

Personalia

Astin-Polk International Standards Medal Honors Kathleen Riley (Kitty) Kono

Kathleen Riley (Kitty) Kono, recently retired as vice president of global cooperation at ASTM International, received the Astin-Polk International Standards Medal from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) at an October 17 reception and dinner held in Washington, D.C.

ANSI honored Kono, who filled the ASTM International global cooperation position since its creation in 2001, for expanding the role of standards in international trade and regulation and establishing networks among standards development organizations worldwide, particularly in developing nations.

The Astin-Polk International Standards Medal honors distinguished service in promoting trade and understanding among nations through participation in the advancement, development and administration of international standardization, measurement and certification.

Of her tenure in global cooperation, Kono said, "[Since 2001] we have opened an office in Mexico, reopened the Washington, D.C., office, created the China Consortium on Standards and Conformity Assessment, and opened our own ASTM International office in Beijing. We have built relationships with over 50 mostly developing countries through our memorandum of understanding program.

ASTM President James A. Thomas said, "Kitty's position as vice president of global cooperation has combined her whole background at ASTM International and her personal skills – her ability to reach people, her enthusiasm, her passionate commitment to the success of ASTM and her unshakeable belief in ASTM as a truly global organization."

Kono's ASTM International career included positions as the ASTM Washington representative, executive director of the ASTM Institute for Standards Research, editor of ASTM Standardization News and staff manager. She is a graduate of Hollins College, Roanoke, Va., where she majored in psychology, and currently resides in St. Davids, Pa.

The Astin-Polk Standards Medal award takes its name from two advocates of international standardization and metrology: the late Dr. Allen V. Astin, who retired from the National Bureau of Standards and Dr. Louis F. Polk, Sr., who was chairman of the U.S. Metric Board.

Courtesy: ASTM International (emcelron@astm.org).

UFI 2007 General Assembly Ratifies New Members, New UFI Approved Events and 2008 Presidential Trio

At its 2007 General Assembly in Versailles, France, members ratified the acceptance of 38 new members into UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition industry. With this increase UFI has more than doubled its international membership in 5 years time.

The Annual General Assembly, presided by Jochen Witt, welcomed these new members and recognized the professional quality of an additional 37 exhibitions as UFI Approved events.

UFI members welcomed the association's 2008/2009 leadership structure, led by Cliff Wallace (Managing Director, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre – HKCEC) as its new President for the one year term.

The choice of Wallace as UFI President marks the first time that a leader from the venue management side of the industry has been selected for this leadership position. It is also the first time that a representative of an Asian UFI member is named to this position. UFI's Board of Directors has announced the election of John Shaw, CEO of COMEXPO, (Paris) as their Incoming UFI President (2008/2009). In their capacity as UFI Executive Vice-Presidents during the coming 2008/2009 term, Shaw and Witt will provide continuity and support to Cliff Wallace.

The UFI Presidential term of one year builds on a three year UFI Presidential cycle: one year as Incoming-President (Executive Vice- President), one year as incumbent President, and one year as Past-President (Executive Vice-President).

US Envoy's remarks on KCCI applauded

"The US Ambassador, Anne Patterson, in her speech at Karachi Chamber appreciated the role of KCCI in promoting a better investment climate and declared that it is an important player in Pakistan's economy. As the Immediate Past President of Pakistan's largest Chamber and as someone during whose tenure, KCCI was the most productive and most active organization, I acknowledge her sentiments with thanks on behalf of my erstwhile Managing Committee." This was stated in a press statement by Majyd Aziz, ex President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Majyd Aziz further stated that during his term of office, KCCI was host to the largest number of foreign diplomats, dignitaries, delegations, and media, and said that in every meeting and presentation, KCCI ensured that intensive lobbying was done to promote the positive image of Pakistan and to attract long term foreign investment.

Majyd Aziz also said that he led a twelve-member high power business delegation from KCCI to United States in July-August to talk about bilateral trade, investment, image-building, and the promotion of Reconstruction Opportunities Zones (ROZs), among other matters. He said this first-ever, high profile trip was unique in the sense that members did not talk about personal businesses but focused on Karachi and Pakistan.

The success of the KCCI visit to USA could be gauged by the fact that Members of Congress, as well as Mayors of Houston, Austin, and Sugarland, Texas, presented Certificates of Recognition to KCCI and to its President for the role of KCCI for promotion of investment, for protection of the rights of the business community, and for projection of the positive image of Pakistan. He added that KCCI's prominence was also officially acknowledged in the hearings conducted by the House Foreign Affairs Committee of the US Congress.

The interaction with Senators and Congressmen, the government officials, the various think-tanks, and the labor leaders, will prove beneficial for the promotion of the long-term, fifteen-year commitment of United States for the economic development of Pakistan. He said that he was very hopeful that the legislation for the ROZ initiative would be introduced in Congress shortly and added that both the KCCI delegation as well as the second industrialists' delegation were assured in Washington that the initiative was commendable and the Bill would soon become a reality.

Majyd Aziz also appreciated that the United States envoy visited KCCI in response to the invitation he had conveyed during his tenure. He also appreciated her free and frank interaction with a select gathering of top businessmen at a private dinner during her visit.

He said that KCCI will continue to promote investment not only from United States but that plans are also afoot to take delegations to European Union in Brussels and to Tokyo, Japan during 2008. ♦