

Cobh man Kevin is leading world with Junior Chamber International



Cobh man and Junior Chamber International World President 2005 Kevin Cullinane, third from left, with Michael Geary, Chief Executive Cork Chamber of Commerce; Orla Ring, Deputy President JCI, and Anne O'Leary, Deputy President CCI.

Picture: Richard Mills

## FACTFILE

KEVIN CULLINANE was elected Junior Chamber International (JCI) World President at the 59th World Congress held in Fukuoka, Japan in November 2004.

He is JCI's 60th president and presiding over JCI's diamond anniversary year.

Mr Cullinane holds a bachelor's degree in business studies from the University of Limerick.

He is employed as international marketing manager at Heineken Ireland in Cork.

After joining JCI Dun Laoghaire in 1989, he transferred to JCI Cobh in 1995 as a charter member.

He has served as president of JCI Dun Laoghaire in 1992, National President of JCI Ireland in 1997, Europe secretary/treasurer in 1998 and parliamentarian to the European Area Conferences in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003.

In 2001, as JCI vice-president, he was assigned to the national organisations of Canada and the United States of America.

In 2002, as JCI executive vice-president for Europe, he chaired the European conference in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2003, he served as general legal counsel and in 2004 as chief executive assistant to the World President.

# World president is on a global mission

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**WHEN** Cork's own world president of Junior Chamber International touched down in Cork this week, it was the 51st country he had visited in the last eight months.

So while Kevin Cullinane will be hoping to forge better international business relations during his flying visit, he will also be wanting to catch up for some rare free time with his relations.

Mr Cullinane has spent more time on airplanes since the start of the year in his role as President of Junior Chamber International than many of us will spend in our entire lives.

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*This year I have been to more than 50 countries and that figure will reach 65 before the end of the year and I have been to several countries more than once.*

As well as meeting world leaders and business pioneers, he has also been trying to drum up more members to add to the existing 200,000 young entrepreneurs around the world.

“This year so far, I have been to more than 50 countries and that figure will reach 65 before the end of the year. That is 75 different missions because I have been to several countries more than once.”

For his year as world president, Mr Cullinane has been given a sabbatical

from his job as marketing manager with Heineken Ireland in Cork.

However, he continues to be an ambassador for the company, mentioning it on a daily basis to the various individuals and groups he meets all around the world.

The highlight of his year so far has been to meet the Prime Minister of Japan.

“It was an honour both as a representative of the Junior Chamber but also as an individual to meet with a G8 leader,” he said.

Mr Cullinane has been a member of the Junior Chamber movement for 17 years, initially in Dun Laoghaire and more recently in Cobh.

He was elected president at the World Congress in Fukuoka last year and will remain in office as the leader until December 2006.

He is the second Irish person to hold the top position in the 90-year history of the organisation.

During this week he will meet with the Cork Chamber of Commerce as he delivers a presentation on international awareness at the Imperial Hotel on Thursday. The *Evening Echo* is a sponsor of this event.

September is an important month for the JCI in Cork as it is the time for their recruitment drive. They will hold an open night in the Imperial Hotel on September 29 at 7.30pm.