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## AIPC in San Diego

From a warning that the global economic concerns are far from over, to strategies and actions that centres should be taking in response, the 2011 International Association of Congress Centres' (AIPC) Annual Conference in San Diego, USA, addressed the challenges facing the industry and opportunities for those who respond appropriately. AIPC President Edgar Hirt welcomed seven new members into the AIPC fold, including John B. Hynes Center, Boston; Ataturk Center, Bursa; ICE Krakow; Las Vegas and Los Angeles Convention Centers; Centro Banamex CEC, Mexico City and Sokolniki Exhibition and Convention Centre, Moscow. The AIPC Innovation Awards were won this year by Vancouver (Service Excellence) and Suntec Singapore (for its Touchpoint interactive system).

Right: Edgar Hirt and keynote speaker David Blanchflower. Left: Gary Heil, the second keynote speaker. Top centre: Award winners from Vancouver and Suntec. Below: speakers, including Cisco's Global Events Director Kathy Sulgit, left; Congrex CEO Layth Bunni, centre. Top right: Cape Town ICC's Chief Executive Rashid Toefy

