

A Productive and Memorable 2010 Young Movers Conference

The **Young Movers of FEDEMAC** held their annual conference in Rome May 20–22. As FEDEMAC's partner in the global moving community, the International Association of Movers was proud to sponsor part of the conference.

This year, the Young Movers focused on the environmental impact of the moving industry and steps we can take to mitigate our collective carbon footprint. On hand to present was Lorenzo Allegrucci from the Rome Refuse and Recycling Plant (AMA). Allegrucci discussed both European and national rules regarding the collection and disposal of packing material.

On a site visit later that day, the Young Movers viewed a recycling center administered by AMA, where typical landfill waste is separated from anything that can be recycled or recovered for future use. In addition, AMA displayed how they identify specific decomposable waste products and allow them to be recycled directly back into soil or mulch. This visit illustrated an aspect of the industry that is often an afterthought, and it served the participants well to see where packing material eventually goes once discarded.

In keeping with this theme, COMIECO (the National Consortium for the Recovery and Recycling of Cellulose-based Packaging) in Italy discussed the importance of cardboard recycling to the audience. COMIECO's purpose in Italy is to meet and exceed the recovery and recycling target set by the European Union by promoting a strong policy of prevention and encouraging the development of separate paper and cardboard packaging collection.

COMIECO was tasked with complying with the European target of 60 percent recycling and recovery of paper and cardboard material by 2008. Prior to reaching that deadline, COMIECO reported that 69 percent of those waste products had been recycled successfully. In Italy, for instance, roughly 4.6 million tons of paper and cardboard are consumed each year, so these percentages represent a distinct success in achieving its environmental goals.

IAM Programs Manager Brian Limperopulos was invited to address the attendees on a host of issues ranging from membership information about the International Association of Movers to a discussion focusing on the latest developments in U.S. Customs policy. It was a good

opportunity for IAM to highlight what we do for our members and show the value of IAM membership for the Young Movers.

Damian O'Farrell from Principal Relocation Company rounded out the program by discussing how the Young Movers could benefit by utilizing relocation services for their clients. Relocation companies offer a wide variety of services designed to ease an expat's transition into the new country. Obtaining visas, finding housing, selecting schools, and determining taxes are among the services that these companies provide to new residents. Many clients find relocation services very helpful when they are trying to adjust to a new culture and are likely to be more satisfied at the end of the move as a result.

In addition to the informative sessions, there was plenty of time scheduled for attendees to meet and network, develop valuable business connections, and enjoy themselves!

The Young Movers Conference remains the premier event for up-and-coming European professionals in the moving industry. It was expertly planned by the Italian organizing committee, who arranged a dinner overlooking the Eternal City and produced a dramatic play called *Traslochi all'italiana*. The play was written by the immediate past president of FEDEMAC, Denis Caufield, and featured



A bird's eye view of waste at the plant in Rome. (Photo: James Broggi)

several Young Movers acting out how to respond to a less-than-ethical client moving from Malta to Italy.

Next year, the Young Movers will travel to the Mediterranean island nation of Malta. Although the Italians will be a tough act to follow, the organizing committee for Malta has already presented a compelling case to attend next year by showing the beautiful scenery of their country and promising to live up to the high standards set by our Italian hosts.



From left: Marco Righetti, Stephan Geurts Jr., Lakelan Fennell, Amy Nilson, and Brian Limperopulos. (Photo: James Broggi)