

GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

www.gc-bl.org/global-times

Eighth Edition

LEONIE BWEMBA:
CREATIVITY BY DESIGN
AND SENSITIVITY

SURESH RAMKISSOON:
LOBBYING TOWARDS GLOBAL
BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT IN GUYANA



The Virtuoso Maestro:

MIHA POGAČNIK

**HARMONISING CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH LEADERSHIP
COACHING FOR PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE**

GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



About Global Times Magazine:

The Global Times Magazine is an exclusive magazine produced and published by the Editorial Team of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.

The Global Times cannot be purchased over the counter.

All materials and graphics used in this exclusive publication are the exclusive property of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders. Any distribution, copying, or reproduction, constitutes a violation of copyright and will be prosecuted.

Contact: info@gc-bl.org





Eighth Edition | 8-2023 | MMXXIII



Eighth Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Editorial Team:

JUSTINA MUTALE
ARIELA FRANCO
MELVIN TARLUE
CYNTHIA RODRIGUEZ

Editor in Chief:

NICOLE S. FARRELL

GTM Chairman:

DEJAN ŠTANCER



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**

Find us on:



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF
BUSINESS LEADERS

Global Times, MMXXIII © GCBL 2023

- 4 **PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD:** DEJAN ŠTANCER
- 6 **EDITOR'S NOTE:** NICOLE S. FARRELL
- 9 **TENSIONS ON THE ROAD:** ELECTRIC CARS WARS
- 13 **STATEMENT FROM THE GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS:** PLASTICS – TIME FOR ACTION
- 16 **COVER STORY: MIHA POGAČNIK NAVAL:** HARMONISING CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH LEADERSHIP COACHING FOR PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE
- 26 **UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023:** HOPE AND DETERMINATION: INSIDE OF UNGA 2023 DEBATE
- 30 **LEONIE BWEMBA:** CREATIVITY BY DESIGN AND SENSITIVITY
- 42 **OCEAN POLLUTION GROWS FAST:** THERE MIGHT BE LESS PLASTIC IN THE SEA THAN WE THOUGHT, BUT READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE
- 47 **ONCE KAZAKH EAGLE HAS BECOME A GLOBAL THREADS OF SUSTAINABILITY:** TRANSFORMATION FROM BILATERAL TO A GLOBAL
- 54 **SURESH RAMKISSOON:** LOBBYING TOWARDS GLOBAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN GUYANA
- 66 **INCREASING COSTS FOR BUSINESSMEN:** ANTICIPATED GLOBAL BUSINESS TRAVEL AND EVENT COASTS IN 2023 AND 2024

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

GCBL 2023 © Copyright





MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT:

ESCAPING THE CYCLE OF MADNESS: A PLEA FOR PEACE AMIDST GROWING GLOBAL TENSIONS

Dejan Štancer, President of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders

Dear readers,

Welcome to the October issue of Global Times Magazine. The world seems to be stuck in a disheartening déjà vu. Conflict and war continue to escalate, trust erodes, and human suffering persists. The war in Ukraine, an event that reshaped our world, remains unabated. The once-discussed statistics of casualties and displaced individuals have become muted, and the word "peace" still eludes our conversations. Instead, we find ourselves mired in discussions about potential targets and rationales for aggression. It's a lamentable descent into the depths of ignorance.

Rather than earnestly pursuing peace talks, the world seems fixated on identifying new countries to embroil in this maelstrom. It's a tragic cycle, and one cannot help but wonder if we've forgotten the lessons of history, etched just a little over 80 years ago. We haven't, they haven't, but it appears that suffering and fear sell better than the ideals of peace and coexistence.

It's imperative to remember that wars are always the costliest endeavors, not due to the wars themselves, but because of the profiteers and, most tragically, the lost souls. Those ensnared in the tempest of war and those ensnared by the enduring consequences of conflict. I've voiced this plea a thousand times before, and I'll continue to do so: Let us halt this madness.

And the next time you get angry over your politicians, remember my words: "The world has become a circus. It is led by clowns who, surrounded by monkeys, prefer to juggle money, while the audience is slowly running out of money and nerves for this show."

And now, let's dive into the heart of this edition. Miha Pogačnik, a virtuoso violinist, isn't just a maestro in the world of music; he could also be hailed as a grand maestro of the business realm. His unique approach to harmonizing culture and business, encapsulated in the concept of "coexistence," is nothing short of extraordinary. We can only express our deepest admiration and appreciation for his remarkable contributions. Miha Pogačnik takes center stage as our cover story.

Additionally, we bring you enlightening interviews with two exceptional individuals, Leonie Bwemba and Suresh Ramkissoon, whose stories are truly not to be missed. These three extraordinary people hail from diverse corners of the globe, showcasing the rich tapestry of human experiences and accomplishments. It raises a compelling question for us all to ponder: Can we even envision a world devoid of diversity?



Dejan Štancer



AUTHENTIC DOCUMENT

Verified Authenticity: Global Chamber of Business Leaders



In a world of potential abuse, we care about your

safety

AUTHENTIC DOCUMENT

In case of doubt
contact us immediately:

ADMIN@GC-BL.ORG

EDITOR'S NOTE:

INTER-CULTURAL FLUENCY SEEMS STAGNANT: CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

Nicole S. Farrell, Chief Editor of the Global Times Magazine

Dear Valued Readers,

We have all seen it, haven't we? From the Break Room to the Boardroom to the boundless social media platforms. The sometimes subtle and sometimes viciously evident lack of Inter-Cultural Fluency that permeates organisations, neighbourhoods, schools, public transportation, stores, traditional media and everywhere else we could possibly think of.

Vile comments stain social media spaces and are a constant reminder that a large percentage of humans aren't ready or willing to contribute to promoting positive, kind actions. People still express thoughts that someone of another race or nationality should not even dance to certain genres of music or sing a particular song. Muslims are still looked at with apprehension or are still being attacked. Caucasians are humiliated amidst heated claims of cultural appropriation because they chose to sport a corn-row hairstyle. Afro-oriented people are still being assault targets by law enforcement personnel. The list goes on. Political figures who use the divide-and-conquer brand of politics, being unrelenting in their pursuit of votes, popularity and power, aren't helping the situation either. I'm not certain if we realise how ludicrous and sad it all sounds and looks.

Have we also considered the generational impact of Millennials and Gen-Zers with this topic of Inter-Cultural Fluency? Many of them are not as inclined to the myopism, lack of tolerance and outright hatred that their older heads have spurned against people of other races, religions, economic levels, educational backgrounds, cultures or of another gender over the decades. They desire a unified universal clique, so to speak. Will their bold ideologies and outspoken nature eventually create noticeable change in the coming years, when currently, those of the older generations are still spouting toxicity from which those of the younger generations are trying to escape?

If we can just see it in its entirety as "us against what truly matters" instead of "them versus us", the upcoming generations can have more integrative, supportive work environments and societies. If only...

As you would see from this Edition's content, it is a subliminal embracing of cultures, nationalities, ages and disciplines. The affable innovator, Miha Pogačnik Naval (Slovenia); the sophisticated boss lady, Leonie Bwemba (Cameroon); and the phoenix maverick, Suresh Ramkissoon (Guyana), provide interviews that showcase why they are revered in their respective circles. We also delve into some notable global issues such as pollution crises, developing travel trends, automotive and economic news and much more.

Nicole S. Farrell



PIC:881860175

Funding, Tenders

For our Members and Partners

As a (Global) Member or a Partner you can now through the Global Chamber of Business Leaders find calls for funding proposals, get information on funding processes and programs, and apply online.

Learn about the tendering process and opportunities for doing business with the European Commission through the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.



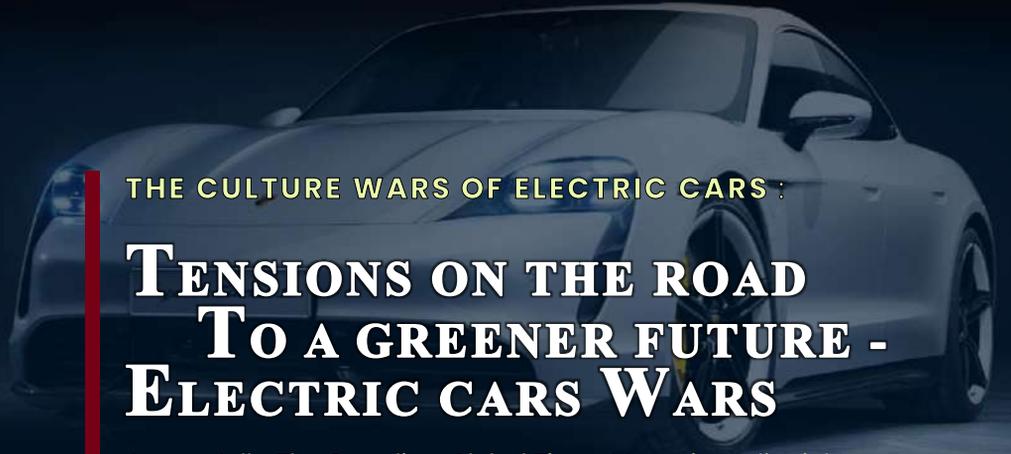
GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**

COMMITTEE FOR
HOLISTIC HEALTH

MMXXIII



THE CULTURE WARS OF ELECTRIC CARS :

TENSIONS ON THE ROAD TO A GREENER FUTURE - ELECTRIC CARS WARS

Jasper Jolly, The Guardian, Global Times Magazine editorial team



Technology
GLOBAL TIMES



In the scorching heat of Phoenix, Arizona, three pickup trucks formed a rolling roadblock on a busy highway. Their target: a lone Tesla electric car driven by a computer scientist.

What ensued was not just a display of road rage but a symbol of a deeper, ongoing conflict—the clash between traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and the rise of electric vehicles (EVs). This incident in June, captured on social media, saw one of the trucks emit a plume of black smoke, enveloping the Tesla. This act, known as "rolling coal," is not only environmentally harmful but also illegal, as it violates environmental laws.

The Culture of "Rolling Coal"

Rolling coal, the deliberate modification of diesel engines to emit excessive black smoke, has become a form of protest against the growing popularity of electric vehicles since at least 2014. It represents a stark division in society over the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. The tensions surrounding electric cars encompass various concerns, including economic, cultural, and political factors.

Economic Concerns

One of the central issues in the electric car culture wars is the cost associated with transitioning from traditional petrol and diesel vehicles to EVs. Electric vehicles, while offering long-term savings on fuel and maintenance, often come with a higher upfront purchase price. This price disparity can create economic divides, as some individuals may find it challenging to afford electric cars.

Job Displacement

The electrification of vehicles threatens jobs in traditional automotive industries. With EVs having fewer components and requiring less maintenance, there is potential for job losses in manufacturing and repair sectors. This issue has significant implications, particularly in regions like Detroit, Michigan, and Coventry, UK, known for their automotive industries.

Range Anxiety"

Range anxiety, the fear of running out of battery power before reaching a charging station, remains a concern for some potential EV buyers. Despite advancements in EV technology and charging infrastructure, overcoming this psychological barrier is crucial for wider EV adoption.

Geopolitical Competition

The rise of China as an EV superpower adds a geopolitical dimension to the electric car culture wars. China's dominance in EV manufacturing and battery production has led to concerns about dependence on Chinese technology and resources.

Symbolism of Personal Freedom

For many, the car symbolizes personal freedom, akin to the Second Amendment Right to bear arms in the United States. The shift toward electric vehicles can be seen as an encroachment on this freedom, leading to resistance among certain segments of the population.

Political Weaponization

Electric cars have become a political football, with politicians, media outlets, and interest groups using them to advance their agendas. In the United States, former President Donald Trump criticized President Joe Biden's push for electric vehicles, framing it as a threat to the automotive industry. Paradoxically, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, a leading electric car manufacturer, has found himself both a proponent of electric vehicles and a hero of the libertarian right.

The UK's Ulez Debate

In the UK, the debate over electric cars has taken center stage, with issues like the ultra-low emission zone (Ulez) and the ban on new petrol and diesel cars by 2030 becoming hot-button topics. The tension is evident as political figures like Boris Johnson have both supported and resisted such policies.

Jobs and the Transition

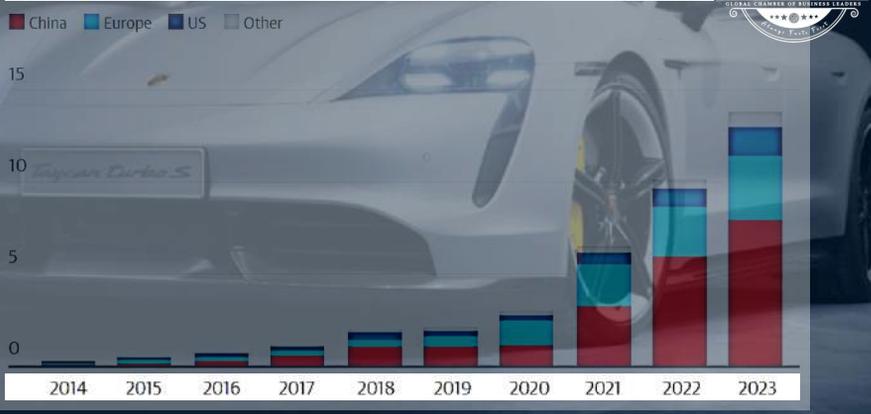
The transition to electric cars will undoubtedly reshape the automotive industry, affecting jobs in manufacturing, maintenance, and related



Technology
GLOBAL TIMES

Continue

Electric car sales are rising around the world, led by China



sectors. The shift to EVs with fewer parts and lower maintenance requirements may lead to job displacement, particularly in countries with large automotive workforces.

