

IGI HOLDS INAUGURAL POLISHED DIAMOND GRADING CLASS IN GREECE

14 December 2010

The International Gemological Institute (IGI) has completed its first Polished Diamond Grading class in Greece, jointly organized with well-known Greek gemologist and former IGI student, George Spyromilios.

The six-day IGI Polished Diamond Grading Course was held November 14-19 in the center of Athens, at the Electra Palace Hotel, close to area jewelers and diamond dealers. Led by Jean Mangnay, IGI worldwide head of education, the course provided Athenian trade professionals with advanced knowledge of international grading standards.

Fourteen students learned how to grade clarity, color and cut of diamonds using diamond samples as well as gemological equipment, including microscopes.

Graduates of the course acquired skills with which to identify, grade and understand diamonds according to world grading and market standards. They were also awarded the IGI Diploma in Polished Diamond Grading.

Hailing from Athens, as well as other main cities such as Thessaloniki and Crete Island, the majority of students were jewelers who sought further education in an effort to increase sales.

"We at IGI recognize the importance of gemological education in burgeoning markets such as Athens," stated IGI Chief Executive Officer Roland Lorié. "Graduates from IGI's School of Gemology possess valuable skills that directly translate to consumer confidence - something IGI works persistently to ensure. We look forward to continuing to grow our educational offerings in Greece and globally."

IGI says it plans to hold a second Polished Grading Class in Athens in early 2011 and already has several students enrolled.

IGI Graduate Gemologist Diploma programs are held in more than a dozen countries including India, China, the UAE, Italy, Turkey, Mexico and Belgium and are offered in more than 10 languages.