

Quebec chosen for AIPC Annual Conference

“Hosting the AIPC Annual Conference is both a challenge and an opportunity to the host congress centre”, says AIPC President Barbara Maple. “On the one hand, it’s a chance to host your colleagues from all over the world, and to showcase what you have to offer in your facility and destination. On the other, it means turning a spotlight on your centre – and having the scrutiny of your industry peers on every aspect of your operations for four days!

It’s a tribute to our membership that so many centres seek out this challenge and take on the responsibility it entails”.

The 2005 AIPC Annual Conference will be the 47th in AIPC’s long history as an organization – and this year the legacy will be carried on by the Québec City Convention Centre in Canada. Centre President and CEO Claude Pinault talks about why he feels membership in AIPC is important – and what

it feels like to be gearing up for this event;

Why do you think participation in an industry organization like AIPC is important for the Québec City Convention Centre?

“Belonging to the International Association of Congress Centres provides us the opportunity to forge contacts and exchange information with colleagues in political, economic, and tourism

spheres that are often similar, but also often different from our own. It also gives us a chance to learn from the experiences of our peers in seeking solutions to our own challenges. AIPC is a powerful tool to promote our industry worldwide”.

The 2005 AIPC Annual Conference and 47th General Assembly will take place July 20 through 23 at the Québec City Convention Centre in Canada.

National Tourist Boards join BACD

The British Association of Conference Destinations (BACD) has announced that all four UK National Tourist Boards are now full BACD members.

BACD and the four National Tourist Boards - VisitBritain, VisitScotland, Wales Tourist Board and Northern Ireland Tourist Board - will benefit from a closer working relationship. The National Tourist Boards can now access the advantages and services that full BACD membership brings. Such opportunities include participation in BACD’s regional meetings, collaboration on industry research, enhanced communication between the National Boards and existing BACD members, progressing quality initiatives, and giving the National Boards full entries in the BACD directory and web site. It will also mean that staff from the National Boards can stand for election to the BACD Board, including the positions of BACD Chair and BACD Treasurer.

Scott Robertson, marketing manager UK market, Business Tourism

Unit (BTU) at VisitScotland, said: “As the National Tourist Board of Scotland, we have in the past been an Associate member of BACD. Following an integration of local tourist boards and convention bureaux, we are now delighted to be a full member. We are looking forward to forging a stronger relationship, and working with, and alongside the British Association of Conference Destinations.”

Said Tony Rogers, BACD chief executive: “Our partnerships with the four National Tourist Boards are of huge importance to our existing members and will greatly benefit the conference industry. They will increase cohesion in what is frequently seen as a somewhat fragmented industry, further develop the already-strong marketing collaboration between local and national destination marketing organisations, and enable us to lobby and represent the needs of our sector in a more focused and united way.”

For further information: www.bacd.org.uk

Engineers forge China links

Representatives of The Society of Professional Engineers and the Association of Building Engineers recently visited Guangzhou University in the People’s Republic of China. After discussions with the University and Flaming 21 Ltd., a training company located in

Hong Kong, a partnership was formed which has led to the accreditation of top-up degrees with the University.

The Associations working with Flaming 21 Limited, has formalised a training programme which will facilitate

the delivery, monitoring and accreditation of postgraduate diplomas in construction management and contract administration.

Further information from email: building.engineers@abe.org.uk



▲ David Gibson of SPE with Flaming 21 representative