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MAY 2016

PUBLISHERS NOTE

Dear Reader!

As I look back to the past 10 days at IMEX in Frankfurt – and my own impression matches all feedback that I heard from buyers and exhibitors alike – this IMEX was absolutely outstanding and is regarded as extremely successful. I hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did! In case you were not able to make it to Frankfurt this year, please see our coverage and mark next year's dates in your calendar: 16-18 May 2017.

As always, there is so much to report on! Therefore, we have prepared an around-the-world NEWSFLASH edition for you. Please see the table of content for details on our virtual trip. We have stop-overs in Algeria at the CIC d'Alger, at the Austria Center Vienna, in Belgium's Flanders Meeting & Convention Center Antwerp, in Strasbourg – France, in India, the Japanese cities Kyoto and Sendai, on the Philippines and in Lausanne – Switzerland.

Don't miss two items of special interest! MICE East Africa and Malta!

MICE EAST AFRICA FORUM & EXPO, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 9-11 JUNE 2016

This first-ever industry trade show in the East African region ranks very high on the country's priorities – be it among the government, the country's largest economic entities or our industry's suppliers and partners. Space for only two exhibitors was left (during IMEX!) and the preparation is in full swing.

We at MICE Media Marketing were indeed honoured by the visit during IMEX of Ethiopia's Consul General Mr. Mehreteab Mulugeta Haile and his Vice Consul for Trade and Tourism Affairs, Mr. Hayder Abdella Hassen who were both highly interested in our industry and in particular in our industry's heart-beat at IMEX. I have rarely seen such a high commitment to our industry throughout an entire government!

So – if you are a qualified buyer and interested in arranging events and/or incentives in East Africa, MICE East Africa is indeed a not-to-miss trade show. A particular bonus is the simultaneous access to the Hotel Show Africa, taking place simultaneous at the same location! Connecting with this regions vendors has never been that easy, so hurry up, review the information on <http://micemm.com/index.php/hosted-buyer-events/mice-east-africa-forum-expo> and apply as a hosted buyer on <http://survey.micemm.com/index.php/374368/lang-en>.

We will include an exhibitor list for MICE East Africa Forum and Expo and for Hotel Show Africa in the upcoming edition of MICE:destination

MALTA!

After rebranding its Convention Bureau to Conventions Malta the destination presented its new tag line and guiding theme – Access All Areas! This new focus brings every planner's dream to life as it encompasses every venue on the Maltese Islands owned by the state or other public bodies. Be it a historical building or the President's official residence – all is possible.

We are preparing a special coverage on Malta for you in the next Edition of MICE:destination, coming up in Mid-May!

As usual, you're invited to share this newsflash with your colleagues. [Click here to forward the edition!](#)

Best regards

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ALGERIA: THE CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE CONFÉRENCES D'ALGER AT IMEX IN FRANKFURT 2016

For the first time, Algeria was present at IMEX representing The Centre International de Conférences d'Alger.

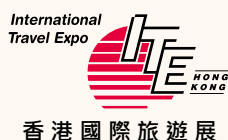
The Centre International de Conférences d'Alger (CICA) is scheduled to open late 2016. It will be a first-class state of the art international conference centre that will house meeting rooms, a banquet hall seating over 2000 guests, exhibition halls, restaurants, retail space, parking facilities and a multipurpose auditorium amphitheatre that will accommodate over 6,000 delegates.

The total capacity of the CICA is approximately 10,000 people and the configuration of the space allows the CICA to host multiple events at the same time. Already the CICA is sure to put Algiers on the map as a premier conference destination in North Africa and the Middle East.

Paul D'Arcy, CEO CICA represented the Centre at IMEX while Mr Hamad Melzi, Director General of EPIC Residence d'état du Sahel, the owning company of CICA, participated in the IMEX Politician's Forum. Having both an Algerian venue exhibiting and an Algerian politician attending the forum is a first time for IMEX and demonstrates the countries commitment to and the importance of the MICE industry.

www.cicalger.com

ACTE holds The "Myth of Low Cost Carrier" Seminar at ITE & MICE 2016



The Seminar, which will be held at 15:00-16:00 on 16 June 2016, is by the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE). It will have Andrew Cohen, Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Express as Keynote Speaker exploring latest trends, and a panel discussion on the pros and cons LCC usage by corporations. Other MICE seminars include "Corporate Travel/Event Management", "Event Technology" and "MICE Destinations" etc.

