



SKÅL

MAGAZINE

International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals • Founded 1934
A Trusted Voice in Travel and Tourism



MONTE CARLO CASINO, MONACO

EXCITING NEWS
ABOUT THE
CONGRESS

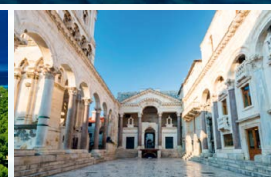
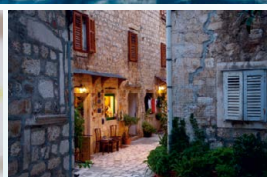
ON PAGE 5

Croatia DELUXE Cruise

KATARINA LINE is one of the leading DMC's in Croatia and a premier small ship cruise company with weekly guaranteed departures from the end of April to mid-October. Our cruise or land itineraries give travellers the chance to explore the stunning natural environment and picturesque, quaint Mediterranean towns while hopping from one island to another. This unique way of travelling and exploring coastal towns is one of the most popular and easy ways to experience the true Croatia.



SPECIAL OFFER
for Skål Congress MONACO participants



CRUISE THE ADRIATIC PRIOR TO SKÅL CONGRESS IN MONACO

Attractive Croatia cruise program offers authentic experiences of Croatian small historical towns, traditional way of living in Dalmatia, unspoiled nature and fantastic crystal clear sea. Cruise and swim during the day and spend afternoons discovering hidden Croatia treasures as well as world famous gems such as Dubrovnik, Korčula or Diocletian palace in Split.

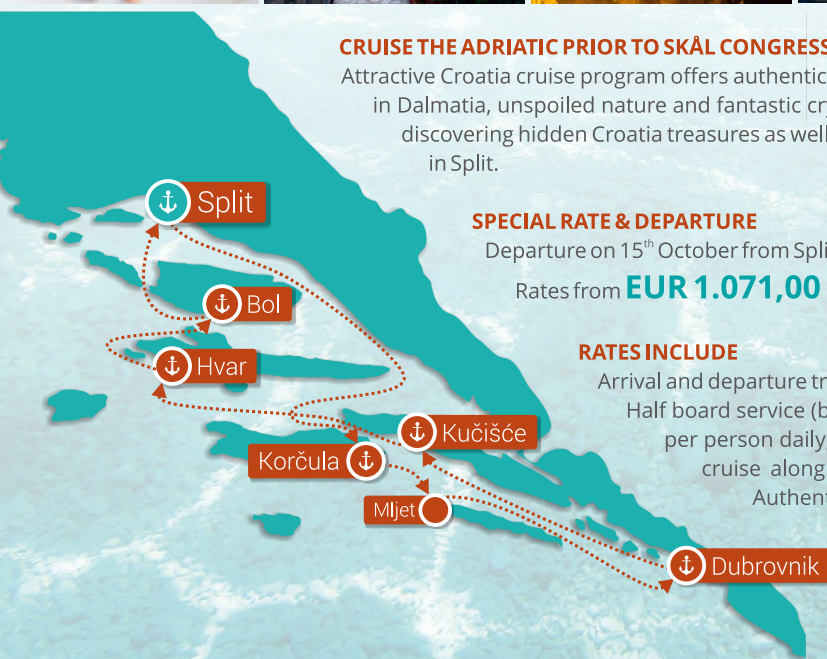
SPECIAL RATE & DEPARTURE

Departure on 15th October from Split with special **15% discount** for Skål members.

Rates from **EUR 1.071,00** per person (instead of 1.260,00)

RATES INCLUDE

Arrival and departure transfers from Split airport to Split harbor; Welcome reception & cocktail; Half board service (buffet breakfast and three course lunch); 1 drink with lunch & 1 l water per person daily; Captain's dinner with live entertainment; Spectacular evening dinner cruise along the old town city walls of Dubrovnik; Croatian wine tasting in Bol; Authentic Croatian Village party visit & dinner; Professional Tour manager; Guided walking tours of towns: Dubrovnik, Hvar, Korčula, Split; One way bus transfer from Dubrovnik port to Old town Dubrovnik for sightseeing; Dubrovnik cable car fee; Mljet National Park entrance fee; Visitors' taxes & port fees; Luggage handling; Daily cabin service; Free wi-fi onboard



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MESSAGE

from the

PRESIDENT

DEAR SKÅLLEAGUES, DEAR FRIENDS,

I write this message at a time when our friends and colleagues in Turkey have once again been the target of senseless terrorism with a cowardly attack on Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul. Just as we saw in Orlando, Florida earlier this month, innocent people have once again been killed or maimed in the name of some misguided belief that terror can effect change – it can't – it simply steals the resolve of all decent, freedom loving peoples.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all the peoples of Turkey and we commit ourselves to standing beside you in this dark hour. Only by standing shoulder to shoulder and refusing to allow the continued senseless slaughter of innocents to stop us from living free and democratic lives can we hope to defeat these cowards.

As an industry we must stand beside and not shy away from the destination. We must work beside our Turkish colleagues and ask what can we do to help restore tourism? How can we work together to re-establish travel plans and how can we help rebuild confidence – just as we have done with Brussels, Paris and countless other destinations around the world that have suffered terrorism. It is not just Turkey, it is global and only by acting globally and standing resolute can we defeat it.

We have our World Congress coming up in Monaco in October. This is an opportunity for the entire Skål family to stand together as one and say “we will continue travelling – we will not be deterred by extremism”. That will be a powerful message to the world, and especially to our clients, so I urge all of you to visit the Congress website (www.skalcongress.org) and register today so you can attend the

Congress and stand with us and our friends and colleagues who have suffered so much.

The Congress is also the time and place for all of us to reflect on where we want our great organisation to go and how we will get there – the Congress is your chance to have your say; to share opinions and ideas with others and together effect the change necessary to ensure we stay a relevant and important part of the travel and tourism industry. You cannot effect change by sitting at home complaining about how and why we do things – you can only effect change by being part of the conversation at Congress.

The team in Monaco have put together a fantastic programme of events and when comparing costs with what one can buy online or through travel professionals you will find that this congress is very much value for money. In fact you



will not be able to achieve anywhere near the same options for the price Monaco has put together.

Skålleagues, there is an old Chinese proverb/curse that states, “May you live in interesting times.” Well, we are certainly doing that and I believe we have two very clear options – one, sit back and let others dictate our way of life; or two, stand up and take control of our own destiny and ensure we take control of our way of life and make a real difference in this world. The same can be said for our great organisation.

See you all in Monaco!

Nigel A Pilkington
President
Skål International 2016



VISIT TO CHINA

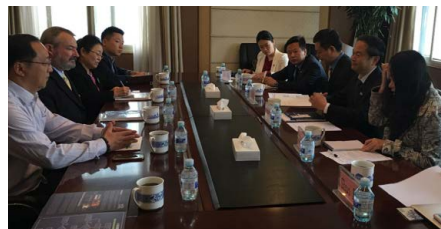
BY SKÅL INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT NIGEL PILKINGTON TO RELAUNCH SKÅL

From 24-31 April 2016, the President of Skål International, Mr. Nigel Pilkington, undertook a visit to China.



During the visit President Nigel Pilkington met with the first President of Skål International Beijing; the Chairman of Beijing Tourism Development Commission and the Secretary General of WTCF – all said they will give their full support to Skål Beijing.

On the afternoon of 26 April a re-union function for Skål Beijing was held. Approximately 40 people from the tourism industry participated in this function. During this function, President Nigel introduced Skål International and the founding members introduced their experience, including the Deputy Secretary General of China MICE Committee, the General Manager of China Travel Service MICE service, and the General Manager of China Youth Travel service inbound department.



Meeting at Tourism Commission



Meeting with Skål Beijing first President



SKÅL CLUB OF THE YEAR 2015/2016

Skål International recognises Clubs that have fulfilled all the necessary requirements for eligibility for the Club of the Year award. After an exhaustive review by the Secretariat of the qualifying criteria namely,

- Submitted payment of their annual membership fees to the General Secretariat before 28 February 2016.
- Sent the updated membership list or confirmation of the members renewing to the General Secretariat before 28 February 2016.
- Sent the Form 2 (update of Club Officers) to the General Secretariat before 8 April 2016.
- Achieved a net increase of 10% in membership or a minimum of 10 new members for larger Clubs from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 (Young Skål members are not included in the calculation).
- Registered a voting delegate at two of the five last Skål World Congresses.
- Contributed to the Florimond Volckaert Fund or other appeals organised by Skål International from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

the following Clubs have been nominated:

Skål International Arkansas, U.S.A.
Skål International Atlantic City, U.S.A.
Skål International Brisbane, Australia
Skål International Canberra, Australia
Skål International Cancun, Mexico
Skål International Guadalajara, Mexico
Skål International Ixtapa, Mexico
Skål International Jacksonville, U.S.A.
Skål International Los Cabos, Mexico
Skål International Whitsundays, Australia

Unfortunately the Skål Clubs of Ixtapa and Whitsundays, even though proud nominees, are not able to participate due to unforeseen circumstances.

