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ICA JOINS UN INITIATIVE ON CERTIFICATION OF ORIGINS OF COLORED GEMSTONES

Hong Kong, April 12, 2013 –The ICA has joined the UNICRI (United Nation Research Institute on Crime and Justice) to develop with the assistance of the VIJI (Vienna International Justice Institute), a mechanism to certify and track colored gemstones from their countries of origin.

The initiative was presented in a meeting on April 9th and 10th at the UNICRI headquarter in Turin where selected stakeholders were invited for initial consultations.

The participants included representatives of governments of Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Tanzania as well as from the Luxury Jewelry Brands and gemological laboratory sector.

The meeting was highlighted by presentation of case studies by Brazil and South Africa on issues related to the colored gemstones and precious metals supply chain from mine to export and beyond.

ICA President Wilson Yuen addressed the audience with a summary of the situation and recent evolution of the industry

“In the present context, tracking gemstones from their geographical origin with a realistic approach is an opportunity for the public sector, the gems and jewelry industry and the civil society to address together social, technical and environmental issues as well as illicit and criminal practices threatening our sector. This will undoubtedly enhance the transparency of the distribution chain and benefit all the stakeholders from mine to market and build up consumer confidence” said President Yuen

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ABOUT THE ICA: The International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA), a non-profit organization, is the only worldwide body specifically created to benefit the global colored gemstone industry. ICA was founded in 1984 and is now comprised of almost 700 gemstone dealers, cutters, and miners from 47 countries who are devoted to advancing and promoting the knowledge and appreciation of colored gemstones and jewelry.