ITE & MICE Hong Kong 2016, co-locating the 11th ITE MICE and leisure focused 30th ITE, draw over 600 exhibitors from around 50 countries and regions. Held at halls 1A to 1E of the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, it opens only to trade requiring registration on June 16 and 17, while on June 18 to 19 open to public.

For details and Trade / MICE Visitor registration, visit www.itehk.com. For enquiry, send email to travel@tkshk.com or call TKS, the organizer at +85231550600.



AUSTRIA, VIENNA: AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA EXTENDS MEETING SPACE AND AWARD-WINNING WLAN PERFORMANCE

From autumn 2016 the Austria Center Vienna will be adding five new meeting rooms spreading across 520 sq m / 5.597 sq ft on the same level as the main entrance. This represents the latest step in the strategy of adding even more networking and meeting spaces to the nation's largest conference centre. The new spaces join the Business Lounge and neighbouring Café MOTTO which opened on the other side of the entrance area last year.

Conferences with between 3,000 and 4,000 participants that set up their industry exhibitions in the entrance hall are increasingly calling for additional hospitality zones for sponsors and extra space for satellite symposiums. "From September the new spaces will allow us to offer a separate multipurpose area right next to the exhibition facilities," explained Head of Sales Michael Part.

WLAN performance, unmatched anywhere in the world, earns venue 2016 Digital Infrastructure Award

The Austria Center Vienna's innovative WLAN won over high-profile congress destinations worldwide, offering availability for 20,000 simultaneous users in the main building and exhibition halls.

Austria's largest congress and event centre, managed by Susanne Baumann-Söllner, has invested heavily in

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IMEX IN FRANKFURT: FOCUS ON INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT BOOSTS BUSINESS

Three busy days at IMEX in Frankfurt 2016 doing business, learning about the latest developments and making new contacts proved to be action-packed and fulfilling for meetings and events industry buyers and suppliers.

Altogether close to 9,000 hosted buyers and visitors attended the event this year and the number of individual appointments and stand presentations increased by 9 per cent to 57,000. In addition, 1200 group appointments were made leading to an additional 10,000 interactions. Over 53 per cent of appointments had profiles attached.

Ray Bloom, Chairman of the IMEX Group, commented: "Our own approach to IMEX in Frankfurt this year has been based on investment and innovation."

"We have invested substantially in bringing more senior hosted buyers into the show for longer periods of time while giving them flexibility to make the most of the opportunities to meet their own needs. At the same time throughout the show, from education to hosted buyer services, there have been many important innovations as we continually strive to help exhibitors, buyers and visitors achieve their objectives."

The investment in offering European hosted buyers the option of an extra day at the show with a two-night programme was well received. It brought many buyers on to the show floor for longer as well as giving them the chance to take in more education and networking activities. Together with the additional hosted buyers, these innovations helped to increase the business opportunities in the hall.

Monday was a busy day of education and meetings. The first PCMA Business School in Europe added a new high level element to the education programme. After Exclusively Corporate@IMEX nearly 90 corporate buyers, with a combined annual meetings and events budgets in the region of \$200 million, visited the show floor on Tuesday along with more than 300 association executives who had taken part in Association Day & Evening.

Ray Bloom added: "With several partner organisations holding meetings here as well, around 1200 people took part in events on Monday at IMEX in Frankfurt. It has become another very busy day even before the show opens."

40 politicians and political advisers were at IMEX on Tuesday for the Politicians Forum at which Hon Minister Stuart Ayres, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events for New South Wales, Australia delivered the keynote address. A group of ISES

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seamless, high-availability wireless local area network (WLAN) infrastructure to facilitate optimal networking among participants and support paperless congresses, live HD streaming and hybrid meeting formats.

