

Caux Initiatives for Business setting up in SA

Two recent visitors - Sarosh Ghandy [India], Director, Caux Initiatives for Business (CIB) and Folker Mittag [Germany], Member of the CIB Central Steering Council - have opened a new era of relationships between IofC and business and industry in South Africa. CIB is an international Initiatives of Change (IofC) program that aims to promote honest conversations between business people about ethical practices and integrity in business.

During their nine days in SA, the two interacted with business people and a range of individuals interested in the private sector's ability to see beyond personal profit to embrace a responsibility to also create "wealth" for society - and to do this ethically without compromising competitiveness.

"The CIB is a program of Initiatives of Change, formerly Moral Rearmament, and it takes its inspiration and direction from that source," Ghandy said. With that as the framework for opening the discussions with the groups they met, Ghandy and Mittag immediately focussed the dialogue on identifying what is right and supporting each other in doing that, in business and in personal life.

The CIB roadshow began in Gauteng with two meetings - with Ms Sabine Dall'Omo, CEO of Siemens Southern and East Africa, and Ms Joanna Yawitch, CEO of the National Business initiative. This was followed by a small meeting at the IofC centre in Pretoria.

During their four days in Gauteng, Mittag and Ghandy also met with:

The CEO of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Senior managers of Thebe Investments

A range of business people at a round table hosted by Tata International

Members of the management committee of the Da Vinci Institute

The CEO and guests of Professional Aviation at Lanseria Airport

Senior executives of Anglo Vaal Industries, Econometrix and Neotel

Two executives of Ethics South Africa, who are keen to develop a memorandum of understanding with the CIB.

The two also spent four days in Cape Town and met individuals keen to promote the drive for ethical and socially responsible business practice there. Among them were:

- Crispin Sonn, a leading businessman, company director and entrepreneur, and some of his colleagues
- Mark Alard, senior manager in the national Department of Trade and Industry

- Gita Govin and Alastair Rendell, partners in a leading architectural practice, and a range of their colleagues
- Prof Fanie du Toit of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
- Dr Arnold Smit of the University of Stellenbosch Business School
- The Consul General for India, Mr Puneet Kundal.

There was strong support in both Cape Town and Gauteng for establishing chapters of the CIB to continue the dialogue around integrity in business - and to extend this to the public sector. This will be followed up by IofC locally.

Two comments that sum up where the dialogue initiated by CIB is leading:

"Informal meetings such as this (the round table hosted by Tata) can help us find better ways forward and help us to learn from each other." **Shaun Miyen**, *young Johannesburg businessman*

"For dialogue to happen properly, selflessness is needed so that all parties can gain from the interaction." **David Allan**, *Johannesburg financial services consultant*.

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