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The GCCA (Global Cold Chain Alliance) continues to evolve as IARW celebrates its 125th anniversary. The GCCA represents 1,300 member companies in over 65 countries and consists of:

- The International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses (IARW)
- The World Food Logistics Organization (WFLO)
- International Refrigerated Transportation Association (IRTA)
- International Association of Cold Storage Constructors (IACSC)

The GCCA continues to grow internationally with offices in Australia, Brazil, China, Europe, Guatemala, India and the United Kingdom besides their Virginia headquarters. They also continue to initiate MOUs and alliances with related industries recently signing MOUs with RETA and IIAR. GCCA's alliances are especially evident in the Global Cold Chain EXPO that will be held in Chicago in June, 2016. Discussions between GCCA and United Fresh leadership have led to the creation of the Global Cold Chain Expo. As a partnership between GCCA and United Fresh, the Expo will be co-located on the 2016 United Fresh Convention floor (McCormick Place) alongside FMI Connect, the International Floriculture Expo, and the United Fresh Show.

With the advent of the Global Cold Chain EXPO, the IARW Conference has taken on a slightly different role as support for the Cold Chain through technical presentations, networking, and executive roundtables. The EXPO will afford the Associate Members of IARW a chance to exhibit their products and services to a wide array of end users in the warehouse, food, produce and floral industries.

The GCCA has implemented an ambitious Strategic Plan to: Grow the Industry, Lead the Cold Chain, Develop Talent and Drive Supply Chain Profitability. All 4 of the pillars are already working to accomplish the goals set forth in the plan.

Some of the areas of interest to the ASHRAE community are as follows:

- **Lack of Technical People in Refrigeration:** All areas and levels of refrigeration technical people are in demand: engineers, operators, and technicians. The GCCA plans to visit schools and provide students with information that might make them want to join the refrigeration field.
- **Refrigeration Trends:** The COP 21 in Paris has further heightened the industries' interest in low charge ammonia systems and ammonia/CO₂ refrigeration systems. As other federal regulations increase, owners are more interested in reducing the ammonia charge and keeping ammonia outside of the refrigerated areas. This will be an international movement involving both developed and developing nations since so many countries have already signed the COP 21 Agreement.

- **Benchmarking Energy Efficiency:** A program to benchmark the energy efficiency of member cold stores is being developed. The program will help warehouse owners model and predict their energy efficiency progress by using an energy matrix and seeing how energy efficient their cold store is. Energy continues to be the 2nd largest expense for refrigerated warehouses and may even be the first cost of overseas warehouses.
- **Global Refrigerated Warehouse Growth:** International growth will continue as developing nations increase their household incomes and exports. At the present time, 50% of the fruit and 35% of the vegetables used in the United States are grown outside of the United States.
- **U.S. Government Regulations:** As Obama's term draws to a close, government agencies are finalizing various regulations. The FDA's regulation will go into effect June 6, 2016 and will require the sanitizing of vehicles transporting food. Sanitizing vehicles will go into effect for large companies in 2017 and small companies in 2018.

Please take the above information and use it as you see fit with the appropriate ASHRAE staff so we can continue to utilize this information while fostering cooperation and sharing between GCCA, the ASHRAE Refrigeration Committee, and Refrigeration Technical Committees. If you would like a further explanation of any of the above items, please contact me. I plan to continue ASHRAE/GCCA Liaison activities at the GCCA Global Cold Chain EXPO June 20-22, 2016 and the Technical Committee Meetings in early November.