VOTING

This year the process of voting for the Skål Club of the Year 2015/2016 will involve online voting from all Clubs worldwide.

During September, each Skål Club will be asked to view the presentations submitted by the participating Clubs and cast its vote online. For obvious reasons, Clubs will not be allowed to vote for a Club from their own country.

Clubs with 66 or more Active/Life/Retired members will be entitled to two votes and will have the possibility to cast both votes for the same Club or, one vote for two Clubs.

Senior Vice President David Fisher, Junior Vice President Susanna Saari and Director Lavonne Wittmann will make up the Executive Committee panel. As there are Clubs from Mexico participating, Lavonne Wittmann will replace Senior Director Rafael Millan on the judging panel.

The votes from Clubs will represent 60% of the total while the remainder of the 40% votes will come from the Executive Committee. The Club receiving the most votes will be named as "Skål Club of the Year 2015/2016" and receive the Michael O'Flynn Perpetual Trophy, as well as free double registrations for the 2017 Skål World Congress.

Detailed information on the online voting procedure will be sent out in August.

Congratulations to the top ten nominees!

AN EXCITING NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT IS ON THE SKÅL HORIZON.....WHICH YOU WILL MISS IF YOU ARE NOT AT THE MONACO CONGRESS

77TH SKÅL INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONGRESS MONACO

29 OCTOBER — 2 NOVEMBER 2016

NOT ONLY A PROGRAMME BUT ALSO
FAMILY & FRIENDS SPECIAL PACKAGE, YOUNG SKÅL PROGRAMME, PRE AND
POST CONGRESS TOURS, EXCURSIONS AROUND MONACO, AND MUCH MORE....

For further information and to register for the congress click on the [website](#)

FAMILY & FRIENDS SPECIAL PACKAGE

The 77th Skål International World Congress proposes special rates for accommodation in Monaco during the congress for family & friends of Skål members wishing to share the amazing experience of Monaco at affordable prices!





Click [here](#) to download the Family & Friends registration form in order to secure your accommodation in one of the best hotels of the Principality of Monaco at very affordable rates!

Do not miss the opportunity to come and visit the Amazing Monte-Carlo, click [here](#) to register for the family & Friends programme.

YOUNG SKÅL PROGRAMME

A great programme is almost ready (suspense...) for Young Skål.

A seminar dedicated to Millennials travels and a

worldwide leader for the Travel Forum are already confirmed in the programme.

And not to be missed... the exclusive visit in the afternoon of 1 November....

Register for the congress and you will discover the surprises that have been reserved for you!

Meet the Monaco Young Skål members (some of the Monaco Skål members are pictured over).



Click [here](#) to register for the Young Skål programme.

EXCURSIONS

DATE	PROPOSED EXCURSION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Sat. 29 Oct	Full day: A taste of Italy. San Remo and Dolceacqua	<p>After a pleasant drive on the expressway and beautiful panoramic views over the sea and mountains, you are in Italy, welcoming and friendly as ever, with the good-humoured and brawling character of our Italian neighbours, which will make you visit to the Italian Riviera so attractive.</p> <p>The excursion includes the traditional open-air “mercato” as well as the numerous shops and welcoming street cafes will result in a fun, international experience for you. Continue with the visit of Dolceacqua, a small middle-age village, with an evocative fortress-castle and a nice roman bridge over the Nervia valley, certainly another place you will love to see!</p>	€ 165
Mon. 31 Oct	Full day: The charming backcountry: St. Paul & Grasse	<p>Located in the hinterland between Cannes and Nice, the romantic walled village of St. Paul has been famous around the world since the 1920s thanks to the presence of great artists and film stars. Medieval, winding streets decorated with flowers and lined with Arts and Crafts shops, beautiful, sweeping views from the 16th century ramparts, lovely squares and fountains are just a few of the attractions of this lovely place. Next to the village is the Fondation Maeght, a small, wonderful museum dedicated to Modern and Contemporary Art, a “must-see” for art lovers (visit not included in the excursion price).</p> <p>Lunch at a local restaurant “en route”.</p> <p>In the afternoon a pretty, countryside road will take you to Grasse, the capital-city of perfumes since the 16th Century. You will be enraptured by the wonderful fragrances and can learn more about the secrets of perfume-making during the interesting visit of a historical perfumery. In the attractive showroom you have the opportunity to purchase high-quality perfumes and eaux de toilette, perfume soaps, scented candles etc.</p>	€ 110

DATE	PROPOSED EXCURSION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Tue. 1 Nov.	Half day: Stunning Eze and Perfume creation workshop	<p>At a short distance from Monaco, the fairytale village of Eze is worth a visit !</p> <p>Perched on a rocky spur overlooking the Mediterranean, with narrow paved streets, beautiful ancient stone houses, and little handicraft shops, Eze is certainly one of the most beautiful medieval villages on the French Riviera. (Flat shoes recommended for the visit of Eze.)</p> <p>Welcome to Fragonard for the Perfume Creation Workshop!</p> <p>You will discover how a perfumer or a “nose” masters the art of fragrance creation while learning about the history of the perfume. You will see which raw materials are used and how they are extracted. By the end of the workshop, you will be able to compose your own eau de toilette 100 ml, and customise it with aromatic notes, citrus family and orange blossom. A fascinating experience!</p>	€ 115
Wed. 2 Nov.	Full day: Cannes & Antibes	<p>CANNES...the glittery star of the French Riviera, famous for the International Film Festival and of course, a shopping Mecca!</p> <p>Besides the high designers shops along the famous Croisette, the “Rue d’ Antibes” is the shopping area where you will find shops for every type of budget.</p> <p>The old town “Le Suquet” is full of picturesque streets, built around a hill, and the walk up to the top is worth it: from there the view over the bay of Cannes is exceptional!</p> <p>A visit to the provençal market “Forville”, in Cannes old town is also a wonderful experience, full of colors and flavours!</p> <p>Lunch is on your own in Cannes.</p> <p>In the afternoon you will discover ANTIBES, a joyful and picturesque town which combines history, traditions and Mediterranean flair.</p> <p>Take a walk in the ancient streets spread around the cathedral and along the medieval walls; the former Grimaldi Castle, set on the ramparts, shelters the Picasso Museum. Here, in the streets of Antibes, you will walk in the footsteps of Picasso!</p>	€ 85

For further information and to register to one or more excursions click [here](#).



PRE AND POST CONGRESS TOURS

Before or after your meeting with friends during the Skål International World Congress in Monaco, you can make your journey even more enjoyable by visiting some of the best destinations in Europe!

Thanks to partner clubs, the 77th Skål International World Congress Monaco offers a large number of pre and post congress tours which offer you exciting and unique experiences!

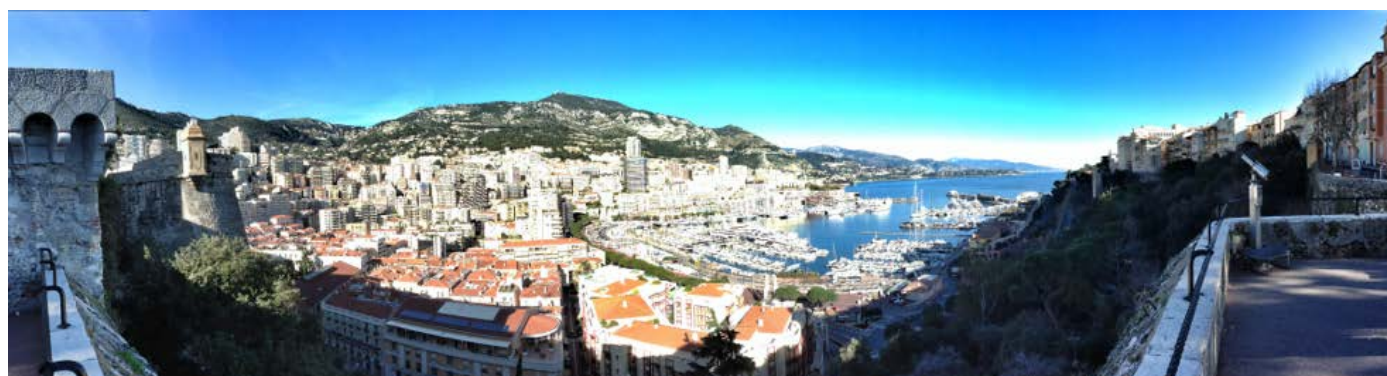
PRE OR POST	DESTINATION	DESCRIPTION
Pre or Post	BELGIUM	Pre or Post congress Tour to BELGIUM 26-29 October or 2-5 November INFORMATION
Pre congress	PARIS	Pre congress Tour to PARIS 26-29 October INFORMATION
Pre or Post	VENICE	Pre or post congress Tour to VENICE 26-29 October or 2-5 November INFORMATION
Pre or Post	NICE	Pre or post congress Tour to NICE 26-29 October or 2-5 November INFORMATION
Pre or Post	SAN REMO - ALBA	Pre or post congress Tour to SAN REMO - ALBA 26-28 October or 2-3 November INFORMATION
Pre congress	SEADREAM YACHT CRUISE	Pre congress Tour – SEADREAM YACHT CRUISE 22-29 October INFORMATION
Post congress	MSC PREZIOSA CRUISE	Post congress Tour - MSC PREZIOSA CRUISE 5-12 November INFORMATION
Post congress	LONDON WTM	Post congress Tour – LONDON WTM 3-7 November or 7-10 November INFORMATION

For further information and to book your favourite tour please click [here](#).

