

NETWORKS

SPRING 2010

Taking the Reins

Every week, James Ruzon takes the reins, mounting up to ride American Saddlebreds, one of his favorite hobbies. In January 2010, he took another set of reins, as President of INPACT Americas for a two-year term. "After 25-years of enjoying the benefits as an INPACT Americas member and Board member," Jim says, "it was the right time for me to step forward and accept the challenge." It's one he looks forward to with enthusiasm and a keen interest in the issues facing accounting firms going into the next decade.



James Ruzon
President,
INPACT Americas

A Company Spurred On by INPACT

As managing partner of Wermer Rogers Doran & Ruzon, a CPA firm in Joliet, Illinois, James Ruzon is a bit of a rare breed among today's professionals, in that he's been with the same firm for 40 years. "I started with the company in 1969," he explains, "and we've been a member of INPACT Americas from nearly the beginning, joining the alliance in 1984. We were referred by an INPACT member, and it's been a real benefit to our business." Jim says WRDR tries to implement something new from the conference each year. "Nearly all of our management practices have come out of information we gained at INPACT seminars and meetings. Thanks to INPACT, we've stayed up to date with technology and changes in the accounting profession."

Jumping New Hurdles

Having taught accounting for 15 years at Joliet Junior College, Jim believes that today's accounting environment faces challenges unlike any before. "Because of the rapidly changing technology, everything moves at a faster pace and expectations are incredibly high. Clients sometimes seem to think we just push a button and have an answer. Computer systems and software aren't standardized from company to company, and just keeping up with the training can be difficult," he notes. "We

now see partners learning new programs at the same time as their staffs."

Making Hay

Jim says an important goal during his tenure will be to increase membership. "I would love to see participation from every state in the union," he reports, "and I also want to strengthen our ties with INPACT International and Asia Pacific." Jim believes a problem with typical professional associations is that people don't talk to strangers. "With INPACT, you really get to know the other members because there's so much interaction. I often call other members for assistance and, as you get to know them, it also presents opportunities to get involved in new areas of work."

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INPACT
A M E R I C A S

Richard A. Mehall,
Immediate Past President

A Look Back, A Step Forward

Truly Remarkable

When I began my term as president of INPACT, I already knew how supportive our members were. But over the past two years, I was astounded to find out how remarkable they really are. Devoted to their profession and to INPACT, the people who make up this organization give so much of their time to each other. I experienced this first hand when I had a complex issue arise and was unsure of how to handle it. After sending an SOS email, I received help from three different members. Each took the time to walk me through the process, saving me hours of research. We truly are a sharing group.

Beyond the Numbers

The past two years have been challenging ones for our country and, inevitably, associations like our own. While one of my incoming goals as president was to increase membership, this complicated economic atmosphere made the growth in numbers a difficult task. However, we did experience growth in awareness and understanding about the significance all members have on the future of INPACT.

During our spring 2008 bi-annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, we held a Strategic Planning Initiative that, I believe, set the tone for our future. A major step for our organization, this brainstorming session allowed up-and-coming firm

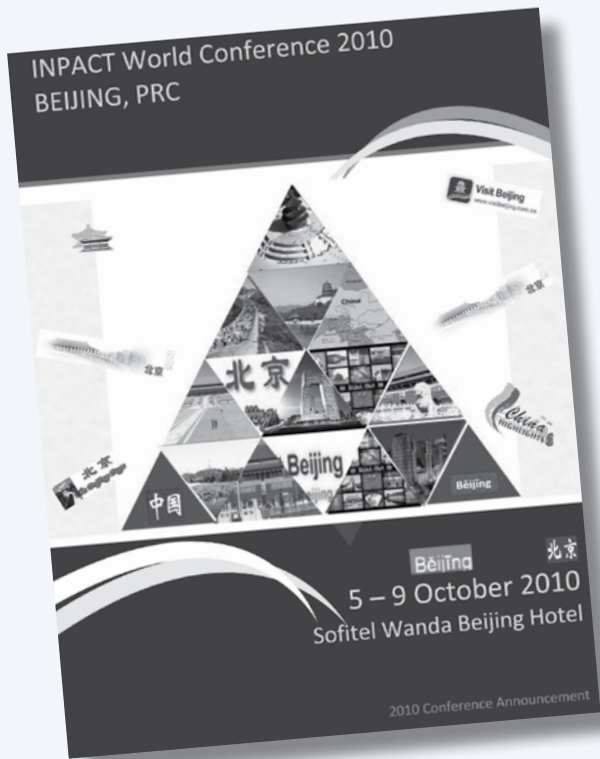
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DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA

INPACT World Conference 2010

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
October 5-9, 2010

Join your colleagues at the new, ultra luxurious Sofitel Wanda Beijing Hotel to learn about the business culture and protocol in mainland China, which is different from the business environment in Hong Kong. Gain insight into trading and foreign investment laws, import/export control and taxation under China's revised economic and trade regulations, and experience the beauty and vitality of this modern metropolis.



