



THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM PRESENTS IT'S WINTER-SPRING 2011

NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFORMATION



International
Business
Forum o.s.
Slezská 63
130 00 Prague 3
Czech Republic



+420 242 454 747



+420 242 454 741



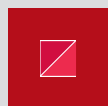
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MANY THANKS

The IBF is grateful to its Patrons, without whom the association would not be possible.



zātiši group

Spring is in the Air!

After one of the coldest and snowiest winters, it seems as if the first buds and signs of spring are in the air! With that in mind, the IBF is considering organizing a relay team or two for the upcoming Volkswagen Prague Marathon on Sunday, 8th May. As many of you are avid runners, we thought this would be a great way to bring you together and help you to get fit for the spring! If you are interested in taking part in a team, please send an email to info@ibforum.cz.

As a new event initiative for this year, the IBF will be featuring an 'Event of the Quarter' where we will invite a special international guest speaker for a dinner or similar, host a large gala event, or organize a conference or workshop on interesting and influential topics of the day. Our first 'Event of the Quarter', will be our 'Creative Leadership Seminar & Evening' with Miha Pogačnik, world-renowned classical concert violinist, keynote speaker and "cultural entrepreneur". This will be a very unique event and an opportunity to hear from a master in his field, who will discuss the 'art' of running a successful business and how business leaders can use creativity as a tool for organizational development to implement change.

Of course, some excellent events have already taken place this year, including our Annual New Year's Luncheon, attended by nearly 90 members and their guests! This was one of our most successful lunches to date and garnered quite a few new memberships. Then in February, we saw more than 70 people turning out for our first Women in Business Group Half-Day Seminar as a call to 'Stop Talking and Start Acting'. Please see the reverse side for more details and updates from this particular working group, which is gearing up for quite a productive year ahead!

Looking ahead, we have a few exciting events lined up, including an Airport Tour and Business Owners' Group event in April, a Real Estate Group Seminar in May, and our annual Summer Party which is sure to be another huge highlight.

Finally, to update you on the Membership Directory CD – this will soon go to print so please expect it in your post box in the coming weeks.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our next events and, as usual, feel free to email us with your ideas on how IBF can better assist you and your business!

With best regards,

The IBF Board

Monika Fraňková

Greg Gibb

Jan Grozdanovič

Jonathan Hallett

Martin Howlings

Jo Weaver

About Our Patrons



Next in our series of featured Patrons is Avestus Real Estate. Formerly the Quinlan Private Golub, Avestus is a leading real estate, development, property investment and

advisory group, focusing primarily on the dynamic markets of Central and Eastern Europe. The company is the full-service development arm of Avestus Capital Partners, a strong international real estate investor based in Ireland, owning and managing assets over a wide geographical area. Avestus Real Estate acts as a principal and advisor to Avestus Capital Partners, and a variety of third party investors in originating, structuring, financing, developing and managing a diversified portfolio of assets. In the CEE region, they have approximately two million square metres of commercial property under development, management or leasing advisory, and their core asset classes are residential, mixed-use, retail and office.

Recent Events

New Year's Luncheon

19th January, 2011, Mlync



Attended by nearly 90 members and guests, this was one of our most successful lunches to date! Jo Weaver presented a wonderful overview of the IBF's activities over the past year and gave a

sneak preview of what we can all look forward to in 2011. The event provided an excellent networking opportunity for members new and old, and even garnered quite a few new member companies, as well as our new Patron, the Augustine Hotel, as a result!

Spa & Cocktails

23rd January, 2011, Mandarin Oriental

The IBF hosted a unique evening networking event in the Spa at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel which was attended by over 20 members. During the evening, members had a chance to learn about the spa's services as well as the opportunity to discover their 'element' based on a survey of their moods and preferences. A wonderful buffet of canapés tailored to each elemental preference was offered, as well as many delicious cocktails and wines – all of this in the relaxed atmosphere that is the unique Mandarin Oriental experience!

Members' After-Work Drinks

25th February, 2011, The Augustine Hotel

To welcome our new member and Patron, the Augustine Hotel, the IBF hosted a February evening networking event in the unique space of the Brewery Bar. Over 20 members gathered to network over wine & canapés and even had a surprise visit by Sir Rocco Forte himself, who was in town on the evening. This will surely be the first of many more events to come in this beautiful hotel!

IBF Working Groups

As you may or may not know, the IBF has a number of working groups that are run for its members, by its members, who then meet to discuss ideas for seminars, materials and other initiatives that relate to their own particular working group. To get involved with one or more of them, or to propose a new working group, please email info@ibforum.cz. The current list of working groups is as follows:

- Marketing
- Best Business Practices
- Mentoring
- Business Owners
- Women in Business
- Real Estate

New Members

We are pleased to have been able to welcome several new IBF members during the first few months of 2011. They are:

- Hotel Barcelo Old Town Praha
- Michael Stimson
- Janka Chudlíková
- ASB Prague, s.r.o.
- The Augustine Hotel
- Clifford Chance LLP
- Krajiček & Associates
- Silvia Codes Gutierrez
- Pederson & Partners
- Holmes Place

Women in Business Half-Day Seminar

2nd February, 2011, President Hotel

In response to the numerous 'hot' topics discussed at our past Women in Business Group lunches, we decided to 'stop talking and start acting' in the form of a half-day seminar, which included a surprise 'Speed Networking' session to kick off the morning, presentations by Kimberli Lewis, CEO of Mediatel, and Marta Guthova, Senior Executive Director of Prague Airport, and concluding with a panel debate and discussion. Nearly 70 women and men attended, with the momentum already building strongly in the form of quite a bit of press coverage and an active working group that is now seeking to really identify the main challenges for women in business in the Czech Republic. Next steps include a broader survey to be sent to Czech business men and women with a view to lobbying government to change outdated and ineffective Czech maternity laws.



If you have any queries or comments regarding the IBF please do not hesitate to contact us.



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