

## Meeting with BIAAC Secretary General Mr. Tadahiro Asami

### Manufacturers Association of Israel offices

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

BIAAC Secretary General Mr. Tadahiro Asami came to Israel to participate in the Annual Meeting of the IOE Members that the Manufacturers Association of Israel (MAI) hosted in Tel-Aviv. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce the local work of BIAAC Policy Groups to a BIAAC official, and for the local representatives to meet the leader of the BIAAC Secretariat and other members from parallel policy groups. The meeting took place prior to the official opening session of the IOE Meeting in which Mr. Asami participated as a panelist in the Global Policies for Business panel.

More than a 20 representatives from the following policy groups attended the meeting: Taxation, Energy, Bribery & Corruption, Competition, Environment, Chemistry, SMEs, Corporate Governance, and Community Social Responsibility (CSR).

After a short introduction of the participants, MAI Foreign Trade Director Mr. Dan Catarivas introduced a presentation of MAI and its representatives' activity within the BIAAC Policy Groups and the OECD sphere throughout the last year. Since MAI's transformation from an observer status to a full member status, the number of MAI representatives in BIAAC Policy Groups rose from 15 to 49. MAI's participation and involvement in policy groups expanded from 7 to 23 policy groups during the abovementioned time period.



**Highlights from the recent year's action were also presented:** the local taxation committee's remarkable contribution and the role model it provides for other committees, the successful collaboration between MAI and the local NCP in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor (MOITAL) during the update process of the MNE Guidelines, contributions to the Green Growth Policy Paper and comments on the business environment in Russia for BIAAC's statement to the OECD, etc..

**MAI's short and long term objectives for the future were introduced:** engaging representatives in formal meetings of BIAAC Policy Group, launching a local website and database for local BIAAC representatives, Completing the extension process of the local Anti-Bribery Forum to Corporate

Governance & CSR Forum, engaging an Israeli speaker in the upcoming OECD Forum, nominating an Israeli chair / vice chair for a BIAC Policy Group, hosting a formal meeting of a BIAC Policy Group, etc.. One long-term objective that drew Mr. Asami's attention was hosting the General Assembly of BIAC in Israel.

Mr. Jonathan Lubick from Ballentine Barbera Group presented the work of the local BIAC taxation team under the leadership of Mrs. Henriette Fuchs throughout the last year. Relatively new representatives could get an impression of how a local policy group can work effectively and provide remarkable contribution to BIAC policy papers and consequently to the OECD and its members.

Secretary General Asami discussed BIAC's role in affecting the OECD policy, vis-à-vis the member countries and other possible entrants to the OECD. Mr. Asami discussed the recent update process of the MNE guidelines as an example of how BIAC's work can have substantial impact on enterprises worldwide, and how the business sector is increasingly becoming an influential factor in intergovernmental policy planning.



The open discussion session of the meeting focused on the challenges and the difficulties in the continuous work of BIAC policy groups; the difficulties in recruiting devoted representatives who work and attend meetings in Paris voluntarily, and adopting the working codes and the unique language of OECD paperwork. Mr. Asami acknowledged these difficulties, and expressed his view that in the course of time suitable representatives become more and more accustomed to the dynamics of the demanding task of being a BIAC representative.

The fact that a possible Chinese organization might join BIAC as an observer was also discussed, and a general approval to separate business and politics was expressed by the participants.

Mr. Asami then expressed his positive impression from Israel's achievements and amount of skills, and the little that he managed to see in the short period since his arrival on the previous day. He was overwhelmed by the amount of young people he saw in the vibrant streets of Tel-Aviv, and pointed that this is one of the aspects that provide Israel and its economy an advantage compare to other OECD countries.