

Minister for Labour Affairs, Dara Calleary, presents Diplomas to
FIATA Diploma students in Malahide, Co. Dublin



FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding Graduates 2009

Back Row: Dave Gorman (Gorman & Associates), Andrew Trala (BG Freight), John Dawson (Bell Transport), Kevin Blake (Freighteam), Colm Walsh (CEO IIFA), Ziggy Szymanski (BG Freight), Joaquin Lourenco (TDG), Jamie O'Reilly (TDG), John Kiernan (TDG), Brett Gourlie (TDG), Georgina Dandy (DHL)

Front Row: Alice Carthy (TDG), Beata Kubanek (Woodland International), Andrew Wilkinson (Curtis & Lees), Alex Tailame (Woodland International), Vincent Brennan (IIFA President), Minister Dara Calleary, Nadine McCarney (DHL), Sophie Guttierrez (DHL), Steven Kelly (Newvent Ltd)

On Tuesday 6th October 2009, Dara Calleary T.D Minister for Labour Affairs, presented graduates of the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding with their diploma certificates at a presentation ceremony held in the Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

In total, 23 participants undertook the study of the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding between November 2008 and June 2009. The course, which was delivered by the Irish International Freight Association, was supported by International Trade Skillnets.

“I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Irish International Freight Association and the International Trade Skillnet for their foresight and hard work in developing this innovative course and of course to the course participants themselves for their dedication and talent in achieving the Diploma,” said Minister Calleary. “The challenge for Irish-based businesses now and over the coming period will be to maintain competitiveness through innovation and investment in the training and up skilling of their workforce. It is evident to me that the International Trade Skillnet and IIFA are “on the right road” in this respect.”

IIFA CEO Colm Walsh also had praise and thanks to offer the graduates by saying “I congratulate each and every one of you in attaining this FIATA Diploma. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the belief and confidence you have shown in your Association, by taking on this course last year and to compliment you on the dedication and application you have demonstrated over the length of the course. That dedication and application has been demonstrated by the results in that all of you have attained the Diploma.”

The FIATA Diploma presentation ceremony was well attended by 50+ individuals. Representatives from both Chambers Ireland and Skillnets were present for this event, along with the IIFA Council and representatives from the Irish Exporters Association and the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport.

The second FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding by Blended Learning will commence on Wednesday 14th October 2009 and conclude on Tuesday 29th June 2010.

Full details of the structure of the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding course are available on the Irish International Freight Associations website www.iifa.ie

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About the IIFA

The IIFA is the sole representative body and official voice of the freight forwarding sector in Ireland. Established in 1962, it currently has 100 members who collectively employ more than 3,000 people and handle more than 90% of Ireland's €148 billion international merchandise trade.

Through its membership of the Customs Consultative Committee (CCC) and Trade Facilitation Ireland (TFI) the association participates in discussions on local issues affecting international trade. Representation at international level is conducted through IIFA's membership of FIATA.

The association's overall aim is to ensure that the concerns of members and their clients are heard and acted upon, thus ensuring that the flow of physical trade between Ireland and the rest of the world is as efficient and cost-effective as possible.

About the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding

The FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding was delivered by the Irish International Freight Association between November 2008 and the end of June 2009. Over that time participants undertook the study of nine areas pertinent to the Freight Forwarding Industry.

The course was delivered through a system of Blended Learning, a combination of class-room and distance learning. Monthly tutorials were held for the introduction of each of the nine modules but the greater part of the workload was undertaken by the participants studied the notes in their own time.

The Blended Learning approach offers advantages to both firms and participants, as there is no interference with work attendance during the course and participants can study in their own time and at their own pace.

This is an internationally recognized qualification accredited by FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarder's Associations, based in Zurich, Switzerland.

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