A seamless, high-availability WLAN for 35,000 simultaneous connections from multiple devices gives event organisers access to a truly unique IT infrastructure package. The system's appeal also stems from its fast download speeds. "It delivers unlimited internet access irrespective of the type, age and origin of the device being used. Our system allows users to simply log in, start networking or work as if they were in their own home or office," Susanne Baumann-Söllner, the Center's Managing Director explained.

This is made possible thanks to a high concentration of HD access points (93 in total) and excellent bandwidth. Bandwidth is set at 1 GB/s as standard, with the option to increase speed to 4 GB/s at any time. Organisers will have access to speeds of up to 20 GB/s. 100 Mbit/s are available to all organisers absolutely free of charge under standard agreements – which is a unique selling point in its own right.

The IT infrastructure is complemented by 1,500 permanently cabled LAN connections dotted throughout the building. These are particularly in demand for offices at large-scale congresses and in smaller meeting rooms.

www.acv.at/index.en.html

BELGIUM, ANTWERP: FLANDERS MEETING & CONVENTION CENTER ANTWERP

Fifth congress confirmed at Flanders Meeting & Convention Center Antwerp

New conference centre in Antwerp ZOO already in high demand

Although the Flanders Meeting and Convention Center Antwerp doesn't open until November 2016, the venue is already in high demand for international conferences. The congress centre, part of the Elisabeth Center in Antwerp ZOO, recently received confirmation from the prestigious 3rd International Strawberry Congress, which puts the total to five confirmed international conferences, and still counting.

Four conferences were already confirmed to be held at Flanders Meeting and Convention Center Antwerp: the 2017 fall symposium of the Flemish Dentists' Association (Verbond der Vlaamse Tandartsen); ECTMIH 2017, organised by ITG (Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp) in 2017; the 15th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Auditory Technologies (CI 2018 International) in 2018; and Manuele Lymfdrainage a.m. Vodder: 'BeNeVolution' in 2019. The Flanders Meeting and Convention Center Antwerp seems to be spot on.

Antwerp holds many trump cards: diamonds, history, fashion, a historical centre, a flourishing port, and of course the astonishing Antwerp ZOO, adjacent to the impressive train station with its cathedral like architecture. From November 2016, Antwerp ZOO will host the most unique international conference venue in the world. Stretching out over 25,000 m² / 269,069 sq ft, with 30 rooms and a capacity of 2,500 guests, Flanders Meeting & Convention Center Antwerp will be a global player on the conference and meeting scene.

NETWORKING IN A ROOM WITH A ZOO

No city other than Antwerp can boast an international conference centre in the exclusive location of one of the oldest and best kept 19th century zoos of Europe. The unique concept was developed by Ian Simpson Architects from Manchester, who teamed up with Bureau Bouwtechniek and the Chicago based Kirkegaard Associates, who are world authorities in acoustics. Ian Simpson's team have created an inspiring, flexible, powerful, and energy-efficient building, making extensive use of natural light sources.

The centrally located 2,000-seat Elisabeth Auditorium is the icing on the cake. A keynote speaker in the afternoon and a symphonic orchestra in the evening is no problem. An early morning run in the ZOO preceding an intensive day, treating delegates to a gastronomic dinner, or meeting in a historical and green setting amidst wild animals are just a couple of the possibilities on offer. Flanders Meeting & Convention Center Antwerp will become a centre for the exchange of knowledge, inspiration, and high level contacts, closer to what matters.

veerle.debie@fmcca.com - www.fmcca.com

(International Special Events Society) members also came to the show from all across the world before going to Scotland for their Global Event Summit.

There were several significant innovations in the continually evolving IMEX education programme. TED-style talks on Trends and Future-Think were brought to the show by the Swedish Network of Convention Bureaus, and Play With A Purpose brought its Play Room to IMEX in Frankfurt for the first time. A special early morning Sharing Economy discussion was part of a series on this theme. All these new sessions proved highly engaging.

Business is Personal, also a new theme for the show, met buyers' personal needs, developing confidence, health and wellbeing. It featured education sessions, the new Be Well Lounge sessions (by InnerSense and supported by Weichlein Tours + Incentives and Munich Convention Bureau) and the IMEX Run, inspired by Rio de Janeiro which attracted 800 registered participants.

