

Welcome Speech / Thursday Evening – March 12th 2009

Manfred Wiebogen, President ACI The Financial Markets Association

Good evening

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen – dear friends of ACI

Years of preparation passed and the great moment has become reality – for the organizing committee, for ACI South Africa, for the South African Banking community and its authorities but finally for all of us being here.

I'm deeply honoured to welcome you all on behalf of my colleagues from the Executive Board and the entire ACI community – you will meet the EB Saturday at the General Assembly the latest – again to welcome you - to the 48th ACI World Congress in Cape Town.

What a history for our traders association – founded in 1955. I have to regret that it took 54 years for our community to meet and celebrate an international congress for the first time on the African continent. And even the intensified financial crisis since the Lehman case September 2008 nearly raised a lot of clouds on this event in the recent months. Many of us shared the sorrows of the organizing committee – but they have done superhuman efforts and never gave up their positive believe.

All the more I'm really happy to find you all here.

As you are aware, economic and financial events over the last 18 months – from the global financial crisis to the volatility seen in the international commodity markets – have indicated the need for enhanced dialogue on the long-term prospects of the financial markets and how it can continue to support the world economy.

Networking events, education/certification programmes or advising the financial industry with the experience of our Model Code and the access to the think tank of our community always has been one of the main tasks and assets of ACI The Financial Markets Association.

So may I encourage you

- To meet as many friends and new friends as possible
- To inform yourself on latest market trends and developments at the exhibition and panel discussions and
- To seek for new business opportunities

that's why we are here.

Finally may I invite you to visit the ACI Stand at the exhibition. ACI's staff will be proud to host you and

- We would be more than happy to discuss with you relevant market issues
- And what further could and should be done by ACI

My colleagues and I'm wishing you a pleasant stay, many new friends and a lot of new impressions - making this gathering for all of us an unforgettable happy event.

- THANK YOU -