



**FRENCH CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
IN GREAT BRITAIN**



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release – 29th May 2014

French Chamber's Gala Dinner raises £21,500 for Handicap International

London, 29th May 2014. Last night, over 350 members of the Franco-British business community came together at the French Chamber's Annual Gala Dinner and generously showed their support for disabled and vulnerable people in developing countries.

Handicap International was the designated charity supported at the Chamber's premier black tie event, held at the Landmark Hotel, Marylebone, with Lionel Barber, Editor of the Financial Times as guest speaker, and an address by His Excellency Mr Bernard Emié, French Ambassador to the UK.

Dr Jean-Baptiste Richardier, founder of Handicap International, spoke of his organisation's 30-year fight against the injustice faced by the world's most vulnerable people – men, women and children with disabilities.

Guests took part in a silent auction, raising an amazing £21,500. The top prize included a one-week stay in the Dominican Republic with two business class tickets kindly offered by Melia Hotels International and Air France, respectively. This was the first time the French Chamber had held a silent auction in aid of charity.

Aleema Shivji, Director of Handicap International UK, commented: "We are extremely grateful for the support of the French Chamber of Commerce and its members. The generosity displayed last night will help us support the most vulnerable people. It is only with significant private funding that we can act quickly, wherever the need is greatest."

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About the French Chamber of Commerce

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain is the largest foreign Chamber of Commerce in the UK in terms of both turnover and range of services offered. Our main aims are to provide a platform of exchange and networking at the service of the Franco-British firms in the UK, to promote our 600 members' interests to key decision makers and to help develop economic and commercial relations between France and the UK.

www.frenchchamber.co.uk

About Handicap International

Co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Handicap International is a charity working with disabled and vulnerable people in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster in 60 countries worldwide. The organisation provides artificial limbs to amputees, includes disabled children in education, clears landmines and unexploded bombs, and cares for injured people after a crisis.

www.handicap-international.org.uk