål Clubs of the USA
2016
 "Special Recognition for Work on Skål International USA Articles of Incorporation (Statutes) and By-Laws" by Skål International USA Executive Committee
2014
 "Honorary Ambassador" by Skål International Australia
2013
 "Arkansas Traveler" by the Governor of the State of Arkansas
2005
 "Friend of Kedah" by the Chief Minister of the State of Kedah in Malaysia
2004
 "Kentucky Colonel" by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

He has attended 20 World Skål Congresses and 27 North American Skål Congresses.



ANDREW J. WOOD

FOR MEMBRE D'HONNEUR


June 1980 - September 1981: Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, London. Graduate trainee
August 1982 - May 1983: Hilton International, Paris. Demi-Chef De Rang (F&B Supervisor)
June 1983 - October 1983: Duty Manager -Tower Thistle Hotel, London
October 1983 - April 1985: Reservations Manager - Tower Thistle Hotel, London
April 1985 - June 1987: Rooms Division Manager - Tower Thistle Hotel, London
January 1983- November 1989: International Sales Manager - Thistle Hotels, GROUP UK ('87-'89)
November 1989 - October 1990: Director of Sales and Marketing- The Cumberland Hotel, London
January 1991 - May 1992: Director of Marketing - Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok
May 1992 - November 1992: Director of Sales and Marketing - Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Bangkok
November 1992 - April 1994: Vice President Sales - Royal Garden Resorts plc
April 1994 - September 1997: Vice President Sales and Marketing - Lancaster Landmark Hotel
April 1994 - March 1998: Resident Manager - The Landmark Bangkok, Thailand ('97-'98)
March 1998-March 2000: General Manager -The Fortune Hotel, Bangkok
April 2000 - October 2003: General Manager - Royal Cliff Beach Resort, Pattaya, Thailand
October 2003 - December 2011: General Manager - Chaophya Park Hotel & Resorts
October 2012 - October 2017: Director - Worldwide Destinations Asia Co. Ltd
October 2017 - present: Freelance Travel Writer | Media Specialist. Travel & Tourism | Hotels & Hospitality • Media • Marketing • Consultancy

SKÅL CV

1992 - 2019: Member, Skål International Bangkok
1994 - 1998: Director, Skål International Bangkok
1998 - 2000: Vice-President, Skål International Bangkok
2000 - 2003: Secretary, Skål International Pattaya
2001 - 2006: Director, Skål International Thailand
2003 - 2005: Vice-President, Skål International Pattaya
2005 - 2009: Director Development, Skål International Asian Area
2006 - 2010: International Councillor, Skål International Thailand
2008 - 2010: President, Skål International Bangkok
2009 - 2010: Vice-President South East Asia, Skål International Asia
2010 - 2011: Director, Skål International
2012 - 2014: President, Skål International Thailand
2016 - 2018: Director, PR and Communication, Skål International Bangkok
2017 - 2020: Vice-President South East Asia, Skål International Asia
2018 - 2020: President, Skål International Bangkok



 SKÅL INTERNATIONAL BANGKOK THAILAND

 www.ajwoodbkk.com
ajwoodbkk@gmail.com



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IMEX AMERICA 2019

IMEX America's smart start to a week of smart business.

In the run up to the ninth edition of IMEX America, the market-leading trade show for the North American and global meetings and events industry, organizers have announced the final program for its pre-show educational day, Smart Monday, September 9, powered by MPI.

Each year IMEX, together with Strategic Partners MPI, design and deliver a whole day of professional learning and development opportunities which they offer to meeting and event industry professionals completely free of charge.

HANSEN'S IMAGINATIVE ANSWER TO "EMBRACING THE SHAKE"

Smart Monday, taking place the day before IMEX America, September 10 - 12, sets the tone for an intense week of business, networking and skills development at the Sands Expo and Convention Center, Las Vegas. The program kicks off with an MPI keynote by artist Phil Hansen. Hansen was forced to confront and find ways creative ways to overcome a tremor in his drawing hand. In the process he learned how to "Embrace the shake" and understood how this lesson can be applied to any part or life.

