

GLOBAL ACADEMIC CONGRESS SOON IN PARAMARIBO

In mid June 2008, about 100 MBA'ers from different MBA institutions throughout the world will descend in Paramaribo to take part in the annual Congress of the IMDA – the International Management Development Association. This 17th Annual World Business Congress, from 18 to 22 June 2008, has as its theme: *Shared Responsibilities: Management Challenges in an Environment of Increasing Global Concerns*. The FHR Lim A Po School of Management will act as host, together with the Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands.

This Theme also gives directly an important dimension of the Congress to: 'important social topics nowadays quickly become global issues', the recognition of which in 1987 actually led to the establishment of the IMDA. The theme will be discussed from different sides. Participating academics will have submitted their projects or papers in advance for approval, whereby each of these will be classified under one of the 32 sub theme of the Congress. There will be then 32 theme groups, each with 2 persons as Chairman and co-Chairman to whom the papers will be forwarded and who will then judge them for suitability for presentation and discussion during the Congress.

Academics from Suriname will participate in 5 theme groups. These are Dr. Jack Mencke: "Entrepreneurship across Cultures", Dr. Rudi van Kanten: "Global Management Development across Cultures", Dr. Wim Jansze: "Global Technology Transfer", Dr. Jan Mol: "Global Business Challenges and Perspectives for the Future," and Dr. Paul Ouboter: "Global Environmental Concerns and Social Responsibility".

The Congress will consist of speeches, symposia around different papers, case study presentations and panel discussions between executives from the government and private enterprise. Furthermore, there are special sessions, for example for the distribution of 'awards' to the "most outstanding international business person of the year" and 'the international business dean' plus a festive and official dinner to celebrate academic and fraternal success.

THE BEGINNING:

It began in 1987 with the establishment of the IMDA in the American State of Pennsylvania, during which the founders saw the necessity of an interdisciplinary and global platform for exchanging of ideas to arrive at a growth of expertise to deal with issues which could no longer be effectively tackled nationwide. The need for this made itself felt in different sectors of the society: by political leaders, managers, scientific investigators, management experts and others with a different knowledge and relationship aspect. In addition to this, it was namely on one hand about knowledge and transfer of knowledge, but on the other hand, dealt with entering into relationships with academics, public administrators, managers et al, mutually as well as with international organizations including the ILO, FAO, OECD, and the like. In the common ground of these contacts a databank of experts is kept up to date, consultancy projects are identified – wherever in the world, as well as specific priority areas for global attention of scientific investigation. The global institutions need knowledge, and MBA-ers need a view of the places where the most effective and ambitious of them can make their presence felt.

INTERACTIVE:

In 1992, in Halifax, Canada the IMDA started with its annual congresses, and since then in different parts of the world; the most recent one being held last year in Maastricht, where 4 MBA graduates of the FHR Lim A Po School of Management participated successfully. Each annual Congress has its own theme, in which the different functional areas of entrepreneurship are always offered, such as management, finance, accounting, marketing, information systems and so on.

Through Suriname, in the line of subjects for this year specific themes have been added, including diversity, (both cultural and biological) and the supervision of the process of combating poverty.

The FHF Lim A Po School of Management is delighted about the interactive events of this entity: It is executing the Congress, but is also participating in the content of the debate, and hopes that the fact that the Congress is taking place in Suriname means that Suriname is not only a participant within this Congress, but also can provide a stimulant by approaching and tackling the existing social economic and societal problems. In the meantime Suriname wins recognition, which can be beneficial for its own further development.