



VCEC at night

VANCOUVER CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE: 'WORLD'S BEST CONVENTION CENTRE'



WHEN EDGAR HIRT, AIPC PRESIDENT, HELD HIS BREATH FOR A SECOND DURING THE 50TH EDITION OF THE AIPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SAID 'AND THE WINNER IS...' IT BECAME SILENT IN SUNTEC SINGAPORE'S CONFERENCE ROOM. 'VANCOUVER CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE!' THE FIRST TIME THAT A MEMBER CENTRE HAS EVER WON THIS AWARD TWICE! RUNNERS-UP WERE THE CAIRNS CONVENTION CENTRE AND THE BRISBANE CENTRE. A MINUTE BEFORE, CATHERINE WONG HAD DONE A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION ABOUT GREEN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY, SOMETHING VANCOUVER IS WORLD-RENOUNDED FOR. FOR HEADQUARTERS MAGAZINE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AIPC WAS THE OCCASION TO INSTALL AN ANNUAL AWARD FOR THE 'WORLD'S BEST CONVENTION CENTRE'. AND WHAT'S THE PRIZE? THESE TWO PAGES OFFERED FOR FREE!

THE CONGRESS PEARL OF CANADA

VCEC is moving closer to the expansion opening in March 2009... at Vancouver they call it an expansion but they're actually building a completely new centre that will triple the size of the existing facility. The combined facility will offer 29,000 m² of flexible exhibition space, 72 meeting rooms ranging from 46 to 700 m². Canada's largest convention centre ballroom at 5,000 m², 20,000 m² of multi-purpose pre-function space and 90 metre covered harbor-view connector. There is more! This project is envisaged as a landmark facility in one of the most spectacular waterfront settings in the world. The new expansion is also wonder in the world of sustainability, supported by famous sustainability experts from all over the globe. The facility will be a showcase for the 2010 Olympic Games!

More information on www.vcec.ca



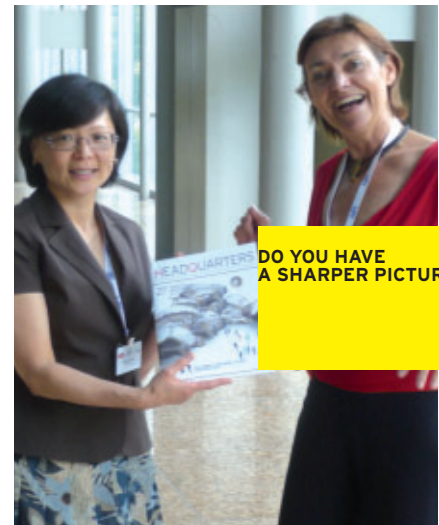
A DEFINITION OF THE AIPC APEX AWARD

Established in 2000, the AIPC may be one of the most prestigious awards for conference centres in the world within the meetings industry.

The AIPC Apex Award recipient is identified through a comprehensive performance and customer satisfaction analysis carried out under the auspices of the Solvay Business School of the University of Brussels. The 'blind' evaluation used in the selection process ensures an objective analysis of the data arising from a series of surveys covering such topics as congress facilities, project management, customer relations, catering and technology. AIPC Apex Award surveys are completed by

event organizers and meeting planners and provided in confidence directly to the evaluation team, who rate centres accordingly.

AIPC President Edgar Hirt says: *'The real significance of the AIPC Apex Award is that it represents the verdict of clients rather than the industry itself, and that it is carried out in a highly structured and rigorously managed competitive framework. We are constantly updating and adjusting evaluation criteria under the guidance of our academic oversight team to ensure the objectivity of the results so that it has the highest credibility of any award in our industry.'*



DO YOU HAVE A SHARPER PICTURE?

Cécile Caiati-Koch, managing director of Meeting Media Compay, Niche Publishing House of MIM and HeadQuarters magazine in Brussels, awards the first HeadQuarters magazine prize to the winner of the annual AIPC Apex Awards to Catherine Wong of Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre.