

FOREST FACILITY OFFICIALLY OPENS IN SARAWAK

In the presence of international guests and VIPs, the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCK), the first purpose built convention centre in Borneo, was officially launched on 18 October. Overlooking a lush green forest and flanked by the majestic Sarawak River, BCCK is located on a six hectare waterfront. Jill Henry, CEO of Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB), said: "I'm very impressed with BCCK and its team and proud that our world class facility is open for business on schedule." BCCK and SCB have been working closely for over a year and have jointly secured several international conferences. "We are glad to have a business partner as enthusiastic and dynamic as SCB. Together, we will strive to achieve Sarawak's vision to be the venue of choice for international conferences," said Trevor McCartney, Chief Executive of BCCK.



Aerial view of BCCK in Sarawak

SEVILLE PLANS HUGE EXTENSION

The Seville Conference & Exhibition Centre, FIBES, in Spain, is adding an auditorium to seat 3,590 people to its already extensive facilities. It will be the largest covered building in the country and will be joined to the existing FIBES by a 3,000 sqm footbridge. The new development also includes a multipurpose building of over 2,500 sqm with restaurants, registration and 18 multipurpose meeting rooms. The auditorium has a mobile closing system so the space configuration can be altered quickly and efficiently. The three modules of the building will be complemented by five floors of underground parking with a capacity of 801 vehicles and a parking area for 30 coaches.

VANCOUVER IS FINISHED

The final phase of the Vancouver Convention Centre's expansion project has been completed. Following the opening of the West building, the newly refurbished East building, along with the Harbour Concourse linking the two facilities, are finished. The Vancouver Convention Centre's expansion project has tripled the amount of available function space to a total of approximately 46,450 square metres. www.vancouverconventioncentre.com

FROM STRENGTH TO WEAKNESS



Ben Goedegebuure

Earlier this year the Scottish Exhibition + Conference Centre was encouraging international visitors to take advantage of the weaker pound. Now it is targeting the stronger euro. "There has never been a better time for European businesses to come to the UK and Glasgow," comments Ben Goedegebuure, Sales Director, SECC. "Previously some buyers have been put off by the strong pound; however the current environment presents the perfect opportunity for continental businesses to choose Glasgow." The SECC is also holding rates for European business so they can continue to benefit.

KINTEX GOES ENERGY EFFICIENT

The second phase of KINTEX (Korea International Exhibition Center) will be an eco-friendly building for the future. Of the €201.5 million budget, €5.1 m will be invested in energy-related facilities. It is expected to be ready by September 2011. The second exhibition centre will be built on a 201,000 sqm site located in Daehwadong, Seo-gu, Ilsan, Goyang. Covering an area of more than 100,000 sqm, the exhibition site will be spacious enough to attract the most prestigious international fairs. www.kintex.com



EXCEL TO BE LONDON'S ICC

When ICC London ExCeL opens in May 2010, on time and on budget, it should quieten the constant clamour for a first-class international convention centre for London. "London ICC ExCeL meets every requirement of an ICC," commented CEO Kevin Murphy. "London's fighting back - we want to attract more international events and overseas companies to the capital," added Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

For the first time in Berlin, 10,000 scientists and medical specialists in dermatology and venereology were able to discuss issues in a non-hospital environment. Last month the 18th Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) met in the ICC Berlin. It was organised by the German Dermatological Society in cooperation with the professional association of practicing dermatologists. The EADV, founded in 1987, has its headquarters in Brussels. www.eadv.org



ICC Berlin

GOLD COAST ACHIEVES CERTIFICATE

With the successful completion of its external audit, the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia, has become the eighth member of the international association



Edgar Hirt

of convention centres (AIPC) to secure AIPC Quality Standards certification. Another six centres are in various stages of the certification process. The certificate shows a centre's accomplishments in key areas of performance on an industry-wide scale. Each participating centre must assemble and submit documentation to show how they are addressing each standards area, how they measure success and what they do when things go wrong. "We are being confronted with standards developed by groups outside our industry that do not necessarily reflect the realities or priorities we face as managers," says AIPC President Edgar Hirt of Hamburg. www.aipc.org