



BRITISH CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN BELGIUM

PRESS RELEASE

British Chamber CSR Award

Having “set the bar at a new level for all of the British Chambers in Europe”, the British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium has received a new accolade - the COBCOE award for best Corporate Social Responsibility programme at the. Presenting the award, Tuesday at the prestigious RAC Club in London’s Pall Mall, the judges praised “the most impressive chamber of commerce programme of CSR activities (they) had encountered, and one which was entirely integrated in the chamber’s overall strategy”.

The award recognised the work of the British Chamber’s Sustainability and Shared Value task force providing practical advice to businesses, the integration of CSR concerns into a wide range of policy work, and the social and community engagement of the chamber including schools, volunteering and charitable fund raising.

Particularly high praise was reserved for the Brussels New Generation group (a platform for young professionals) and their event in aid of the Japan Disaster Relief Fund, which raised more than €5000 within 14 days of the disaster. Other charitable fund raising with the Brussels British Community Association (BBCA), especially the Duchess of Richmond’s Ball in June 2011, raised more than €15,000 for local charities.

Other notable projects included:

English@Work - providing English-language work placements in member companies for Dutch and English speaking students (from Sint Jan Berchmann’s College, Diest and the British School of Brussels) who undertake their placement together. This not only provides invaluable experiences for students but also brings together the international and host communities in a unique way.

Sustainable Design Conference and 5R Hero Design Awards - an entirely new award programme for design students across Europe. The best nine designers in three categories (home, work and leisure) had their designs converted into working prototypes by Dutch firm Smurfit Kappa and these were assessed by an audience of business people in November 2011.

“It is especially welcome to receive this CSR award. Building shared value for our members and the wider community is at the core of how the British Chamber does its work” said Glynis Whiting, President of the British Chamber.

Notes:

The British Chamber is the essential network for businesses of all nationalities in the heart of Europe. It is the only business network in Brussels that offers a neutral platform which is informal, trusted, diverse and truly international where business leaders can meet and exchange views and ideas with their peers, policy makers and other stakeholders.

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