

## IWCS HOLIDAY SPIRIT BAZAAR 2009: THE BEST EVER!

Back in September 2009, when plans for the annual bazaar were first discussed, we knew that time was short. We didn't even have the option of booking UNITIC as our premises, as in previous years. But the first Bazaar Committee Meeting



(Photo: *Some members of the Bazaar Committee*) in September began the ball rolling through sheer determination and enthusiasm, despite the many obstacles and an overwhelming list of tasks, from finding premises and organizing the many logistical arrangements, to encouraging the diplomatic, NGO and business communities to participate in the event.

The outstanding Bazaar Steering Committee represented a whole range of experience, talent, skills, networks, ideas, and above all the capacity for hard work. Through their inspiration they generated the involvement of club volunteers, school student volunteers, the diplomatic community, NGOs, performing artists, and last but not least business sponsors. The result on 13 December 2009 was the Best Ever IWCS Bazaar, according to supporters and public alike. The ultimate praise came from IWCS members who have belonged to sister clubs in other countries, and who confirmed that our bazaar was the Best Ever they had experienced.

The challenge of finding new premises actually turned out to be a blessing. Dom Mladih (Youth House) in Skenderija was the perfect venue, with its large circular space incorporating several levels, like an amphitheatre, complete with a large stage. This made for a much more integrated event than possible in previous years. Visitors could indulge in the international cuisine, browse among the tables, meet their friends, enjoy the entertainment on stage, and witness the lottery results all within the same arena.

The bazaar was formally opened by Dinka Cammet, current IWCS President, (photo) who acknowledged all volunteers and sponsors for their participation. As in previous years the participating embassies provided tables loaded with their national products, from Chinese fans and Slovakian ceramics to French cheeses and wines and jars of British preserves (Illustrated in photos below).





The food stalls also provided a truly eclectic mix, including yummy Swiss melted cheese, Palestinian sweetmeats, Malaysian pastries and many other delights. The award for Best Embassy Table went to Palestine, and was well-deserved.



*(Photo: First Secretary of the Embassy of the State of Palestine, Hussein Thiab, with his team.)*

The buzz of the event was enhanced by Dom Mladih's superb sound system. The music and announcements could be heard all over Skenderija's 'plateau', beckoning visitors in on this wintry and grey Sunday. A new feature of this year's bazaar, made possible by the stage, was the entertainment, ranging from professional artists to music and dance performances by local school children.



Talking of children, we must not forget the Children's Corner backstage where volunteers provided face painting and creative activities for kids while their parents could enjoy the more adult activities in the main arena.



The IWCS warmly acknowledges all its volunteers and supporters for The Best Ever Bazaar.

**For details about financial report of the bazaar please see the document [here](#).**