A Contrived Culture War

While the electric car culture wars are portrayed as a deep cultural divide, some argue that this division is contrived. The consumer shift toward electric vehicles is evident, with EVs selling briskly despite the upfront cost difference. Experts like Quentin Willson argue that the divide between pro and anti-electric vehicles is exaggerated, and the concerns are not as deeply rooted as they appear.

Conclusion

The culture wars surrounding electric cars reflect a complex interplay of economic, cultural, and political factors. While tensions persist, the transition to electric vehicles is vital to address global carbon emissions and improve air quality. To navigate this transition successfully, it is essential to address concerns and provide solutions that make electric cars more accessible, affordable, and convenient for all, while also ensuring a just transition for those affected by changes in the automotive industry. Ultimately, the future of transportation is electric, and the road to this greener future requires a balanced approach that considers the diverse interests and concerns of society.

Article End



Technology
GLOBAL TIMES

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

Today, China is the largest producer of electric cars. Especially in the West, China is accused of illegal state aid, which represents unfair competition to others, especially Western manufacturers of electric cars.



YOUR ULTIMATE SOURCE FOR WORLD NEWS EXCELLENCE

Because you know you can trust us!



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**

GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



gtm@gc-bl.org

20
23
Time for The Planet



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**

STRATEGIC PARTNER ORGANIZATION



Statement from the Global Chamber of Business Leaders:

At the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we recognize the urgent need for collective action to address the critical environmental challenges facing our planet. It is with a deep sense of responsibility and commitment that we urge our esteemed members and partners to heed this crucial message: "Planet B" does not exist. There is no alternative habitat for humanity, and we must safeguard our only home, Earth.

In today's interconnected world, it is essential to remember that our true adversary is not people of another nationality or background; it is humanity's unsustainable practices and our collective disregard for the environment. Our shared enemy is the degradation of our planet, driven in part by the pervasive issue of plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution is not a distant threat; it is a clear and present danger to people, animals, and the environment. Plastic waste is silently choking our oceans, endangering marine life, and seeping into the very food chain that sustains us. It poisons our waters, affects the health of our ecosystems, and threatens the well-being of future generations.

Time is not on our side. The consequences of our actions are becoming increasingly apparent, and we must act swiftly and decisively. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated.

Today, we extend an earnest invitation to all like-minded individuals, organizations, and businesses to join us in this critical endeavor. We must unite, not as adversaries but as allies, in the fight against plastic pollution. It is a battle that transcends borders and nationalities, as the repercussions of our actions are global in scope.

Together, we can raise awareness, change behaviors, and drive meaningful change. Together, we can advocate for sustainable practices, reduced plastic consumption, and responsible waste management. Together, we can ensure that our planet remains a thriving, hospitable home for all living beings.

The Global Chamber of Business Leaders is committed to leading by example, advocating for change, and fostering a sense of shared responsibility among our members and partners. We recognize that the future of our planet hinges on our collective actions today.

Let us stand together, shoulder to shoulder, in the name of preserving the beauty and vitality of Earth. We have a moral obligation to protect our home, and we owe it to ourselves, our children, and all living creatures to act with urgency and resolve.

Join us in this crucial mission. Together, we can be the change that our world so desperately needs.

Time For The Planet



BUSINESS COALITION FOR A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**

STRATEGIC PARTNER ORGANIZATION OF
THE BUSINESS COALITION FOR A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY



Time For The Planet



**STOP CLIMATE CHANGE
BEFORE IT CHANGES YOU.**

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
CREATOR
2023 PLATINUM GOLD
GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
Personal Membership

5 STAR SERVICE
★★★★★
How often does that?

JOIN US **NOW** AND START
CREATING THE WORLD
OF THE FUTURE!



Miha Pogačnik Naval, the Virtuoso Maestro:

HARMONISING CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH LEADERSHIP COACHING FOR PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE

Miha Pogačnik, Senior Advisor, Head of the GCBL's Committee for Art and Culture

The affable, jovial, unique and artistically creative leadership expert. Miha Pogačnik Naval is not one for titles per sé but that description is in harmony with the essence of who he is.

"Cultural Entrepreneur" and "Artistic Entrepreneur" are two titles that have been used over the years to describe him. When he hears them, what is his reaction? How do they resonate with him? What do they connote to him?

With reverent passion, he said, "Descriptions came from the outside. I don't fit into any drawer. People try to categorize me. I am convinced that it is not okay to just be an artist. Be an entrepreneur. Strive for the highest. We have to learn to dance with the emerging future. We can't use business the way we've known it. We can co-create what happens in the world. We can't pigeonhole ourselves. I keep changing in my life all the time. The only thing that doesn't change is that I'm a violinist."

The soothing sounds of his mastery of the violin come from initial premium coaching and decades of experience with playing for tens, if not hundreds of thousands of people, literally, on a global scale. It was as a young boy at an event, he pretended to play an instrument, and his family, recognizing there was talent being birthed in him, enrolled him for formal training. The rest, as they say, is history.

He is a visionary who began his career as a musician, playing at various events and for not only the creme de la creme but the world's citizens who found delight in his genre of music. Yes, he has performed for members of Royal families, Ministers and global leaders but he also represented well for entrepreneurs, students, etc. His knowledge and experience also earned him opportunities to be in five best-selling books on leadership.

"For decades, it's been a fight to re-position music in society. It wasn't properly positioned in the world. It was only used for entertainment. Art kindles in your soul. What I do, I look into the world and ask where I should be to make an impact. It hurts when I see people stop developing. I discovered thirty years ago that if you go into the business world as an artist, you have an impact on society as a radical change. Go to people who have no time to go to the concerts. Art is crying to be deeply experienced. Artists can make a significant change in leaders and help people to discover what they can become. It's a transfer of one discipline to another."

When did he embark on this differently unique path with this type of coaching and what was the catalyst for him to do it?

"In the early nineties, a Dutch Leadership Consultant heard my lecture during our IDRIART East-West Festivals in Budapest. I was guiding



**MIHA POGAČNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**



participants' emotional attention through a masterpiece by Robert Schumann, helping them to experience the evolving music as an archetypal 'heroic journey', or one could say a modern creative biography. The Consultant approached me saying, "You are teaching organizational and leadership development through music!". I replied, "Tell me more!". He (said), "No, you tell me more!"

"This is how I started to work with consultants first, companies and corporations followed. Why?

Because the creation of a 'resonance platform' for 'productive detour' through a masterpiece, represents the missing link to connect vision and implementation. I don't (like to) say 'execution!' That comes from the military! If the sphere of heart is not activated, the highest potentials of leaders will never come to life. In the wonderful world of the Arts, we can experiment, practise and learn from mistakes, then transfer learnings to a business environment. The call of the future is an

"I don't fit into any drawer. People try to categorize me. I am convinced that it is not okay to just be an artist. Be an entrepreneur. Strive for the highest."

interdisciplinarity, transcultural and inter-generational challenge. This will give us flexibility and resilience and inspire innovations!"

Incorporating classical music into leadership training sessions?

The first time people heard of the concept, some might have thought, "It's so crazy, it just might work!". Well, it did. Pogačnik Naval has been able to successfully build his brand and clientele to magnificent proportions. Numerous leading global brands have bought into his innovation. From Nike to Shell, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Coca Cola, Greenpeace, Volkswagen, Microsoft, Unilever, and the list continues.

How did he build his clientele? Was it a hard sell initially?

Pogačnik Naval chuckled for a few seconds. "It was like war. I started hundreds of times. There were moments when nothing happened. It was a constant battle. Being a pioneer in something, when you start something new, it takes time."

Instead of dwelling on what wasn't coming to fruition, he made a conscious decision. "I danced with the future. Now, I only remember what went well. I have a selective memory."

From the inception, it was as if he'd innately understood his worth. While living in Germany in 2002, a prospective client called him and expressed how interesting she thought his work was. During the call, she asked him what his fee was. "I took a huge swallow and said, "Ten Thousand."

Nowadays, Pogacnik (Miha) need not worry about testing his worth and people see his value. "When I work with clients, I try to appeal to that



**MIHA POGACNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**

BIG INTERVIEW
GLOBAL TIMES

which they already know somewhere deep and not very conscious, and then build on this inner knowledge. It is easier if they already have some life experience, especially if they have already experienced (and learned from) a midlife crisis. Therefore, working with senior leadership is almost like a journey of initiation. It often starts with 'We know it all.' And yet, this so different approach of creative detour through the masterpiece and transfer takes everyone by surprise. It is refreshing and leaves senior leaders free to transfer learnings out of their own free will.

To me, this is the genuine concept of empowerment. Companies even change their language because of my teaching. Audiences love radical change of experience through short, meaningful music interventions. Musical masterpieces wake up the holistic human being, not just the intellect."



Speaking of change, there seems to be none or little regarding support for the Arts in many countries. There is a common outcry that the Arts aren't sufficiently funded or consistently supported by the Governments. What would be Pogacnik's (Naval's) one wish for Arts and Culture being taken more seriously by those in any Administration?

"You can only support something if you have the real experience of the value of that which you are supposed to support. We must create experiences for those in charge and they will cover us with money and time invested. With all the value the Arts have, we are too caught up in separating different functions of society, and Arts come short with the entertainment notion, the cherry on the cake. (Us) artists have to discover the unique power in our hands but then we cannot just pursue careers in the traditional way and cry for money. Artists have to become entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs have to become artists and we will have a healthy world. Politics can then slim some 90% down and it will be just fine."

Any entrepreneur would know that having an idea for a business is one thing but it is some time before it is seen if their target market or who they deem to be their ideal clients will see merit in their offerings. What are some factors that he thinks appealed to companies and also helped him to maintain interest for so many years?

"There should be genuine, real empowerment. A creative detour as they experience new things. There should be an internal shift. People change what they decide to change. Then, there's sustainability. I meet people twenty years later who remember me. And they remember in detail what they learned and implemented!

People never forget. They learn deeply. An emotional memory is sustainable.

What I do is revolutionary. It's organisational development with music. At the end of the day, it is all about human development. That goes to the bottomline. With this approach, creative and responsible people are made. It's about how to (get) the highest potential out of people."

Many (participants) aren't agile, generally. At work, it shouldn't be for you to wait on orders. It's misery to have a job just to get money. What misery! Some people don't know how to unlock purpose. Work gets boring. They leave out their feelings. Also, we Pogačnik Naval hear but we don't know how to listen. Listen and you'll hear the real substance. Listening (to the music masterpiece) goes beyond the sounds.

There is a psychology in listening. What happens to someone when they truly listen?" The term, "Miha Method", was coined. What exactly is it?

"Most importantly, I never expect knowledge and appreciation of classical music from my clients. Just an open mind and willingness to discover something new and beautiful."

"My method is based on these dynamics - from deep experience in music to practical insights and solutions in the business environment. First, I need a detailed briefing on challenges, goals and the culture of the client's company. Next, I choose the musical masterpiece which will resonate and inspire potential solutions. The essence of

Continue

GLOBAL TIMES
BIG INTERVIEW

**MIHA POGAČNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**

HR: FROM HUMAN RESOURCES TO HUMAN RESONANCE





**MIHA POGAČNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**



my method is to expose the evolution and transformation of musical ideas. I play, interrupt my playing, make the process visible by painting, guide my participants' attention and connect the worlds of art and business through my comments. Once we've completed together the 'creative detour' of the musical implementation strategy - eyes and ears of everyone resonating together - I divide my clients in small groups. No hierarchy!"

"Now, each group is asked to produce their own unique masterpiece in the form of a 'team poem'. For instance, "A Love Poem To Our Customers".

The content of the poem is defined by their own experience of music and my painting of the process. And that in turn, has its origin in the briefing I initially got from their company. Therefore, they turn into 'team-poets' of their own challenges and solutions. When the poem and the choreography are ready, we have performances of



all groups and I give them a 'masterclass! We all learn about diverse team efforts to reach the goal. It is a lot of fun and joy, specially needed for the bonding of different cultures in the mergers and acquisition arena."

"The change ideas are experienced through music, painting, philosophy, co-creation of a poem, choreography, performance and debriefing. The 'takeaway' is sustainable tools in the emotional solar plexus of learning for 'Monday morning' and beyond. Only after the performances of the teams, we enter the debriefing phase with the question, what is the meaning of all these artistic experiences to our company and the bottom line?

Incredible energy and all kinds of unexpected solutions are now released. Awakening deep inner experience through music in relation to business solutions goes way beyond PowerPoint - without power - and brings alive the whole human being, not just intellect.

Budgets provided, I use the whole symphony orchestra with the same method as described. My clients are seated in the orchestra between musicians. Transformation guaranteed! Listening intentionally, it has its effects."

If he had to advise companies about how to incorporate the Arts into everyday life at the office, what would two of his suggestions be?

"I have been for some time working on the concept, "Corporate Inspiration Centre". HEARTquarter within HEADquarter. Like the constitution of human beings, also, a healthy company should evolve out of the productive polarity of "Head" and "Heart". In this Inspiration

Centre, different dimensions of a company and clients meet in a creative, artistic environment and learn to solve challenges in very different ways."

"My second suggestion would be to gather the courage to 'enter' the experience of masterpieces (of all Arts, not just of music) to the open possibility of every human being regardless of age, gender, culture, race and social status. After all, masterpieces endure changes of time and history, and I say, masterpieces are above time, they have eternal value calling on all of us to produce our own biography as a 'masterpiece'! Therefore, I encourage my clients to explore the world of Arts individually and collectively and see what positive influence it has on their lives."

Miha is also the Founder of the IDRIART Movement. Asked to explain what the IDRIART Movement is about, he said, "Ten years before I



**MIHA POGAČNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**



started with the creation of my Art and Leadership method, my concert touring brought me to the magnificent cathedral of Chartres in France.

