



THE WORLD JEWELLERY CONFEDERATION

## Special Report, January 2010 The Coloured Stone Commission

### Coloured Stone Commission has full agenda for 2010 CIBJO Congress

**A**s a rule, the Coloured Stone Commission (CSC) is one of the most active and busy groups of CIBJO.

In between CIBJO congresses, the day-to-day working body of the CSC, i.e. the members of the Coloured Stone Commission Steering Committee (CSCSC), works continuously to keep the Gemstone Blue Book up-to-date by collecting information on new gemstone occurrences, new treatments and enhancements, and gemstone nomenclature. The information is also integrated into other specific guides the CSCSC has developed over the years, such as the Ruby and Sapphire guides and the assistance they provided in working with the GIA in the development of the gemstones section of the Retailers Reference Guide (RRG).

#### On the CSC Agenda

A clear indication of the importance of the CSC workload is expressed in the congress programme. In Munich, the CSCSC will hold a preliminary, early working session to prepare for the actual Coloured Stone Commission meeting itself. On the agenda are, among others:

- recommendations to modify the Sapphire and Ruby guides; the introduction and initial ratification of the Emerald Guide

- follow-up on the proposal made at the Istanbul congress to have a coding system for gemstone treatments/modifications, and the development that has taken place since to work with the American Gem Trade Assoc. (AGTA) and the International Colored Stone Assoc. (ICA) to have an all inclusive international system.



*Vichian Veerasaksri, president of CIBJO's Coloured Stone Commission, discussing the Ruby and Sapphire Guides at the CSC meeting during the 2009 CIBJO Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.*

#### Emerald Guide

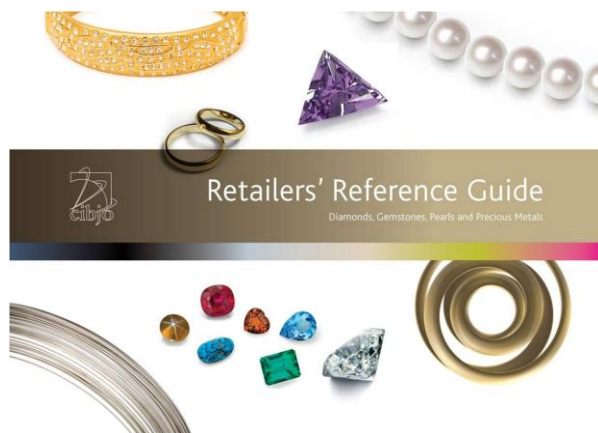
The launch of the Emerald Guide is the result of the monumental work of Francesco Roberto, a gemstone expert and dealer who has more than half a century of experience under his belt. (See profile on page 2 & 3)

The guide's first page discusses the four C's of emeralds (carat, cut, colour and clarity) and on its second page relates to the possible treatments that an emerald may have been subject to. Under the header of "gemstone modification" the guide states that "a natural, unprocessed emerald is rare and has a greater intrinsic value than one that has undergone any of the following processes." The guide then continues to list clarity modification, fissure filling and dying.

### **Sapphire and Ruby Guides**

During its discussions on the Sapphire and Ruby guides, the CSC will recommend modifying the guides by adding Mozambique to the mining localities in the Ruby Guide and in the Sapphire Guide; an important qualifier will be added that says: "Sapphires come in all colours of the rainbow except red."

In its continued effort to keep the Gemstone Blue Book up-to-date, the commission will discuss a variety of technical changes that are required.



### **Retailers Reference Guide**

Launched and released during the 2009 CIBJO Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, it has taken many months to get an effective distribution plan and method into the place for CIBJO's Retailers Reference Guide (RRG). This

document includes four sections; Diamonds, Gemstones, Pearls and Precious Metals. The lion share of the RRG is the gemstone section, which is devoted strictly to coloured gemstones and was written by Robert Weldon of the Gemological Institute of America with the help and support of the CIBJO Coloured Gemstone Commission Steering Committee.

The RRG is now available to CIBJO members. For further information please see the CIBJO web-site [www.cibjo.com](http://www.cibjo.com) or contact the CIBJO secretariat at [cibjo@cibjo.org](mailto:cibjo@cibjo.org). You may also write to CIBJO at Piazzale Carlo Magno, 1, 20149 Milano, Italy.

Meanwhile, the Jewellers Association of Australia (JAA) has asked CIBJO for permission to distribute the Sapphire and Ruby guides with the JAA logo. Also, CIBJO's French member, Fédération Nationale HBJO France, has announced it plans to translate both the RRJ and the Sapphire and Ruby guides into French for national distribution, and AGTA in the United States began printing the RRG in a spiral bound format, which will soon be ready for distribution.

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### **A Profile - Francesco Roberto**

The impressive career of the author of the Emerald Guide, Francesco Roberto, in the international coloured gemstone business spans over close to 60 years. Now in his late 70s, he was employed at the age of 20 by an Italian company dealing in imitation, synthetic stones and cultured pearls.

In 1975, he became the President of Capellaro & Company S.P.A. In the early 1990s, the company merged with the international Schachter-Namdar group, now Leo Schachter, one of the biggest diamond corporations in the world.

Roberto's love of and great passion for gemstones and his broad knowledge of the subject is internationally renowned. He participated in the development of the "UNI rule," the Italian nomenclature for gemstones, and served many years on the board of directors of the Confedorafi, the Italian umbrella organization of the Italian jewelry industry.



*Francesco Roberto (left), receiving an award for his long-time and outstanding contribution to the organization, from CIBJO President Gaetano Cavalieri during the 2008 CIBJO Congress in Dubai.*

As early as in the 1960s, he promoted the use of correct nomenclature of gemstones, and successfully fought and won a battle against the company that produced stimulant pearls that were sold without proper disclosure of their nature under the name "Mallorca Pearls."

During the 1980s and 1990s he was an Italian delegate in CIBJO, serving as vice president of

Sector III, as well as vice president of the Pearl Commission. Roberto also sat on the board of directors of the World Cultured Pearl Organization (WPO).

In recognition of his service to the World Jewellery Confederation, during the 2008 CIBJO Congress in Dubai, he was given a special award in recognition on his contributions to CIBJO. In recent years, he was closely involved in the preparation and review of the Sapphire and Ruby guides, and was the central force to propel the Emerald Guide into existence. Francesco Roberto rarely misses a CIBJO Congress where he meticulously and religiously attends all commission meetings.

Roberto served on the Board of Directors of the International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) from 1985 to 1991. He also served as ICA Ambassador to Italy for many years. At the Tokyo ICA Congress, he introduced the formula for the ICA disclosure nomenclature called "NET," which received a unanimous vote of approval by attendees at the subsequent ICA Congress in Brazil.

In 1993, Roberto became president of Federpietre, the Italian association of gemstone dealers. He also is a member of the international Carat Club and of the Technical Committee of the Milano Chamber of Commerce. For several years he has had a seat on the board of directors of the Associazione Orafa Valenzana (AOV), the jewelry association of Valenza, where he was head of the Disciplinary Committee.



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