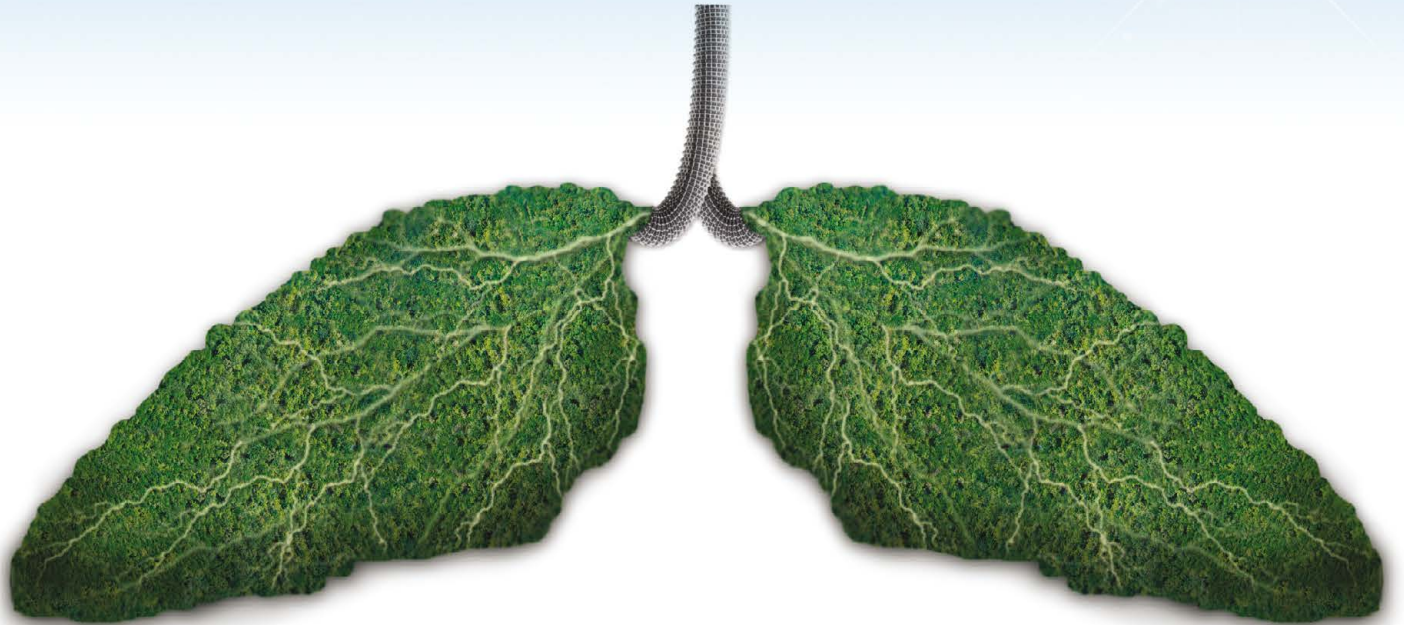
Join us in Monaco, get inspired, be a “Game Changer”!

www.skalcongress.org

Monaco: you must enjoy this unique experience!



MAXIMUM HYGIENE OXYGEN



A clean environment is the most precious heritage.

We have been producing in a manner of innovation and quality with the same enthusiasm since 82 years for happier and cleaner generations.



www.fakir.com.tr



COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

BY ANTONIO PERCARIO, INTERNATIONAL COUNCILLOR, SKÅL ITALIA

I have been the International Councillor for Italy for the past three years and I am now entering my fourth year.



SKÅL ITALIA: THE NEW DEAL

A great programme, outlined by Skål Italia President Toti Piscopo and his Board of Officers, has been set to take up the challenge of re-launching the commitment of Skål Italia, in order to meet the changing market needs, also through a continuous dialogue with its Associates.

A professional Think Tank, similar to a “clearing house”, to represent the various components of the tourism chain in a synergic and transversal manner.

Skål International Italy has consolidated its organisational activity and fully achieved all the targets set by its Board. Some of these targets were:

- give Skål a “new” personality and external visibility on a national basis;
- improve the proselytism activity;
- strengthen the Young Skål section;
- participate in tourism fairs and workshops;
- a new website;
- Golf activity
- Contribution to the Florimond Volckaert Fund;

• Young Skål Symposium PROSELYTISM

A priority will be given to the “quality” of the new Members.

The primary objective is to reverse the trend of declining membership numbers, as is happening in Italy and around the world. A goal so far already achieved by Skål Roma. Today Skål Roma, with its 132 Members, ranks among the top 10 largest Clubs in the world. Italy has 10 Clubs: Alto Adige-Sud Tirolo; Cagliari; Firenze e Toscana; Friuli Venezia Giulia; Lombardia; Palermo; Sanremo e Riviera dei Fiori; Savona e Riviera; Venezia; and Roma. We have a total membership of about 400 Italian Skålleagues.

YOUNG SKÅL

The Young Skål Symposium 2015 held in Rome was a great success.

In addition to the valuable content of the meetings, it recorded the presence of over 100 participants, of which

a total of 78 Young Skål members came from Italian Clubs (Rome, Florence, Milan, Palermo and Venice) and others came from 12 other countries: Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK and USA.

How to give voice to the Young

The aim was to give young people the “opportunity of networking” and also to develop and extend to all clubs in Italy the successful formula applied by Skål Roma, which, in two years, brought the Young Skål section to be one of the largest in the world.

The success of membership relies on the fact that the most important Universities and High Schools in Rome were identified as the main source of Young Members, all graduated with Masters in Tourism, beside Associations of young employees



of hotels, Ota, Mice, and so on.

The Board of Skål Roma has recently approved the appointment of Nicole Cutrufo as Responsible of the section Young Skål Roma. On the basis of Rome's model, Skål Venezia as able to create its own Young Skål section.

The "format" was developed with the experience of Prof Antonio Percario, Secretary of Skål Roma and International Councillor of Skål Italia. The aim was to give our Young Members the maximum support to possibly find jobs in tourism and also to give them the chance of internships in Italy and abroad.

"Erasmus Skål International"

We need to create and develop a specific program like "ERASMUS" for all Members (Active or Young) Skål.

We need to find partners for cooperation through international projects and partnerships.

FAIRS AND TOURISM WORKSHOPS

Skål Italia, with a targeted programme and a dedicated stand, during 2014, has been participating in the most important national trade fairs:

Spring: Albergatore Day (Rome), Travelexpo (Palermo), BIT - Italian Tourism Exchange (Milan), Fare Turismo (Rome)

Autumn: NO FRILLS (Bergamo), TTGINCONTRI (Rimini), BTO (Florence), Buy Lazio (Rome).

GOLF ACTIVITY

Following the very successful golf tournaments held in the Rome and Lazio Region for the last three years, Vice President Germano Gaudenzi, in charge of the Sport Activity of the Club, stated that also this year Skål Roma will organise two new prestigious International Golf Challenges.

Numerous golfers from Italy and abroad are expected, as in past, to participate enthusiastically in the challenges.

THE FLORIMOND VOLCKAERT FUND

Skål Italia and all Italian clubs have, in the true Skål spirit, given their full support and donations to the Florimond Volckaert Fund.

ONE WEB - ONE CLICK - ONE TOUCH

The Internet channel is the first way for making a community alive, for both relationship purposes and international references.

The goal we intend to achieve is to redesign our websites on the model of the Skål International one, in order to present a consistent and identifiable image of the Association, the way Skål Roma already did it by its www.skalroma.org.

VISITITALYWITHSKAL - ITALY IN THE WORLD SKÅL.

The aim is to create concrete business opportunities among Skål Members with a well organised tourist offer by the operators of the various categories to which Skål members belong.

The way Skål Roma did with "VISITROMEWITHSKAL" www.skalroma.org.

The Members of Skål Roma will provide the best accommodation prices of the day and the best tourism services with a special promotion to national and international Skålleagues.

ACCESSIBLE TOURISM - SKÅL INTERNATIONAL ITALY COMMITMENT

Soon after being elected National President, Toti Piscopo along with his Board, and on the proposal of Armando Ballarin - President Skål Venice, fixed among his primary objectives the commitment to support accessible tourism which, until that time, not been included in the priorities of Skål Italia.