Group Events

Welcome Dinner and Reception
 INPACT "Ryder Cup" Golf Tournament
 Emperor's Banquet at Bai Family Mansion

Optional Tours (Delegates and Companions)

Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace
 Imperial Garden
 Lama Temple, Panda Garden, Olympic Venue

Optional Tours (Companions)

Hutong Rickshaw Tour & Dumpling Making
 Silk Market & Antique Bazaar
 Great Wall & Ming Tomb

For more information
Call +1-301-694-8580

or

Visit www.inpactgroup.com

Taking the Reins *continued*

Tall in the Saddle

At home in Shorewood with his wife, Dorothy, Jim is a grandfather of 6 who says he's been very blessed in his life. "I always wanted to give back to the community," he explains. "It makes me feel good, like I did when I was 12 and I helped my parents at church pancake breakfasts." A past president of the Joliet Exchange Club, a founding member of the Shorewood Exchange Club and a past district president of

the 31 Lincolnland District Exchange Clubs, Jim helps the group raise funds for the prevention of child abuse, as well as other local and national charities. He is chairman of the Exchange Club's Proudly We Hail program that honors businesses and individuals for flying the American flag, and he acts as chairman of the Lincolnland Exchange Clubs Foundation for Youth, which awards scholarships to deserving young people. He also serves as vice chair of Guardian Angel Community Services, an agency providing help to troubled children and

women in crisis. When his town needed a small, locally owned bank, Jim and 19 other people got together and started the People First Bank.

Hitting the Trail

Jim says he's looking forward to taking a lead role with the alliance that has been so important to his firm. "I truly believe in the value of INPACT Americas and look forward to working with all of you to keep INPACT vibrant and build its alliance worldwide."

NEW ONLINE TOOLS HELP MEMBERS COLLABORATE

If you haven't visited the site for a while, be sure to sign in, take a look around and discover all of the new features.

Improved Website Rolls Out with Exciting Capabilities

This spring, right after tax season, INPACT Americas launched its new and highly improved online member community that offers more capabilities and easy-to-use web-based functionality with the look and feel of a social community. If you haven't visited the site for a while, be sure to sign in, take a look around and discover all of the new features we've developed to help you share information, stay in touch with colleagues and take advantage of valuable information and resources.

Members Are Pre-Registered

The new online community is the place to be, and members have been pre-registered, so your existing profile information is already up and running. You should have received an e-mail with your login information, but in case you don't remember your password, it will be sent to you at the click of a button. Just look for the link on the left side of the home page under the login ("Email my Password"). Once you've logged in, you can update your member profile as often as you like.

Three Levels of Access

The member community has three access levels with varying levels of content available accordingly:

- Members
- Partners
- Managing partners

Managing partners can decide which staff in their firms can sign in at each level.

It's YOUR Community!

INPACT Americas' online member community is designed for collaboration based on member-generated content, so this is a great opportunity to post news about your firm, share documents and articles of interest to the profession, and participate in forums. Our expanded member directory allows you to designate your specialty areas of practice and find members with expertise in a particular niche. We are very pleased that Brett Flickinger has made his Marketing Minute blog available on the site and we encourage other members to develop blogs as well.

What You'll Find

- Easy to view, color-coded calendar of association and SIG events
- A member directory searchable by any field in the member profiles

- Member and industry news and alerts
- An electronic file cabinet for sharing documents
- Discussion forums where you can post messages and subscribe to receive posts on topics of interest
- Member blogs
- Details, links and downloads for our vendor affinity program
- A photo gallery from conferences and other events
- Complete INPACT conference publications for partners
- An area for suggestions and feedback to INPACT administration
- Special sections for groups and committees including news, forums, links and document sharing
- Printed summaries and audio recordings of SIG phone conferences
- Links to resources such as related businesses, publications, consultants and travel information

It Takes a Village

Make sure your staff takes advantage of the outstanding tools, helpful resources and upgraded functionality of our web community. And remember — it's the participation of our members that will make it thrive. Come visit today!

www.inpactam.org

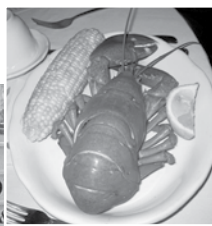
2009 CONFERENCES: THE LIGHTER SIDE



△ **Mary Ann and Don Ethridge — They're ready!**

BOSTON

▽ **Guido — Our Duck boat driver**



△ **The main attraction**

VIENNA



△ **Gala Evening**

Celebrating International's 20th Anniversary ▽



MACAU



△ **Informal cultural exchange in Macau**

SAN ANTONIO

◁ **David Wyatt "Earp" with Pistol Packin' Paula accepting Sharpshooter Trophy**



President Jim Ruzon and his First Lady Dorothy ▽



◁ **Stylish "Texans" Gary and Cathy Benware**

▽ **Some fancy two-steppin'**



A Look Back... *continued*

leaders (participants from the most recent leadership program), to give seasoned members an opportunity to hear perspectives from the younger membership. This not only opened our eyes to the possibilities of INPACT, but also made it clear that the involvement of all staff levels — from partners to each firm employee — is essential. INPACT is much more than simply a group of professional individuals; we're a united alliance, offering new ideas and resources that are crucial to our profession.



Richard A. Mehall
Past President
INPACT Americas

A Group Effort

My time as INPACT president was a great honor and surprisingly less complicated than I thought. When past president Gary Benware said, "Executive Director Mara Ambrose makes it easy", I couldn't agree more. Mara is always there and her experience is invaluable, as is that of the astute Board of Directors and our Coordinator of Member Services, Cathi Stanley.

As I look back on my term, I remember something I said in my welcome letter. I sent out a call to action — a call for us to share the INPACT story with other CPA's within our profession. We've seen that call answered abroad, with greater participation from INPACT International and INPACT Asia Pacific. In fact, attendance was up at global conferences in both San Francisco and Vienna, and we've received further cooperation and ongoing development with INPACT Audit.

I still believe that how much we gain as members of this organization is directly related to how much we contribute. Stay connected and get more involved. Take part in our special interest groups, use the new website Member Community as a resource and be absolutely sure to draw on each other's expertise. Like me, you will be astounded by the INPACT way.

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