

# FIABCI: The Name for International Real Estate

BY GLENN WINFREE, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-EC

Sixty years ago, a group met in Paris and formed an organization that has become synonymous with professionalism in the field of international real estate. FIABCI is the acronym for “Fédération Internationale des Administrateurs de Biens et Conseils Immobiliers,” or as we know them, The International Real Estate Federation.

In the near future, IRWA will announce a formal affiliation with FIABCI. It is important for any organization to grow, and especially so for IRWA. Reaching out beyond existing boundaries will help the Association stay true to its goals and ideals.

New relationships always bring new opportunities to broaden our horizons. To introduce our new friends and help everyone get acquainted, here are a few facts:

- The FIABCI family encompasses over 2,000,000 professionals worldwide.
- They are a global advocate for property rights being fundamental to economic systems.
- They have chapters in over 60 countries and are comprised of over 125 national real estate associations.
- They are devoted to all real estate specialties and activities.
- FIABCI has been a Non-Governmental Consultant to the United Nations since 1954.
- Their Environmental Foundation works to foster awareness of global environmental stewardship.

- Their Scholarship Foundation provides aid to students studying in the field of international real estate at a number of colleges such as the University of Cambridge, University of Western Sydney and Cornell University.
- The Global Housing Foundation (a joint effort of FIABCI and the United Nations) recently launched a \$250 million global housing initiative.

Since its inception, FIABCI has expanded its reach through a number of membership categories, including major universities, public sectors, multi-national corporations, individuals, students and academics.

A true global organization, FIABCI has developed a significant relationship with the United Nations. Their Non-Governmental Consultant status allows them to align with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which serves as a central forum for discussing international economic and social issues. Given their involvement and exposure to this venue, FIABCI provides input for formulating policy recommendations on global issues and problems. FIABCI also participates with the UN Center on Human Settlements in an effort to address housing problems and is an active member of the United Nations Real Estate Advisory Group.

As right of way professionals, we understand that every developed country has innumerable real estate and property market issues from which we can all learn and benefit. Affiliating with other professionals will open doors, not only for new business and networking opportunities, but in giving IRWA

members more opportunities to grow and learn. Professional development and lifelong learning—IRWA’s core mission—can be better realized through such affiliations.

While IRWA stays focused on advancing education and professional development, it is also expanding its footprint on the globe in an effort to provide members with new opportunities and stimulate growth. At the 2009 Annual Conference, the attendees expanded well beyond Canada and the United States to include representatives from Japan, South Africa, Thailand, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and Uganda. Our growing membership and an ever widening network of professional contacts cannot help but make us all better at what we do.



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With over 25 years of real estate experience in right of way and commercial/residential brokerage, Glenn is a Senior Right of Way Representative with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC. A member of IRWA’s International Utilities Committee, Glenn has expertise in transmission right of way acquisition, land assemblage and site disposal involving environmental contamination.