

2nd Tourism Conference

The five bilateral Chambers: American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, British-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, French-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, German-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Italian-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce of Thessaloniki, convened the 2nd Tourism Conference on March 27 at the “I. Vellidis” Conference Center in Thessaloniki titled: “High Added Value Tourism.”

The Conference reaffirmed the tourism industry’s pivotal role in the local economy and sought ways of improving services while increasing per capital expenditure. The panels focused on upgrading the total tourist experience by improving key infrastructure aspects and exploring superior added value tourism forms, most notably health and well-being tourism. Furthermore, the inseparable relationship of technology and tourism and general market developments were discussed.

The Conference was attended by more than 400 participants, including members of the 5 Chambers, businesspeople, consultants, bankers, academics, students, high ranking executives of the relevant political and administrative authorities and the overwhelming majority of the local tourism community.

Grand sponsors of the Conference were: Google, Hellenic Seaways, KPMG, Piraeus Bank and Visa, sponsors: American College of Thessaloniki, Aktor Facility Management, Alpha Bank, Athens International Airport, Greek Water Airports, Ellinair, Embryolab, Eurobank, Halkidiki Tourism Organization, Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort, The MET Hotel, Noisis, Vimar and White Water West, supporters: AXA Insurance, TIF-Helexpo, Dimakis, ICAP, Xanthakis, and contributors: EZA and Triton.



SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS APOSTOLOS TZITZIKOSTAS GEORGIOS TZIALLAS



SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS, FOTEINI EMIR, ELIAS SPIRTOUNIAS, ANDREAS STYLIANOPOULOS



DR. SUSAN MADSEN

WIB LEADER LUNCHEON

The Women in Business (WIB) Committee of the Chamber hosted the 8th Women Leader Luncheon with Dr. Susan Madsen, Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership & Ethics and Professor of Management, Utah Valley University, on April 3 at the King George Hotel. Professor Madsen discussed building, bridging and blazing pathways for women in leadership. She challenged the audience to help themselves and other women, and to acknowledge their ability to lead, calling upon male-dominated institutions and businesses to understand the advantage of gender balance in the workforce. Social norms, she said, are a reason women tend to “step back instead of lean forward” when it comes to facing their male counterparts throughout their career. Revealing both internal and external challenges women face regarding leadership roles, Professor Madsen argued that it is “unacceptable for women not to help women,” stating that change will only come through raising awareness and being part of a solution as individuals. See more on page 20.

ANASTASIA SIDERI



Athens Tax Forum

The Chamber and its Taxation Committee convened the 13th Athens Tax Forum, attended by almost 500 delegates, under the title: The Tax System: Growth Incentive or Competitive Disadvantage?, on April 10 at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel. Chamber President Simos Anastasopoulos welcomed the delegates to what has become Greece’s premier event on taxation issues. This year’s event drew a record number of delegates. Speakers shared their insights and discussed good governance proposals in view of planned tax measures, both temporary and structural, aimed to secure fiscal stabilization and trigger economic growth in Greece, entrenched in a deep and prolonged economic crisis. The Athens Tax Forum 2017, according to the Chairman of the Chamber’s Taxation Committee, Stavros Kostas, was designed to offer delegates first-hand knowledge of crucial taxation issues and provided a decisive platform for high-level dialogue between the public and the private sectors in Greece. Delegates included distinguished state officials, taxation experts, high level finance executives, accountants, consultants, professors, attorneys, decision and policy makers, members of the Greek business community and members of the press.



STAVROS KOSTAS, GEORGE PITSILIS, SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS

GEORGE PITSILIS



JOHN PERLEPES, KONSTANTINOS BITSIOS, ATHANASSIOS SAVVAKIS, SOCRATES LAZARIDIS

WIB Workshop



GEORGE DERVAKOS

The WIB Workshop, Building Resilience – Powerful Skills To Let You Thrive, took place on May 8 at Deree – The American College of Greece. Participants had the opportunity to partake in a dynamic hands-on workshop on building resilience. George Dervakos, Founder of The Art of Learning International (TAOLIN), introduced practical tools and resources on understanding and building resilience on both a professional and personal level and developing a personal resilience plan.



