



**Arja Vilanko**  
**#45425**  
**President 2009-2010**

## Report 4 for the Board Meeting on 10th April 2010

### RAINBOW – GATEWAY TO THE NEXT DECADE

Our journey on the Rainbow Bridge continues. The Spring stop - Kuusamo - invites us to experience the Northern Lights and the magic of Finnish Lapland - a magnificent wilderness. At this time of the year the snow covered landscape changes colour from the deep blue of twilight to the bright golden spring sun. Ruka area, our gateway to excitement and adventure, is one of the biggest attractions in Kuusamo. Senators Hannu Virranniemi and Harri Heiskanen, with help of other Senators and Jaycees of the Kuusamo chapter, have worked hard to ensure we all have unforgettable moments in the Winter Wonderland of Ruka.



The Board held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in February's sunshine of Athens. A brief report on this marvellous Greek weekend can be found in the latest e-Bulletin at [www.jcisenate.eu](http://www.jcisenate.eu) > "Communication". The minutes of our Board meeting are available there under "Minutes". The executive committee of the Board also had a group meeting with ASE President 1971-1972 Bart van Tets and EC2011 Tarragona SOC member Ana María Bañolas García concerning the Pre-Tour which Bart has offered to organise. We also witnessed a ceremony where an old Jaycee veteran received his Senatorship. Athens really offered us opportunities to develop our links with Jaycees and Senators as our Board meeting coincided with a weekend for Hellas Jaycees and prospective members. It helped us carry out one of our goals - "Crossing the Bridges" - building a "Rainbow Connection". We were lucky to get some Greek rain, too, because without rain, there will be no rainbow. I am very grateful to Senators Costas Varsos and Penelope Papakonstantopoulou for their tremendous job and kind hospitality which made our ASE weekend such a memorable event. In addition, I want to thank all Board members and Senators, local and foreign who were able to be present. We had lots of fun together, "United, but not Uniform", singing the ASE Board Song and dancing to Greek music.

After Athens, Ambassador Margaretha Eriksson and I attended the European Presidents' Meeting (EPM) in Riga, a city difficult to resist with its romantic, old bridges and "The Sun Museum" with its collection of different sun shaped objects. I went to some meetings with representatives of JCI Board of Directors and on the special programme for Senators. As many of the Senators were from Russia the language on the tours was mostly Russian. World President Roland Kwemain was very inspiring when talking about his theme "a Year of Change". I had the pleasure of sitting next to him at the Gala dinner. The highlight of the evening was the "JCI Latvia Senate Opening". Three new Senatorships were awarded. The event was very well organised thanks to our Senate friends Aldis Alliks, Ilze Augstkalne, Didzis Simis, Kaija Silaraja and Viesturs Sterns.

In March I stayed in Finland as March is the Finnish Conference month. We had four Area Conferences in different parts of the country. Several Senatorships were given. A considerable amount of time has also been spent preparing for the Springboard Meeting in Kuusamo and planning for the EC2010 in Aarhus, Denmark. Our Board meeting in Kuusamo will focus on arrangements for Aarhus - AGM, Senators and First Timers

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programmes, upcoming elections and the plans of the incoming President - what is the vision of the Board for the future. In addition, on the agenda there are some unfinished items and the WC Osaka ([www.jcisenate.eu](http://www.jcisenate.eu) > Minutes).

Since my February report I have been in close contact with IPP Clare Ashton, Liaison Officer 2010 Aarhus Aud Schjødt Fredriksen, Deputy President Francis Defauw and Bart van Tets on planning issues. In addition, I have been in touch with Joint Board Secretary Mary Sawyer, John Moreno, ASAC President, Victor Wong, ASPAC President, Kalada Apiafi, ASAME Secretary and William Tay, ASEAN President. The ASAC will have its annual electronic forum with the topic "Support of the ASAC JCI Senate to a country affected by a natural disaster" at the beginning of April. The ASEAN has a JCI SENATE *eBiz* directory where European Senators can register their business or company that they work for, and whatever services they wish to promote in the ASEAN region. I am one of their moderators so please contact me if you want to participate or register! This is one way to create stronger links between European Senators and Senators from other areas, and so to carry out one of our goals - closer contacts with other area Senates. I have also been in contact with Peter Luginbühl, Chairman of the First Timers Programme and Jamila El-Abed, Liaison Officer 2011 Tarragona. Board Members have also been actively involved.

In January we were saddened by the news of the passing away of Per Dubienko, Senator # 39133, former ASE Board member. In February we were equally sad to learn about the passing away of Ernest Büttikofer, Senator # 29311, past ASE President. They will be greatly missed by their international friends.

Our next Board meeting after Kuusamo will be held during the European Conference in Aarhus, the City of smiles, in Denmark, the Fairytale Land. The organisers will focus on green energy and innovation, and the challenges of being a leader in a Green World. They want us to Explore, to Learn and to Share. Whilst there are still some details to be finalised, I am sure that the EC2010 will be a memorable occasion. Mirella Castellano, Chairman of the Senate Organising Committee and Charlotte Velling, her assistant, have worked hard to give us the best possible arrangements.

After Kuusamo I am attending the JCI Americas Conference in Rosario, Argentina and, at the turn of the month, the 23<sup>rd</sup> German Senate Conference in Munich, Germany. Then it's time to have the traditional Senate Luncheon with my fellow Duck Senators in our usual restaurant in Turku.

Before the European Conference in Aarhus my travel plans include:

May	12-15	JCI Africa & Middle East Conference	Abuja, Nigeria
June	03-06	JCI Asia-Pacific Conference	Singapore

If you have an event in April or May that you would like me to come to, please let me know and add extra colour to the remainder of my Presidential year.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Kuusamo admiring beautiful Lapish nature and experiencing great teamworking abilities of dogs and other local farm animals - perhaps we can even spot "Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer"! All this with Senators from different countries, JC Kuusamo members and representatives of the city - according to our goals. The best memories are those shared with Rainbow friends. You will have exciting moments and lots of new adventures. Let Loose and ....

Let the Sunshine In,

Yours sincerely,

JCI Senator # 45425