




Serving world business

What ICC achieved for business
in 2005

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In 2005, ICC continued to work purposefully and energetically to increase rules-based global trade and investment and help business meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

Rules-writing for business

■ **Technology and privacy**

ICC issued international principles on how companies can responsibly deploy a new technology called Electronic Product Codes (EPC) for logistical management which uses electronic chips in products and packaging.

■ **Banking on ICC**

Solid progress was made in promoting the use of ICC rules for bank demand guarantees.

■ **Moving on**

Intense work continued on the revision of UCP 500 (Uniform Customs and Practices for Documentary Credits), the most widely used set of rules in international trade finance, last revised in 1993, with the aim of completing the revision towards the end of 2006.

■ **Ready reference**

A new volume in the celebrated ICC Banking Commission “Opinions” series provides bankers with 120 new Opinions never previously published in book form.

■ **Saving time**

A model confidentiality agreement and a handbook on global sourcing contracts, designed to shorten the time spent on negotiations, were added to ICC’s impressive range of trade tools.

■ **Final say**

ICC was the main business voice in the finalizing of a new Hague Convention on “choice of court” agreements, guidance likely to assist the drafting of international business contracts.

Trade, investment and globalization

■ **The big push**

ICC provided strong support to member governments of the World Trade Organization in the Doha Round of trade talks, especially in the run-up to the meeting of ministers in Hong Kong in December. ICC deployed its network and considerable efforts to support moves to reduce trade barriers and subsidies, with a special focus on helping developing countries gain greater market access for their products, especially in agriculture. ICC obtained the support of more than 60 chairmen and CEOs of leading companies from around the world who signed a letter to the Financial Times published on 8 November 2005 calling on governments to redouble their efforts to ensure the success of the Doha Round.

■ **Safeguarding the future**

At the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, ICC's achievements included: recognition of the critical role of business in the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the Internet as tools for economic growth and social development; acknowledgment in the final texts signed by government leaders of the need for an enabling environment that attracts investment in ICTs, promotes innovation and fosters entrepreneurship; and protection of the free flow of information and the continued development of the Internet, without intergovernmental interference in its technical coordination.

■ **Trade and security**

ICC led business input on the World Customs Organization's new security standards, ensuring that they would not hinder the movement of goods worldwide.

■ **Settling disputes**

In 2005, the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the most trusted body of its type in the world, went from strength to strength, passing the milestone of 14 000 cases submitted to it since its creation in 1923.

■ **Safeguarding sea trade**

For the first time in six years, attacks on shipping in the busy Malacca Straits have dropped significantly, according to ICC's piracy reporting centre in Kuala Lumpur – a tribute to the centre's vigilant watch on the high seas.

■ **Simplifying trade**

Chile became the first Latin American country to join the ATA Carnet scheme, which allows goods to be moved across borders temporarily exempt from customs duties; and in November 2005 Iran re-entered the system. Sixty-three nations now use the carnets, issued through chambers of commerce and similar organizations and administered by ICC through its World ATA Carnet Council, which cover goods valued at almost US\$12.5 billion a year.

■ **One for all**

The Union of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions was launched at the ICC World Chambers Federation's 4th World Chambers Congress in Durban, bringing together a united voice of business across Africa through the chamber movement. The 2005 World Chambers Competition was the most exciting yet, generating new standards of excellence for chamber projects.

■ **Taxing problem**

ICC worked with the OECD on the vexing problem of rationalizing different VAT systems throughout the world.

BASCAP

Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy

With the launch of the acclaimed BASCAP initiative, 2005 was the year ICC energized the fight against the growing menace of counterfeiting and intellectual property theft. BASCAP stakeholders from businesses of all sizes and all sectors came together to educate the public and to make the case for respecting and enforcing intellectual property rights to policymakers.

Just one year into the programme, BASCAP is already yielding positive results – through events held by national committees, media appearances, messages to government officials, and partnering with organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Customs Organization and Interpol.

The group's initial programme includes:

- Creating a set of counterfeiting and piracy indices to showcase governments that have devoted resources to fighting this activity.
- Collecting and sharing case studies and data on the economic, social and developmental impacts of counterfeiting and piracy.
- Building a clearing house to connect ongoing activities worldwide and share information on strategies across sectors.
- Launching a public education campaign to build awareness among policymakers and consumers.

Business in society issues

■ **Environment**

ICC is a partner of the United Nations in its work on the global impact of climate change, and voiced the interests of business at the Montreal meeting of the UN Framework Convention on the subject at the end of 2005.

■ **Corporate governance**

ICC's series of roundtables on corporate governance, launched in Beijing in 2004, had further successes in 2005 in Istanbul and London, reaching out to more than 300 business leaders from 45 countries.

■ **Fighting corruption**

ICC issued a tougher version of its rules to combat extortion and bribery, calling on companies to reject facilitation payments and to extend their "no-bribe" policy to all their agents and intermediaries.

■ **Our 'Oscars'**

Building on the success of the 2004 World Business Awards, ICC launched the 2006 contest, focusing on the role business can play in meeting the UN targets for reducing global poverty by 2015.

■ **Waste not**

ICC launched Business Action for Energy jointly with the World Energy Council and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The initiative is designed to be a temporary platform for business input into the 14th and 15th sessions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD 14 and 15).

Outreach

■ **The meeting point**

Over 2000 business experts came together to share their experiences at ICC conferences.

■ **Spreading the word**

ICC launched a new state-of-the-art, user-friendly website that provides up-to-the-minute news of its activities. ICC's corporate governance website was revitalized as a key tool with small and medium-sized enterprises especially in mind.

■ **At a touch**

As part of its policy of putting technology to work for business, ICC produced an electronic version of its bestseller *Key Words in International Trade*, containing more than 3000 business and trade terms in five languages. And *Incoterms 2000* – standard trade definitions that make global trade easier – is now available as an eBook.

■ **Expanding family**

The ICC keeps growing, with new national committees in the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, bringing the total to 90. For the first time, direct members joined ICC from the Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



Published in January 2006 by

International Chamber of Commerce

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Website www.iccwbo.org E-mail icc@iccwbo.org

ICC Publication No. 832

ISBN 92-842-0000-8

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International Chamber of Commerce

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The International Chamber of Commerce

ICC is the world business organization, a representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in over 130 countries. Its fundamental mission is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business, ICC has unrivalled authority both in developing policy recommendations for governments and in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders. Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of the fabric of international trade.

ICC also provides essential services, foremost among them the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the world's leading arbitral institution. Another service is the World Chambers Federation, ICC's worldwide network of chambers of commerce, fostering interaction and exchange of chamber best practice.

For information on how to join ICC, visit the ICC website (iccwbo.org) or contact the ICC Membership Department in Paris.



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