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WFDB Presidents' Meeting begins in Dubai

Dubai, UAE: April 11, 2011 – The 2011 Presidents' Meeting of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) began on Monday with meetings of the Trade and Promotion, Judicial and Executive Committees.

WFDB President Avi Paz, and members of the Trade and Promotion Committee, expressed their deep sorrow over the sudden death on Friday of committee chairman Freddy Hager. President of the London Diamond Bourse, Hager also served as WFDB deputy-treasurer. Mr. Paz mandated vice chair Suresh Hathiramani, president of the Diamond Exchange of Singapore, to take over as acting chairman, and Hathiramani asked Rami Baron, president of the Diamond Dealers Club of Australia, to serve as vice chair.

The Trade and Promotion Committee discussed the strengthening of the WFDB Mark, the quality mark of the WFDB, used by some 1,250 bourse members worldwide. They also debated the introduction of the WFDB Retail Mark that will soon be launched in the downstream market.

The meetings started under unusual circumstances. Many of the arriving delegates and participants to Dubai's airport had either experienced a very bumpy ride or were hours late as their planes were diverted to other airports in the region, due to an unusually strong, three-hour long rain-and thunderstorm that lit up Dubai's skies, providing spectacular lightshows for residents, but also seriously flooded the city's streets and highways, causing numerous cars to skid and collide.

Participants attended a cocktail reception that was held in the hotel at the end of the day. The official opening of the WFDB 2011 Presidents' Meeting will take place on Tuesday April 12.

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