With the appointment of Roberto Vitali, founder and president of V4A and trade show Gitando, as National Councillor for Accessible Tourism and with the assistance of International Councillor Antonio Percario, the basis for searching for opportunities given by a European project on Accessible Tourism has been laid down, in cooperation with ENAT (European Network for Accessible Tourism) and the European Commission.

DIPLOME DU MERITE TO ANTONIO PERCARIO AND AWARDS TO SOME MEMBERS OF SKÅL ITALIA



LIVING GOLF FOR PEACE

CELEBRATING OLYMPIC TRUCE | SUNDAY 10TH JULY 2016 | ESPICHE - LAGOS - PORTUGAL

Golf returns to the Olympic Games after 112 years | Global Sustainability Development Goals



Living Golf International and the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT), launched last year in South Africa, the world's 1st Living Golf for Peace tournament. Living Golf inspires all cultures to come together, to have fun and play with diverse groups.



On 10th July, Living Golf International partners Espiche Golf Club and the 2016 Olympic Truce Campaign. We are launching the 1st Living Golf for Peace tournament in Europe.

- The Living Golf tournament raises funds to train and support Olympic Truce Youth Ambassadors, to go to Rio2016, and report on the Truce implementation
- Espiche is a unique golfing experience based on the principals of preservation, conservation and innovation. It is Algarve's latest and greenest golf course showcasing sustainability. [Espiche Golf Club](#)
- Every Olympics is accompanied by a period of Olympic Truce. It was the original reason for the ancient Greeks to hold the Games. It is now backed by the United Nations. This year, the Truce has been called from July 28th to September 18th. It is supported by 180 countries. [Rio2016 Olympic Truce Campaign](#)
- Living Golf promotes nation building. It celebrates diversity through equality and inclusion. Playing golf enhances our knowledge of ourselves, our ability to be at peace within - the fundamental base for outer peace.

To register as a team, individual or corporate, go to [Living Golf for Peace at Espiche Golf Club](#)

All golfers are welcome - teams, individuals and corporates.

VOLUNTOURISM

HELP OTHERS WHILE TRAVELLING

VolunTourism is a new way of travelling that is becoming increasingly popular around the world in which tourists combine a trip abroad with charity work. If you are looking to visit a foreign country and use your time effectively, a VolunTourism trip may be the perfect opportunity.



Technically, VolunTourism is defined as “a seamlessly integrated combination of voluntary service to a destination along with the best, traditional elements of travel—arts, culture, geography, history and recreation—in that destination.” More simply put, VolunTourism involves traveling to a place to improve economic well-being, socio-cultural development, or environmental conservation by providing volunteer assistance and/or goods.

VolunTourism introduces a new kind of philanthropy and a method for donating time and materials in a personal, meaningful way, offering the travellers an opportunity to interact with a different culture and to gain a new perspective of the world that deepens their understanding of humanity. Most volunteers live with host families and interact with locals, which gives them an opportunity to get the inside scoop on what to do during their free time. One of the most valuable aspects of this type of experiential travel is that, when the journey is complete, VolunTourists generally feel that they have received far more than they have given to the destination and its residents.

There are many reputable VolunTourism organisations that offer a wide-range of worthwhile projects – Archaeology, Construction, Community, Conservation & Environment, Medicine & Health, Animal Care, Human Right, Agriculture & Farming, etc. – and committed to ensuring that VolunTourists

feel safe and under the constant guidance of professional and dedicated staff who make sure that things go smoothly. Africa, Asia and Latin America are the most popular destination regions. The most common duration is 1-2 weeks, with most VolunTourists being students and those taking a career gap.

VolunTourism has great impact on the local community, particularly in more remote, rural areas. Benefits to the community include increased manpower, direct financial support through placements, increased local employment and improved facilities. VolunTourists take their experiences home with them and tend to stay in touch, even actively fundraising on their behalf.

If you have an open mind, an adventurous spirit, and a caring soul, a volunteer trip abroad can be one of the best ways to travel. Since not all volunteer projects ensure equal benefits to both the traveller and host community, it is important to research and get involved with a VolunTourism provider with a reputable organisation. Make sure you, the volunteer, are participating in a volunteer experience for the right reasons: to travel abroad and make a real and lasting difference in the community you visit.

By Skål International

SKÅL CLUB'S SUCCESS CORNER

WITH OVER 200 MEMBERS, SKÅL INTERNATIONAL DELHI IS CURRENTLY THE SECOND BIGGEST SKÅL CLUB IN THE WORLD. THE CLUB PRESIDENT SANJAY DATTA EXPLAINS WHAT THE SECRET FOR THEIR SUCCESS IS.



Skål International Delhi started in 1954 and has held many events which have become the hallmark of the industry calendar and are eagerly awaited.

Since our first President was L.M. Manilal 1954-56, we have been blessed with many stalwarts of the industry as Presidents and who continue as members and attend most of the meetings.

We organise an annual Skål Ball, a Black Tie event (attended by the Skål International Executive Committee this year - click [here](#) to view video of Skål Delhi ball by the travel media.) which is attended by over 400 Skålleagues and guests who represent a wide spectrum of our travel and hospitality industry. Apart from arranging our regular monthly meetings, we organise key events which are held every year and are as follows:

- We invite reputed Guest Speakers such as Sir Mark Tully
- We recognise members' achievements regularly and congratulate them
- We recognise the contributions of our Past Presidents
- As recognition to our Past Presidents, an exclusive table is always arranged for them at key events such as the Skål Ball/Musical /Guest Speakers Events
- We organise clubbing nights with dinner for the young at heart and encourage spouses to join
- We organise an annual picnic with family, movies and theatre outings for members and spouses
- We organise an annual trip within India or abroad to encourage and increase bonhomie and camaraderie amongst members at rebated

costs which are offered by members

- Regular E-mails to all members to keep them posted on our activities
- We share the presentation on the benefits of being a Skål Member
- We present Skål Pins and Diplomas to new members at the time of their induction into the Club
- We apply judicious, stringent criteria on the selection of new members, only those who meet the criteria and show a willingness to contribute and carry on the legacy of our club are proposed for membership
- We have a very proactive and eager committee which supports the officers together with help of a professional administrator as a coordinator.

We continue to ensure the legacy continues in keeping the traditions and statues of Skål. We evolve tirelessly with new activities and events to keep up the momentum in order that the Club remains active and vibrant at all times.

Photo:

The office bearers of Skål International Delhi: (left to right) Sunil Ghadiok, Vice President; Sanjay Datta, President; Greesh Bindra, Honorary Secretary, and Ranjit Vig, Treasurer.

SUPPORT ECUADOR

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL APPEALS TO THE GENEROSITY OF SKÅL MEMBERS WORLDWIDE



At 7pm on Saturday 16 April 2016 Ecuador suffered a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake in the province of Manabi, in northwest of the country.

The resulting damage and loss of life has been heart-breaking with the death toll 602 (and rising) and thousands of injured and displaced persons and more than 25,000 have been left homeless.

The death toll, exceeds that of the earthquake in Peru in 2007 and makes Ecuador's earthquake the deadliest in South America since the one that stroke Colombia in 1999, which killed more than 1,000 people.

Ecuador's President Rafael Correa interrupted a trip to Europe to return home and back in his country noted that this is "the greatest tragedy of the last 67 years", since the Ambato earthquake on 5 August 1949.

Hundreds of emergency workers arrived from Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador, Spain and other countries to help in the rescue and recovery mission and the first stage has now concluded but the hard work of rebuilding lives, homes and businesses now starts.

International President Nigel Pilkington had the opportunity to meet with Skål International Ecuador President, Fabrizio Garcia Martinez at the recent Skål Latin American Congress and he explained the severe damage done to the region and in particular the negative impact on the tourism industry.

At the same meeting the Northern Latin American Committee pledged 10% of their funds to assist Ecuador and President Nigel promised that Skål

International would launch an appeal to ask Skålleagues to assist in helping the country regain its feet.

To this end may we please ask all Skål Clubs and National Committees to consider donating an amount, no matter how small, to assist our friends and colleagues in Ecuador.

As has happened in previous appeals, Skål International will collect the monies and then work with Skål Ecuador in establishing the most effective use of the monies, with a fully audited trail.

To pledge your assistance please use the following bank account:

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria,
Torremolinos, Spain
IBAN:
ES57 0182 0481 6902 0167 1004
SWIFT: BBVAESMM

Skålleagues, let us reach out and show our true Skål spirit.

SIERS

SKÅL EVENTS (SIERS) – CONNECTING SKÅLLEAGUES AROUND THE WORLD.

WHAT IS SKÅL EVENTS AND WHY SHOULD EVERY CLUB USE IT?

Skål International launched the Event Registration System (SIERS) program in 2015 and after a testing phase in the Asia/Pacific area it should now be used by all clubs globally. SIERS, now called SKÅL EVENTS is Skål's global event registration system.

The system was the brainchild of Skålleagues Tim Waterhouse (Singapore); Mark Windsor (Melbourne) with help and direction of Past President Richard Hawkins. It is your window to the Skål world and a very important tool to help clubs and individuals link with each other globally through Skål Events.