Networking is part of the essence of IMEX. To ensure that buyers have more opportunities to meet their peers through the show – rather than leave it to luck – the IMEX Group has been testing the use of a networking matching system – Zenvoy.com. This uses demographic data to suggest matches between like-minded peers before the show.

After successful trials with association delegates in America and also with Association Day and Exclusively Corporate delegates in Frankfurt, IMEX plans to roll this out to all hosted buyers at IMEX America 2016.

Reflecting on the show, Ray Bloom said: "It is interesting to see that many stands have adjusted their marketing positioning. They are making more of their associated centres of expertise as these are an asset to event organisers and a way to drive inward investment and growth in the local economy. It's a trend that was central to the discussions at the Politicians Forum."

"There is also a strong flow of innovation and investment clearly evident in the creativity and new technology on the show floor.

The many impressive new designs among the 50 new stand structures and, for instance, virtual reality devices indicate their confidence in their investment in the industry and in the show."

Next year's IMEX in Frankfurt takes place 16 – 18 May 2017.

IMEX America will take place at Sands® Expo and Convention Center, at The Venetian® | The Palazzo® in Las Vegas on 18 to 20 October 2016.

www.imex-frankfurt.com

Hosted Buyer Invitation:
MICE East Africa Forum & Expo 2016
9-11 June 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The first MICE industry trade show in East Africa will take place from **June 9-11, 2016** at the Millenium Special Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The three-day event will offer 150 hosted buyers the opportunity to meet with more than 100 of the region's top suppliers.

Attending the MICE East Africa Forum & Expo will allow you to experience Addis Ababa's MICE infrastructure and the cities top level suppliers and meet with the major Ethiopian tourism offices; the East and Central African country tourism organizations, airlines, hotels and resorts with suitable MICE facilities, local venue providers and vendors, professional conference and event organizers, destination management companies etc.

The Hosted buyer programme includes round trip air tickets to/from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, up to 4 night hotel accommodation during the show, free admission to the exhibition hall, the East Africa Innovation Center, the event's networking functions, food & beverage services of the event, ground transportation and a minimum of 25 valuable business appointments during the 3-day event.

Information on micemm.com/index.php/hosted-buyer-events/mice-east-africa-forum-expo

Click here to apply: survey.micemm.com/index.php/374368/lang-en

CANADA, MONTREAL: PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTRÉAL AND MONTRÉAL InVivo JOIN FORCES

The Palais des congrès de Montréal and Montréal InVivo have decided to unite their efforts for the purpose of attracting even more health and life science related major international conventions to Montréal and the Palais. This new partnership will not only mean significantly more initiatives aimed at bringing new large-scale events to the city, but also more economic and intellectual benefits as a result. Innovation will be fostered, along with the ongoing development of businesses and organizations operating in both of these key economic sectors in Montréal and Québec.

Montréal InVivo, the economic development organization whose membership spans 600+ organizations, including 150 research centres and 80 world-class company affiliates, is dedicated to the creation of a business environment that fosters innovation and growth within organizations in the life sciences and health sector. For its part, the Palais des Congrès de Montréal, together with its 287-member Ambassadors Club, is constantly active securing major events for the Palais in order to generate even more economic and intellectual benefits.

The new partnership will span various forms, including information sharing and convention selection, and also continuing the work of putting together a new health related Montréal convention for 2016: the first ever International Congress on Personalized Health Care.

<http://congresmtl.com>

FRANCE, STRASBOURG – A CITY UPDATE

STRASBOURG CONVENTION CENTRE - THE STATE-OF-THE-ART IN AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT CAPITAL
 Strasbourg is renowned as the City of Europe. Located centrally, it is the natural crossroads that welcomes visitors within Europe and further afield internationally. It is the only event City that can boast four International airports (within an hour's drive) linking it directly to the European capitals and is also the hub of the European train network linking it to Paris in 1h 50, Frankfurt in 1h 45 and beyond.

