



Dear AIJA Members

It is that time again, another E-Zette is flying in. It has been some time and we have been working hard on the new look and feel, trying to make it more comfortable for you to read and access everything that is inside.

In this edition you will find many items that should spark your interest I hope. Amidst all the exciting news and retrospectives from the Paris Congress you will find a few first-timers impressions. Culturally different, to say the least, but nonetheless reflecting very much the growing image of AIJA in light of an increasing global presence.

We thus included news from Pakistan in our international section, courtesy of Waheed Ahmad, whom many of you have met during the Congress. In addition to the many pictures, and those of you who were not among the lucky ones of being in Paris, we included the report on the Parmalat Affair, courtesy of Giuseppe Scotti.

In other news, of course everyone is getting ready to fly to sunny Rio de Janeiro soon and I hope to see many of you lounging around the Copacabana, singing Barry Manilow classics with a Pina Colada in their hand. From a management point of view, Rio will be a milestone in the preparation of the renewed

strategy. We have and will continue to work hard on satisfying our members' needs. The membership survey launched earlier this year was indeed very helpful in formulating immediate goals and we are currently putting the results into a format to be published in the next E-Zette.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

In addition, we are currently in the last steps of testing the new AIJA webportal with improved functionality, including blogs, news feeds and other fun items. Due to some logistical challenges which had to be overcome first, the preliminary launch date had to be postponed from the Paris Congress to our Rio Conference, but this time the date is set, the countdown is running and we are looking forward to an exciting new era of AIJA online.

In connection hereto, the new membership database 'BlueSky' is now ready to use and the cut-off date of its online presentation is scheduled for the 1st January 2009, when much increased functionality will make all our lives a lot easier. Until then, you will of course have access to all your membership data online as before.

Naturally, any suggestions are always welcome, we are happy to be in touch with members and hear your thoughts. As usual, if you

think you may have something interesting to contribute and share with others, please be in touch with **Faty Chaoui** (fchaoui@aija.org) our Communications Manager here in Brussels in charge of the website, the E-Zette and E-Flash. She, as well as our new AIJA Co-Editors Jean-Philippe Jacob and Cristelle Albaric, will be happy to guide you through the process of publishing something either online or as part of a mailing.

The same goes of course in case of organizing events. Do be in touch with **Anne Degimbe** (adegimbe@aija.org), our Events Manager, if you haven't had the chance to talk to anyone from the LCC yet. She will be happy to coordinate the efforts and remind everyone to send in text and images from past events to be put in our publications.

Well, this is it then. We hope you enjoy the reading and see many of you soon again at an AIJA event around the world.

Christoph Raudonat
AIJA Executive Director