



Cobh Town Council honours Junior Chamber International World President.

On Tuesday 12th April Cobh Town Council hosted a Civic Reception for local man, Mr Kevin Cullinane to commemorate his election to the office of World President of Junior Chamber International.

Junior Chamber International (JCI) is a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs whose current membership exceeds 185,000 in number. In addition there are millions of JCI alumni including Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, Jacques Chirac, President of France, William (Bill) Clinton, 42nd President of the USA and Howard Hughes, Pioneer Aviator, industrialist and film maker, to name but a few. JCI's mission is to contribute to the advancement of the global community by creating "positive change" through its members in over 5000 branches, present in more than 100 nations worldwide.

JCI members lead projects in the areas of Business, Individual Development, Community and International - known as the four areas of Opportunity. Members meet one another, learn from one another and work together to develop themselves, their leadership and entrepreneurial skills leading to development within their communities and therefore creating positive change around the world. Kevin Cullinane would say that "JCI's main role is to prepare better leaders who would create better societies."

Mr Cullinane is the 60th World President of JCI International and is only the second Irishman ever, to have held the office. He was elected to the office in Japan in November 2004. Mr Cullinane, who holds a Business Studies degree from University of Limerick is employed by Heineken Ireland in Cork as International Marketing Manager. He joined Junior Chamber Ireland Dunlaoghaire in 1989 and served that branch as President in 1992. His Junior Chamber Career and his occupational career within Heineken Ireland has been wide and varied. He has been a leading light on the JCI National and International stage and can boast of many roles including Executive Vice Presidential roles.

On Jan 1st 2005, Mr Cullinane officially launched 'JCI Operation Hope' to promote and coordinate relief to the affected areas of the recent Tsunami disaster. Speaking about the charity, he explained "JCI is involved because more than 155,000 of our fellow men, women and children perished in the disaster and the 5 million people that were left homeless need our hope and support to rebuild their shattered communities." Fundraising has been taking place in many of the JCI branches worldwide and donations have poured in since the launch in January. In addition, JCI members have been providing practical assistance by co-ordinating relief efforts both on the ground and via special web pages established to support the project.

During his term of office as World President in 2005, Kevin will visit a large number of countries where there is a JCI representation, he will meet JCI members, heads of State and community leaders worldwide and he will work to promote his 3 personal focus areas: Membership, Marketing and Media.

His local town council, Cobh Town Council chose to host this Civic Reception on Tues 12th April, 2005 at 7.30pm at Carrig House, Cobh, Co Cork, a fitting forum to commemorate Kevin Cullinanes achievement in attaining the highest office within Junior Chamber International and to celebrate Kevins work within the organisation over the past 17 years.

For more information on Junior Chamber International please log onto www.jci.cc OR www.jci-ireland.org