The Strasbourg Convention Centre is well positioned in the heart of the City. Having gone through a 250 million Euros renovation and expansion project (completing summer 2016), the venue is equipped with 3 auditoriums, 23 commission rooms and over 10, 000 square meters of exhibition space with a catering space that can host up to 1,500 guests.

With these facilities, the new Strasbourg convention centre is placed on the list of the top 10 destinations

MITM AMERICAS, MITM EUROMED, CULTOURFAIR – NEW CORPORATE LAYOUT

After 30 years of success in MICE business, GSAR Marketing – MITM Events releases its new-look corporate image, a new and fresh way of making what they have done since 1985. As pioneers in B2B MICE exhibitions, they would love to invite everybody to come along with them in this amazing voyage, and to be part of their life changing work.



On their new Facebook page facebook.com/MITMEvents you will find everything related with their upcoming activities: events, trade shows, business, interesting MICE news, campaigns, etc. Feel free to contact them with any questions you may have.

www.mitmevents.com

MICE:destination

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AFRICA	EDITION
Ethiopia	Sept 2015
Indian Ocean: The Maldives, Maurice, Seychelles	Sept 2015
ASIA-PACIFIC	
Asia – On Promotion: Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand	Jan 2016
Australia	Jan 2016
Hong Kong	July 2015
The Philippines	Mar 2015
Philippine Incentives	May 2015
The Philippines	Mar 2016
THE CARIBBEAN	
Anguilla	May 2015
Jamaica	Jan 2015
Saint Lucia	July 2015
MIDDLE EAST	
UAE, Dubai	Jan 2016

for European MICE events in 2016. It has worked extensively with the City in its Europtimist program to welcome business tourism and each year attracts over 800,000 visitors, spending over 80,000 stayed hotel nights. Strasbourg has an extensive hotel network with over 9,000 rooms in the city center and was honoured to be elected a 'welcoming City' for business tourism by the ICCA in 2014.

To coincide with the renovation, the convention centre and the City of Strasbourg have launched a Helloptimist package to offer great rates and options to streamline the event planning process for professional organizers. For more information, please visit: www.strasbourg-events.com

STRASBOURG, PIONEER IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE

Strasbourg is one of the finest cities in Europe and ranks among the 5 largest conference cities in France (Paris excluded). It possesses every asset: the European capital of democracy and human rights, classified by UNESCO and a City of Art and History, Strasbourg enchants visitors and inhabitants alike with its exceptional architectural heritage, its cathedral and its mythical "Petite France" neighborhood. The prestige of the University of Strasbourg with its three Nobel prize-winners still in activity contributes to the city's sparkle and places it as a privileged venue for national and international scientific conferences. A firm believer in Europe, Strasbourg really lives up to its attractive title: "Strasbourg, the Europtimist".

New from 2016 on, discover and learn more about Strasbourg's brand new welcome package, including partners throughout the city and proposing free transportation, exclusive access to a prestige municipal venue or a private trip on a river boat.

www.int.meeting.france.fr - www.strasbourg-events.com - www.mystrasbourg.com

INDIA: EMERGENT BUSINESS-DESTINATION AT IMEX 2016

Development of MICE-Tourism one of the top-priorities of the Indian government. At IMEX 2016, Incredible India presented 11 exhibitors, including tour operators like NOIDA and India Expo, which specialize in meetings, conventions and incentives, as well as Air India, Oberoi and ITC hotels and the India Convention Bureau.

India, the world's seventh largest country, offers visitors incredible variety: beautiful beaches, adventurous trekking tours, magnificent palaces, relaxing yoga and Ayurveda as well as progressive modern architecture and vibrant cities. Its offers are attractive for everyone, including business travellers.

In recent years, India has become one of the most sought-after MICE destinations: According to the ICCA Report 2014, the capital city of New Delhi was 18th in the ranking for the Asia-Pacific region, and increase was expected. The country fulfils all conditions for successful meetings, events, conferences and incentives: an excellent combination of accommodation and meeting venues that offer high-tech facilities matching global standards.

In addition, the Indian government has identified the development of MICE tourism and the steady modernisation of MICE facilities as one of the main priorities: MICE tourism fosters innovation, offers great potential for industrial associations and creates new jobs.

