



Thanksgiving Gala
Charity Dinner
2010



Ivan Mikloš,
Minister of
Finance
of the SR

november/december 2010

Connection

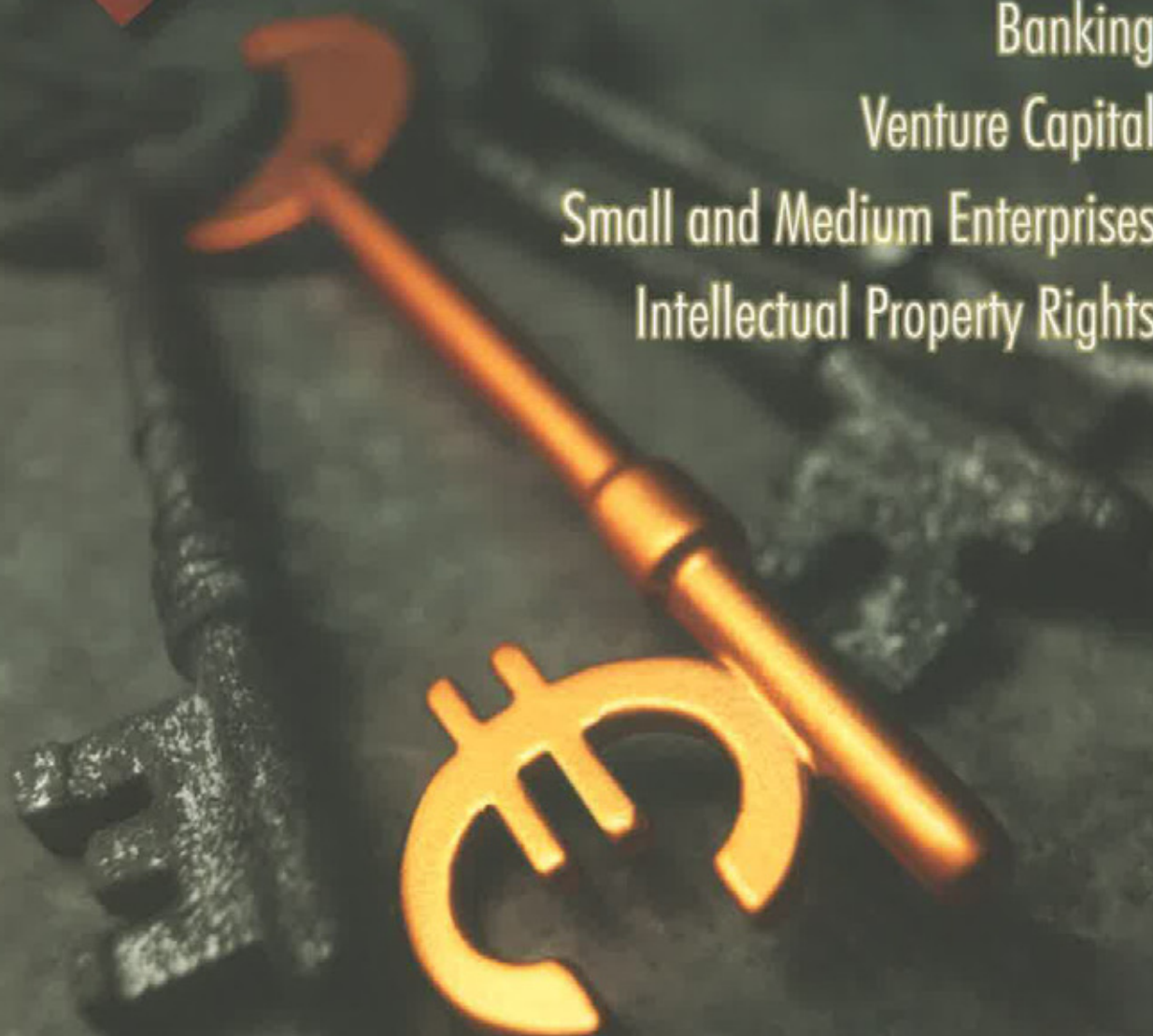
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GEFCO is strengthening its multimodal transport offerings in anticipation of growing demand for increasingly efficient, economical and environmentally respectful logistics services. "Demand for multimodal transport is growing due to environmental constraints," says Ralf-Charley Scultze, GEFCO head of multimodal logistics in Europe, Russia and Central Asia.

GEFCO already facilitates combined road-sea-road transport such as the Vigo-Saint Nazaire service, a road-sea-waterway-road solution to Wuhan in China, and a road-rail-road offering for plant supplies between Paris and Madrid. GEFCO's strength resides in its ability to ensure extremely reliable flows whatever the difficulties or problems encountered in transport. As a logistics architect and integrator, GEFCO is proficient at managing numerous players. With the emergence of the new "green logistics" paradigm, rail is becoming a favored transport mode for freight. Europe is moving towards a harmonization of traffic routes by establishing ten pan-European rail corridors, running east-west and north-south. Rail is also of significant interest in Eastern Europe and Russia.

