

World leaders collaborate, refine process approaches

Jo Adail Stephenson | DCMA Public Affairs

A Key senior acquisition and quality assurance executives from seven countries and the International Armaments Cooperation group in Hungary focused on forging an international collaborative senior management forum at the inaugural Oct. 18-19 Senior Leaders Workshop in Budapest, Hungary.

Hosted by Defense Contract Management Agency International with the support of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence Institute of Military Technology, the workshop provided the opportunity for attendees to lay the groundwork to share best practices, discuss national initiatives and develop common solutions to strategic issues and challenges at a senior level.

In his welcoming remarks, DCMA Director Charlie E. Williams, Jr., said, “It’s a great opportunity to bring us together on a more strategic level to benchmark successes, share lessons-learned, to develop joint strategies and to determine how we can best leverage our resources for

the future.”

The workshop’s objective was “to initiate new and enhance existing acquisition management senior executive collaboration and interaction,” DCMA International Commander Navy Rear Adm. Robert Gilbeau said.

“It’s all about relationships,” Gilbeau said. He stressed the importance of having a forum for leaders in executive leadership roles to leverage “ways in which we can more efficiently and effectively provide quality and cost management and delivery schedule management and production management in support of our nations’ forces.”

Gilbeau told attendees, “We all learn from each other,” adding that the forum could provide the opportunity to determine “how we can use the inter-relationship of our ‘global’ community to ensure we are delivering the right product at the right time at the right price with the right quality to protect our troops and make sure our nations’ interests are maintained.”

With economic downturn across the



Senior acquisition and quality assurance executives from seven countries and the International Armaments Cooperation group in Hungary attend the inaugural Oct. 18-19 Senior Leaders Workshop in Budapest, Hungary. The workshop was hosted by Defense Contract Management Agency International with the support of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence Institute of Military Technology. (Photos by Jo Adail Stephenson, DCMA Public Affairs)

globe and nations facing some of the same challenges like reductions in resources and “doing more without more” in the midst of budget cuts, the workshop attendees noted the importance of a senior-level international collaboration forum.

It was a “very good idea to organize this workshop — a good way to strengthen relationships through communication, exchange of information and sharing experiences,” according to one attendee.

Another indicated, “The workshop was a great opportunity to meet and discuss challenges with other nations. Overall a great first session, and now there is a way forward.”

Williams thanked the representatives, saying the workshop provided the framework to strategically “think about things that are important to all of us and to think about how we move down the road to do better in this time when we are

all faced with economic and budget challenges.”

Within the next four to six months, the next step is organizing a follow-on meeting targeting attendance by senior executives, who can promote change. The objectives will be to validate the list of issues established during this first meeting, create agreed-upon objectives with leaders and outline proposed outputs and timelines. 