More than 30 concurrent education sessions cover hot topics for event planners, including an 'inside risk'

SHE MEANS BUSINESS COMES TO AMERICA

New this year following two years of growth and refinement at IMEX in Frankfurt is She Means Business. This joint event by IMEX and tw magazine is supported by MPI and comes to the US market by popular demand. Opening speaker, Dr. Mara Harvey, is a Head of Global UHNW Germany, Austria, Italy at UBS. Harvey's work in the financial industry has led her to explore the profound differences in the ways men and women approach wealth. She says very often women feel less financially confident than men in managing money and explains that little girls tend to get less pocket money than little boys. "There is a gender pay gap already at a very early age. This needs to change," she

workshop and a session on 'unlocking the DNA code of leadership'. Other opportunities include a chance to study for the Event Design Certificate and to join EventMB.com's highly regarded Event Innovation Lab™.

As research partners on the IMEX Talking Point of 'Imagination' this year, EventMB.com will also present findings and case studies from their report into some of the most imaginative events in the industry. The report is created in association with PSAV whose President, Ben Erwin, explains in this [short video](#) why imagination and creative risk-taking is important for the future of events.

says. Harvey has also authored a series of children's books aimed at redressing this imbalance.

Smart Monday also features special events for specialist audiences, including an Association Leadership Forum, Executive Meeting Forum plus open-to-all education crafted and delivered by leading industry associations including EIC, ICCA, PCMA, IAEE and SITE.

The Smart Monday program is free of charge although [pre-registration is required for IMEX America](#), taking place September 10 - 12. The day is open to anyone working in the meetings and events industry and attendees must also take part in the IMEX America trade show. Some specialist events require pre-qualification.

IMEX America

The heartbeat of the global business events community, will take place September 10 - 12 at the Sands® Expo and Convention Center at The Venetian® | The Palazzo® in Las Vegas, preceded by Smart Monday, powered by MPI, on September 9.

imexamerica.com

Register for
IMEX America now!



#IMEX19



LAS VEGAS SANDS EXPO
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2019

WIELD YOUR POWER WISELY

Here's something mind-blowing: YOU are in charge at IMEX America, the country's biggest trade show for incentive travel, meetings and events.

Because as a buyer, you can set appointments with your choice of 3,500 destinations, venues and suppliers from 150 countries, right there on the show floor.

Tap into our system. Control your own schedule. Complete RFPs in advance, so both parties arrive ready to maximize face time and get down to business.

You'll also connect with brand-new ideas, tech, trends and research during booth presentations, launches, demos, social engagements and learning sessions.

Who will you go see? Appointments do fill up, so register ASAP—totally free!

IMEXAMERICA.COM/REGISTER

#IMEX19





WTM 2019

60 seconds with...
Senior Director of WTM London,
Simon Press

What is the theme for WTM London 2019?

Ideas Arrive Here is going to be a recurring theme from 2018. For WTM London 2019, we're expanding our notion of this concept through **Innovative Perspectives, New Possibilities and Inspiring Fresh Thinking.**

The event is known for being a key hub for creation in the travel industry, in addition to the business deals and ideas that fuel the industry.

What is new for WTM London 2019?

This year WTM London 2019 is extending its reach throughout the travel industry our newest launches.

Travel Week will be the seven day travel celebration over the week of WTM London. This is going to allow travel professionals and enthusiasts to come together to raise awareness on how big the travel sector really is.

We aim to show the impact of travel VIPs coming to London for the first week of November, due to them coming for WTM London. We want to extend our hand to the industry, without taking full ownership. More information about Travel Week is due to be launched shortly, so watch this space!

BorderlessLive is the brand-new event where content where creative thinkers, worldwide brands

and destinations from across the globe will come together for a festival style exhibition and conference.

On Friday 6 and Saturday 7 September, WTM London will be launching this one-of-a-kind event, in partnership with influencer-marketing agency Traverse, where we will be presenting how the nature of the industry has changed and where it will be moving to next.

On the first day of the show (Monday 4th), we will be increasing networking opportunities at senior level by introducing an invitation only Leaders Lunch.