I discovered the perfect micro-macro resonance of a small violin (Stradivari) and the architecture of the 'macro violin: a cathedral'! After three festival Summers of hosting over 1,200 participants from all continents in Chartres, I dared to take this to the next level.

Continue



Miha Pogačnik Naval is an artist who promotes entrepreneurship in his extremely special and completely innovative way, with extraordinary energy and charisma.



Eighth Edition | 6-2023 | MMXXIII

Traditionally, artists travel to the places where audiences receive them. I turned this around. I challenged my audience in Chartres to follow me and my fellow artists travelling to crisis areas of the world and the IDRIART (Institute pour

le Development des Relations Interculturelles par l'ART) Movement was born."

"By the turn of the millennium, we had produced over two hundred festivals all over the world, going with Arts above politics, touching many tabu issuers, tens of thousands of people meeting and exchanging ideas and starting projects which are still alive and evolving. From Prague to Lhasa, Tibet, from Amazonia to Tbilisi, from Bled (Slovenia) to Bishkek, etc. In 1992, we rented the whole Trans-Siberian train and took 380 people from Berlin to Ulan Bator with some fifty innovations on board, whole cities receiving us. Peace Flotilla of six



**MIHA POGAČNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**



ships along the Adriatic Coast during the Yugoslavia war, visiting refugee camps and giving them a voice platform beyond Sarajevo."

"(The) IDRIART Movement metamorphosed today to the creation of various communities we call a 'cultural oasis', where we on the micro scale, actively explore and practice the 'composition society', the healthy and sustainable relation of culture, sphere of rights (politics) and (new) economy.

Formative forces and inspiration of music are essential in this social composition. We are developing more cultural caravans and an entire region in Slovenia called 'Terra Parzival', inspired by the great medieval masterpiece, 'Parzival' by Wolfram von Eschenbach."

Reminiscing on his long gone and recent exploits, he shared, "As I move through the corporate world, I see more and more artistic principles being explored to bring beauty, meaning and purpose to the surface. The goal would be to create an environment in the companies which furthers human development. I see the times coming when the Inspiration Centre will naturally become an important organ in the company's organism, the place where all stakeholders will be learning to 'dance with the emerging future' instead of relying on 'business as usual'. HR will play an important role in this process, therefore, I call them HR, Human Resonance."



GCBL 2023 © Copyright

Continue

One who embraces his feelings in all experiences, he is a strong advocate for making meaningful connections. "People go to a conference for networking or to find clients. There's this thought of 'What can I get out of you?' What if we turned it around? How can we create as leaders? I also prefer to ask myself why I've met that person. Can I help them? Approach people genuinely. When you have this attitude, people immediately notice you. You get trust. This is also key to unlocking in an organisation. Let it be your normal. We can all work together. It's co-creation."

With such a treasure trove of wisdom, what is his advice to Creativepreneurs?

"Innovate Yourself. You have to find something that is truly of substance. There's so much noise and everybody is shouting, 'Pick me!'.

Everybody is saying they're the best. Make sure you're genuine with what you're doing. Be alert to what is unexpectedly coming and when it comes, go for it!"

After so many years, his style of leadership coaching hasn't lost

**MIHA POGAČNIK IS COACHING
WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS
THROUGH HIGH ARTISTRY**

MIHA POGAČNIK AT TEDx GLASGOW



its magic for him. Why is that? Also, what is his inspiration after all this time?

"Every time in action, I feel (that) this is just a beginning. I am practising the 'mastery of the first step'. In the first step, the whole is already contained, not conscious yet but the awakened artist in everyone can come closer to this unique quality. Some call it eternity, some, 'spirit presence' and it feels like 'above time!'"

"(My inspiration) is my violin. My violin playing is the key to unlock different domains of life yet the way I play the violin is always evolving. It is a never-ending journey. You cannot just be 'excellent',

you are constantly getting better or declining. The same for leadership." There's no stopping this master of music and creative leadership any time soon if he has his way. "I like to tell people, life starts at 70! Everything before is just preparation. I'm only beginning! Artists have this fire!"





COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE & ART



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

MORE COMING SOON



**GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
BUSINESS
LEADERS**



What Goes Around Comes Around

THE MORE YOU SHARE, THE MORE YOU GET



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Together We Are Shaping The Future



We Offer You Several Visibility And Promotional Opportunities



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 :

HOPE AND DETERMINATION: INSIGHT FROM THE UNGA GENERAL DEBATE 2023

United Nations, The Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

The opening of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) General Debate in 2023 was a testament to the power of diplomacy, unity, and the shared vision for a better world.

Leaders from across the globe gathered in New York to discuss the pressing challenges facing humanity. In this article, we will delve into the highlights of the General Debate and explore the concerns, hopes, and visions of world leaders as they addressed issues ranging from climate change to pandemic preparedness.

The Call for Unity in a Divided World

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, set the stage for the General Debate by emphasizing the critical role of the United Nations in a world "becoming unhinged." He urged leaders to come together, stating that the UN was created precisely for moments of maximum danger and minimum agreement. Guterres' message underscored the need for unity in an increasingly polarized world.

Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the General Assembly, echoed this sentiment by urging leaders to take bold, collective action. He emphasized that excuses were no longer acceptable, and leaders must shoulder their responsibilities. His call to "find our better selves and our common humanity" resonated with leaders and delegates alike.

Addressing the Climate Crisis

Climate change took center stage during the General Debate. UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, hosted the Climate Ambition Summit, where leaders discussed the urgent need for action. Guterres urged world leaders by stating, "The future of humanity is in your hands." He emphasized the importance of accelerating efforts to combat climate change, build a world with clean air, green jobs, and affordable clean energy for all.

Preparing for Future Pandemics

In response to the devastating impacts of COVID-19, leaders reached a historic agreement to strengthen international cooperation in



pandemic preparedness. This agreement aims to prevent future pandemics and mitigate their health and socio-economic impacts. The world recognized the importance of preparedness and cooperation in safeguarding global health.

Bridging the Wealth Gap

At a high-level meeting on financing for development, leaders discussed innovative solutions to reduce disparities between rich and poor countries. UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, emphasized the need for systemic reforms in the global financial architecture. Addressing these issues is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and creating a fairer world.

Universal Health Coverage Commitment

World leaders made a significant commitment to provide universal health coverage to all people by 2030. Billions of people lack access to essential health services, and many are pushed into poverty trying to access basic healthcare. The political declaration agreed upon at the UNGA underscores the global determination to ensure that healthcare is accessible to everyone.

The Promise of the Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future, scheduled for September 2024, offers a unique opportunity to rebuild trust and modernize multilateral institutions. Leaders aspire to address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments, and reshape the world based on principles of equity and solidarity.

Conclusion

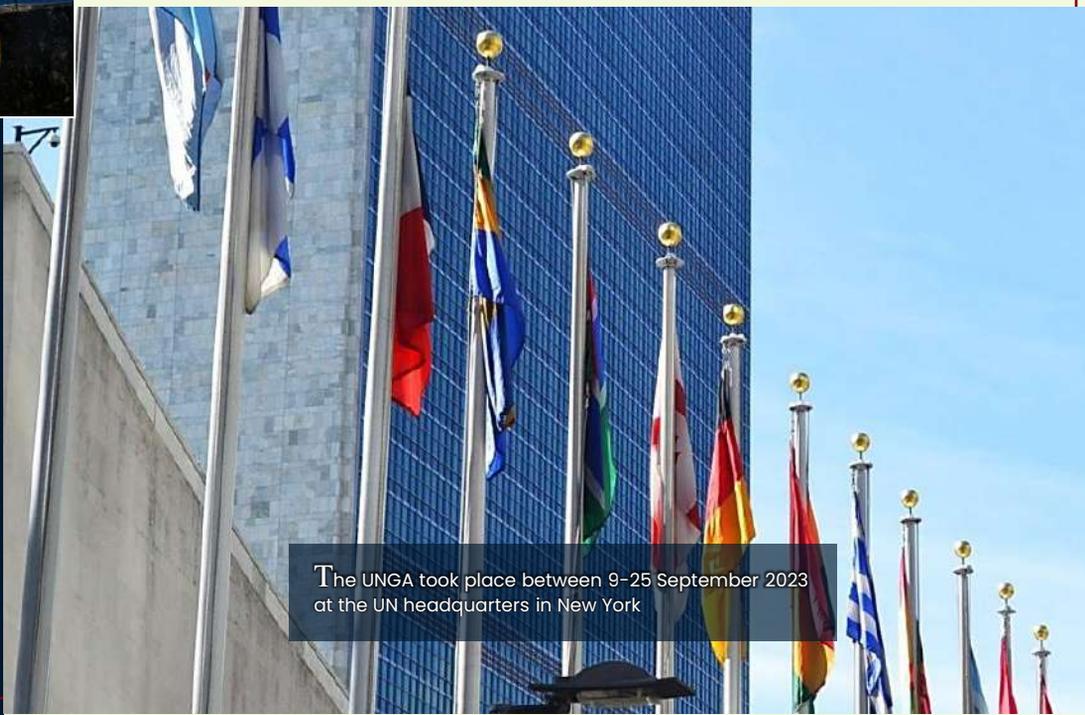
The UNGA General Debate of 2023 was a forum where leaders shared their concerns, hopes, and visions for a better future.

From climate change to pandemic preparedness, and from wealth disparities to universal healthcare, leaders demonstrated their commitment to tackling global challenges together. As we move forward, the world looks to the promises made during this debate as a roadmap for a more united and sustainable future. In the face of adversity, hope and determination prevail.

Article End

Geopolitics
GLOBAL TIMES

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



The UNGA took place between 9-25 September 2023 at the UN headquarters in New York



RED CARPET

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP

JOIN US NOW

WWW.GC-BL.ORG



2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

Apply Now 

Or contact us: info@gc-bl.org

AN INITIATIVE BY
verve management

2nd ANNUAL MIDDLE EAST **WOMEN LEADERS SUMMIT 2023**

Aspire, Inspire, Lead

www.menawomenleaders.com

October 24-25, 2023 

Address Dubai Marina, UAE 

For more information, please contact us at

info@verve-management.com



Dear Women Business Leaders,

We cordially invite you to attend the Annual Middle East Women Leaders Summit, which is supported by the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

Feel free to reach out to us at any time if you require additional information.





Eighth Edition | 8-2023 | MMXXIII

LEONIE BWEMBA: CREATIVITY BY DESIGN AND SENSITIVITY

Leonie Bwemba, Delegate for Cameroon, Global Chamber of Business Leaders



If elegance and style had a signature picture, Interior Designer and serial entrepreneur, Leonie Bwemba, would probably be the representative figure.

The statuesque beauty hails from the country of Cameroon, Africa, and over 20+ years, has built a highly recognised and respected brand. Her creative vision, skills and talents have helped her to produce a solid business career after having studied for her craft in Brussels, Belgium, where she obtained her MBA and subsequent Third Degree Diploma in International Negotiation.

She has secured clientele for Interior Design from the private sector and the Government, handling the rehabilitation and renovation of State buildings in the case of the latter. What stands out the most regarding her experiences with growing her business to the point of on-boarding and retaining high-end clients?

"I know how to strike a balance between introducing modern and fresh designs while maintaining a timeless style. The trick lies in knowing how to do this tastefully so that the client appreciates that modern trends have been incorporated and the overall design of the interior doesn't go out of style after a few years. At the same time, I also know where to draw the line to manage costs. In my work, I mostly hang the right kind of art, and even source the right frames in various corners of the interior. I design artwork myself, do all the conception alone, then my staff can do the 2D and 3D drawings before we implement the job. I'm the Executive President and Founder of a group called Mutodiosa Group, a consortium of four companies that specializes in Construction and Import/Export, Interior Design, Architecture and Real Estate Development."

"I know the client's needs and personality and I bring it out with the elements in a space to design. From the colour of the walls to the furniture and decor items, from the floor to the ceilings, my results are timeless and unique."

"To retain high-end-clients, I have an excellent team of people - Architects, Interior Designers, Graphic Designers, Plastic Artists, POP Artisans, Furniture Experts, Tilers, Electricians and so on who can carry out all the functions seamlessly and get the job well done. They are professionals and deliver the job on time while working with

a convenient budget. I like being on the ground to assist them for an exquisite result."

It is this kind of unbridled passion and dedication to a cause that she promises to bring to her executive role as the Delegate for Cameroon at the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL). What does this position and opportunity mean to her?

"It's a great opportunity and I would like to thank my friend and sister, H.E. Dr. Rosalia Arteaga, (for nominating me) and Mr. Dejan Stancer, the President of GCBL, for this appointment. As the Cameroon Delegate, I will do my best to bring my constant support. This position means a lot to me and it's an opportunity to show again that Cameroon is an open and huge country, as the hub of Central Africa, to be part of this Global Chamber of Business Leaders. I will therefore highlight the business



Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

" I design artwork myself, do all the conception alone, then my staff can do the 2D and 3D drawings before we implement the job."

opportunities by organizing before the end of this year, a private launching for network connection and place a focal point for the follow up."

It may very well be fitting for her to be the Delegate for Cameroon as she was awarded with the highest Cameroonian honorary decoration as Commander of the National Order of Value years ago. Asked to explain the meaning of this national recognition, Bwemba said, "It's one of the highest awards. The Head of State, H.E. Paul Biya, awarded it to me in May 2014. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank him once more for this recognition. I first had one Order of Merit, then three awards in the rank of the Order of Value. I have made major contributions at the national and international level in humanitarian and cultural activities and it means a lot to me and encouraged me to work harder."

