

Focused agenda



Edgar Hirt

The increasing emphasis on congress centre performance standards in today's highly competitive industry has placed more importance than ever on the International Association of Congress Centres' (AIPC) mission of encouraging and recognising excellence in convention centre management.

With all the knowledge and experience of over 155 member centres in 53 countries around the world, we rely more than ever on the valuable resource that is the expertise of our own members. Therefore we welcome the publication of *Venue 2008*, which contains details on many of our member properties.

AIPC is now the international organisation representing the issues and interests of convention centre management worldwide. Our membership, combined with AIPC's educational, networking, research and industry relations programmes, make for the perfect combination: knowledge, along with the ability to disseminate it effectively.

In recent years, all that knowledge has been applied to a series of increasingly successful programmes. Among these are the AIPC Academy, which is setting the standard for professional development in centre management; the AIPC Quality Standards programme, which enables centres to evaluate and act on a full range of operational and management issues; and AIPC's Awards programme, which not only recognises 'The World's Best Congress Centre' through the AIPC Apex Award, but encourages creative solution to ongoing management and marketing challenges through the AIPC Innovation Award.

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For all of these reasons, AIPC has enjoyed significant growth in membership over the past several years. Members know that by engaging with their colleagues in such a clearly focused way, they will be gaining knowledge that is directly applicable to their ongoing management needs while at the same time developing an international perspective appropriate to an industry with a truly global reach.

Finally, we look forward to holding our next Annual Conference in Singapore from June 28-July 2, 2008.

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President, AIPC



The International Association of Congress Centres is the industry association for professional convention and exhibition centre managers worldwide