It has been designed to provide all members worldwide with one location to go to via any smart phone or desktop system to locate any club, national and international event worldwide and simply register to attend an event. The success of SKÅL EVENTS is absolutely reliant on all clubs adding and maintaining their events on SKÅL EVENTS and importantly, promoting the use of SKÅL EVENTS with members.

We are now asking that all clubs load their events for the remainder of 2016, and to ensure that SKÅL EVENTS is ingrained operationally into the clubs management to manage events and registrations via SKÅL EVENTS now and for years to come. As Skål International is a global organization, clubs are to consider not only their local members and their guests, but all members worldwide, so that your events can easily be located by another Skålleague who could be travelling to your location and register to attend. In short, Think Globally, Act Locally.

Clubs should identify and send to the SKÅL EVENTS Support team your nominated SKÅL EVENTS club administrator at siers.support@skal.travel. Once the login details have been provided, it is important that your nominated SKÅL EVENTS administrator to add your clubs events. The SKÅL EVENTS administrators guide can be downloaded from [here](#). It is recommended to print the guide and read through it before starting to add your events to assist you with accessing SKÅL

EVENTS and adding your events. If administrators have issues with logging in, use the "Forgot your password" feature to reset it.

It is expected that all clubs initially load all events with known dates till the end of 2016 and beyond. Venue details can be updated when confirmed and loaded now as "Venue to be Advised".

SKÅL EVENTS will assist members becoming more engaged with their clubs by enabling registration of attendance to any event via their smart phones, or desktop computers at any time of the day. The success of SKÅL EVENTS simply comes down to the club to add your events well in advance of the event date so all members can rely on SKÅL EVENTS as being the one place to go to register for any event worldwide. Equally, the success of SKÅL EVENTS also rests on club presidents and committee members to actively promote SKÅL EVENTS to their members at any opportunity.

A short video and Members user guide can be found by navigating to <http://siers.skål.org>, and clicking on the "About" tab where the links are located. Please ensure that the members user guide is distributed to all your members, and that the promotional video is shown at your events.

To access the SKÅL EVENTS area on the Skål website please click on the SKÅL EVENTS button on the top left of the homepage – it will take you to the SKÅL EVENTS Page where you can search and register for events anywhere in the Skål world. This is your link to the Skål world of events and it is very important ALL clubs and National Committees participate.

Clubs that have a local website, should add the SKÅL EVENTS Logo with the embedded URL; <http://siers.skål.org> on the home page to assist with facilitating the uptake of SKÅL EVENTS by members. The icon with the SKÅL EVENTS URL can be downloaded from [here](#), and should be added to the front page of all Skål websites. Please contact your local IT / Website vendor for assistance or email to siers.support@skal.travel if additional information is needed.

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GREETER PROGRAMME

A UNIQUE, ENJOYABLE AND BENEFICIAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT!

This unique membership benefit allows members to showcase their city, country and product to fellow Skålleagues around the world while “doing business amongst friends”. For Skål members who are first time travellers to a country, what better way to visit your destination knowing that there is a “Skål Family member” close by offering assistance when needed.

FEEDBACK FROM THREE OF OUR GLOBAL GREETERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT WORK FOR THEM

FIONA MCFARLANE, Skål International Cairns (Australia)



For me, there is no greater way to travel the world than ‘living like a local’. Through the Skål Greeter program, I have been given the opportunity to meet some amazing people from all over the world and share their experiences. I very much enjoy receiving calls or emails from fellow Skålleagues who have decided to venture to my beautiful part of the world in Far North Queensland and having the opportunity to show them my backyard from the Rainforest to the Great Barrier Reef with a personal touch.

I was introduced to Skål Cairns in 2008 by my late father who was a devoted Skålleague for many years.

My parents shared a travel media company which meant it wasn't long until I followed suit. My mother became a Skålleague in early 2009 and in September that year, I was honoured to be inducted. While spreading my wings, I transferred my membership to Skål Brisbane where I was voted as Club Secretary, then Vice President. It wasn't long till I transferred home to Cairns and joined the National Committee as Vice President and now, National President. Skål has opened many doors for me professionally and have made many valuable friendships. I have recently launched a new online, Australia wide, digital gift giving website called ‘cherrygift’ and knowing I have my Skål family as support, I feel confident I can expand globally.

CHRISTOPHER T. VACHON, Skål International Calgary (Canada)



Hotelier – currently building/opening a new 320 room dual brand Hilton Hotel in Downtown Calgary – Canada. EVexperience.com/hilton.

Inducted as member of Skål in London, Canada September, 1992. President Calgary Club 2014. Club Greeter since 2010.

The Club Greeter program has been an excellent opportunity to introduce members from around the world to our city, province and country. It really is what you make of the opportunity! My wife Diane and I continue to meet friends-of-members, their family and colleagues.

In 2015 our club celebrated 50 years and our celebration allowed Diane and I, as well as fellow members to showcase our city and the Canadian Rockies to members that would not have made time to do so.

It would be wonderful if every Club took the time to revisit their 'greeter role', select a champion and update their offering and Club status at skal.org.

CARLOS BANKS, Skål International Fort Lauderdale & Palm Beaches (U.S.A.)



I am honoured to be a Skål Greeter for Skål International Fort Lauderdale and the Palm Beaches. Our Club has two Greeters. Being a Skål Greeter has introduced me to members from Australia, South Africa, Peru, Belgium, Germany, England, Italy, Mexico, Canada as well as several Clubs in the USA.

In most cases visiting members just wanted to meet and get some information about the area such as the best restaurants or attractions to visit. In one case I was able to secure a room from a fellow Skålleague at a reasonable price when Fort Lauderdale was basically sold out. The best part of being a Greeter is the friendship that comes from it.

I have been a Skål member since 1979 and a member of my Club since 2004. Past President Skål International USA 2014. As Business Develop Manager for Pleasant Holidays, a major tour operator, I am able to meet members who are from some of the hotels I sell.

If your travels ever bring you to the Fort Lauderdale or the Palm Beach area, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Skål Greeters and try to plan to attend one of our meetings. Last year we had members from nine different Skål Clubs visit our Club.

With this spirit Skål International Fort Lauderdale and the Palm Beaches just won the "Skål International USA Club of the Year" for 2015. Last October our Club placed Third for "Skål International Club of the Year" for 2015.

Each and every Club should have a Skål Greeter to help show off your city, your Club and the Skål Spirit.



SIUSA Club of the Year: John Mavros, President Skål International USA, presenting Carlos Banks "Skål International USA Club of the Year" award for Skål International Fort Lauderdale and the Palm Beaches.

Add yourself as a Skål Greeter, sign up and give visiting Skålleagues your personal welcome and assistance, when they visit your city or area. Full information at www.skal.org/en/greeter.

IMEX FRANKFURT

10th Anniversary of the successful partnership between Skål International and IMEX Frankfurt

Preparations for our 2016 IMEX Breakfast began in December 2015 when the contract was renewed by Mrs Ana Maria Vera of Skål International General Secretariat in Torremolinos. We introduced a general outline of what was planned for this forthcoming event, which would be held for the 10th time in 2016.

On 18 and 20 January 2016 an exchange of mails between the undersigned and Mr. Ray Bloom, Chairman of the Regent Exhibitions Group, organising body of the IMEX fair in Frankfurt took place, whereby Mr. Bloom promised full support and assistance by his staff, and to provide a suitable room for our event on 21 April. Actually a confirmation for the Esprit Room in Fair Building No. 9.1 was already confirmed by the Imex organisation manager on 21 January.



Subsequent contact with Accente Services, Frankfurt Messe organisers of room furniture and catering was established informing them of the date/time of our event plus our foreseen requirements.

After all these steps had been successfully completed, Ana Maria Vera was updated, and the necessary Assistance Application Form sent to Secretary General Mrs. Yvonne Mansell. Soon after a coordinated promotion action was started by us informing all German Clubs of the forthcoming event. Parallely Ana Maria designed and placed information about the event in the regular Skål International

Newsletter. Later on a mailshot specially designed to circulate the information about the Skål IMEX Breakfast was sent to all Skål members worldwide. The same mail shot was sent out various times later on to make sure that all Skål members present at the IMEX show as exhibitors or visitors would be informed and would participate in the event.

Meanwhile we were informed that Mrs. Karine Coulanges, President of Skål International 2014, had been appointed the Skål Imex Ambassador. Mrs. Coulanges and Mr. Nik Racic, Skål International President 2010, and longtime professional partner of the IMEX Management were informed about the stages of our planning. Mr. Racic contributed some additional ideas, among others, a cake-cutting ceremony at the Skål stand on fair day no.1, 19 April, in order to reach the publication of a photo plus wording commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Skål Imex Breakfast in IMEX Daily, the daily fair newspaper. This idea was realised.