This artfully-inclined businesswoman has much pride for her beloved country. What would she deem as some of the major business selling points of Cameroon? "Cameroon is endowed with rich natural resources, including oil and gas, mineral ores and high-value species of timber, and agricultural products, such as coffee, cotton, cocoa, maize, and cassava. Low start-up costs, simple procedures to register a business, low taxation for expatriates and low cost of living combined with international educational opportunities, health services and infrastructure are only some of the reasons to do business in Cameroon today."

Reportedly, Cameroon has a large representation within the farming



industry, making it be declared as the main inclination for jobs. What is her reaction to this claim? "Agriculture is vital to the economy, employing half the workforce. Alongside agro-industrial plantations and some large private farms, Cameroon has about two million small family farms. Cameroon's economy is mainly agriculture-based, with almost three quarters of the economically active population in rural areas employed in agricultural pursuits."

On another note, she said, "Unemployment remains the main problem but it's time to seize the opportunities offered by our respective Governments. For example, in Cameroon, over the years, the Government has been focused on developing and implementing specific programs aimed at providing concrete solutions to the major preoccupations youths face in Cameroon, namely access to both quality education and adequate professional training, access to

" This position means a lot to me and it's an opportunity to show again that Cameroon is an open and huge country, as the hub of Central Africa. "

decent jobs and participation in the day-to-day activities of the community, as well as decision-making."

"These important programs and projects dedicated to the socio-economic integration of youths are performed in collaboration with the development partners, particularly in the areas of education, health and employment. The programs are co-ordinated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC). The Government also

Interview
GLOBAL TIMES



The Minister of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, Minister Achille BASSILEKIN III, in the middle is H.E. Rosalia Artega, Former President of Ecuador and Member of the Board of Advisors of GCBL, on the right is Leonie Bwemba, Delegate for Cameroon.

launched the Special Youth Triennial Plan, which seeks to accelerate the socio-economic integration of youth."

Her passion for youth development is always evident. What sort of projects and/or initiatives has she been or would like to be a part of?

"Over 19 years, I had a remarkable impact on the people and communities in which I've worked. Through dedication, collaboration and a commitment to creating positive change, I continue to build and contribute on our previous achievements to create a youth empowerment platform to be proud of. (I would like to) find out more (about) how to link the GCBL community to join our efforts in terms of financing and encouraging youth projects within Africa, and especially Cameroon, as a Country Delegate. I've been in the humanitarian, Real Estate, Sports and Interior Design fields by promoting the artisans and



"Cameroon's economy is mainly agriculture-based, with almost three-quarters of the economically active population in rural areas employed in agricultural pursuits."

plastic artists and I would like to be part of education, vocational training, promotion of Industry and Trade, and agri-business projects for youth development."

A visionary, being a pioneer on several fronts has been her forte. She pioneered and chaired the first ever African Confederation of Interior Designers (AFCID). How did this initiative come about?

"Pioneering a sustainable future for Interior Design. Access to more products advances the interior design profession and communicates the impact of design on the human experience. AFCID is the first of its kind. I noticed a lack of such (an) Association in Africa, then I decided to found it and establish the headquarters in Cameroon with the support of the Head of State, H.E. Paul Biya, who granted us the location via the Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure held by H.E. Henri Eyabe Ayissi, the Honorable Minister."

"The African Confederation of Interior Designers (AFCID) plans to build an Interior Design framework within Africa. We have our colleagues from several countries who are working on a daily basis to advocate and promote our industry. We intend to have some partnerships in the coming months in order to secure our industry for future generations. It's time to build an inclusive and prosperous Africa. Our godmother, H.E. Dr. Rosalia Arteaga, former Head of State of the Republic of Ecuador, is helping us with this task."

"The goal of the African Confederation of Interior Designers is to promote this profession and provide new youth employment

Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

opportunities within our continent. As we secure your environment, we will also boost productivity and creativity. The importance of inclusive design has gained significant recognition across various industries, including interior design. It is crucial to create spaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also accessible to everyone, including persons with disabilities."

As the President and Founder of the Cameroon Association of Interior Designers (CASSID) as well, how has this entity impacted professionals in this field in Cameroon?

"It's the right time to implement such (an) Association in order to promote our industry. The Interior Design industry is not well structured in my country, as well as many countries in Africa. Luckily, the Cameroonian Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Celestine Ketcha Courtes, as well as the Speaker of the House of



Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

"I would like to be part of education, vocational training, promotion of Industry and Trade, and agri-business projects for youth development."

Representatives, President Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, are willing to guide and direct us for a better industry development. We are a work in progress with some partners to launch our activities before (the) end (of) October 2023. The impact will be more than professional, it will be on rules and regulations, as well as (a) Government-positive impact by promoting more of the "MADE IN CAMEROON" (stamp), prescribed by our Head of State. Our upcoming partnership with some Ministries will also help people living with disabilities and local artisans to have more opportunities to collaborate with the Interior Designers world."

Operating with and instilling values in others being her objective, she knows that the younger generations need such examples and guidance. If she had the opportunity to develop an initiative for youths and/or young professionals, what would she do?

"It's important to support the youth initiative for sustainable and inclusive development. My mission will be to inspire and educate young people by building their capacity, empowering leadership and responsibility skills and closing existing knowledge gaps that hinder their attainment of sustainable development drives."

"I would also be glad to make them understand the difference between Entrepreneur and Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs focus on identifying business opportunities and turning them into profitable ventures. They have a narrower focus on the initial creation of a business. Entrepreneurship is focused on creating and managing a successful business. It includes the long-term management and growth of that business. On top of this, good strategy is the key to success."



On the topic of entrepreneurship, she also spoke of her other business that deals with Sports Management Consultancy.

"I've been managing, for more than two (2) decades, Janusimages, a Sports and Image Management Company. While being a Sport Agent, I was in the meantime, in charge of the logistics for the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon for more than 10 years. As a Sport Agent foremost, as an intermediary, I manage some players in a range of activities, including the conclusion of different kinds of contracts on behalf of my players (representation contracts, image rights contracts, sponsoring contracts, advertising contracts, etc.). I facilitate transactions between sport clubs/organisers of sport events, advertisement companies and my players. I love soccer and I cannot deal without it. I go to stadiums and support. I'm a real fan."

It is said that the Arts and Sports positively influence the development

"My mission will be to inspire and educate young people by building their capacity, empowering leadership and responsibility skills and closing existing knowledge gaps that hinder their attainment of sustainable development drives."

of youths. Does she think that there is scope for the GCBL to use Arts and Sports to venture into projects for social responsibility?

"Yes, both are influencing the development of youths. Social responsibility is a constant state and a mindset. Allowing the opportunity for youth to participate in sports or the Performing Arts, despite their economic background, is a philanthropic effort. I can advise GCBL to promote the welfare of young people and help them to benefit greatly from sports and the Performing Arts, and (through) the opportunity for extra-curricular activities, help the (young people) grow in their understanding of giving and generosity and life skills necessary to promote a giving and caring culture."

Does she think there is a way to incorporate her experience and knowledge in Sports Consultancy into the work of the GCBL in any way?

"Yes, of course. GCBL is a global vision of the world of business. My vision is to develop conjointly with the GCBL, sports projects and facilities across different areas. I hope my experience in Sports Consultancy and Management will bring additional value. The benefits in sports as a Sport Agent and Arts as an Interior Designer are to share experiences of winning and losing, physical activities, share respect, self-expression, creativity, cultural awareness, teamwork, self-esteem, leadership and appreciation. The vision is to positively impact the youth development by implementing with GCBL, some projects in the field of Sports, and by extension, Arts."

What are some Areas of Focus of the GCBL that she is eager to contribute towards as well?

Interview

GLOBAL TIMES



Eighth Edition | 8-2023 | MMXXIII

Said the multi-faceted entrepreneur, "GCBL operates in more than 120 countries around the world. As the Delegate for Cameroon, on one hand, I would like to contribute to promoting the importance of the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in the business models of the future, encouraging resiliency; promoting opportunity and advocacy influences authority. And on the other hand, share the common vision - the sustainable well-being and growth of business in a disruptive and ever-evolving global economy."

The President of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders has gone on record several times expressing his intent to continue appointing more women to top-tier positions within the organisation. He has also supported the call from like-minded male high-ranking executives to do the same.

Generally speaking and on a global scale, is she satisfied with the



"Social responsibility is a constant state and a mindset. Allowing the opportunity for youth to participate in sports or the Performing Arts, despite their economic background, is a philanthropic effort."

levels at which women are in business and in Governments? What patterns, positive or negative, has she seen within recent years that caught her attention?

Bwemba surmised, "The central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress and long-term development of nations. Women leaders tend to show strong innovation, risk-taking and empathy skills. Harvard Business Review places women ahead of men in resilience, self-development and initiative-taking. Women also have results-driven attitudes and dedication to helping their teams grow. I cannot say I'm satisfied but I can say it has improved in a global way. Women may face discrimination on the basis of their gender, which can manifest in various ways, such as being paid less than their male colleagues for doing the same job, being denied promotions or leadership opportunities or being subjected to sexual harassment or gender-based violence."

"I am, by the way, the Executive Producer and Co-Director of "Alerte", a movie produced by Janusimages on Gender-Based Violence (that was) launched in December 2022 with the participation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and several celebrities of sport, cinema and music such as Yannick Noah, Hassan Ndam, Lucie Memba Bos, Aurelien Chedjou, Magasco, Jacques Greg Belobo, Otia Vitalis, Roger Brice Sogbo, Tatiana Matip, Marie Abega and more."

What then is her wish for young females, holistically speaking?

"My wish is to plead with the Governments to establish mechanisms to

Interview
GLOBAL TIMES



GCBL 2023 © Copyright

Continue

Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

accelerate women’s equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life in each community and society; enable women to articulate their concerns and needs; and ensure the full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes in all spheres of life.”

“Young females should be focused on their education. It is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. More than 40 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that ‘everyone has the right to education’.”

This foresight, focused work and spirit of excellence allowed her to be noticed enough to receive the Award for Excellence of the Cameroon Ministry of Promotion of Women and the Family.



“As the Delegate for Cameroon, on one hand, I would like to contribute to promoting the importance of the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in the business models of the future, encouraging resiliency.”

“Permit me to use this opportunity to thank once more, the Cameroonian Ministry of Promotion of Women and the Family that spotted their eyes on my work and achievements to grant this fabulous award to me. An Award for Excellence is the most prestigious honour bestowed for a business leader. This award recognizes my outstanding accomplishments and contributions. It’s a commitment to excellence and a vision of excellence across diverse sectors.”

As it stands at the end of the day with the not so perfect circumstances regarding equality for women but yet with the glimmers of hope as time passes, when she hears the term ‘woman empowerment’, what does it connote to her?

“Women’s empowerment can be defined as promoting women’s sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. I think it’s a fundamental human right that’s also key to achieving a more peaceful and prosperous world. But despite a great deal of progress, women and girls continue to face discrimination and violence in every part of the world.”

How does she see herself empowering fellow female professionals and why would it be important to her?

“I see myself empowering them by leading from my experience and competence in the business world. It’s important because women’s empowerment becomes a global change and has five components:

women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social empowerment requires its own complete set of elements - autonomy, competence, community and fulfilment."

It may be safe to assume that Bwemba will joyfully continue to paint the canvas of hope and inspiration and it will come with hard work, not strokes of luck.

Article End



Interview

GLOBAL TIMES |

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



Leonie is at home with her artwork. It is a fine piece of plaster moulded into lily flowers and painted white and gold.

20
23

GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
BUSINESS
LEADERS

THE YEAR OF
OPPORTUNITY

H.E. LAILA RAHHAL EL ATFANI,
VICE-PRESIDENT FOR GULF STATES
OF THE GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

SETTING UP A BUSINESS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
BUSINESS
LEADERS



GULF STATES REGION

Chapter

TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

Our team is ready to help you with a wide range of services including registration, licensing, bookkeeping, accounting, event management, networking, campaigns, media coverage, receptions, and more. Simply inform us of your specific needs, and we will gladly provide our support.

yblpc



WORLD BEST FUTURE LEADERS

www.gc-bl.org



JOIN NOW

DO **YOU** THINK THIS
PICTURE IS NORMAL?



IF YES,
KEEP USING PLASTIC
BUT DON'T FORGET, WE ONLY HAVE ONE PLANET

Join the initiative of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders for an environment without plastic, which remains discarded everywhere, including in water. Let's be considerate of our planet because there is no spare planet for us. Let's preserve the planet for posterity, at least so that they can also preserve something for their posterity. Let's be aware that the planet belongs to posterity, not us.



TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



The Creator package is a part of the GCBL membership. Contact us for more detailed information. © 2023 Global Chamber of Business Leaders, EU



OCEAN POLLUTION SEEMS TO BE GROWING FAST:

THERE MIGHT BE LESS PLASTIC IN THE SEA THAN WE THOUGHT, BUT READ ON

The New York Times, The Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

Plastic pollution in our oceans has long been a global concern, threatening marine ecosystems, wildlife, and ultimately, human health. Recent research published in the journal *Nature Geoscience* offers a glimmer of hope: it suggests that there might be less plastic in the sea than previously estimated. However, before we celebrate, it's crucial to understand the complexities of this issue. While the study reveals a somewhat smaller influx of plastic from land-based sources, it also highlights an alarming growth rate in ocean pollution. This article delves into the key findings of the study and explores the broader implications of plastic pollution on our environment and society.

The New Findings

The study in question estimated that approximately 500,000 metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year, with roughly half of this pollution originating from land-based sources. The other half comprises discarded fishing equipment such as nets, ropes, buoys, and related gear. This estimate contradicts earlier, widely-publicized research from 2015, which suggested that a staggering eight million metric tons of plastic flowed into the oceans annually from rivers alone. On the surface, the new study might seem like a silver lining, but a deeper dive into the data reveals a troubling trend: plastic pollution in the oceans is still increasing at an alarming rate of approximately 4 percent each year.

