



Congress Update



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Toward the end of October 1997 two important Accounting congresses took place in Paris, France. The first congress, the 8th World Congress of the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER), was held from 23-25 October 1997 at the Paris School of Management. The IAAER is the world body that represents the interests of

Accounting educators and researchers. The theme of the congress was "The Changing World of Accounting: Global and Regional Issues." Given the rapid social, political, technological and economic changes occurring in all parts of the world, it was felt that accounting educators should come together to share their views on how accounting education in their country and/or part of the world is or should be responding to change. The congress was attended by approximately 700 delegates and nearly 200 papers, of varying quality, were presented in plenary, parallel and panel sessions and in a research forum. The incoming president of the IAAER, Prof Bel Needles from De Paul University, Chicago, said in his closing address that the shorter term goals of the Association are to pursue closer relations with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), to draft a discussion paper on ethics and to improve communication between Accounting educators world-wide through the use of technology.

The second congress, the XVth World Congress of Accountants, was held from 26-29 October at the

Palais de Congrès de Paris. This IFAC congress is held every five years and this congress attracted 4 600 delegates from over sixty countries, with the largest delegations from France, Japan and Russia. The congress was organised into three plenary sessions and a number of workshops on issues as far ranging as ethics, environmental accounting, information technology, value creation, standard setting and educational trends. The key note speaker James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, concluded an exceptional address by saying that "a distinguishing mark of a profession is the acceptance of its responsibility to the public." He urged accountants world-wide to accept this moral and ethical responsibility by assisting in the combating of crime and corruption, in the improvement of corporate governance, in the development of public sector management and accounting, and by providing support to education. The congress was concluded, under very tight security measures, by an address by Mr Jacques Chirac, the President of France. The next IFAC world congress will be held in 2002 in Hong Kong. □



Attending the IAAER Gala evening were: **Back:** Daan van der Schyff, Pretoria Technicon, Jeff Rowlands, University of Port Elizabeth. **Middle:** Geoff Everingham, University of Cape Town, Pieter Koortzen, Vaaldriehoek Technicon, **Carolina Koornhof**, University of Pretoria, **Front:** Keith Prinsloo, University of Port Elizabeth, Lesley Stainbank, University of Natal, Lucas van Vuuren, PAAB, Vida Botha, Wits Technicon