



RJC Celebrates Tenth Anniversary by Holding AGM in Mumbai

Receives Major Endorsements from GJEPC and BDB

Announces First Non-Industry Executive Committee Member

LONDON – Date: 16 April 2015 -- The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Mumbai this week, along with visits to key diamond and jewellery manufacturing centres in Surat and the SEEPZ Special Economic Zones.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB) joined the RJC as co-hosts to present India's diamond and jewellery industry to a global audience during this major event. In doing so, the GJEPC recognised the importance of the RJC in the development and certification of responsible supply chains in India, especially for major export markets.

This was the first RJC AGM and Conference held outside Europe and marks a major milestone in continuing efforts to bring the message of responsible business practices to India, a global leader in diamond and jewellery manufacturing and sales. The RJC delegation was accompanied by GJEPC and BDB on visits to several companies in Surat, focussing on diamond cutting and polishing, as well as jewellery manufacturers in the SEEPZ in Mumbai.

Over a three day series of events including the AGM, conference sessions, factory visits and a gala dinner, leading members of the Indian and International industry exchanged views and learning. Senior industry, U.S. government representatives and civil society experts also participated. The RJC Executive Committee also appointed its first non-industry member, Estelle Levin of Estelle Levin Ltd., who is Co-Chair of the RJC Standards Committee.

“The GJEPC was pleased to co-host this important event along with the BDB. We recognise that RJC provides one of the most effective ways for our members to show they take responsible business practices seriously in order to build confidence with international markets for our products,” said Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC. “We look forward to working more closely with the RJC to accelerate the progress achieved over the last two years which will further help promoting RJC membership to our members. This is an integral part of securing the long-term future for an incredibly successful industry.”

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The events highlighted how the Indian manufacturing sector has significantly benefited from an industry-led global compliance standard like the RJC to meet export market expectations as well as to retain skilled workers as a way of improving quality and productivity.

GJEPC is leading benchmark work to streamline compliance with AML¹ regulations through MyKYC². BDB is fully collaborating. This would reduce cost and efforts for all industry players. “We invited the RJC to hold this event in India so we could unleash the power of collaboration to create exciting long term opportunities for the Indian diamond and jewellery industry,” said Anoop Mehta, BDB President. “I am pleased to say that our expectations have been exceeded and this event has built trust and commitment to stronger partnership with the RJC .”

RJC has made significant progress in India, especially over the last two years, and is committed to working with Indian industry and institutions to fully integrate with this key market. As a key part of this increasing commitment to India, RJC earlier this month announced the appointment of Kinjal Shah as Country Head, India.

“India remains a strategic priority for the RJC,” said James Courage, RJC Chairman. “We thank our co-hosts, GJEPC and BDB, and all the other international and Indian participants that made this event such a success. RJC is delighted that this event has strengthened our relationship with the GJEPC and BDB to work together for the future success of the Indian diamond and jewellery industry”.

The three organisations – GJEPC, BDB and the RJC - play unique and complementary roles in ensuring long term growth, success and confidence in this industry. The GJEPC has been successfully promoting the Indian diamond and jewellery industry and exports and recognises that future success requires Indian exporters to meet evolving quality expectations and regulations in export markets. Responsible business practices are an increasingly important part of retailers’ and consumers’ expectations. GJEPC emphasised on the role of numerous SME manufacturers in India and the requirement to discuss the creation of an effective platform in conjunction with the RJC.

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About Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 600 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC is a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit www.responsiblejewellery.com

¹ Anti-money Laundering

² Know Your Customer/Counterparty

About The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council India (GJEPC India)

Set-up in 1966, the GJEPC has played a significant role in the evolution of the Indian gem and jewellery industry to its present stature. GJEPC is continuously working towards creating a pool of artisans and designers trained to international standards so as to consolidate the Indian jewellery industry and establish it as a prominent global player in the jewellery segment. With the strength of 5,500 plus members spread all over the country, the Council is primarily involved in introducing the Indian gem & jewellery products to the international market and promotes their exports. To achieve this, the Council provides market information to its members regarding foreign trade inquiries, trade and tariff regulations, rates of import duties, and information about jewellery fairs and exhibitions.

About Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB)

BDB was set up for the primary objective of establishing necessary infrastructural facilities for promotion of export of diamonds including diamond jewellery from India and to provide for this purpose all support and service facilities so as to eventually make India an International Trading Centre for Gems & Jewellery. The main objectives to be pursued by the company are to establish a bourse for promotion and export of diamonds from India and to provide the infrastructure and other facilities in India for Indian and overseas buyers and sellers, as well as to promote, advance, protect and develop trade, commerce and industry in India relating to exports and imports of diamonds, and develop and establish India as a modern and sophisticated diamond market in the world by establishing and maintaining an international trading centre in India for all those engaged as manufacturers, brokers and commission agents of diamonds.

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