The Growing Problem

Even a seemingly modest annual increase in plastic pollution can accumulate to create a monumental problem over time. According to the study's authors, if this trend continues, the amount of plastic on the sea's surface could double within two decades. Mikael Kaandorp, the lead author of the study, warns, "We're accumulating more and more plastics in the environment." This accumulation has dire consequences for marine life and, ultimately, for humans.

Impact on Wildlife

Plastic pollution poses a severe threat to marine wildlife. Animals can become ensnared in abandoned nets, ropes, and packaging materials, leading to injuries or death. Moreover, ingestion of plastic by marine

creatures can have devastating consequences. Some animals suffer from digestive system blockages, while others ingest toxic chemicals that have leached into the plastic. Tragically, these impacts often lead to starvation among affected species, disrupting the delicate balance of marine ecosystems.

Microplastics and the Food Web

One especially concerning aspect of plastic pollution is the presence of microplastics—tiny pieces of plastic less than five millimeters in size. These minuscule particles can easily infiltrate the food web, ultimately reaching humans through seafood consumption. Compounding the issue, microplastics can absorb or become coated in toxic chemicals, further increasing the potential risks to both marine life and human health.

Onshore Pollution

While the focus often rests on plastic in the oceans, it's essential to remember that plastic pollution affects more than just the sea. Plastic that doesn't make its way into the ocean still pollutes rivers, lakes, beaches, and land, exacerbating the environmental and ecological challenges we face.

Rethinking Early Estimates

The 2015 study on ocean pollution was a significant milestone in our understanding of the issue, but it left many questions unanswered due to a substantial discrepancy between its estimate of eight million metric tons of annual plastic inflow and the observed amounts of plastic in the ocean. The most recent study attempted to bridge this gap by consolidating data from various sources, using computer models to estimate plastic flow and accumulation more accurately.

The Road Ahead

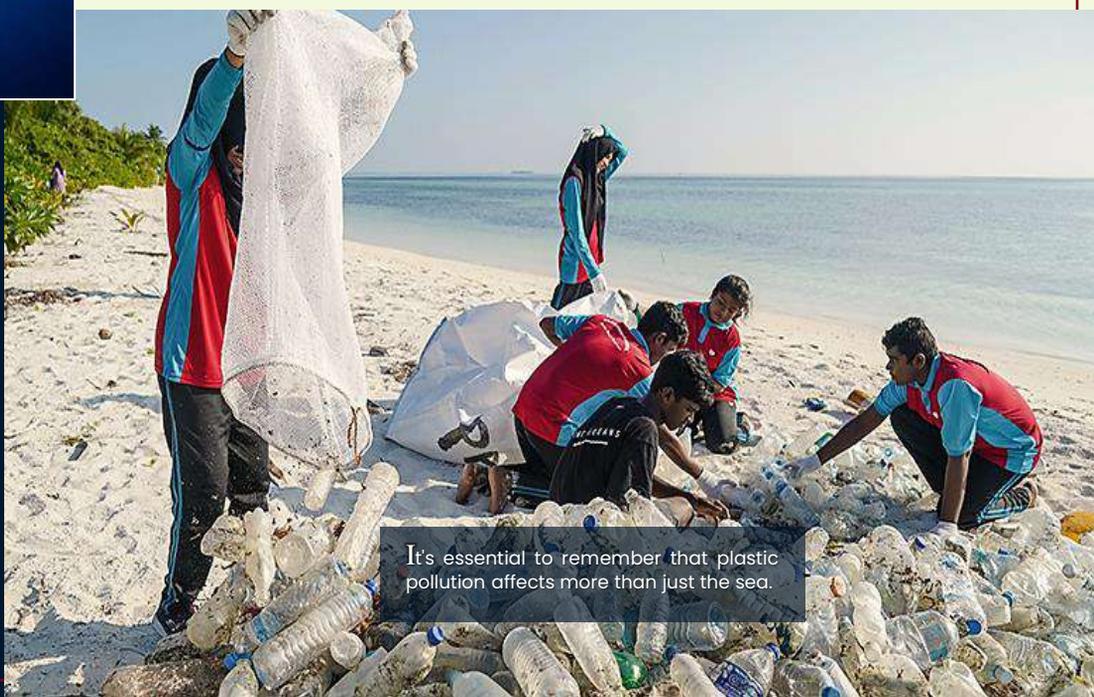
One critical takeaway from the study is that controlling pollution at the source is imperative. Cleaning up plastic once it's in the ocean presents immense logistical and ecological challenges, as it inevitably harms wildlife in the process. Furthermore, the continuous influx of plastic exacerbates the problem. Dr. Kaandorp emphasizes the urgency of taking measures to curtail plastic pollution, stating that "it's going to take a really long time before these plastics actually are removed from our seas."

Continue



Environment
GLOBAL TIMES

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



It's essential to remember that plastic pollution affects more than just the sea.

International Action

Fortunately, global awareness of plastic pollution is growing, leading countries to agree on the need for a global treaty to combat this issue. This treaty aims to regulate the types of plastic products that can be manufactured, place greater responsibility on manufacturers for recycling, and have legally binding provisions.

While progress is slow, experts believe that such international cooperation is essential to stem the tide of plastic pollution.

Conclusion

The new study suggesting less plastic pollution in the sea than previously thought is a mixed bag of news. While it offers some hope, the overarching trend remains deeply concerning.

Plastic pollution is increasing rapidly, posing a severe threat to marine ecosystems and human health. Urgent action at the source is necessary to address this growing problem, and the international community must work together to implement effective measures.

As we navigate this complex issue, it's crucial to remember that the oceans, their health, and the life they support are intricately connected to our own well-being.

Article End



Environment
GLOBAL TIMES



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
PRESIDENT

DEJAN STANCER

PRESIDENT

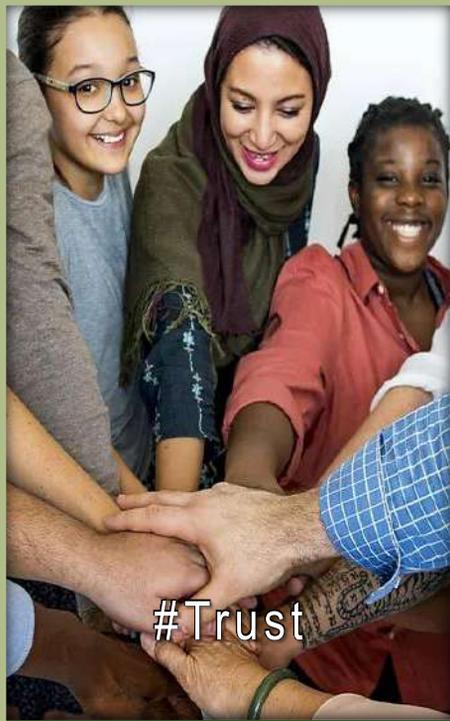
GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

BUSINESS COALITION FOR A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY

"We are pleased to announce that the Global Chamber of Business Leaders has officially joined forces with esteemed global enterprises to become an integral part of the Business Coalition for Global Plastics Treaty. This collaborative effort underscores our commitment to addressing the pressing issue of plastic pollution on a global scale, leveraging the collective strength and influence of renowned organizations in our mission to effect positive change."



#Cooperation



#Trust



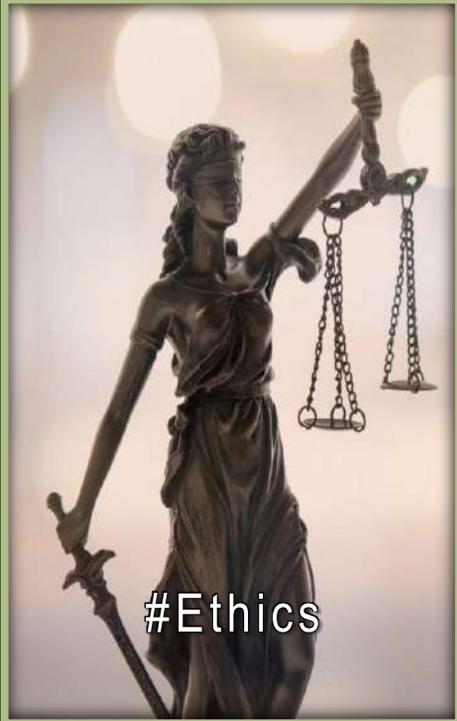
#Peace



#Solidarity



#Integrity



#Ethics

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

THE MISSION MUST BE COMPLETED. IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!

Support Us, Become Our Partner, Donate, Or Simply Join The GCBL As Member And Together We Will Shape The Future!

Find Us Here: www.gc-bl.org

GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

2023

DONATOR

TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

GCBL

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

In a world of potential abuse, we care about your safety!



All key documents and forms of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders will henceforth be equipped with a logo of authenticity and quality. If you do not see this sign on the document, it does not necessarily mean that it is not authentic.

The sign shown above is the exclusive property of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, any copying or reproduction is a copyright violation.

ONCE KAZAKH EAGLE HAS BECOME A GLOBAL THREADS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Successful transformation into an influential global organization





Eighth Edition 8-2023 MMXXIII

CELEBRATING THE DECADE OF SUCCESS: THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS



From left: Dejan Štancer, GCBL President, Dr. Danilo Turk, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

A decade ago, a visionary initiative was launched that would transform the landscape of business collaboration between Central Asia and Central Europe, eventually expanding its reach to encompass a large part of Europe and beyond. The KSBC Business Club, now known as the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, in 2024 will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a remarkable journey marked by achievements and milestones.

In this article, we will explore the successes of the KSBC Business Club in Kazakhstan, its expansion into Central Asia, and its evolution into the largest business community in Central Europe. We will also delve into the club's strategic partnerships with organizations such as the European Commission, the Global Coalition for Plastics Treaty, and its impending advisory status with the United Nations.

The Birth and Early Successes

The KSBC Business Club was founded in 2013 with the goal of fostering economic ties and business partnerships between Kazakhstan and Slovenia. What began as a modest initiative soon gained





Eighth Edition 8-2023 MMXXIII



From left: Ban Ki-Moon, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dejan Štancer, President, Global Chamber of Business Leaders

momentum, with a membership base that rapidly grew to include influential business leaders, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers from both countries. The club's early success was attributed to its commitment to facilitating collaboration and trade, leveraging the strengths of both nations in various sectors.

Expansion into Central Asia

As the KSBC Business Club continued to thrive, it recognized the potential for broader regional cooperation in Central Asia. This vision led to the club's expansion beyond its initial Kazakh-Slovenian focus, embracing the broader Central Asian region. This strategic move not only solidified the club's role as a key player in Central Asia but also opened up new avenues for trade and investment for its members. The expansion marked a significant turning point in the club's journey, positioning it as a hub for businesses looking to navigate the complex landscape of Central Asia.

The Largest Business Community in Central Europe

In a remarkable turn of events, the KSBC Business Club evolved into the largest business community in Central Europe. This expansion was a testament to the club's unwavering commitment to fostering international partnerships and its ability to adapt to the changing dynamics of the global business environment. By bringing together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and organizations from across Central Europe, the club created a powerful platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaborative ventures.



Smart Cities Forum, where the main prize was won by the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan.



GCBL 2023 © Copyright

Strategic Partnerships

Partnership with the European Commission: The Global Chamber of Business Leaders solidified its reputation as a formidable business entity by partnering with the European Commission in matters of tenders and funding. This strategic alliance provided club members with access to valuable opportunities and resources, enhancing their competitiveness on a global scale.



Eighth Edition 8-2023 MMXXIII



From left: Dejan Štancer, and
François Hollande, Former
President of the French Republic

Global Coalition for Plastics Treaty: Recognizing the importance of addressing global environmental challenges, the club joined forces with the Global Coalition for Plastics Treaty. This partnership demonstrated the club's commitment to sustainability and its role in advocating for responsible business practices and environmental stewardship.

Impending UN Advisory Status: A remarkable milestone awaits the Global Chamber of Business Leaders as it anticipates receiving advisory status with the United Nations. This impending recognition underscores the club's growing influence and its dedication to advancing international cooperation, diplomacy, and global development.

Transformative Conclusion

The journey of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, formerly the KSBC Business Club, over the past decade has been nothing short of extraordinary.

From its humble beginnings, the KSBC Business Club has evolved into a powerful force in the business world, bridging gaps between nations, fostering partnerships, and advocating for positive change on a global scale.

As it celebrates its 10th anniversary, the club, today the GCBL, stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through vision, dedication, and collaboration in the ever-evolving landscape of



President Štancer at a reception by the
Governor of the Aktobe region, Kazakhstan



Address to entrepreneurs from Central Europe
on the topic of Doing Business in Kazakhstan.



GCBL 2023 © Copyright

International Business. Its strategic partnerships and imminent advisory status with the United Nations, participation in the projects of the European Commission and the US Administration, and partnership in the Global Coalition for Plastics Treaty, only serve to reinforce its position as a leader in the global business community, poised for even greater achievements in the years to come.



Eighth Edition 8-2023 MMXXIII

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay:

A VISIONARY CATALYST IN THE RISE OF THE KSBC BUSINESS CLUB

Behind every successful endeavor, there stands a visionary leader who provides guidance, inspiration, and unwavering support. In the story of the KSBC Business Club (KSBC), this luminary figure is none other than His Excellency Kairat Sarybay, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria and Slovenia (between 2015-2021). Ambassador Sarybay's remarkable commitment to fostering international collaborations, and his invaluable counsel have played a pivotal role in propelling the KSBC to extraordinary heights.

Ambassador **Kairat Sarybay**, with his profound understanding of diplomacy and keen insights into economic development, became a cornerstone of the KSBC's growth. From the outset, he recognized the club's potential and its pivotal role in strengthening business ties between Kazakhstan and Slovenia. His visionary approach was instrumental in shaping the club's direction and driving it to achieve unparalleled success.

