

CHAT LOG

Recorded: Nov. 21, 2023



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR GEMOLOGY?

- Careers in: **RESPONSIBLE GEM AND JEWELRY TRADE**

PANELIST



Patricia Inonge Mweene, the visionary behind INONGE ZITA - a sustainable gemstone company brand based in Copenhagen. Born in Lusaka and raised in Ndola, Zambia, a mining town near the emerald mines of Lufwanyama, Patricia is a leader in promoting local value addition to raw materials at their source.

Her innovative framework, "Design Thinking for Extractive Communities," engages ASM communities in Africa to add value to their natural resources, creating economically viable value chains that lead to sustainable job creation for the youth and women who are disproportionately affected by unemployment. <https://design-thinking-africa.squarespace.com>

With strategic advisory for corporations and practical guidance in sustainability projects, Patricia is at the forefront of promoting inclusive co-creation for a better future.

PANELIST



Eric Braunwart, Founder and President of Columbia Gem House (CGH) continues to forge the path to a world where responsibly sourced gems are the rule, not the exception. With over 45 years of industry experience, Eric wrote the world's first Fair Trade Gems® Principles & Protocols in 2001, which CGH still operates today. Committed to creating a positive impact at every touchpoint from mine-to-market, CGH specializes in tracking and tracing its gemstones. Eric and his team openly share detailed information on every gem they sell by assigning various Fair Trade Gems® Levels to each stone. After more than four decades of working in gemstone development and cutting, Eric holds a deep understanding of the process and aims to share that with others. Working with governments, non-profits, and other gem miners and cutters worldwide, Eric works diligently to ensure safe workplaces, fair wages, responsible sourcing, and environmentally responsible gem mining.

Eric founded Columbia Gem House in 1976. A turning point. In 2000, Eric took time away to assist on a World Bank project in Madagascar to find ways gemstone production could improve throughout the supply chain. While there, the foundational ideas and importance of finding ways to steer the business to better benefit all those along the supply chain became imperative. In 2001, Braunwart developed **Fair Trade Gems®** <https://fairtradegems.com> ethical gemstones, responsibly sourced with a transparent supply chain

Education available: columbiagemhouse.com online education features a reference library with information on over 20 gem varieties. It also includes in-depth articles on gem mining, cutting, enhancement, and jewelry craftsmanship.



PANELIST



Dr. Laurent E. Cartier, FGA, joined the Swiss Gemmological Institute (SSEF) in 2010 and is Head of Special Initiatives at SSEF. He holds a Masters in Earth Sciences from Basel University and completed his FGA Diploma in 2008. He holds a PhD from Basel University that focuses on pearl farming and pearl traceability issues. He is a lecturer for Gemmology at the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and an affiliated associate professor at the University of Delaware (USA).

He is a co-founder of the Sustainable Pearls project <http://www.sustainablepearls.org> and a co-founder of the Gemstones & Sustainable Development Knowledge Hub. He is actively involved in the Swiss Gemmological Society (SGG) and the International Gemmological Conference (IGC). He is involved in different project management, research, and teaching activities at the SSEF. in 2010. He holds a Masters in Earth Sciences from Basel University and completed his FGA Diploma in 2008. He holds a PhD from Basel University that focused on pearl farming and pearl traceability issues and is a lecturer for Gemmology at the University of Lausanne (UNIL). He is a founder of the Sustainable Pearls project. He is actively involved in the Swiss Gemmological Society (SGG) and the International Gemmological Conference (IGC). He is involved in different project management, research, and teaching activities at the SSEF.

Dr. Cartier referenced his travel to Madagascar.

- Article available in Gem-A's / The Journal of Gemmology, Volume 30, Issue 5 - 8 (2009) - [Ruby and sapphire from Marosely, Madagascar by Laurent E. Cartier](#)

Education available: SSEF offers free and paid gemological courses <https://www.ssef.ch/masterclass> courses are also available in French, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese and Japanese

What is SSEF? The Swiss Gemmological Institute is part of the Swiss Foundation for the Research of Gemstones (SSEF: Schweizerische Stiftung für Edelstein-Forschung) and works independently on a scientific basis. The SSEF foundation was founded by trade organizations (UBOS: Union de la Bijouterie et Orfèvrerie Suisse) on August 22,1972.