Mr. Ray Bloom, chairman of IMEX Group, attended this event together with Karine Coulanges, Nik Racic and Heribert Becker, President of Skål International Frankfurt am Main. The photo was published in IMEX Daily on 20 April. The actual Skål IMEX Breakfast on 21 April was attended by a total of 73 participants, who appeared for the event spread which ran from 8.30 to 10 a.m.

attend World Skål Congress in Monaco from 29 October to 2 November 2016, and IMEX AMERICA in Las Vegas from 18-20 October 2016.

Welcome addresses were given by Hans-Jürgen Thien, Heribert Becker, President Skål International Frankfurt, Mr. Ray Bloom, Nik Racic, representing Skål International and Rolf Wenner, President Skål International Germany. At the end of all the speeches Nik Racic invited Skålleagues and guests to

We are very proud of this repeated success and have already started planning the 2017 Skål Imex Breakfast in order to make it even more popular next year. In order to achieve this target we are planning to hold the 2017 breakfast on fair-day 2, to make sure that all those hosted buyers who are invited to visit IMEX have a chance to participate in our event. (hosted buyers normally leave Frankfurt in the evening of fair-day 2). IMEX 2017 will take place from 16-18 May.

REPORT BY HANS-JÜRGEN THIEN, PAST-PRESIDENT, SKÅL INTERNATIONAL FRANKFURT AM MAIN

SKÅL MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD PROGRAMME

Skål Clubs that increase their membership over the previous year by a net 10% or more, or a minimum of net 10 new members for larger Clubs after allowing for members who leave, qualify for a commendation certificate which is presented at the President's Gala Dinner during the Skål World Congress each year.

The top three Skål Clubs with the highest net membership increase will receive Platinum, Gold and Silver commendation certificates.

Moreover, Skål International will offer a prize of Euros 500 against the cost of registration for the Skål World Congress in Hyderabad next year to the Skål Club that achieves the highest net increase of new members.



TOURISM MINISTERS AS HONORARY MEMBERS OF SKÅL



We as the committee of Skål International Cape Town approached the Shadow Minister for Tourism of the Democratic Alliance, Mr. James Vos, to become an honorary member of Skål International Cape Town. The reason for this was the exposure it would give our members to a political minister that works directly with decision making within our industry.

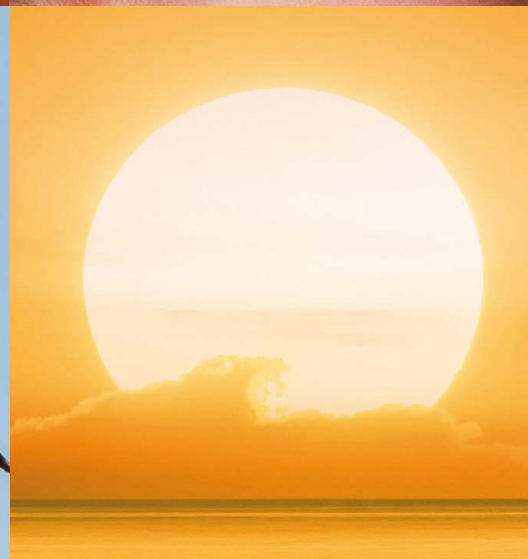
We opted rather for honorary membership instead of full Active membership as James cannot always attend functions, but when possible, he is our guest.

During the WTM Africa Travel Fair, Minister Vos approached me, as President of Skål Cape Town and invited me to attend the Tourism Budget Debate that took place in Parliament on 3 May 2016, this gave Skål International Cape Town the opportunity to be present when decisions around tourism were being tabled on a governmental level.

Minister Derek Hanekom is the ANC Tourism Minister, with his predecessor Mr. Allan Winde who is now the Minister for Agriculture Affairs are now both on our mailing list and are invited to our luncheons. They unfortunately do not attend very often but we are informed by their office if they are able to attend or not. They are also honorary members and will give us similar input opportunities around Tourism.

The reason for having the amount of ministers is solely because they are from both the largest political parties in the South African Parliament and we as Skål International cannot be seen as taking sides as we are neutral on political views and opinions.

These honorary members will benefit from Skål International as they will have the opportunity to talk to members of the tourism industry at ground level, where they might not have the chance in the circles they move in. Hearing from players in the industry definitely could give them more insight into the decisions they consider for South Africa.



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IIPT/SKÅL TRAVEL FOR PEACE CAMPAIGN

AT THE RECENT WORLD EXPEDITIONS' RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL SYMPOSIUM IN TORONTO, IIPT FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, LOUIS D'AMORE ANNOUNCED THE IIPT/SKÅL INTERNATIONAL "TRAVEL FOR PEACE CAMPAIGN" AND WORLD EXPEDITIONS AS THE FIRST CHARTER MEMBER.

The IIPT/Skål International Travel for Peace Campaign will invite all Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Hotel Companies, Airlines, Cruise Lines and Travel Publications to become members of the campaign and join in the movement to encourage travelers around the world to be Ambassadors for Peace by practicing the IIPT Credo of the Peaceful Traveler and the travel ethic inherent in the belief that we are "One Earth One Family."

Members will be asked to distribute the copyrighted IIPT Credo of the Peaceful Traveler along with the iconic "Portrait of the Global Family" by renown artist Padre Johnson.

The program aim is to create awareness among all travelers that the privilege of traveling provides them with a unique opportunity to learn more about our common home - planet earth, the wonder of its natural beauty, its many diverse peoples, cultures and heritage - and in the process to foster mutual respect, understanding and appreciation with each person they encounter.

Collaborating with IIPT and Skål International in designing an interactive website will be Mr. Prakash Sikchi, Co-founder of Inspirock and Jeff Crist, Managing Partner, Crist Consulting Group. The website will be a place where Travelers for Peace can share their stories and interact with one another.

IIPT Founder and President Louis D'Amore stated, "IIPT was born in 1986 with a vision of travel and tourism becoming the world's first global peace industry, an industry that supports the belief that 'every traveler is potentially an Ambassador for Peace.' The Travel for Peace Campaign will give further momentum to the growing phenomenon of travelers as Peace Ambassadors. We are honored to have World Expeditions as the First Charter member and Skål International, Inspirock and Crist Consulting Group partnering with us in this 30th anniversary year legacy project."

Skål International President Nigel Pilkington stated: "Skål International is proud to be associated with IIPT and is fully supportive of the Travelers for Peace Campaign. In 2015 over 1 billion people travelled internationally according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and this figure is expected to grow. We need to engage with travelers and make them aware of the impact they have when traveling & how by making informed decisions around their travel, and how they interact with local communities, they can make a difference."

Charter members, with their logos and a link to their websites will be listed in the "Travel for Peace" Website.

Organisations wishing to become part of IIPT/Skål Travel for Peace Campaign are invited to contact Louis D'Amore, email: ljd@iipt.org

LUX MAGAZINE

ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 HOSPITALITY AWARDS: SKÅL INTERNATIONAL AWARDED BEST TOURISM PROMOTION COMPANY 2016

The hospitality industry is traditionally highly competitive and dynamic, with firms facing a saturated market and demanding clients with high standards, and companies within this industry have had to work increasingly hard in recent years to meet clients' needs and create a reputation for excellence.

Therefore the 2016 Hospitality Awards are dedicated to rewarding and recognising the firms, and the individuals behind them, that have worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to achieve industry leading success, client satisfaction and market growth.

Discussing the awards, Awards Coordinator Steve Simpson, said: "Throughout the hospitality industry there are establishments, companies and individuals who are working tirelessly to ensure that they meet guests' needs and provide them with an experience they will never forget. I am genuinely honoured to be able to recognise the hard work undertaken within this innovative and dedicated industry, and I would like to congratulate all of my winners and wish them every success going forward."

To find out more about these prestigious awards, and the dedicated establishments that have been selected for them, please visit <http://lux.acquisition-intl.com/> where you can view our winners supplement and full winners list.

LUX 2016

Hospitality Awards

About LUX

Published quarterly, LUX informs readers on all aspects of high end lifestyle, including the finest, food and drink, hotels and resorts, health and beauty, automotive, jewellery, art and technology from around the world.

FLORIMOND VOLCKAERT FUND

Raffle

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Skål World Congress is approaching. We are again this year planning the annual Florimond Volckaert Fund Raffle. As we are certainly aware money raised from this raffle goes to the Skål Benevolent Fund which helps members and their immediate families in need.

As a Skål member, we hope that you will be willing to donate a prize voucher for the raffle (hotel stays, airline tickets, car hire, cruises, tickets for attractions, etc.). The voucher should, ideally, be valid until 31 December 2017. Any suitable prize you are able to offer for the raffle will be much appreciated. Please indicate the approximate value of the prize.

