

### AIPC ACADEMY MAKES ITS DEBUT IN BRUSSELS

The International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC) has successfully completed the inaugural AIPC Academy program at Dolce la Hulpe near Brussels with over 30 participants in attendance. The Academy is a comprehensive education program designed to provide a specialized professional development opportunity for congress centre managers and staff.

'The purpose of the Academy is to provide broad, industry-focused training which will help convention centre staff improve performance in their current positions, and prepare them for more responsibilities within their respective facilities,' said Barbara Maple, President of AIPC, who chairs the Academy. Based on feedback from students and faculty, the first AIPC Academy sessions will be fully evaluated in an effort to refine content and help shape the ongoing program. The next Academy is now being organized for

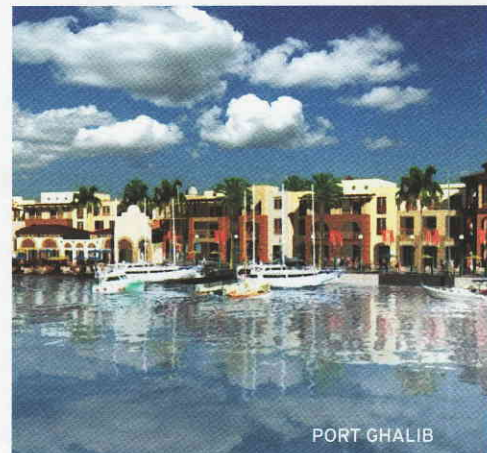
delivery again next year in Brussels.  
[WWW.AIPC.ORG](http://WWW.AIPC.ORG)

### BERLIN ON THE UP AND UP - CONGRESS FIGURES 2006

The congress statistics 2006 confirmed the upward trend in recent years: 95,500 events and 7.45 million participants mean a renewed plus of between 7 and 8 percent compared with 2005. The share of international meetings and congresses rose further to 22%.  
[WWW.BERLIN-CONVENTION-OFFICE.COM](http://WWW.BERLIN-CONVENTION-OFFICE.COM)

### PORT GHALIB AWAKENS NEW SENSES

Sun International opens a new exclusive resort at the Red Sea waterfront. The Sun International Sahara Sun Resort at Port Ghalib - which is by some described as the 'St Tropez on the Red Sea' - is located next to the beautiful marina, only 5 minutes from Marsa Alam International Airport and comprises three 5-star hotels opening in November '07 with a total of 956 rooms: the Palace Hotel, Desert Sands Ho-



PORT GHALIB

tel and Desert Oasis Hotel at Port Ghalib. The resort also has its own high-tech Convention Centre that can host up to 1500 people for all kinds of events and has about 20 conference rooms. A dinner theatre, discos, clubs, restaurant and a multiplex cinema complex should provide the necessary entertainment.  
[WWW.DISCOVERPORTGHALIB.COM](http://WWW.DISCOVERPORTGHALIB.COM)

### ICC DURBAN OPENS ITS DOORS

The International Convention Centre Durban in South-Africa has opened its multi-purpose state of the art Arena costing Euros 47,350,000 on March 20 2007. The Arena has a capacity for up to 10,000 spectators. The Arena is uniquely functional, with the Arena floor, loading bays and entrances all on one level, allowing for simple, cost-effective set-up and logistics. ICC has maintained its position as 'Africa's Leading Conference Centre,' for six consecutive years (as voted by the World Travel Awards). In addition the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC) has been including the ICC Durban on their list of 'Top 10 Best Convention Centres in the World' for three consecutive years.

[WWW.ICC.CO.ZA](http://WWW.ICC.CO.ZA)



ICC DURBAN

### FAIRMONT HOTEL OPENS ITS DOORS IN THE WAVE MUSCAT

Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, one of the largest luxury hotel groups, has signed up for a beachfront property at the Wave Muscat, Oman's leading tourism and beachfront residential development. Fairmont is the first hotel to sign up with the prestigious project. Her Excellency Dr Rajiha Abdul Ameer Ali, Oman Minister of Tourism, commented: 'It is a matter of great privilege to announce that Fairmont has signed with The Wave Muscat, a project which is the pride of Oman. With a world-renowned hotel group like Fairmont unveiling its plans to be part of this prestigious project, the development offers a luxurious and stylish community lifestyle.' Upon completion, The Wave, Muscat will be a fully master planned community occupying a total area of 2,500,000 sqm stretching along 6km of natural beach and will offer approximately 4,000 rooms.  
[WWW.THEWAVEMUSCAT.COM](http://WWW.THEWAVEMUSCAT.COM)  
AND [WWW.FAIRMONT.COM](http://WWW.FAIRMONT.COM)

### GHENT'S OWN MEETING GUIDE

Gent Congres, the Convention Bureau for Ghent and East Flanders is proud to announce its new Meeting & Incentive Guide 2007 for