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n°10 - Spring 2008

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This publication is available in French and in English at www.pragma-eu.com

Letter from the Chairman

Michel Lacroix
JAC
Clermont
France



I would like to thank the people who attended our Annual General Meeting in Paris last month for their contribution to the success of this meeting, especially our members from farther countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Chile and China.

Special thanks to Wojciech Celichowski and Karolina Stuzewska-Woznicka, who gave us details about the organisation of our annual conference in Poznań in October and to Paolo Calzavara, the representative of Jesa in Shanghai, who introduced the program of Pragma's mission in China in November.

I am also very happy to inform you all that two young members of Pragma will have the opportunity this year to have training periods abroad in other Pragma offices. The exchange of lawyers is a key point to strengthen the links between the members of our network and I thank very much Jesa in Shanghai and G.C. Consultants in New York for their participation.

Concerning our development, two new Italian offices have become members and contacts are very advanced with some Eastern European and South American countries. We will probably be able to introduce new members in Poznań in October.

Meanwhile, we are working on the homogenisation of the use of our logo and the improvement of our organisation.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Agenda



- 11th July 2008:
Meeting of the Board in Milan, Italy
- 10th, 11th and 12th October 2008:
Annual conference in Poznań, Poland
3 nights in the hotel on 9th, 10th and 11th October - Outdoor activities and giant barbecue
- Discovery of Polish gastronomy and folklore - Conferences and visit of Poznań.
- From 7th to 16th November 2008:
Mission in Shanghai and Beijing, China
Meeting with Chinese lawyers and presentation of the legal system in China - Meetings with the European Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai and other Chinese institutions - Tourist visit of Shanghai and Beijing (Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City).

Spring General Meeting in Paris



From left to right:
Back row: Greg Wolton (UK), Laurent Diatta (France), Jean-Paul Bourden (France), Herman Alvarez Valenzuela (Mexico), Gustavo Cuevas (Chile), Stephan Pahl (Germany), Paolo Calzavara (China), Giberto Gelosa (Italy), Nathalie Facon (Coordination)
Front row: Sara Sanchez (Brazil), Michel Lacroix (France), Karolina Stuzewska-Woznicka (Poland), Aurelia Ben Shlush (Coordination France), Claude Martin (France) and Wojciech Celichowski (Poland)

Our Spring General Meeting took place in Paris on 28th April at *Jean-Claude Coulon Partenaires'* office. Many thanks to all the people who attended this meeting for their presence and for their cooperation in all of Pragma's projects.

Training period in Shanghai



Federico Rossi,
Studio Rossi Gerosa
Dottori Commercialisti
Associati,
Lecco,
Italy

A young member of Interconsulting's network in Italy, Federico Rossi, has joined Jesa in Shanghai for a 4-month training period. Federico Rossi is the son of Enrico Rossi, partner of the office *Rossi-Gerosa*, member of Pragma in Lecco, Italy. Currently, Federico is studying to become a *dottore commercialista*.

During his traineeship in Shanghai, which will reinforce our relationship with Jesa and help us to understand the Chinese market better, Federico's missions will be the following, among other issues: to cooperate in the preparation of the November mission of Pragma in China, to be a privileged interlocutor for the requests of Pragma's members and to find law articles and material to be used by our members and/or printed in our publications.



Jesa in Shanghai

Training period in New York



Juan José Olle, lawyer of the tax department of the office *Manubens y Asociados* in Barcelona, Spain will go to New York this year to have a training period with *G.C.Consultants*. Many thanks in advance to Giuseppe Brusa and his team.

Juan José Olle
Manubens y Asociados, Abogados
Barcelona, Spain



Winter's winner



Stephan Pahl, Asp Anwaltskanzlei Münster Germany

Congratulations to Stephan Pahl, the winner of our competition draw with the correct answers to last issue's questions about Poland.

The answers were:

1. On what sea is Poland's coastline? b) Baltic Sea
2. What is the approximate population of Poland? c) 39 million
3. On what river is Poland's capital, Warsaw? a) Vistula
4. Which of these countries does not border Poland on the east? c) Latvia
5. Poland is land of many lakes. True

Stephan will be given his prize in Poznań in October during Pragma's 2008 Conference.

Spring's quiz

"Posh" is an adjective, with a dictionary meaning of "smart, fashionable or elegant". Question: Do you know what the popular etymology of this word is?



Viceroy of India (1928) - P&O Line

a) "Posh" derives from the expression "Port Out, Starboard Home" printed on tickets of Peninsula and Orient passenger vessels that travelled between UK and India. The port (left-hand side) berths were mostly in the shade when travelling out (easterly) and the starboard ones when coming back. So the best and most expensive berths were POSH, hence the term.

b) "Posh" derives from the name of a spice that has become very fashionable although nobody knows the reason why.

c) "Posh" derives from the famous expression : "Plain Old Semantic Html".

Please send your answer before 30th June 2008 to: info@pragma-eu.com. Lots will be drawn to decide the winner. Good luck!

Meetings between Pragma's members

Michel Lacroix, Pragma's Chairman, was in New York in April. He made the most of his trip to The Big Apple to meet Pragma's members in the USA:



Manhattan skyline

Giuseppe Brusa, partner of G.C. Consultants, and Mario Gazzola, partner of Pavia and Harcourt. Both offices are located in Madison Avenue in Manhattan.



From left to right: Thomas Normand (JAN, Lille), Herman Alvarez Valenzuela (Mexico) and Bruno Vince (JAN, Lille)

After attending Pragma's April General Meeting in Paris, Herman Alvarez, Alvarez Valenzuela Abogados, Mexico, stopped in the north of France on his way to Netherlands. He visited the office of Les Juristes Associés du Nord in Lille, where the office of Pragma's coordinator is.

Taking the oath of lawyer

Carole Baron (Juristes Associés du Nord, Lille) and Samir Chouaib (Jean-Claude Coulon Associés, Paris), both members of the French network of Jean-Claude Coulon Partenaires, took the oath of lawyer recently. Pragma congratulates them.



In the centre, Samir Chouaib was congratulated by his colleagues of Jean-Claude Coulon Associés after taking the oath to the Chairman of the 1st Chamber of Paris Court.



Carole Baron after the ceremony of oath to Douai's Court (North of France)

Higher, further, faster

Carlos Manubens, partner of Manubens y Asociados in Barcelona, Spain, and Pragma's Vice Chairman, will never forget his Formula 1 driving experience.



Carlos Manubens driving a Formula 1 car

"The excitement of driving a real grand prix Formula 1 car on a racetrack is unmatched and was a once-in-a-lifetime experience!", said Carlos Manubens.

His course took place at the famous Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo, Spain, which hosts international race meetings.



Carlos Manubens in Pragma's 2002 conference in Metz, France: "I have always liked sport and speed"

See in the next newsletter the exclusive interview of Carlos Manubens: "Michael and I have been friends for ages. I gave him his first bicycle when he was 7"



Exclusive interview for Pragma!

Celebrity news

They have had a baby lately. Pragma congratulates the new parents!

- Congratulations to Carole Chovonziak, Juristes Associés BFC, Dijon, France for the birth of her baby in March 2008.

- Congratulations to Fran Rey, Manubens y Asociados, Barcelona, Spain, for the birth of Alex in April 2008.



Alex and Mickey Mouse

Spitting image

Many thanks to our new "victims"!

From left to right: Mariola Wieckowska Celichowski, Szynder, Wieckowska i Partnerzy., Poznań, Poland

Cherie Blair



Enrique V. Del Carril Del Carril, Colombres, Vayo & Zavallia Lagos, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Martin Scorsese

