

Chairman Report 2009

Firstly may I welcome you all to this year's AGM. This year has been a challenging one for all of us as I'm sure you will agree and the pressures are likely to continue well into 2010.

a) Progress towards a single Industry body for our Industry

As you may be aware there has been a great deal of work done on this in the past 12 months. A joint sub committee was formed and this has worked very hard to iron out the issues in front of us. I'm pleased to advise we have now called for independent tenders for a facilitator to come in and oversee the process towards a SIB.

The timetable is that we will appoint this company by the end of this month and they will be tasked to have the process completed by the end of March 2010, whereby both organisations will be in a position to go to their members to seek confirmation of the recommendations. Once this has been ratified we hope to launch the new organisation on the 1st July 2010. These dates are obviously conditional on everything being completed but all on the committee believe this is achievable.

The aim is to continue to offer individual membership in the new organisation and this will also include members of the freight forwarding industry.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Jim Merrigan and Stuart McFarlane together with the rest of our committee as well as the CBFCA team of Darryl Sharp, John Law and Julie Craig.

b) Education

Work continues on the first phase of the development of a specific degree in International forwarding. Brian will cover this in greater detail in his report.

c) Departure of Existing Board members

I have to report that Elton McKay and Fritz Heinzmann who both joined the Board in 2003 will not be re-standing in the coming year. Elton has been involved in looking after our Sea freight portfolio as well as being a good supporter of our National conferences.

Fritz was chairman of AFIF for four years as well as being on the board of Tradegate. Fritz has been instrumental in getting the project I have already mentioned off the ground and on behalf of the board and the members, I would like to thank him and Elton for their contribution to A.F.I.F.

d) FIATA World Congress

Brian Lovell, Barry Vining as FIATA Vice President and I attended the World Congress earlier this year in Geneva.

There was a considerable discussion on E Freight which has not been taken up in any numbers by members here in Australia. We raised the point that IATA required too many documents and this was supported by the Hong Kong Association. We now understand this has become the official FIATA position, so hopefully we can see some change of heart by IATA and the whole process will become a lot easier.

We also raised the issue of the use of bar code labels by the carriers and CTO's and IATA have agreed to look into this issue as well.

e) Joint National Conference in 2010

As part of the agreement of forming a SIB we have also agreed with the CBFCA to hold a joint National conference next year. The event is set for Coolum in October with the actual dates still to be finalised. The conference will be handled by Will Organise who have arranged previous AFIF conferences and we will circulate further details as they are finalised.

f) 2009 Golf Day

Despite the Economic climate it was great to have a full house for this year's Golf Day. Held once again at Macquarie Links we raised \$19,000 for Alzheimer's Australia. Max Walker was the special guest MC and he did a great job. Thanks should go to the Golf day Chairman Jim Merrigan and his team for once again putting on a most enjoyable day.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Directors on the Board of AFIF for giving up their time on behalf of the AFIF membership and to Brian our CEO and his team at the AFIF Secretariat for all their efforts during the past year.

We wish you all a successful year ahead.

Paul Golland

Chairman