

# WORLD CHAMBERS COMPETITION SHOWCASES INNOVATION



The World Chambers Competition is the only global awards programme to recognize the most innovative projects undertaken by chambers of commerce and industry from around the world. The 2009 edition of the World Chambers Competition attracted 48 entries from 31 countries. The four categories this year, with a special fifth prize going to a chamber from a developing country, were:

## BEST UNCONVENTIONAL PROJECT

### WINNER

**Oslo Chamber of Commerce, Norway**  
**International Network of Norway (INN)®**  
In late February 2005, the Chamber introduced INN® to assist expatriates in the various aspects of settling into their new lives in Norway.



**Wermland Chamber of Commerce, Sweden**  
**Meetingpoint Wermland**

The Chamber's creation of Meetingpoint Wermland increased the knowledge and growth of Information and Communication Technology skills in the region and therefore the competitiveness of local companies.

**Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, Australia**  
**Apprenticeships Australia**

The Apprenticeships Australia project was introduced to fight the decline of skilled labour in Western Australia.

**South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Trinidad and Tobago**  
**Safe to Work in Trinidad and Tobago**

The Safe to Work in Trinidad and Tobago (STOW-TT) project addressed the health, safety and environment challenges facing the energy sector in the country.

**Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, Services and Industry, Bolivia**  
**Entrepreneurship Fostering Social Cohesion**

The Entrepreneurship Fostering Social Cohesion project was created to open up opportunities for microenterprises in the most dynamic economic sectors in Bolivia.

## BEST INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

### WINNER

**Torino Chamber of Commerce, Italy**  
**From concept to car**  
With a slowdown in production at FIAT, the chamber launched a marketing programme aimed at enhancing the international visibility and business opportunities for the Piedmont automotive cluster.



**Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, France**  
**GEFI**

The chamber created the GEFI online system so that a certificate could be issued electronically with a level 3 electronic signature, the highest level of security.

**Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Turkey**  
**Start Exporting Programme**

The chamber (with the cooperation of the Madrid Chamber of Commerce and Industry) created the Start Export Programme to assist SMEs in entering into international markets.

**Chamber of Commerce of Malaga, Spain**  
**Support for the internationalization**

With only 3% of Malaga businesses carrying out export activities on a frequent basis, the Chamber implemented a programme to assist companies entering the export market.

**Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United Kingdom**  
**South Yorkshire International Trade Centre – Increasing**

## BEST SMALL BUSINESS PROJECT

### WINNER

**Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, Germany (with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Madagascar)**

**Dual Vocational Training for Madagascar (DVT)**

DVT combines practical on-the-job training (80% of the apprenticeship) with theory classes (20% of the apprenticeship).



**The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka, India  
Grow Your Business – Business Promotion Fund**

In 2005 the Grow Your Own Business project was designed to revitalize the micro, small and medium sized enterprises along the coastal region of the country following the Tsunami in December 2004.

**Greater Baltimore Committee, United States of America  
Bridging the Gap Initiative**

The Bridging the Gap Initiative was created to increase the opportunities that are available to smaller minority and women-owned businesses in the region.

**Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mongolia  
Partnership Project**

The chamber created the Partnership Project to establish a model for mobilizing farmers and business people in impoverished rural areas to work actively for change by venturing into concrete projects which will contribute to local economic development.

## BEST NETWORKING PROJECT

### WINNER

**Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, United Kingdom and Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka  
Post-Tsunami Chamber Cooperation**

The project has produced an economic development strategy for the Hambantota District, the development of tourism in the region and the development of a careers service centre.



**Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Serbia  
Establishing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in South East Europe**

In 2007 the chamber, together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, organized a conference on CSR for small and medium businesses. They also established the CSR Award 2007 to identify the best projects and initiatives in South East Europe.

**Konya Chamber of Industry, Turkey  
Konya Auto Sub Industry Cluster**

In 2006 a study was undertaken with the cooperation of both Selcuk University and the chamber to look into the potential benefits of creating the Konya Auto Sub Industry Cluster.

**Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United Arab Emirates  
Dubai Hamburg Business Forum**

The aim of the project was to promote business development in selected industries in the Dubai and Hamburg regions by providing a channel to exchange information and research on the opportunities and challenges each market faces.

## BEST PROJECT FROM A CHAMBER IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

### WINNER

**Izmir Chamber of Commerce, Turkey  
Izmir University of Economics**

Although establishing a university is not an activity typically associated with a chamber of commerce, in 2001 the chamber established the Izmir University of Economics. Through the university, the chamber has been able to increase its membership and has created a strong link between the business community and academia.



For the first time in the history of the Competition, this year's winners received prizes generously provided by the following chambers, with the support of their member companies:

- Avijit Mazumdar, Chairman of the judging panel
- Anguilla Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers
- Mexico City Chamber of Commerce