If the establishment will accept an electronic voucher to redeem the offer, please send to sandra.vera@skal.org or to the following address, prior to 30 September 2016:

**Skål International
Avenida Palma de Mallorca, 15 – 1st Floor
29620 Torremolinos (Malaga), Spain
Tel: 34 95 238 9111**

Tickets will be on sale during the Monaco Congress, however, you can already buy tickets by contacting the General Secretariat. The cost of tickets is €5/USD 5 per ticket or €50/USD for 12 tickets. This way, members who cannot attend the Congress will also have the opportunity to buy tickets to support the Fund and, of course, win prizes. The General Secretariat will send a scanned copy of the raffle tickets purchased, which will of course be included in the draw.

The draw will take place during the Monaco Skål World Congress. The list of prizes and winning ticket numbers will be published on the Skål website after the Congress so you will be able to check if you are a lucky winner even if you do not go to Monaco.

For more information, please contact: sandra.vera@skal.org.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN A MANAGERIAL POSITION IN THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY AND LIVE OR WORK IN A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT HAVE A SKÅL CLUB?

No Problem! You can join our exciting organisation as an ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER in this growing membership category.

Learn more about our five new AIM members who have recently joined Skål International.

ETHIOPIA



Yoseph Teshale, Ghion Travel and Tours – www.tourghion.com

My career started back 1981 after my graduation from Awassa University when I joined the Ethiopian Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Authority as a Junior Expert assigned to Simien Mountains National Park. As I was

new to the profession I had to be trained and with the help of UNESCO the Conservation Authority sent me to Tanzanian Collage of African Wildlife Management for two years for post-graduate wildlife management course. After completion of my course I returned to Ethiopia and started working as a park warden in many national parks, including Simien Mountain National Park, Mago National Park and Nechisar National Park until 1992.

During this time I had the chance to visit many European, Asian and African countries and to learn and appreciate national park management techniques. I also trained in Hungary and Japan for wildlife hunting and management techniques for 3-6 months.

With my solid conservation background and with my experience and success in National Parks Management activity in 1993 I joined a private tour and travel company “Galaxy ExpressService” as a tour operation manager. After having worked for two years, I got married and with the full support of my wife, established “Ghion Travel and Tours” and joined the Ethiopian tourism industry as the owner and general manager. Since then I have been attending and participating in several international trade fairs, conferences, workshops all over

the world to promote Ethiopia as an exotic destination for companies in the tourism industry. Having grown up in this industry, I am a founding member of the Ethiopian Tour Operators Association and served as Chairman of the Board for 6 years. I am married and have two daughters.

On 2 April 2016, a friend of mine living in Germany sent me an e-mail about Skål International and after visiting your web page I decided to apply for Active Individual membership to promote tourism and to make friendship and to invite visitors to come to Ethiopia and to contribute my share to the sustainable and responsible tourism of the industry for coming generations.



GEORGIA

Nina Chavchanidze, Georgica Travel – www.georgicatravel.ge

I have been working in tourism for 12 years. This is the sphere, which is most interesting for me, I love it! Education: Tbilisi State University, Speciality – German; Tbilisi I. Chavchavadze State University of

Language and Culture, Simultaneous Interpretation (German). I have also studied German in Germany and Austria; Training in Tourism Management, Project Management, Marketing, Management – in Georgia, Egypt, Thailand, Turkey. I speak fluent German, English and Russian. I love traveling and try to travel a lot not only abroad, but in Georgia as well.

I think that Georgia has the opportunity to become more and more popular for tourists from all over the world. I think that my country can be part of one of the most popular destinations in the world.

My first step in tourism was GeorgiCa Travel, in 2004. I then

went to work for the government and also in a hotel business and private sector. I have since returned to GeorgiCa Travel, where I am still working today.

I am happy to join Skål and especially to be the first member in Tbilisi. I am looking forward to future successful cooperation and hope that a Skål Club will soon be founded in Georgia.

For me it is very important that Skål will give me the opportunity to meet a lot of new people and also will give me a chance to have more friends around the world. I also hope, that I will have a chance to give people more information about my country and assist them when they will visit Georgia.

IRAN



**Hussain Shadfar, Pardis
Tour Agency/Iran Tours –
www.irantours.com**

I am proud to be the first from Iran, after 4 decades, to become a member of Skål International. I look forward to my first Skål World Congress in Monaco in October 2016 which I will attend, and will have a booth during

the B2B for Iran with the cooperation of my long-standing friend and colleague Constantine Panoussi.

I personally established “Pardis Travel Agency” in June 1970. I engaged a highly qualified team to provide a high standard of service for in-bound tours to the area of Pars “State of Fars” which includes mainly Shiraz, Persepolis, Pasargadae, Naghse-Rajab, Naghse-Rustam, and all surrounding historic Cities. Our agency was mainly engaged by tour operators in Iran who would receive massive in-bound tours from all over the world, namely USA, England, Germany, France, Italy, South America, Australia and Asian Countries. The quality of our services and qualified team has been in great demand, and still is. In the 1980s we extended our services beyond our borders and now have the same reputation for handling services for entire country. We engage university history lecturers and students and train them in hospitality for our own programmes. They are all expert in our history, culture, archaeology, and the nomadic cultures of our land.

Although we specialise in Luxury Tours throughout, we organise

a wide variety of tours for individuals and groups to suit every budget. With every budget category our quality of service remains at the highest level. Our list of services covers a wide range from visa handling, hotel reservations in Iran with the most preferential prices. Air, train and bus ticket reservations, VIP greeting on arrival, transfers, sightseeing, excursions, expeditions, and most importantly we provide professional guides and translators in many international languages.

Whether you are looking for a historic discovery or hoping to explore ancient history, culture or both mixed with the modern and vibrant beauties of Iran. Our Team at Pardis Travel is here to provide a personalised travel plan and itinerary and ensure every detail is handled professionally.

SLOVENIA



**Gregor Levič, Incentive &
Destination Management
Company - www.idmc.eu**

I come from Ljubljana, Slovenia, a country with amazing cultural and natural diversity. Is it a place better to live or better to visit? Living here for more than 40 years I would say it is one of the luckiest places to live. Since my childhood I have enjoyed outdoor sports

activities. I am lucky to go mountain biking straight from my garage doors. I am lucky I only need half an hour to get to the ski resort. I am lucky that if I add another twenty minutes I will find myself at a scenic glacial lake. I recently was lucky to go sailing in the sea only an hour from home; drinking my favourite glass of local orange wine. When you come to visit Slovenia, drop me a line and I will be glad to show you some of the lucky places.

I started to gain my experience with event management in 1999 and in 2011 we designed an iDMC as a company that would offer extensive local knowledge, expertise and resources to the MICE industry, including tours, incentives, team building, travel arrangements and programme logistics for foreign partners. So far we have successfully organised events up to 1000 participants.

My decision to join Skål has a cause in growing business in the region with a need for better collaboration between partners and suppliers. With Skål I expect to widen the network and exchange experience and good practice.



TANZANIA
Annette Sirikwa, Africa
Safari Experts -
www.safari-experts.com

A passionate geographer, I started my career in tourism when I was in my early twenties. I was organising youth exchange programmes in my hometown in Germany and also was an

advisor for youth groups to Hungary and USA.

During my Geography studies I went on an excursion through Kenya and Tanzania and lost my heart to the African continent. I decided to come back to Tanzania for a 3 months' internship and to learn more about how tourism and life works there. During that time, I met the man who was to become my Tanzanian husband Adili. After finishing my studies, I started

working in tourist information in my hometown Weiden (Germany), but half of my heart was still in Africa. Together with my husband, I then decided to start the company Africa Safari Experts in 2007. The company is specialised in tailor-made tours in and around Tanzania with the main attractions: Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara, Tarangire and of course Zanzibar. I also lived in Arusha from 2010 to 2013 and have a good knowledge about travel possibilities and accommodation - tested by myself - in Tanzania. I am answering all inquiries and questions from clients and colleagues, while Adili is doing the operational part in Arusha, Tanzania. No matter if guests would like to come and do an adventurous Kilimanjaro hike, sleep in a budget tent with only the stars above them during a safari or in a five-star luxury bush camp, I and my husband organise everything according to the wishes of the clients. In Zanzibar, Pemba, Mafia and the coast line of Tanzania there are still hidden gems to be discovered by the guests.

From Skål International I hope to make new friends and also to gain new business contacts, who would like to send their guests or to visit the country themselves. Annette and Adili will be more than happy to show all visitors "The Soul of Africa".

SPORTS TOURISM

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION FOR SKÅL INTERNATIONAL

One of the latest Skål International membership classification to be introduced opens up a massive opportunity for Skål Clubs around the world to increase membership. Sports Tourism is the fastest growing sector of the global travel industry.

Sports Tourism is now recognised as an important tourism market with National Tourism Offices around the world committing large budgets to attract this business to their destinations. As Skål International is the only Global Tourism Association in the world recognising this business sector for membership this gives Clubs an excellent opportunity to have a closer engagement with their local NTO.



Sports tourism refers to the experience of travel to engage in or view sports-related activities. It is generally recognised that there are three types of sport tourism:

- Sports Event Tourism,
- Active Sports Tourism
- Nostalgia Sports Tourism

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SPORTS TOURISM?

