

ACC Liverpool to host 2010 AIPC conference

Representatives of the world's leading convention centres are heading for ACC Liverpool after it has won a bid to host the 2010 AIPC conference. The event, which is attended by CEOs and senior managers from the world's most prestigious venues, is regarded as a major coup for ACC Liverpool, home of the BT Convention Centre, coming so soon after the venue's opening.

The AIPC – the International Association of Congress Centres – represents 160 members in more than 53 countries across the world and has held its conference in cities including Quebec, Edinburgh, Montpellier, Graz and Singapore, where the 2008 was hosted.

The announcement was made by Jacquie Rogers, General Manager of the BT Convention Centre. Speaking at the conference in Singapore, she said: "AIPC is an organisation which puts excellence in the industry at its very heart. To be a member of such a prestigious body is an honour in itself; to be chosen as the host venue for its conference is quite something else. ACC Liverpool has been open for just a few months and we have strived to make the facility world-class in every way. It is a real vote of confidence that after such a short time we're able to make an announcement of this magnitude."

Edgar Hirt, President of the AIPC, said: 'ACC Liverpool is one of our newest members and so we're delighted to be making this announcement. We have been extremely impressed with the facility and believe our members will find its considerable environmental credentials of particular interest.'

ACC Liverpool, the £164m development on the King's Waterfront, opened in January 2008. The BT Convention Centre features a 1,350-seat auditorium, 18 breakout rooms and 7,000 square metres of exhibition space. As well as the state-of-the-art BT Convention Centre, it also comprises the 10,600-seat Echo Arena.

AIPC is committed to encouraging and recognizing excellence in convention centre management, while at the same time providing the tools to achieve such high standards through its research, educational and networking programs.

For Further Information: www.accliverpool.com

Lourding it in Torquay?

Not content with providing some of the best scenery and event facilities that England can offer, Torquay has now called upon the Almighty to promote it as a venue. Recently the Christian Services Association (CSA) annual conference took place at Torquay's Riviera International Conference Centre (RICC). The conference was attended by around 1,200 delegates from across the UK and was an amazing experience, according to organiser Sue Davies who said RICC had been a fantastic venue.

Just how fantastic it was is difficult to judge, but allegedly a 14 year-old had her ankles miraculously healed and gold dust was spotted falling through the air!

Davies explained that the staff at the RICC were a joy to deal with - "they speak my language with regards to hosting conferences and understand everything we want, and even exceed our expectations by coming up with ideas that suit our needs more than we can think of," although this may have been a reflection on the employees imperative to complete the dusting before the delegates arrived.

Davies added "For non-Christians it seems very unreal and unrealistic but these miracles really did happen. There were signs of the wonders – gold dust falling. People had an amazing time."

The association returned to RICC shortly afterwards for its 'Overwhelming Glory' Conference. If water is to be turned into wine at a future conference, can I please have a press pass!

For Further Information: rivieracentre.co.uk

GP's Forum Choose BIC for First Time

For the first time, the Royal College of General Practitioners' (RCGP) National Annual Conference was held at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC). The event ran from 1st October for four days and was attended by approximately 1,000 delegates. The RCGP is the academic organisation in the UK for general practitioners. Its aim is to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and act as the 'voice' of general practitioners on education, training and standards issues. The RCGP is an international organisation with members all over the world.

An exhibition in the Windsor Hall featured nearly 70 exhibitors such as BMI Healthcare, Oxford University Press and Barclays. A discussion session was held with the RCGP Chair, Professor Steve Field and an open Q&A session from the floor with Fergus Walsh, Medical Correspondent for the BBC for more than twenty years, who chaired all the plenary sessions and panel debates.

The four day conference was estimated to inject in excess of £1m into Bournemouth's economy through business tourism expenditure. Recent statistics value Bournemouth's business tourism at £127.6m, of which the BIC and Pavilion contribute £73m annually through the conferences and exhibitions staged at the venue. The remaining £54.6m is a result of conferences, events and meetings at other venues in Bournemouth, often facilitated by the Bournemouth International Conference Bureau (BICB).

For Further Information: www.bic.co.uk