One of the standout qualities of Ambassador Sarybay is his role as a mentor and advisor to the KSBC President, **Dejan Štancer**. His Excellency's mentorship has been marked by pushing the boundaries, encouraging bold initiatives, and nurturing innovation within the club. Through his guidance, Štancer and the KSBC team embarked on ambitious endeavors that would redefine the club's role on the international stage.

The collective efforts of Ambassador Sarybay, President Štancer, and the entire KSBC team bore fruit in the form of numerous successes that defied expectations. The club's ability to foster dynamic partnerships, secure investments, and facilitate trade between Kazakhstan and Slovenia became a shining example of international collaboration. It not only transformed the business landscape of both nations but also showcased the potential for similar endeavors on a global scale.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay's visionary leadership and unwavering support for the KSBC have been instrumental in its meteoric rise. Through his guidance, the club transcended borders and limitations, achieving remarkable successes that continue to inspire. From partnering with the 2017 EXPO in Astana to forging ties with Kazakh Invest National Company, the KSBC's journey reflects the power of collaboration, innovation, and determination. As it celebrates its accomplishments, the KSBC owes much of its success to the visionary Ambassador who believed in its potential and pushed it to exceed all expectations. In Ambassador Sarybay, KSBC found not only an advocate but also a driving force behind its remarkable achievements that will forever be recorded in history.

H.E. Kairat Sarybay,
Ambassador of Kazakhstan to
Austria and Slovenia, was a
diplomat with a vision





GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**

ANNIVERSARY

Fostering Innovation
And Collaboration
With Excellence

We Connect Visionary Leaders Worldwide



Do You Have A Unique

Message To Deliver?

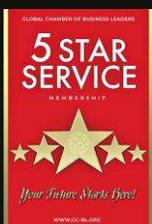
Be Exclusive, Be The Creator!

CREATOR

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP

JOIN US NOW

WWW.GC-BL.ORG



Or contact us: info@gc-bl.org



Eighth Edition | 2020-2022

LOBBYING TOWARDS GLOBAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FROM GUYANA

Suresh Ramkissoon, Delegate for Guyana, Global Chamber of Business Leaders

Suresh Ramkissoon may appear to be quiet for the most part at times but the volume on his genuineness, professional insights, devotion, persistence, inclination to help others and intentional actions is loud.

When it comes to business, networking and leadership, what are some traits that he considers to be extremely important? "When it comes to business, networking and leadership, the most important traits should always start with simplicity, transparency and honesty. A good business is only good if it is beneficial for all of the parties involved, and for a business to be successful, we need to have commitment, accessibility and punctuality."

"In the times that we are living today, business networking has become indispensable and a determinant. It is almost as essential as the air that we breathe, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic when working from home, networking became more significant.. Networking helps us not only to do business but also helps us to get to know other people with whom we can establish healthy business relationships and/or long-lasting friendships. We can be able to widen our scope of business interest to places and in areas that we have never imagined before."

"Leadership is not just to see ourselves as a person who has the power to order people and tell them what to do and what not to do. The most important thing to a leader is the person that he/she is leading. To be a good leader, there must be an excellent environment where persons can feel valued and free to interact, exchange ideas and express their thoughts about how a task can be done more effectively. The people are the ones who are actually executing the work, so if the leader can show empathy and be kind, then everyone will be more willing to go even beyond their call of duty. Kindness is the highest form of intelligence."

"Knowledge isn't power until it is applied and if the leader does not have the full support of the team, then he/she may not be looking so good. Perfection is not attainable but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence, and one of the best strategies is for the leader to form other leaders."

Ramkissoon hails from the South American country of Guyana, which is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. A seasoned businessman and committed community leader, he also represents the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL) as the Delegate for Guyana, having held that position for the past three years.



GCBL 2023 © Copyright



Eighth Edition | 8-2023 | MMXXIII

His efforts have not gone unnoticed. Last December, he was honoured as one of the recipients of the GCBL's Chairman's Award. What was the significance of that recognition to him? Said Ramkissoon, "First of all, let me begin by saying that receiving the prestigious Chairman's Award came as a bit of a pleasant surprise. I am very much thankful for the award and honoured to be a part of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders. With this gesture of acknowledgement for the work that I have done so far, it shows that I am in the right organization with like-minded persons who share the same vision and values that I have."

"When there is no consequence for poor work ethic and no reward for good work ethic, there is no motivation but with the support that I have from our Chairman and our highly qualified team, I am fully inspired and motivated to continue (working towards) building a strong and meaningful GCBL Chapter here in Guyana."



"Leadership is not just to see ourselves as a person who has the power to order people and tell them what to do and what not to do."

"We do not have a GCBL Chapter as yet in Guyana. I am currently identifying and analyzing people with potential and merits that I intend to invite on board for us to start building our GCBL Chapter here."



Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

He has made some significant strides within the three years. "In my capacity as GCBL Delegate to Guyana, and in the name of GCBL, I have successfully identified an investor from Brazil and a group of Guyanese entrepreneurs and I have brought them together and negotiated a joint venture partnership. We initiated the very first large-scale commercial cultivation of soybean and corn in Guyana and the Caribbean region. This is a giant step for Guyana and the Caribbean region. In Guyana, the second biggest thing for the Government after oil and natural gas, is soybean and corn and we are the ones that brought this to Guyana for the very first time. I am currently negotiating another joint venture partnership between Brazilians and Guyanese for the cultivation of soybean, corn and coffee."

He continued, "I am also negotiating a joint venture partnership between Brazilians and Guyanese for the construction of a port that will serve as a trans-shipment terminal for grains, vegetables, fruits and industrial products from the North of Brazil to export to the rest of the world in transit through Guyana."

The Brazilians will also be able to import agricultural products, raw material and other products from the rest of the world in transit through Guyana. This is a project for transportation, logistics and storage. The terminal is earmarked to be at a most strategic location that will have access by road, sea and air, and it is meant to facilitate persons mainly from the Northern part of Brazil."



GCBL 2023 © Copyright

Continue



Suresh Ramkisoorn, Delegate of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders In Georgetown, Guyana.

Interview

GLOBAL TIMES |

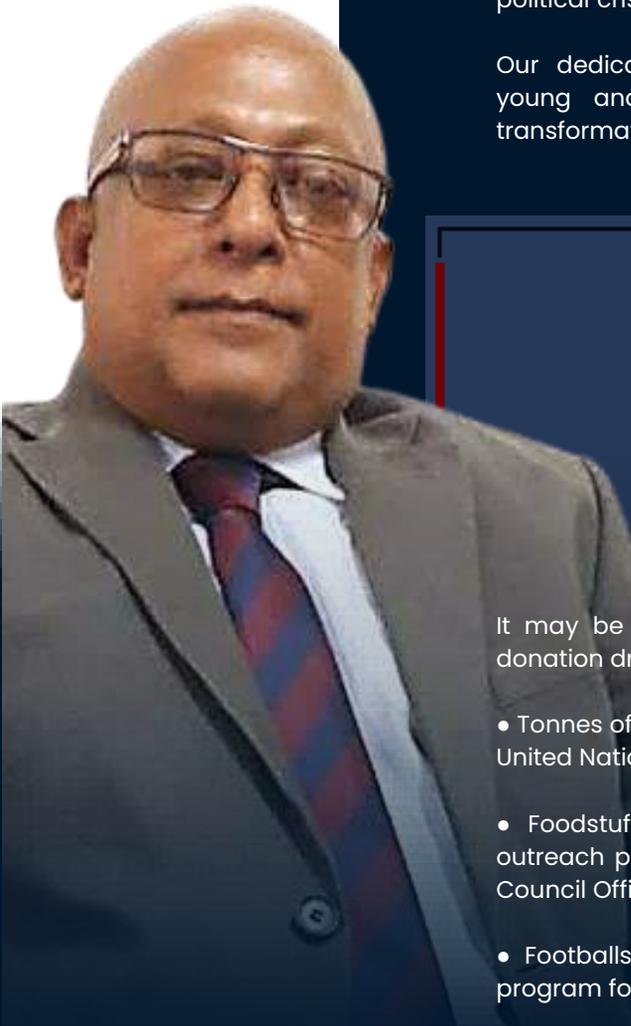
2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

"I was also invited by the Venezuelan Embassy to spearhead an initiative for the creation of a Chamber of Commerce for Guyana/Venezuela."

Always one looking to make an impact on people, he has gotten involved in many community-based initiatives. "I have been appointed as the Representative for Guyana within the International Refugee Sports Federation (IRSF). IRSF is an international organization that aims to promote sports among refugees and migrants." He is also working on top-tier collaborations on community and national levels, which he'll remain tight-lipped about publicly until everything materialises.



The GCBL has an office and physical presence in Guyana, being a key player in Agriculture especially but specifically with soybean and corn cultivation. Suresh Ramkisoorn pointing on the GCBL logo on the wall.



Of his IRSF appointment and his general thoughts on the work at hand though, Ramkissoon glowed. "Refugees are not from a different planet. This appointment is testament to the commitment and capabilities in the field of sports and international representations. This being a GCBL initiative as well, I believe that with our collective efforts, we can develop sports and improve the social and mental well-being of refugees. This is a significant development in Guyana that will have a positive impact in planning and proposing initiatives that provide new life opportunities to communities facing daily forced displacement in South America, irrespective of their country's circumstances, be it war, political crises, financial instabilities or other factors.

Our dedication to advancing programs for children, adolescents, young and older adults from all communities is vital to the transformation of humanity's heritage."

"I am very much thankful for the award and honoured to be a part of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders."

It may be noteworthy to also mention that he has participated in donation drives, including those for:

- Tonnes of food items to Venezuelan refugees who were staying at the United Nations' Shelter in Lethem.
- Foodstuff and mattresses to indigenous people as part of an outreach program that he organized, and also to the Mayor and City Council Office in Lethem.
- Footballs to the Guyana Police Force in Lethem for an outreach program for youth sports that they had organized in the Lethem region.

What is his background in entrepreneurship? "I have been an entrepreneur for thirty-eight years but actually, it first began when I left school at twelve years of age. I took an axe and went to the forest and started cutting wood to sell to the sugar factory. I was self-employed."

"I (later) had a small furniture factory in partnership with a Venezuelan national. At first, I started out as an employee and shortly after, I was offered a partnership, which I accepted without hesitation. Very soon, I became a well-known professional in the city of Tucupita of the Delta Amacuro. I also had a restaurant and bar in Brazil."

"I was also employed as a barman and a waiter, and the owner (eventually) sold the property to my two brothers and me. Guyana had recently opened up its border for trade and many Guyanese started shopping in Brazil. Because I spoke English, Spanish and, of course, Portuguese, and we had a money exchange service, approximately

Interview

GLOBAL TIMES



Eighth Edition | 8-2023 | MMXXIII



Interview

GLOBAL TIMES



GCBL 2023 © Copyright

95% of the tourists and 100% of the Guyanese, along with Brazilians, were our customers. (At one point), I participated directly and indirectly in some mining activities and was also involved in gold exploration and commerce in Suriname."

"At the end of 2000, I moved back to Georgetown, Guyana and opened a store, selling Brazilian products that no-one else had ever brought from Brazil. I was selling in excess of two hundred items, including foodstuff, cosmetics, clothing, footwear, alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages, among other items. However, in 2002, I went back to mining in Guyana for gold, and by then, I had acquired my own mining concession in the Semang-Mazuruni area."

Ramkissoon continued his mining exploits and then started his company, San Jorge Investments, where he provided services in consultancy and representations. His business efforts also saw him

"Our dedication to advancing programs for children, adolescents, young and older adults from all communities is vital to the transformation of humanity's heritage."

partnering with an Israeli counterpart to buy and sell diamonds; becoming involved in agriculture in Guyana where he "produced non-traditional and traditional crops of fruits and vegetables with a small amount of aquaculture"; and overseeing river mining concessions for clients. He even took all of his investments to West Africa and settled on gold extraction in years gone by.

"I (eventually) moved to Lethem and opened a business to sell mining equipment and spares. The business was an immediate success. Most of my customers were from Brazil. I was doing so well that I decided to open another business to sell clothing and accessories. Shortly after that came the Covid-19 pandemic and the border was closed."

Speaking of the pandemic, no-one was spared from the effects of the pandemic. Lockdowns and uncertainty among citizens around the world caused a crippling effect on small to large businesses. What was his personal experience regarding the challenges during that period?

"At the time of the pandemic, I was living and doing business in Lethem. At first, I never imagined that we would have been affected directly by the deadly virus, and I thought that it was something similar to a flu virus and it would go away soon but that did not happen. Within three months from when I'd first heard about the virus, almost everyone was in a panic. My business of selling equipment and spares to the mining sector in Boa Vista was doing fairly alright before the pandemic (but) I had opened another business. I had contracted workers and just when things started moving, the border was closed. Around 90% of all business that is done in Lethem depends on Brazilian customers who come over the border every day to purchase goods, and when the

Continue

border was closed for almost one year, that was the straw that broke the camel's back for my business there."

Like millions around the world, the global crisis came with lessons learnt for him. What was the biggest business lesson that he learnt during the pandemic, either from personal experience or what he witnessed or heard of? "The biggest business lesson that I have learnt during the pandemic is that networking, co-operation and globalization are very important. We need to work together to address issues that are detrimental to the health of our planet and vital to our survival."

"I needed to have the perception of how things will be after the pandemic, so I invested a lot of my time during the lockdown period to prepare myself and to broaden and strengthen my network. (That way), when the pandemic was over, I would be able to face the challenges and overcome the difficulties to adapt to the new normal. Sometimes we make changes through inspiration and sometimes we make changes because of desperation."

