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Media Contact: Meg Byers
mbyers@fwv-us.com

IGI LAUNCHES TWO ASSOCIATIONS

Italy Association to represent IGI's robust education offerings and Italy Alumni Association to promote professional relations

NAPLES (June 12, 2017) – The International Gemological Institute (IGI) will launch two new associations this week during a one-day workshop to update attendees on the technical and commercial impact on the jewelry industry, taking into consideration the impact of synthetic diamonds in the marketplace.

The workshop will be held this Wednesday, June 14th, at the renovated Centro Orafo (Jewelry & Goldsmith Center) in Caserta, which is located roughly 30km north of Naples where around 100 jewelry manufacturers operate. It will be held under the banner of the International Gemological Institute (IGI) Italy Association, which gathers the five territorial districts actively involved in implementing the programs of IGI's educational department in Italy. The Neapolitan District Custodian, Dr. Paolo Minieri, will act as master of ceremonies and patron. IGI's Association will represent the world's largest independent certification institute focused on gem and jewelry education in Italy.

The President elect, Dr. Minieri, a graduate gemologist from Naples, will be flanked by Mining Technical Engineer Luigi Costantini, also a graduate gemologist, who after his 20-year post as IGI's educational representative in Italy, has joined the Association as Honorary President and Coordinator and Liaison Officer.

Additionally, IGI's Italy Alumni Association will debut at the workshop, which will be open to not only IGI graduate gemologists, present and past students, gem cutters, gem lovers and gemstones dealers, but to all those bearing an interest in gems, gemology and related subjects. This Alumni Association will promote professional connections through devoted websites as well as through a bilingual (Italian and English) gemological review internationally distributed such as "Rivista Italiana di Gemmologia" (Italian Gemology Review).

At the conclusion of Wednesday's workshop, IGI Antwerp (Belgium) C.O.O. Deborah Pienica will confer titles upon the last group of IGI graduates in a dedicated ceremony.

To learn more about IGI's educational offerings and to see school locations, please visit www.igi.org. Please note, seminars and courses can be organized anywhere upon request.

About IGI

The International Gemological Institute (IGI) was established in Antwerp in 1975 and is the largest independent gemological laboratory and appraisal institute worldwide, with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Antwerp, Hong Kong, India, Bangkok, Tokyo, Dubai, Tel Aviv, Cavalese and Shanghai. In India, IGI has three laboratories in Mumbai and one each in Kolkata, New Delhi, Thrissur, Surat, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Hyderabad. IGI is ISO (International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001: 2000) certified in several countries. Around the world, IGI diamond grading and gemstone identification reports bring confidence

when buying or selling diamonds, gemstones and jewelry. Total commitment to understanding consumer concerns has motivated IGI to develop comprehensive analysis and clear documentation for consumers. An evaluation from IGI represents the all-important 5th C that no one should be without: Confidence. As the world's largest independent gemological laboratory and appraisal institute for diamonds, colored gemstones and jewelry, IGI is a standard of excellence, second to none, for industry professionals and consumers around the globe.