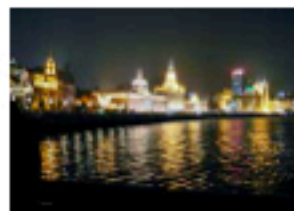


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Category: Recycling

BIR meets in Shanghai



The World Recycling Convention & Exhibition held in the dynamic city of Shanghai from 27-29 May concluded successfully. Over 1100 recycling professionals from 57 countries converged in Shangri-La for the leading international convention. The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) has proven to be one of the best international business forums for the recycling industry offering a platform for business networking and reliable market information. A lot of in-depth information was shared during the plenary sessions.

General Assembly: Tribute to BIR's outgoing Director General Francis Veys

Francis Veys was recognised and honoured for his invaluable contribution to the organisation's growth at the General Assembly on May 28. He steps down from his position as BIR's Director General on August 31 this year and will be succeeded by BIR's current General Manager Alexandre Delacoux, who joined the Brussels-based body in 2012.



Francis Veys

Veys' contribution to BIR over the course of 38 years, including more than three decades as the head of the Brussels secretariat, drew praise from many speakers, including a heartfelt vote of thanks from BIR's re-elected World President Björn Grufman at the General Assembly. "He has always been the man behind the scenes and not a diva in the spotlight - the mastermind behind the organisation as it is today," stated Grufman.

Among Veys' many skills, he had been 'a perfect diplomat' and a 'multi-tasker' who had represented the recycling industry 'in a proactive way', in Grufman's view. Under the Veys stewardship, BIR's membership had tripled.

In his speech, the outgoing Director General listed all of the BIR Presidents whom it had been his 'pleasure and honour to serve'. He offered a special thanks to his team at the Brussels secretariat and to his family. Veys will continue to work with BIR in an advisory capacity.

Another recycling industry personality was honoured at the General Assembly was Ma Hongchang, who until recently was Vice-Secretary General of the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association Recycling Metal Branch (CMRA).

Keynote Session:

Chandran Nair advocates a sustainable approach for development in Asia

At BIR's Keynote Session, guest speaker Chandran Nair, CEO of the Global Institute for Tomorrow, argued that the 6bn Asians who would be inhabiting the planet by 2050 cannot aspire to the lifestyles of the Western world's current middle class; "This is not possible" as sufficient resources would not be available.



Chandran Nair

"We need to look at things very differently," he stressed. In his view "the 21st century will be a century of austerity". "We need to understand that economic activity needs to be subservient to protecting the natural systems... In this part of the world, we will need to challenge the primacy of the individual as king," Nair said, adding that collective welfare should be put ahead of individual rights. In conclusion he said resource pricing would become the "core political debate of our times" and ultimately in Asia we have to "redefine prosperity".

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