



MEET MICHELE SARAN OF THE CTC



Michelle Saran

Michele Saran was recently promoted to the position of Acting Executive Director, Meetings, Conventions and Incentive Travel at the Canadian Tourism Commission. The mandate of the

group is to position Canada to a global audience as the premier location for meetings travel. An incentive travel expert for ten years, Michele was instrumental in organizing the successful 'Trailblazers' annual event. She explains: *'Canada is a mighty, very active country whose values can easily be translated into the meetings industry. Nowhere else can you find such an array of meetings possibilities. And with the Winter Olympics, it's on the map as never before.'*

www.meetings.canada.travel

VALENCIA CONFERENCE CENTRE WINS APEX AWARD

The Board of Directors of the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC) has announced the Valencia Conference Centre as the winner of the 2010 Apex Award for 'World's Best Convention Centre'. The AIPC Apex Award is based on an extensive analysis of customer input under the auspices of the Faculty of Science, Politics and Economics from the University of Brussels, and reflects an unbiased picture of centre performance through the eyes of its customers. The analysis covers a range of areas including such topics as congress facilities, project management, customer relations, catering and technology.

www.aipc.org

EU VAT RULE CHANGES TO IMPACT MEETINGS BUSINESSES

The EU VAT system is constantly changing, presenting a major headache for all businesses - but particularly those that trade cross-border. 2010 saw the introduction of the first of a series

NEW CONVENTION CENTRE IN ST. PETERSBURG

ExpoForum International Convention & Exhibition Centre in St Petersburg is a new venue for meetings, conventions and events. Upon its opening in 2013, the Centre will be the most modern and sophisticated convention complex in Russia, and will offer 100,000 m² of space and be able to welcome up to 10,000 delegates in total. In three years, the city will become an attractive and fashionable destination for international congresses. www.expoforum.ru

of fundamental changes to the EU VAT rules that will be brought into effect over the course of the next five years. While the 2010 changes impacted almost all businesses, to a greater or lesser extent, the next change that will come into force in January 2011 will specifically affect businesses that organise conferences, meetings and events. More news on that to follow.

LONDON'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (ICC) OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



Thursday 24th June marked the start of a new era in business tourism for London. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, officially launched the Capital's first International Convention Centre at ExCeL London with ADNEC Chairman, His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan. The new facility encompasses London's largest banqueting space ICC Capital Hall, the 5,000 tiered seater, ICC Auditorium, and a conference suite, ICC Capital Suite, comprising 17 individual meeting rooms for 50 to 2,500 delegates.

www.excel-london.co.uk

JOINING FORCES IN QUÉBEC CITY

The Québec City Convention Centre is joining forces with ExpoCité to offer clients turnkey

exhibition and meeting solutions. The 19,000-sqm exhibition space provides a capacity of up to 6,500 delegates with an 850-stand exhibition and of 18,500 delegates without exhibitions. Both venues now work closely together to offer a facilitating approach to meetings and exhibitions. www.convention.qc.ca

WORLD PCO ALLIANCE SPREADS ITS WINGS IN AFRICA, EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS



The World PCO Alliance, launched last year at IMEX 2009 with seven Asian members, announced that it recently expanded to comprise 15 Professional Conference Organisers (PCOs) during IMEX2010 in Frankfurt. This cohesive group was formed by motivated PCOs to capitalize on the efficiency of consolidating regional conference and event services within one network and has now spread its wings to include new members from Africa, Europe and the Americas. The World PCO Alliance's 15 members have set out to exchange best practice, improve service quality and streamline operations and sales in order to maximise outcomes for clients and member PCOs.

www.worldpco.org

2010 MEETINGS INDUSTRY FAIRS WORLDWIDE: MAKE YOUR CHOICE!

CIBTM - Beijing // 31 August - 2 September 2010 // www.cibtm.com

Access 2010 - Hofburg Vienna // 4-5 October 2010 // www.access-austria.at

IT&CMA AND CTW ASIA-PACIFIC - Bangkok // 5-7 October 2010 // www.itcma.com.sg

EIBTM - Barcelona // 30 November - 2 December 2010 // www.eibtm.com

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