

World Represent

The former Hungarian royal palace overlooks the city and the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary. (Photos by Mark Woodbury)



Representatives from around the world travelled to Budapest, Hungary, to attend the Defense Contract Management Agency's Host Nation Conference June 15-18, 2009.

The agency, through the International Division, hosts the yearly conference, giving attendees an opportunity to share best practices, assist each other in overcoming challenges associated with the process and gain important networking contacts for current and future operations.

Agencies Merge on Hungary for Host Nation Conference

*By Mark Woodbury
DCMA Public Affairs*

According to Roland “QT” Quitariano, DCMA host nation program manager, defense markets continue to expand globally. As a result, the use of host nation contract administration services — the process whereby one country performs CAS functions, specifically, government quality assurance services on behalf of another country — is becoming increasingly common among all nations involved with the mutual government quality assurance process. With this increased need,

the opportunity to communicate issues that arise from it has become more and more imperative.

In addition to discussing GQA issues, Quitariano said the conference provides attendees an opportunity to establish invaluable working networks. “One of the biggest benefits I have personally experienced from this conference is the opportunity to network with each of the nations and organizations involved,” he stated. “It is nice to be able to have both a

name and face with approximately 20 different nations or NATO agencies as a direct result of this conference.”

For one conference attendee, the biggest benefit to him is the practical hands-on workshop time during the conference. “I really appreciate the opportunity to discuss real-life issues with attendees and see how different attendees respond and react to the issues,” said Belgian Lt. Col. Jean-Claude Saucez, process and



Defense Contract Management Agency Host Nation Conference attendees discuss resolutions to potential issues that could occur as a result of different nations Host Nation working practices during the conference breakout session (left photo). Defense Contract Management Agency Host Nation Conference attendees tour the Hungarian Parliament Building located in Budapest (right photo).

“It has been particularly helpful to discuss with other attendees what they have done in response to their reductions and then go back and implement, where possible, these same tactics within my own organizational structure.”

— Carin Hansson

competency management director. “The workshop time allows me to gain insight into other countries’ practices, as well as how they respond to and work with other countries when an issue comes up.”

As a direct result of last year’s conference attendance, Saucez said he was able to see how the United Kingdom had remodeled their GQA infrastructure, which inspired him to make changes within his nation’s system. Saucez stated these changes have led to smoother interactions and and GQA requests with his country and those countries it works with.

For Rex Russell, Australian Defense Materiel Organization supplier quality assurance director, the conference has given him the opportunity to coordinate his country’s policies and practices within the scope of NATO practices. “Last year was my first

year attending the conference, and through my attendance, I aligned Australia’s policy to better fit with the existing NATO framework,” said Russell. “As a result, I have seen a double-digit increase in foreign country GQA requests and a much smoother working relationship with the other nations involved.”

The “body of knowledge,” according to Carin Hansson, Swedish Defense Materiel Administration quality manager and long-time attendee of the conference, available to conference attendees is what motivates her to come back year after year. “I am currently dealing with personnel reduction issues, an issue many other nations here are also facing,” said Hansson. “It has been particularly helpful to discuss with other attendees what they have done in response to their reductions and then go back and implement, where possible,

these same tactics within my own organizational structure.”

Hansson said it is important to understand that other nations are dealing with similar problems as hers, and she sees this conference as a “must attend” to work out and discuss these unique issues.

This year’s conference had more than 70 attendees from 20 different nations, an agency of NATO and the Joint Strike Fighter Joint Program Office. Based on the feedback received from the 70-plus participants, the conference was a huge success, and the majority of the attendees said they would be back next year. **C**

PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Presentations given at the conference can be viewed at the DCMA International Portal page under the project name, “Host Nation – DCMAI!”



DCMA Host Nation Conference attendees pose for a picture in a nearby park in Budapest, Hungary, June 15.