

Gem Asia

Gem-A's Hong Kong Graduation and Awards Dinner 2007

The Gemmological Association of Great Britain held its second Hong Kong Graduation and Awards Dinner on 23 September. Timed to coincide with the Hong Kong Jewellery and Watch Fair, one of the world's largest jewellery shows. An important region for Gem-A, Asia provides 40% of its gemmology students and a consistently high level of passes.

(ICA) The evening started with drinks served in the terrace Podium gardens which, despite some initial concerns about a typhoon 1 signal being hoisted earlier in the day and some heavy rain, gave guests and students the opportunity to meet each other and relax in beautiful surroundings with views of Hong Kong harbour.

The Dinner was an international buffet to suit all tastes and preferences.

given at www.gem-a.info/hongkong.htm.

The Dinner was followed by the graduation ceremony and presentation of awards. The introduction was by Dr Jack Ogden who began by stressing the importance of Asia to Gem-A. With its high standard of gemmological education and rapidly developing gem and jewellery markets, Asia remains one of Gem-A's most important regions. He



Graduates and Gem-A tutors and principals gather on the stage.

The event was strongly supported by Gem-A graduates, students and members, and representations from Gem-A's Allied Training Centres (ATCs) from across Asia. It also attracted a wide range of important guests from the gem and jewellery industry including representatives from CIBJO (The World Jewellery Confederation) and the International Coloured Stone Association

The table prizes were very popular, one of which was a large umbrella donated by Charles and Colvard Ltd, which went down very well considering the weather. The main prize draw which included some very sought-after prizes attracted much attention. Among the prizes were books, gemstones and instruments, many of which were kindly donated, GAHK presented two membership subscriptions, and magazine subscriptions were donated by *Rapaport Diamond Report* and *Jewellery News Asia*.

The main sponsor for the evening was Dominic Mok FGA DGA from the Asian Gemmological Institute and Laboratory Ltd (AGIL). Supporters of the evening included Mimi Ou Yang Chiu Mei FGA of the Hong Kong Institute of Gemmology (HKIG), Feng Hsiu Yun FGA DGA of the Taiwan Earth Gemmological Inc. ATC, and Rosamond Clayton FGA, DGA, in London. Gem-A again thanks all sponsors, supporters and donors for their support of Gem-A and its Asian students. A more detailed list of donations and prizes is

congratulated all the graduates and prize winners present who came from Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Canada.

Jack announced that 2008 marked Gem-A's celebration of One Hundred Years of Gemmological Education, stressing that the planned year of events around the world was not simply part of The Gemmological Association of Great Britain, but a series of special occasions involving a wide range of gemmological institutions and organizations. This exciting centenary also gives Gem-A the opportunity to look at how the Association can provide gemmological education for the gem and jewellery industry in the next hundred years. Gem-A courses are renowned worldwide for their depth and quality, but student life-styles are changing, modern media are opening up new markets and opportunities, and Jack went on to confirm that Gem-A would neither lower its standards nor those expected of its students. The prestige of having a Gemmological Association of