DIMITRIS VITSAS

DOING BUSINESS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

The Seminar, “Doing Business with the U.S. Government,” organized by the Chamber in collaboration with AUSA (Association of the U.S. Army) Europe and the General Secretariat for Defense Equipment and Investments (GDDRG-GHMDA), was held on April 7 at the Thessaloniki Guard Officers Club.

Lecturers were Messrs. Eric Lien, President, Association of the United States Army, European Region and Roberto Tomaiuolo, President, Association of the United States Army, Mediterranean Chapter. The seminar was attended by 25 representatives of Greek defense industries and industries from the broader business sector who gained in-depth knowledge on the US public procurement procedures.

ROBERTO TOMAIUOLO



ATHANASSIOS KOUMITZIS



5th Exposec Defense Conference

Guest speakers at the 5th Exposec DefenseWorld Conference, hosted by the Chamber and Symeon Tsomokos SA, discussed the challenges and advantages Greece bears in terms of national defense, at the Hellenic Armed Forces Officer's Club, May 3.

Minister of National Defense Panos Kammenos called for an upgrade of Greece's defense strategies. "The time has come for our national defense industry to modernize and respond directly to needs," he said.

As Greece faces a gamut of security challenges linked to illegal actions, U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt said that the country's position gives it the unique capacity to build bridges between mutual partners and strengthen collective defense. "Greece sits at the epicenter of these complex regional issues," Mr. Pyatt said. "That makes Greece the vanguard of Europe and the pillar of stability in dealing with issues that emanate from these regions."

"Indeed, our country is a pillar of stability, but in a difficult region characterized by instability, while neighboring countries are in a transitional phase regarding their political, economic and social systems," Deputy Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection Nikos Toskas said.

In his keynote speech, Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, highlighted some of the attributes of the Hellenic Navy and Airforce, which operates the largest fleet of F-16 fighter jets in the world.



PANEL DISCUSSION



LIEUTENANT GENERAL KONSTANTINOS TSOVALAS

Leadership Forum



ANTONIOS I. KERASTARIS, NIKOS NEGAS, ANASTASIA MAKARIGAKI, ARTEMIOS MIROPOULOS, DIMITIRS MAZARAKIS

The Chamber, in collaboration with its Leadership Committee, held its 1st Leadership Forum 2017, Talking with Young People: Business Opportunities and Entrepreneurship, on May 4 at Intralot's Innovation Center.

The event was marked by great success and more than 150 guests (young people from educational institutions both public and private) attended. At these events top manager and key business leaders inform

participants on challenges and opportunities regarding careers and promote their spirit of healthy entrepreneurship to help them plan their professional orientation.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Artemios Miropoulos, Chair of the Chamber's Leadership Committee, led a workshop on April 5 at the Athens Plaza Hotel that explored leadership values discussed in his book, *The Nameless King, Stories of Leadership from Ancient Greece*. The workshop focused on how storytelling is a key communication trait of leaders, who need to identify their own personal leadership values to pass on to and share with their teams. The workshop also allowed the participants to examine leadership stories from Ancient Greece to scrutinize moral choices that are both meaningful and consequential.

ARTEMIOS MIROPOULOS



CHAMBER CALENDAR

June 7 Athens, Hotel Grande Bretagne Discussion Workshop on Social Security-Business Environment –Labor Relations

June 12 Thessaloniki, Education Conference "Smart Moves"

June Southern Greece, TradeUSA Workshop

June 19-25 Washington – NY, Select USA 2017 & 6th U.S. Investment Forum

June 23-27 New York, Fancy Food Show/ Food Specialty (Retail)

June 28 Athens, Electra Metropolis Hotel Annual General Assembly

June/July Athens, Startup Tool kit launch