President's Hope: Hopes and Challenges for a New Year!

Once again, it's almost a new year – and a time to reflect on what's happened over the past twelve months and what we have to look forward to. As always, there are positions that are positive and well worth having.

Firstly, wouldn't you like to see our Congress Centre buildings and facilities across the world in a more excellent state than today? We are all working hard to make this a reality, and I am confident that we will achieve this goal in the near future. It is essential to maintain high standards of quality and safety in our centres, and we will continue to work towards this goal.

Secondly, we need to focus on the importance of education and training in the meetings industry. With the help of our AIPC members, we have developed and implemented a variety of educational programs to promote the growth and development of professionals in the meetings industry. These programs include workshops, webinars, and conferences. We will continue to promote these programs to ensure that our members can stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the industry.

Thirdly, we need to focus on the importance of sustainability in our Congress Centre buildings and facilities. We are working towards using greener practices in our buildings, such as reducing energy consumption and using renewable energy sources. We will continue to develop and implement sustainability initiatives to promote a more eco-friendly environment.

Lastly, we need to focus on the importance of collaboration and partnerships in the meetings industry. We will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to achieve common goals and objectives. This includes working with other industry associations, governments, and organizations to ensure that our industry is a success.

In conclusion, I hope that you will have a great year ahead, filled with many opportunities and experiences. I wish you all a successful and enjoyable year ahead!
AIPC Apex Award Under the Microscope: A Critical Analysis

After many years of being the industry's preeminent ward for excellence, the AIPC Apex Award needed a critical review from an objective observer. This task was assigned by Edinburgh International Conference Centre’s Lesley Stephen, and the results were presented to the AIPC board earlier this year. Communiqué interviews led the process on the analysis.

How would you describe the current state of the Apex Award?

Lesley: My overall conclusion was that the Apex Award is a good award, and one that certain attendees are very proud of winning. But it’s a very niche award that is of interest to a very small group of people – perhaps only two or three people in a centre. It’s a long way from being something that the whole industry is interested in. It is also an award that is only of interest to centres that are, or have been in the past, of a very high quality. In terms of participation, there are very few winners and very few nominees.

What were your overall conclusions?

Lesley: My overall conclusions were that there were a number of issues with the Apex Award that needed to be addressed. The issue of participation was one of the main issues. There were a number of centres that had competed in the Apex Award but did not feel that they had the time or resources to continue with the award. The feedback from the centres that had competed in the Apex Award was that they felt that the award was not of interest to them because it was too niche, too focused on a very small group of people, and too focused on a very high quality. In terms of participation, there are very few winners and very few nominees.

Why did you undertake this project?

Lesley: At the same time, there were enough commonalities to suggest that there is certainly scope for an Apex Award. All three of these groups were interested in the award, and what factors influence that decision. The importance of the answer is a good question to ask. The decision to undertake this project was based on the fact that there were enough commonalities to suggest that there is certainly scope for an Apex Award.

How did you work with?

Lesley: There is a culture of winning awards at the AIPC. The Apex Award is one such award, and there are others, such as the AIPC Innovation Award and the AIPC APEX Award. The award is given to the centre that has the highest standard of quality.

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