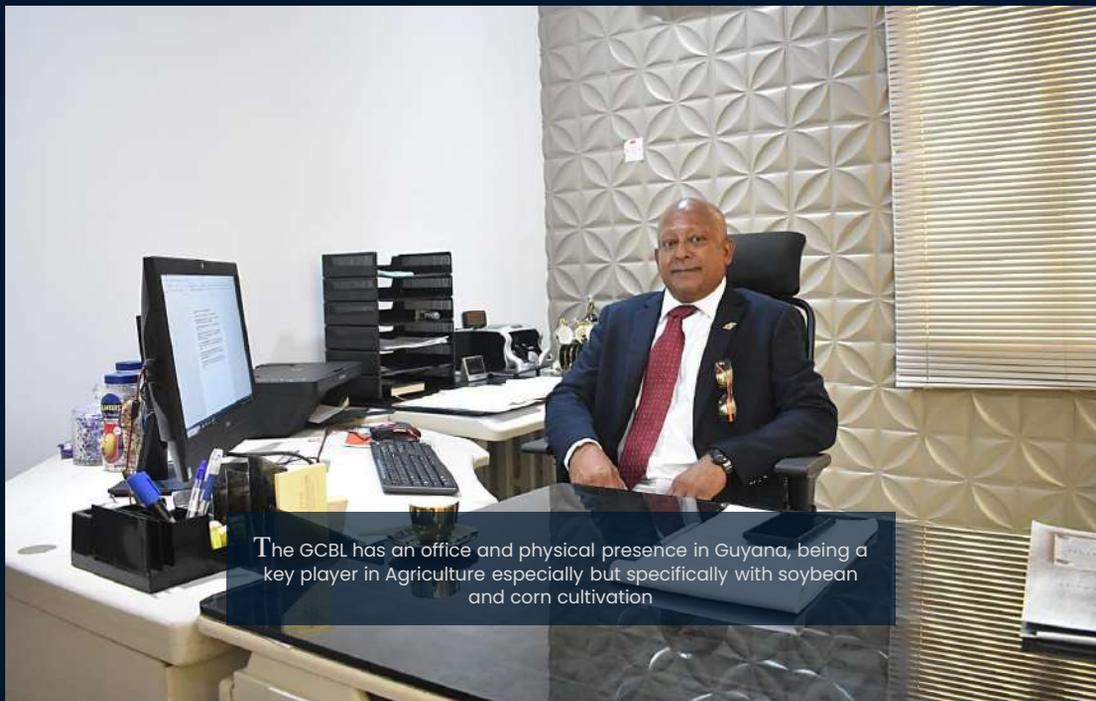
Anyone who knows Ramkissoon, knows that he's never down for the count long. He finds a way or makes a way. In spite of the devastating turn of events caused by the pandemic, he moved forward with purpose. "In April of 2023, I moved back to Georgetown where I currently have my office that serves for Global Chamber of Business Leaders, Intelligent Business Network (IBN) and PanAmazonia."

"At Intelligent Business Network, we offer professional services in the areas of consultancy, representations, lobbying, and facilitating and we act as a bridge to promote businesses. We provide clients with precise information about business and investment opportunities in all of the sectors, such as mining, logging, quarrying, commerce and trade, industry, technology, agriculture, construction energy and tourism, among others, and also, what is the best way moving forward."

Their support services for clients who visit Guyana include ground transportation for flights and meetings, language interpreter partnerships, accounting, legal advice and hotel accommodation arrangements. "We take them to relevant and pertinent places to meet



Interview
GLOBAL TIMES



The GCBL has an office and physical presence in Guyana, being a key player in Agriculture especially but specifically with soybean and corn cultivation

with people in their line of interest. We can register their business, open a bank account and brief them on the social, economic and political situation of the past and present so that they can have a holistic view of what Guyana is as a country, as a nation and as a booming reality. Many Guyanese people come to us seeking our services to find partners for joint venture partnership to invest in mining, agriculture, logging, etc. We also represent various manufacturers from Brazil as commercial representatives in Guyana."

"(IBN is) registered as a supplier of goods and products to the State-owned Guyana Power & Light Inc. electricity company and is currently supplying fibreglass poles for the transmission and distribution of electricity."

Corporate and commercial eyes have been on Guyana within recent years and both minor and major industries have found ways to



Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

"The biggest business lesson that I have learnt during the pandemic is that networking, cooperation and globalization are very important. We need to work together to address issues that are detrimental to the health of our planet and vital to our survival."

infiltrate the various markets. What has it been like for him witnessing the development of Guyana within recent years? "The discovery of oil in Guyana was announced in 2015 and the production of oil began in December of 2019, and from then to now, there has been significant, positive changes in our economy and in our society. Guyana has become the number one attraction for business and investments."

"Guyana has become the bread basket for the Caribbean region. Our vast fertile agriculture is being rapidly developed to address our food security in the region. It seems as though we are living a dream in this new reality of progress and prosperity. Guyana has a population that is less than 800,000 but together with Caricom, has a population of almost twenty million consumers. There will be lots of trading between the Caribbean region and Brazil and Guyana is the perfect hub."

"The (Guyanese) Government is very open to foreign investors to invest in energy, agriculture, livestock, dairy, poultry, livestock feed, aquaculture, coconuts, coffee, cocoa, irrigation, agro- technology and farm service, logistics and transport, processing and packaging, etc."

"In Guyana, we are importing a lot of food items, pharmaceutical items; clothing; footwear; vehicles; construction material; agriculture inputs, such as limestone, urea, fertilizers, chemicals; infrastructural material; machinery for the mining sector, agriculture, infrastructure and construction.

For export, we have sugar, rice, bauxite, gold, diamonds, wood, fruits, vegetables and will soon have grains to export also."

A middle-man of sorts and main man, depending on how you look at it, he does a lot of work with Brazilian counterparts. What does he claim as the benefits of working closely with Brazilian entities, and which areas of business would he say impacted Sustainable Development Goals the most? "Because of the nature of business that I do and the references, many people come looking for me because there aren't many people in Guyana who can provide the precise information and connections as I do. I would say that the area that has impacted Sustainable Development Goals the most is agriculture, and more precisely, the cultivation of soybean and corn."

What is his affiliation with PanAmazonia and what kind of work is involved with the organization? "I am the Director of PanAmazonia in Guyana and I act as a bridge to promote business between Guyana and Brazil. Our mission is to promote activities that contribute to the strengthening, economic development and prosperity of the region."



"For export, we in Guyana have sugar, rice, bauxite, gold, diamonds, wood, fruits, vegetables and will soon have grains to export also."

In these thirteen years of activities, we have built a large pan-Amazonian network with entrepreneurs from all states and countries in the Amazon."

Continue



From left to the right: Suresh Ramkissoon (GCBL Delegate to Guyana), Dr. Peter Ramsaroop (Chief Executive Officer of Guyana Office for Investments), and Hon. Ashni Singh (Minister of Finance of Guyana).

Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

As he prepares to press on with new goals, the way of the world now is not lost on him. The world has not really gone back to normal but now has a 'new normal'. What advice would he give to fellow businessmen and businesswomen as to how to generally navigate doing business in the rest of 2023 and beyond? "I would advise them to try to find out what is the new normal in the first place, then adjust their business model accordingly. People have also changed, some by choice and some were forced to do so. New trends have been established. Almost every day, we are having new products, new building material, new technology, new ideas and new perceptions. We need to be very conscious of where we are and what is going on around us and always try to stay one step ahead. We must not forget the state that our planet is in and we must contribute in some way, even in the smallest way, to help save our planet."



"Almost every day, we are having new products, new building materials, new technology, new ideas and new perceptions."



Bringing the focus back on the GCBL, what is his general vision as the Delegate for Guyana going forward? "As the fastest growing economy in the world, Guyana is already moving forward at a fast pace, but there is a lot of work to be done and we need everyone to do as much as they can with a positive mentality and willingness. We can reach our first goal to become a leader in our region and gain global relevance by 2030 and would be able to contribute generously for a greener and cleaner planet."

Article End



Interview
GLOBAL TIMES

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



Guyana Agri-Investment Forum & Expo 2022 to showcase Guyana's agricultural products and introduce potential opportunities for business and investments in the agricultural, industrial, and commercial sectors.

RED CARPET EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP

Keith Mason

GCBL Board of Advisors Member,
Movie Actor, and Philanthropist



NOW

Get Your GCBL ID Number

WWW.GC-BL.ORG

MEMBERS@GC-BL.ORG

Contact us:



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

GCBL GCBL OFFERS
MEMBERSHIP CUSTOMIZED TO YOU!

Choose Yours Now

CHANGER



VANGUARD



RED CARPET

CREATOR

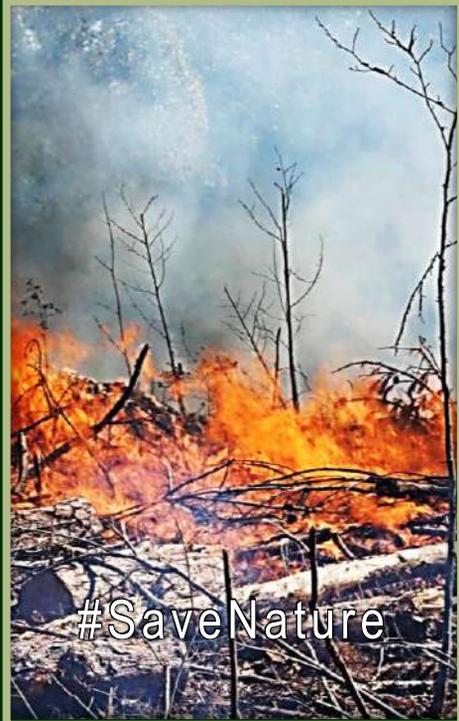




#StopPollution



#SaveNature



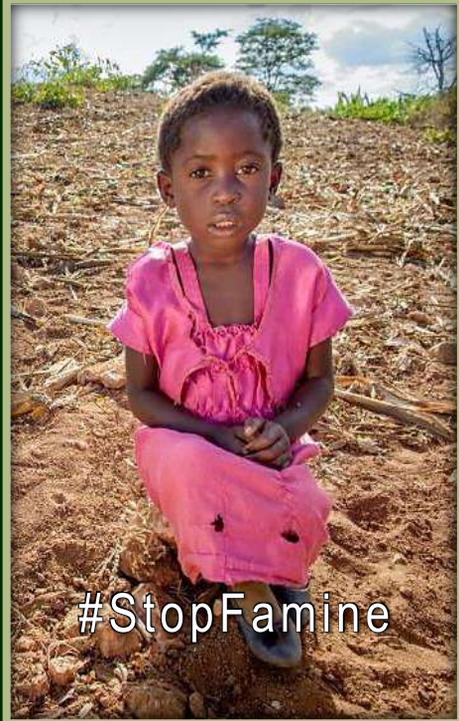
#SaveNature



#SaveWaters



#StopWars



#StopFamine

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

THE MISSION MUST BE COMPLETED. IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!

Support Us, Become Our Partner, Donate, Or Simply Join The GCBL As Member And Together We Will Shape The Future!

Find Us Here: www.gc-bl.org



GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

SUBSCRIBE NOW

AT **WWW.GC-BL.ORG** AND

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS YOU GET



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
BUSINESS
LEADERS



Home About Us Media News Global Times GCBL News YBLP Services Membership Contact More

in t f

Log In

THE BEST AND EXCLUSIVE GLOBAL NEWS YOU CAN ONLY FIND HERE!

Subscribe to the Global Times Magazine Now!

Click Here To
Subscribe NOW

There are numerous advantages to subscribing to the Global Chamber of Business Leaders. **Don't hesitate to subscribe now!**

The Global Times magazine is published by the Global Chamber of Business Leaders. Please note that any benefits or discounts mentioned in the magazine are exclusively for use at the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.



INCREASING COSTS FOR BUSINESSMEN:

ANTICIPATED GLOBAL BUSINESS TRAVEL AND EVENT COSTS IN 2023 & 2024

CWT, The Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



The landscape of global business travel and events expenditures is poised for continued escalation throughout the remainder of 2023 and well into 2024, albeit at a more measured pace compared to the unprecedented surges witnessed in 2022. This insight stems from the 2024 Global Business Travel Forecast, a comprehensive report jointly released today by CWT, a distinguished business travel and meetings specialist, and the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA), the largest global organization dedicated to business travel.

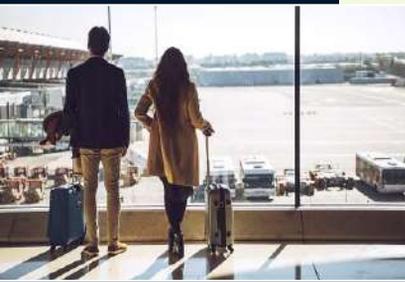
Several factors, including soaring fuel prices, labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, and relentless demand, triggered a remarkable surge in travel costs during 2022, far exceeding earlier projections. The report indicates that the lingering economic uncertainty and a gradual alleviation of supply-side constraints are likely to usher in a period of more moderate price increases over the next 12 to 18 months. These forecasts are based on anonymized data generated by CWT and GBTA, publicly available industry information, as well as econometric and statistical modeling developed by the Avrio Institute.

Air Travel

In 2022, the global average ticket price (ATP) for flights booked for business travel experienced an unprecedented surge, skyrocketing by 72.2% year-over-year to reach \$749, significantly surpassing the 2019 levels of \$670. While demand has rebounded strongly, approaching pre-pandemic levels primarily due to pent-up leisure travel demand, airline capacity remains constrained due to labor shortages and supply chain bottlenecks. Looking ahead, ATP growth is expected to be more modest, with an estimated 2.3% increase in 2023 and a 1.8% rise in 2024. Nevertheless, many corporate buyers find themselves with reduced leverage in negotiations with airlines, as their travel volumes remain below pre-pandemic levels.

The Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) region registered the highest ATP in 2022 at \$855, reflecting a 31.5% increase from 2021. More restrained price increases are on the horizon, with ATPs projected to rise by 2.9% in 2023 and 2.2% in 2024.

In contrast, the Asia Pacific region saw the most significant year-over-year growth in ATP in 2022, surging by 148.7% to \$567, despite limited



TRAVEL
GLOBAL TIMES

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

international travel demand from China. As key business travel destinations like Australia and Japan fully reopened to vaccinated travelers and resumed visa exemption arrangements, average airfares for these countries increased by 75.3% and 79.3%, respectively, in 2022. With airlines, particularly major carriers from China, expanding international route capacity, this added supply is anticipated to alleviate price pressures in the region, with ATPs forecasted to rise by 4.8% in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024.

Hotel Accommodations

Similar to air travel, the global average daily rate (ADR) for hotel bookings surpassed earlier forecasts, surging by 29.8% year-over-year to reach \$161 in 2022. High occupancy rates, coupled with increased labor, energy, and food and beverage costs, have led to record ADRs in cities like London, Miami, and Singapore.

Despite the slowdown in hotel construction since the pre-pandemic peak, supply constraints persist, allowing existing hotels to maintain pricing power. ADRs are projected to climb by 4.3% in 2023, reaching \$168, followed by a 3.6% increase to \$174 in 2024.

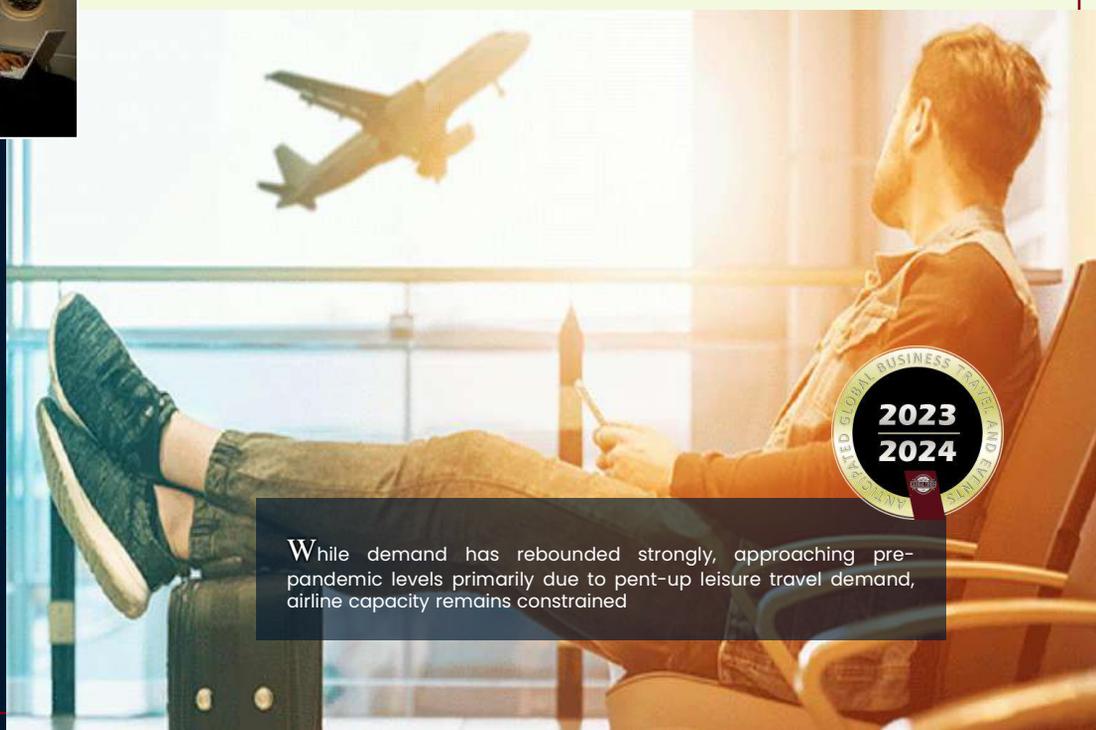
North America witnessed the most substantial growth in hotel ADRs among all regions in 2022, rising by 33.8% year-over-year to \$174. However, slower growth in occupancy rates in the latter half of 2023 and 2024 due to economic concerns is expected, with ADRs forecasted to increase by 4% to \$181 in 2023 and 3.3% to \$187 in 2024.

In Latin America, ADRs also surged significantly by 26.9% year-over-year in 2022, primarily due to double-digit inflation in several countries. With inflation appearing to have peaked, ADRs are expected to grow by 9.1% in 2023 and 5.6% in 2024.

Ground Transportation

The car rental industry has faced constraints as companies reduced their vehicle fleets during the pandemic, and subsequent supply chain disruptions, especially in semiconductor manufacturing, led to inflated vehicle prices. Consequently, prices surged by 9.8% year-over-year in 2022, with an additional 6.7% increase expected this year. However, pricing growth is expected to cool down to 2.1% in 2024.

Continue



2023
2024
GLOBAL BUSINESS TRAVEL AND AIRLINE INDUSTRY

While demand has rebounded strongly, approaching pre-pandemic levels primarily due to pent-up leisure travel demand, airline capacity remains constrained

Meetings and Events

In-person meetings and events have rebounded more vigorously than anticipated, driven by the necessity of client acquisition and relationship building that is challenging to achieve virtually. Incentive trips, designed to motivate and reward employees, have seen remarkable demand, with these trips becoming longer and more frequent. The average daily cost per attendee in 2022 was \$160, projected to increase to \$169 in 2023 and \$174 in 2024.

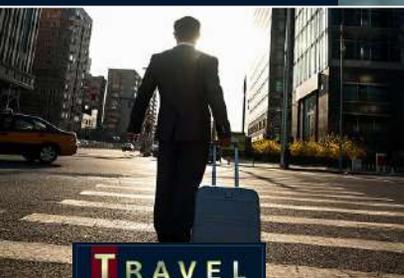
Although lead times for events remain short in the post-pandemic era, organizers are advised to consider a 12-month planning cycle for 2024 to secure reasonable pricing. Simultaneously, consolidating transient travel and meetings and events spending can provide buyers with greater leverage in negotiations.

For more comprehensive information, including regional breakdowns and in-depth insights on these pricing trends, please refer to the complete report available online, where you can also access a downloadable PDF version.

About the 2024 Global Business Travel Forecast:

This report draws upon data from over 70 million ticketed flights, more than 125 million hotel room night bookings, and over 30 million car hires, covering data from 2018 to the present. The forecasts rely on econometric and statistical models, specifically ARIMA models, developed by the Avrio Institute, with additional insights provided by CWT personnel and market research.

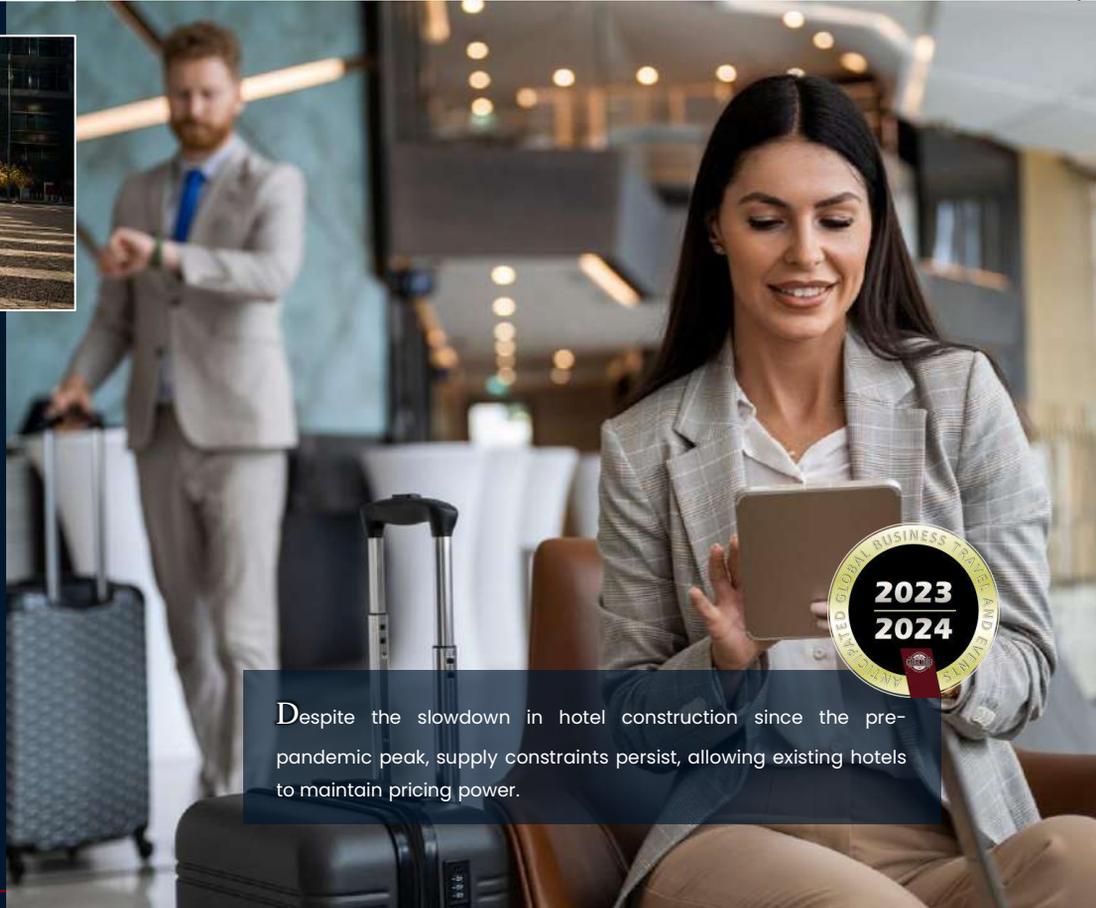
Article End



TRAVEL
GLOBAL TIMES

2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

GCBL 2023 © Copyright



Despite the slowdown in hotel construction since the pre-pandemic peak, supply constraints persist, allowing existing hotels to maintain pricing power.

Ready To Shine On The Global Stage?

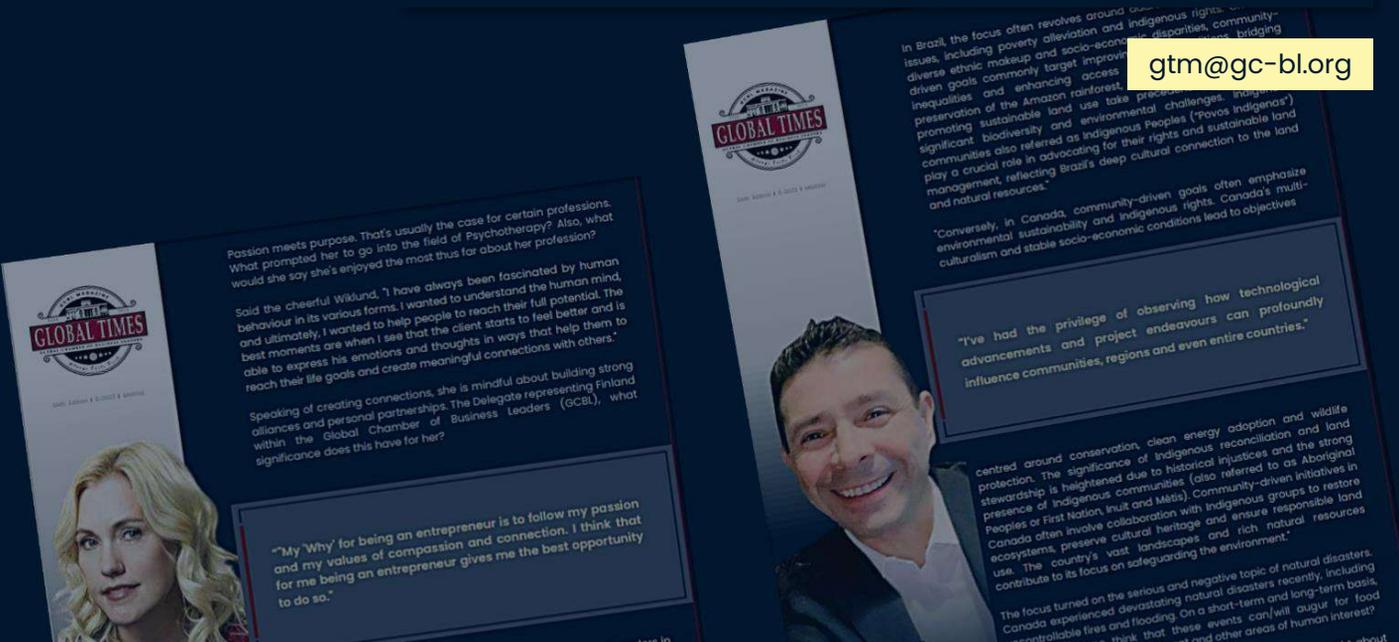
SEIZE YOUR CHANCE TO BE FEATURED
IN THE PRESTIGIOUS
GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE
TODAY!



GLOBAL
CHAMBER OF
**BUSINESS
LEADERS**



GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



gtm@gc-bl.org

YOU WANNA BE REALLY VISIBLE?

ADVERTISE WITH US!

GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE

EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY

Your **#1** Choice When It Comes
To Global Business Leaders

20
23

We Offer You Several Visibility And Promotional Opportunities

Contact us at info@gc-bl.org and our marketing experts will be happy to listen to you and help you design the best strategy for your best presentation and your visibility.