Our industry is all about people getting together. So it’s not surprising that when we get together as an industry, exciting things happen. Two good examples are contained in this issue of Commique.

The first is a line of the program of activity that surrounded the recent IMEX industry trade show in Frankfurt. Having so many industry representatives and organizations in one place naturally created the opportunity for many different groups working with each other to come together and look for advancement in the industry and opportunity for members. So you’ll see all the details of AIPC’s IMEX participation.

The second opportunity is yet to come—and that’s of course, our AIPC Annual Conference taking place this July 31 through August 3 in Edinburgh UK. Key conference details are contained in this issue, with more information available on the AIPC website at www.aipc.org. As you look through, you’ll see why we refer to AIPC’s “Face to Face” Meetings Work for Us, Too! Section on page 6.

In creating a welcoming environment for decision-makers.

The IMEX Report: AIPC Builds Profile

This year’s IMEX industry trade show in Frankfurt was well attended by both suppliers and associations alike. And the program of activities that surrounded the event was extremely exciting. For instance, AIPC had a full slate of activities at IMEX with a series of seminars, meetings, receptions and special events that took full advantage of the two full days of the show. AIPC had a full slate of activities at IMEX with a series of seminars, meetings, receptions and special events that took full advantage of the two full days of the show.

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AIPC also participated in the Association Day Networking Reception which brought clients and industry representatives together for an evening of hospitality and information exchange. A full line of activities was presented, a wide range of discussion topics, a good opportunity to network and get full usage of services and experience opportunities associated in creating business relationships. AIPC also participated in the Association Day Networking Reception which brought clients and industry representatives together for an evening of hospitality and information exchange. A full line of activities was presented, a wide range of discussion topics, a good opportunity to network and get full usage of services and experience opportunities associated in creating business relationships.

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**Conference Program Outline:**

**Wednesday August 4, 2004**

- 0830: Official Opening Ceremony
- 0900: Opening and Welcome to AIPC 46th General Assembly
- 0945: Keynote Presentation 1:
- 1030: Coffee Break
- 1100: Keynote Presentation 2:
  - 1100-1145: The Meeting Industry's Role in the 21st Century
- 1145: Welcome Reception and Dinner (Evening)
- 1630: Facing the Challenges of the Meetings Industry
- 1600: Coffee Break
- 1615: Keynote Presentation 3:
  - 1615-1700: The Meeting Industry's Role in the 21st Century
- 1700: Coffee Break
- 1715: Keynote Presentation 4:
  - 1715-1800: The Meeting Industry's Role in the 21st Century
- 1800: Official Closing Ceremony

**Thursday August 5, 2004**

- 0830: Welcome (Chair)  (EICC)
- 0845: Keynote Presentation 5:
  - 0845-0930: The Meeting Industry's Role in the 21st Century
- 0930: Coffee Break
- 0945: Parallel Sessions:
  - 0945-1030: Flexible Rooms
  - 0945-1030: Economic Impact
- 1030: Coffee Break
- 1045: Keynote Presentation 6:
  - 1045-1130: The Meeting Industry's Role in the 21st Century
- 1130: Lunch with simultaneous interpretation
- 1130: Parallel Sessions:
  - 1130-1215: Flexible Rooms
  - 1130-1215: Economic Impact
- 1215: Lunch
- 1330: Parallel Sessions:
  - 1330-1445: Flexible Rooms
  - 1330-1445: Economic Impact
- 1445: Coffee Break
- 1500: Keynote Presentation 7:
  - 1500-1545: The Meeting Industry's Role in the 21st Century
- 1545: Lunch with simultaneous interpretation
- 1545: Parallel Sessions:
  - 1545-1645: Flexible Rooms
  - 1545-1645: Economic Impact
- 1645: Closing Lunch

**The Social Program:**

Edinburgh is one of the most vibrant cities in Europe. There is no end to its charm and beauty, with its grand palaces, fine shops and restaurants, stunning views of the city and its surrounding countryside. The Smith Assembly provide the perfect opportunity to sample some of the finest local food and drinks, as well as enjoying the sights and sounds of Edinburgh. Art and culture is at the heart of Edinburgh, and there are many opportunities to enjoy the local spirit and culture.(

**Hotel Accommodation:**

**Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor****

- **Address:** 33 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ
- **Website:** http://www.hiltonedinburgh.com
- **Rooms:** 369
- **Distance from EICC:** 0.3 miles
- **Facilities:** Meeting and function rooms, fitness center, indoor pool, sauna, spa, restaurant, bar

**The Apex International Hotel****

- **Address:** 311 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2JS
- **Website:** http://www.apexhotels.co.uk
- **Rooms:** 200
- **Distance from EICC:** 0.5 miles
- **Facilities:** Meeting and function rooms, indoor pool, fitness center, restaurant, bar, room service

**The Apex Grassmarket****

- **Address:** 63 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2JY
- **Website:** http://www.apexhotels.co.uk
- **Rooms:** 140
- **Distance from EICC:** 0.7 miles
- **Facilities:** Meeting and function rooms, fitness center, indoor pool, restaurant, bar, room service

**West End Hotel****

- **Address:** 54 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PL
- **Website:** http://www.westendhotel.net
- **Rooms:** 120
- **Distance from EICC:** 0.8 miles
- **Facilities:** Meeting and function rooms, indoor pool, fitness center, restaurant, bar, room service

**Grassmarket Hotel****

- **Address:** 63 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2JY
- **Website:** http://www.grassmarkethotel.co.uk
- **Rooms:** 100
- **Distance from EICC:** 0.7 miles
- **Facilities:** Meeting and function rooms, fitness center, indoor pool, restaurant, bar, room service

**Alternative Accommodation**

For information on other hotels in Edinburgh or surrounding areas, please visit the Edinburgh International Conference Centre website for a full list of recommended hotels. For a list of alternative accommodation, please visit the Edinburgh City Council website for a full list of recommended hotels.

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**Post-Conference Activities**

Every August, people flock from all over the world to see the sights of the famous Edinburgh Festival. If you’re already in the city for the AIPC conference, why not stay and enjoy the Festival too? The Festival Fringe is a three-week celebration of comedy, music, dance, theatre and more, with the city hosting a hundred of acts from international performers. From street performers to world-famous orchestras, there’s something for everyone! And, of course, there’s no end to the shops and restaurants in Edinburgh, so make sure to explore the city and enjoy the festival atmosphere throughout the week, with street performances, craft stalls and prosecco on offer to add to the fun.

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo also takes place every year on the last Friday and Saturday of August. The Edinburgh International Conference Centre have organised a limited number of tickets for the Tattoo on August 5 and August 6. The evening concert has sold out in previous years, so make sure to book early! The Tattoo is a must-see event and a great way to experience the rich history and culture of Edinburgh. For information on other hotels in Edinburgh or surrounding areas, please visit the Edinburgh City Council website for a full list of recommended hotels.

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**Notes for accommodation:**

- **Online bookings:** For bookings made online through the conference website, a discount rate is available. For online bookings made directly with the hotel, a special rate is available.
- **Phone bookings:** For bookings made by phone, a discount rate is available. For phone bookings made directly with the hotel, a special rate is available.
- **Cash bookings:** For bookings made by cash, a discount rate is available. For cash bookings made directly with the hotel, a special rate is available.
- **All rates:** All rates include a 10% discount, unless otherwise stated. All rates are subject to availability and are quoted in pounds sterling.