- Sports are an investment in the tourism industry.
- Sports Tourism creates economic growth through business to hotels, restaurants and retail establishments.

- Sports Tourism creates exposure and enhances a positive image for the community.
- Sports Tourism creates new product, a new tourism destination.
- Sports Tourism maximises the facilities in the community.
- Sports Tourism builds community relationships and strengthens corporate support.
- Sports Tourism creates youth opportunity/entertainment.
- Sports Tourism attracts high-yield visitors, especially repeaters.
- Sports Tourism generates a favourable image for the destination
- Sports Tourism develops new infrastructure.
- Sports Tourism uses the media to extend the normal communications reach.

THE SKÅL INTERNATIONAL “SPORTS TOURISM” CRITERIA COVER:

- Owner/President/C.E.O./General Manager/Director/Manager of sports venues catering to teams where the spectators include visitors travelling more than 50 kilometres to attend the event
- Owner/President/General Manager/Director/Manager of sports teams that attract international participants and/or spectators travelling a distance of 50 kilometres or more
- Owner/C.E.O./General Manager/Director/Manager of sporting events companies promoting sporting activities, teams and venues
- Owner/C.E.O./General Manager/Director/Manager of sports tourism operators
- Owner/President/C.E.O./General Manager/Director/Manager of sports councils (associations) whose mandate includes the promotion of sports teams, sporting activities, venues or countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SKÅL INTERNATIONAL CLUBS TO TARGET NEW MEMBERS UNDER THE SPORTS TOURISM CLASSIFICATIONS – TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED SKÅLLEAGUE

- Make a list of all sporting arenas in your city – football/soccer, baseball, cricket, rugby, basketball, hockey, swimming and there are many more and approach them to be members of Skål under this classification
- Sporting team that reside in your area – they need to attract visitors from more than 50 kilometres away
- The large associations that oversee these sports – this could be Racing Associations, Football Associations, Cricket Associations and so the list goes on Venues specialising in sports that attract tourists – this is so vast – as it can be Skiing, sailing, boxing- the list is once again – huge!
- Find out who the Owner/President/C.E.O./General Manager Director/ Manager of the various clubs are and invite them to a Club meeting

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF SKÅL IN THE SPORTS TOURISM CATEGORY

- For a small investment annually Skål is the only tourism association in the world that allows Sports Tourism to be actively part of tourism
- This gives access to the entire global travel industry including Sporting Tourism companies, teams and venues around the world
- Skål international is the only travel & tourism organisation that covers all industry segments – this will greatly assist teams moving around where contacts are beneficial

- Skål has strong representation in city, regional, national and international tourism markets
- Skål is a commercial organisation with a business focus
- Skål is represented at major trade events and members can participate at little or no cost
- Able to attend monthly club events, national events and the World Congress held annually and encompassing the Skål “Global Market Place”
- Opportunities to network in Skål globally to access members in all key global tourism, secondary, emerging and future markets
- Sponsorship for the Sport Tourism Company and Skål is a real opportunity.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SKÅL CLUB

- Many of the organisations that are eligible for Skål International Sports Tourism are high profile clubs, arenas, associations, etc. and may assist clubs with guest speakers and add vibrancy to the club.



Follow-up from Christchurch International Council Mid-Year Meeting

SALVADOR BUENDÍA RODRÍGUEZ

Honorary President, Skål International

By Antonio García del Valle Gómez, Honorary President, Skål International

It is not easy to write about a friend who has just left you, a great friend for 56 years, a friend with whom I shared part of my professional life in tourism, we travelled half the world together, we struggled together for Skål, we had so many things in common that I have to sum up in the few words that the online Skål Magazine allows me to write.

Salvador was a person who made people like him, with a charming family, with his wife Maria Victoria who has a special charm and spirit and their four children who reflect the charisma and the good work of Salvador and the know how of their mother.

Salvador was a member of Skål International Malaga-Costa del Sol since 1958 and was Secretary, Vice President and President of the Club. He was also International Skål Councillor for Spain, a member of the Executive Committee for seven years and President in 1977/1978. He was elected in Buenos Aires and left the presidency in Singapore

where he was on crutches due to the serious accident he and Maria Victoria had coming back from Marbella. It was in Singapore that he suggested the creation of "International Skål Day" to be celebrated on 28 April. In 1982 he was elected Honorary President of Skål International. My life in Skål has followed almost the same route, only my years as Auditor meant he distanced me.

Together we travelled half the world, for our jobs as travel agents and for Skål, trips on which we were always looking for friendship, above all in Latin America where we went on many occasion; the last time was to the Latin American Congress in Tucuman in 1999 and then for the foundation of Skål International San Isidro in Buenos Aires in 2002. On this visit, as on many others, Antonio Espinosa accompanied us; it is amazing that the three of us were Presidents of Skål International and members of the same company, "our company".

We spent some unforgettable moments together: during the Congress in Malaga in 1968 when it was



decided to create a directory of all members; during the meeting in Helsinki with Pepe Colomar, Gerry Martin and Luis de la Reguera; during the visits to the Spanish Crown Prince; during the congress in Buenos Aires and the visit of Argentina we made afterwards, thanks to Antonio Torrejon, during the meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris and having learned that Tehran had withdrawn from hosting the Congress, Salvador offered to hold it in Malaga. I remember on one occasion that he flew to Miami solely to accompany Joe Boggs to a dinner and came back the following morning.

In Italy he also had great friends, made during his first years as a travel agent with "Peregrinatio Paulini" and his time spent as the representative of Alitalia. He was great friends with Rocco Curcio, Giancarlo Pascale, Giorgio Pelegrini, Piero Gherardi ...

Wherever he went he left a personal impression of his dedication and friendship. Skål was an important part of his life, he was truly a very special person, someone difficult to forget and it was almost impossible to follow in his footsteps. When speaking about his travels he said that he had visited 196 Skål Clubs in more than 30 countries.

Amongst the many awards and medals Salvador received were the Bronze and Silver Medals for Tourism Merit and the Merit Medal from Skål International Spain.

The Good Lord above will have received and welcomed him with affection and he will, I am sure, be thinking about his family and his Skål and will take care of them and all of us who still feel Skål in the same way he did.

PADDY CONDON

Founding Member, Skål International Dublin

By Joe Collins, Skål International Dublin

Skålleagues throughout Ireland and in many countries worldwide were saddened when they learned of the death of Dublin Skålleague Paddy Condon on Wednesday 1 June.

Paddy was the last surviving founding member of the Skål International Dublin which came into being as the 37th Club on the roster of clubs in 1948.

Since day one Paddy entered into the spirit of Skål and over the years served in every officer role including Club President in 1976 and National President in 1990-1991.

He was renowned for the recitation of his Grace before Meals at Skål functions, they were always topical, ecumenical and contained an expression of support for those less fortunate throughout the world.

Paddy was an airline man starting with TWA in Dublin and in the 1950s moved to Aer Lingus. His main task was the promotion and expansion of the airline's transatlantic routes. His work took him all over the world and he was a tremendous Ambassador for the airline and Irish Tourism. He was a member of the Century Travellers' Club who presented him with a plaque bearing the following inscription: 'In recognition of PG Condon having visited over 250 countries and territories of the world is one of the world's most widely travelled people.'

Together with colleagues Brendan Murphy, CIE Tours International and John McSweeney, Bord Fáilte, the three amigos of Irish Tourism at that time, he spearheaded a most successful programme of Familiarisation Tours of Ireland for travel agents in the U.S. and Canada. The response and cooperation from all sectors of the trade in Ireland to their initiative helped in no small way to the success of the programme.

Over the years, thousands of tourists with no known Irish Ancestry visited Ireland on the recommendation of a travel agent who had been to Ireland on a Fam Tour. A Tipperary native who despite his worldwide travels always retained a special affection for his native county.



He was an athlete of distinction excelling in hurling, athletics, rugby, golf and his favourite sport, swimming. Throughout his life he was a daily swimmer in outdoor waters and to maintain this schedule in an Irish Winter testified to the true grit of the man. As if we needed more evidence of his stamina he travelled from Ireland by ferry, bicycle and train as a spectator to the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Twelve years later as a swimmer he was a member of Team Ireland at the 1948 Olympic Games in London and unlike the athletes of today who are so well taken care of with excellent accommodation, travel arrangements, food and nutrients members of the 1948 team had to bring their own provisions with them as the food rationing in England which prevailed during World War 2 were still in place.

In 2012 in the company of the other 10 surviving members of the 1948 team he was presented with The Olympic Medal of Honour at a function in Dublin by Pat Hickey, President of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

Behind the strong physique there beat a heart of gold ready in an instant to lend a hand to anybody in need of assistance.

He represented all that is good in Skål and to Paddy amicale was the driving force in his dealings with fellow Skålleagues throughout the universe.

Paddy is survived by his wife Sheila, sons Tony and Billy, daughters Angela and Laura and a wide circle of family and friends.

May he rest in peace, ar dheis de go raibh a anam dilis.



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