GEFCO develops customized multimodal services for its customers, such as the Madrid-Paris link for Unilever. Ikea, meanwhile, has asked GEFCO to implement an intermodal flow between its distribution center at the Fos port (near Marseilles) and the Paris region. Other projects are lined up, including a link between Koper in Slovenia and Russia, via Dobra in Slovakia, one from the Baltic ports to Central Asia, and another between Germany and Turkey. GEFCO's expertise and know-how in combined transport make

it an essential player in this forward-looking sector.

Deloitte.

Slovak companies among Technology Fast 50

Deloitte announced the 11th annual ranking of Central Europe's 50 fastest growing technology companies. It ranks the fastest-growing technology companies based on their revenue growth over a five-year period. Software companies once again dominate the ranking that comprised 10 countries. The average growth of the Fast 50 companies reaches 967% in 2010, up from 933% in 2009.

The fastest growing high-tech Slovak company is Sygic, which develops and sells turn-by-turn voice-guided GPS navigation systems. With growth of 1,917%, it captured the leading position within the competition in Central Europe and took 4th place overall. The second is Azet, a.s., one of the largest Internet portal operators in Slovakia. It is a newcomer in the ranking this year, with growth of 1,126% and 8th place within the rankings. The third fastest growing company is ESET, which reached a growth of 530%. ESET, a usual participant in the ranking for several years, took 25th place this year. The company has developed the very successful antivirus software NOD32. The fourth company in the ranking is Soitron, (280% growth) in 44th place, which offers complex solutions in various IT areas.

After one year, 2Ring, s.r.o., a developer of applications for IP telephones and call centers, returned to the ranking. With growth of 219%, it closes out the Fast 50 ranking. Three Slovak companies also placed in the 'Big 5' category – Eset, Soitron and Tempest (171% growth). The 'Big 5' category recognizes large fast growing companies that have

achieved extraordinary growth in the past five years. To be eligible, companies need to achieve a minimum of EUR 25,000,000 revenue in the final measured year (2010).



U. S. Steel Košice, s.r.o.
A subsidiary of United Steel Group

Celebrating 10 years in Slovakia

On November 24th, 2010, U. S. Steel Košice celebrated the tenth anniversary of starting business in Slovakia. At the employee entertainment event held at the Steel Arena, George F. Babcoke, President of U. S. Steel Košice, acknowledged their talent and hard work. "The contribution by you, our employees, has been tremendous," he said. John H. Goodish, the first President of U. S. Steel Košice, came from Pittsburgh headquarters to greet his former colleagues at the event. "The success of U. S. Steel Košice has added to the growth of Košice City and the entire Slovak Republic. We are a better company now as a result of our relationship with Košice," he said.

Over the course of ten years, with the goal of ensuring high product quality, environmental protection and infrastructure development U. S. Steel Košice invested in the company much more than the originally committed 700 million dollars.

The takeover of the former Východoslovenské železiarne by U. S. Steel brought a fundamental change in the area of occupational safety and health protection, which became priority no.1. Thanks to the constant efforts made by all employees and managers, a 91% drop in injuries has been recorded. Environmental stewardship is another main business driver. In addition to raising employees' ecological awareness, the company has implemented about 50 projects designed to protect the environment. Responsible approach to business has been a fundamental and constant principle for U. S. Steel Košice. The steelmaking company is interested in regional needs and focuses primarily on community support in education, health care and social care, culture and sports.

We would like to encourage all AmCham members to share their news with our readers in this section. For any questions concerning content or space, please send e-mail inquiry to connection@amcham.sk.



Wonderful WorkshopFUL Year



2010 was the Year of the Tiger, Biodiversity and workshops at AmCham. Sixteen great events for great people who really matter - from Bratislava to Košice. This unique series of workshops addressed a great variety of issues - from online marketing and the best sales techniques, through building websites and motivating people, to learning how to maximize use of EU funds and act like a responsible business. Over 20 member companies involved in their making and many more providing attentive and creative audience.

This year's workshops also broke several records. For example, we hosted our first African

speaker ever - Mr. Tadesse Meskala of Ethiopian Coffee Farmers' Union who spoke about responsible business at the Pontis Foundation and AmCham workshop in Banská Bystrica. We witnessed the longest waiting list (17) formed within a few hours of announcing "Making a Great Company Website" - which, incidentally, filled another workshop.



And we probably could have broken a Guinness record with most people packed into the AmCham's conference room - 29, at the April workshop "Sales Techniques That Will Make You Different".



And last, but not least, we saw the first workshop "joint venture" with the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and the first regional tour with the series on EU funds during which we visited Bratislava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Poprad. By the way, these workshops were in the true spirit of cooperation - co-created with two of our member companies - PNO Consultants and the Law firm Hagyar, Kubovič & Partner - shared with the Dutch Chamber, and supported by fruitful partnerships with our member companies Vital in Žilina and Whirlpool in Poprad, and also Matej Bell University in Banská Bystrica.



All in all - it was a good year for AmCham workshops. We are very pleased of this achievement which couldn't have been achieved without all the inspiring speakers who showed dedication and positive energy.

Nor we could do it without all the participants who came with some serious thirst for fun and knowledge and left, hopefully, inspired and energized. Thank you to all!

