

GIA shuts down Dubai Operations

After ten years of operating in Dubai, a city that is known for its love for diamonds and jewellery, the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has decided to wind up its operations. “While the city and the region remain vital to the diamond trade, the hard decision to close the Dubai operations was made to align GIA’s resources with our mission. Laboratory clients who have previously used the take-in facility in Dubai may submit stones to any other GIA laboratory or take-in facility. The Dubai school location will continue to operate through Dec. 31, 2019. We are committed to fulfilling our obligations to our students and will continue to provide quality educational services during this closure period,” says Nirupa Bhatt, MD, GIA India & Middle East. Students who wish to continue their GIA education or



Nirupa Bhatt, MD GIA, India & Middle East

need to complete required lab classes within a credentialed distance education program may enrol through another GIA global location. While the diamond industry at large has been going through a seismic change in terms of supply and demand and also market volatility, GIA remains focused on its mission, says Bhatt, “The industry has been through many cyclical ups and downs, and throughout such periods – whether in the past or present – GIA has always

remained focus on its mission to ensure the public trust in gems and jewellery. The decision to close the Dubai location is to help the Institute align its resources to fulfil and further the mission.”

The decision to close operations in the diamond hub of the Middle East, eventually throws open the question of how the market is performing in the region. “GIA does not buy or sell diamonds, our role as a mission-driven, independent Institute is to offer unbiased grading reports, world-class education and develop accurate instrumentation – all of which ultimately benefits the industry. Consumers are interested in the story about diamonds, and that is fundamentally the reason why GIA introduced the Diamond Origin Report,” adds Bhatt. ☺

IGI Provides Sustainable and Secure Way to Purchase Rare & Valuable Argyle Pink Diamonds

The International Gemological Institute (IGI), has joined forces with John Glajz, a Singapore-based authorized partner of Argyle Pink Diamonds for nearly 25 years, to certify these gems, which are some of the rarest in the world, creating The Collector’s Edition: An Exclusive Selection of Argyle Pink Diamonds. As the Australian mine that produces the majority of the diamonds is slated to close in 2020, this collection is likely to become more valuable. IGI grades each diamond attesting to the origin, natural aspect, color and



clarity. By using the combination of the fluorescence in ultraviolet light, typical inclusions and the type of graining, IGI can determine with good precision that these diamonds originate from the Argyle mine.

In order to maintain a verified chain of custody, the diamonds are then securely sealed by IGI, which is an independent third party, thus ensuring ultimate customer protection.

With a verified Argyle origin and the impending closure of the mine, The Collector’s Edition presents an innovative and unique opportunity to own a curated selection of these rare diamonds. To date, the market response to this collection has been overwhelming as it presents an attainable way for consumers to purchase Argyle Pink Diamonds. ☺