

## Bernhard Welschke, Secretary General of BIAC, Appointed New Treasurer of the Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN)



The GAN, the global coalition of leading companies committed to end youth unemployment and skills mismatch by investing in work-based training, today announces the appointment of Bernhard Welschke, Secretary General of BIAC, as Treasurer.

Bernhard Welschke will guide the GAN Board in the financial administration and budget of the Secretariat. The GAN Board includes major companies such as The Adecco Group, Ericsson, Hilton Worldwide, IBM, Huawei Technologies, Samsung Electronics, Telefónica and UBS, in tackling the youth unemployment crisis. The Secretary General of BIAC commented "I am pleased and honored to serve as treasurer of GAN, as we all understand that employment opportunities

for the young are key for the success of our economies and the future of our societies."

The GAN Treasurer role lasts for two-and-a-half years, with BIAC's Secretary General taking over the role from The Adecco Group, one of the GAN's founding members who will now lead the coalition's global growth and strategic vision as Chair. Working with The Adecco Group as Chair, Bernhard Welschke will oversee the financial administration of a coalition that is extending its presence in several countries, including Turkey, Indonesia, Spain and Argentina and will guide its presence in several more countries over the next few years, leading up to its next stage of success. Bernhard Welschke has served as Secretary General of BIAC since April 2013. Prior to this role, he brings over 30 years of professional experience in the field of economic policy, trade, governance, and international affairs.

Supported by BIAC, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), and the OECD, the coalition's main goal is to boost youth employability and skills training. The coalition, representing more than 100 members worldwide, commits to creating opportunities for youth through work-readiness programs, apprenticeships, internships and traineeships. According to the Executive Director of the GAN, Shea Gopaul, "we are very pleased to have Bernhard take over as the Treasurer, given his long experience with international organizations. BIAC, as one of the founding members, has supported the GAN from its onset and we are most appreciative to Bernhard for this."

With record high jobless rates affecting the outlook for millions of youth around the world, evidence suggests that inadequate job experience is a major hurdle for youth striving to enter the workforce. Over the past few years, BIAC has advocated on several key areas and issues to help youth boost their future career prospects and the GAN is looking forward to their continued contribution.