What else can we look forward to at WTM London 2019?

The year ahead will see the return of the **International Travel & Tourism Awards**, Travel Forward and the dedicated regional Inspiration Zones.

The International Travel & Tourism Awards celebrate the success of national, regional and city tourist boards and recognise outstanding private sector companies and individuals. Showcasing the best in class of the global travel & tourism industry

at the new London venue, Magazine London on Tuesday 5 November 2019. There are still some sponsorship opportunities available for our awards so do get in touch with the team if you're interested.

Travel Forward is the travel technology event co-located with WTM London and will take place on 4-6 November 2019 at ExCeL London. The second Travel Forward conference, exhibition and buyer programme is due to once again inspire the travel and hospitality sectors with next-generation technology.

The **Inspiration Zones** within each region will continue to connect exhibitors through engaging new ideas whilst focusing on current and future concepts. We are continuing to reshape our conference programme to incorporate the expansion of the Ideas Arrive Here theme.

On the subject of inspiring stories, our new video concept, **#WTMStories**, will give viewers an insight into travel trends – as seen through the eyes of key industry figures and consumers.

Don't miss out on...

- £3.5billion in business deals
- 50,000 senior travel professionals
- 11,000 buyers
- 5,000 exhibitors
- 3,000 media
- 180+ countries and regions
- 5 stages hosting dedicated regional content

Show dates and location

- Monday 4 November 2019:
10:00 - 19:00 (invite only)
 - Tuesday 5 November 2019:
10:00 - 18:00
 - Wednesday 6 November 2019:
10:00 - 18:00
- ExCeL London, Royal Victoria Dock,
1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL

WTM London 2019
Register your interest now!



Uncover a world of ideas

5,000 exhibitors ready to inspire and help grow your business

Find out more at london.wtm.com

Follow us
#IdeasArriveHere



ibtm® WORLD



IBTM 2019

IBTM World launches its 2019 event with new Corporate Buyer programme

32ND EDITION IBTM WORLD

IBTM World, one of the most established business to business trade shows for the meetings and events industry, has announced the launch of its 32nd edition, which will take place at Fira Gran Via in Barcelona from **19-21 November**.

New at this year's event is a **Corporate Buyers Programme**, an exclusive package for c-suite and senior industry planners which provides additional benefits such as an exclusive one-day, peer-led conference addressing the issues facing corporate planners. It also gives corporate event planners an opportunity to network with peers in an intimate and exclusive setting and offers them flexibility to book appointments with exhibitors if they wish.

IBTM World's Association Programme is set to return this year. Run in partnership with AAE (Association of Association Executives), it will take place on day two of the event and will deliver expert tailored insights and knowledge on the key challenges faced by association event organisers.

This year's event will also feature a new immersive hub designed to inspire and nurture entrepreneurial industry talent as well as showcasing some of the latest and most innovative event technology. More details on this will be announced soon.

David Thompson, Event Director, IBTM World, said: "We are delighted to officially launch IBTM World 2019. On the back of last year's record-breaking show, we've continued our quest to provide additional value for our exhibitors and buyers and are excited to announce the first of several new initiatives we have planned for this year. We're taking a highly targeted approach to engaging senior corporate event planners with our new **Corporate Buyers programme**, as well as building on the **new Association Programme** to cater for the different needs of our audience. As ever the show will include a packed programme of expert speakers, meetings and networking opportunities, and we're looking forward to announcing more details in due course."

The event is expected to welcome over **2,800 exhibitors from over 150 countries**, as well as over **3,500 buyers and thousands of visitors**.

At IBTM World 2018, over 77,650 pre-scheduled business meetings took place over the three-day event.

Hosted Buyer registration is now open for 2019, for more information please see ibtmworld.com/buyers.

ibtm[®] WORLD

BARCELONA, SPAIN
19-21 NOVEMBER 2019

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Registration now open

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bestwestern.com



*Amenities and services may vary at individual hotels worldwide. Please check individual hotel listings for a complete list of amenities and services.

**Numbers are approximate, may fluctuate and include hotels currently in the development pipeline.

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