Furthermore, international travel associations organising their conferences and seminars in India are supported and promoted by the Indian Ministry of Tourism. India recently hosted the PATA Travel Mart, the DRV Destination Forum and SITE Global Conference 2015.

www.incredibleindia.org

JAPAN LAUNCHES A NEW VENUE FINDING TOOL

Just before IMEX, the Japan National Tourism Organization launched an updated city guide and unique venue search tool on the meetings & events website www.japanmeetings.org.

The new city guide is easily downloadable as a PDF and introduces the meetings facilities of 52 cities and regions. The Unique Venue search tool includes an ever-growing list of temples, castles, museums, gardens and parks and planners can search by region and category to find the perfect venue.

www.japanmeetings.org

JAPAN, KYOTO: EXCITING NEW VENUE OPENINGS

The new ROHM Theatre Kyoto among the first in a series of new hotel and event venue openings

EUROPE

Madrid

[Mar 2015](#)

NORTH AMERICA

USA - Greater Fort Lauderdale & [May 2015](#)

Broward County Update

VISIT THE PHILIPPINES AGAIN IN 2016!

Following the success of the Visit the Philippines Year (VPY) 2015 campaign, the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) are launching another exciting campaign that will not only attract more foreign visitors to the country but will encourage their return with Visit the Philippines Again (VPA) 2016.

VPA2016 is a retail-based campaign to drive urgency and excitement among foreign travellers to visit the Philippines and return for more fun, friendship, feel-good adventure and fabulous memories to cherish in 2016.

Foreign travellers will be treated to many new and exciting attractions and spectacular travel destinations that showcase the beauty of the Philippine islands and the warmth of its people. Lots of rip-roaring, top-notch events will also make their stay in the country worthwhile and productive. This year's line-up of fun-filled events include the World Street Food Congress for foodies on 20-24 April, the MTV Music Evolution on 24 June for music and concert lovers, Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship for sports and outdoor enthusiasts on 7 August and the Travel Blog Exchange for local and foreign travel bloggers on 13-16 October, just to name a few.

Returning visitors will also be given exclusive travel deals and special incentives, such as special discounts on flights, hotel accommodations and tour packages, after simply presenting proof of previous visits.

The Philippines logged 5.36 million international visitors last year who generated \$5 billion in tourism revenues. With all these new fantastic offerings, it will be another bright year for the tourism sector. PDOT and TPB intend to remain aggressive and competitive in getting its share of the tourist market this 2016.

www.funworks.ph

SWITZERLAND, LAUSANNE WELCOMES CHAPLIN'S WORLD MUSEUM – A NEW MEETING AND EVENT SPACE

Lausanne Tourism & Convention Bureau this week announces the official opening of Chaplin's World

In January 2016 the new ROHM Theatre Kyoto opened its doors for business. This exciting addition further expands Kyoto's appeal as a world-class destination for large meetings, conventions and other events.

The facility includes three halls with a combined seating capacity of nearly 3,000, including conference rooms, restaurants, cafes, catering options, and an outdoor event area that borders the neighbouring Okazaki Park.

The 2,000 seat main hall's full service stage can be used for lectures, conferences, meetings, or even concerts and theatrical events. Services include multilingual staff, full wheelchair accessibility, and Wi-Fi Internet access.

The ROHM Theatre Kyoto is located just across the street from the 10,000+ m² (approx. 110,000 ft²) of exhibition halls, meeting rooms, and galleries provided by the Miyakomesse Kyoto International Exhibition Hall. When used in tandem with Miyakomesse, the ROHM Theatre Kyoto can easily meet the needs of a wide variety of meetings, exhibitions, and events.

In addition to being a world class destination for large groups, Kyoto continues to expand and develop its exciting array of options for smaller sized meetings, incentive groups, and luxury travel.

In March 2015, the brand new Suiran Luxury Collection Hotel opened in the gorgeous Arashiyama district of the city. With 39 guest rooms and 9 specialty rooms, it offers a truly intimate and luxurious experience to their guests.

Additionally, a total of 21 hotels are scheduled to open in the near future, adding more than 2,000 new rooms to the city including the upcoming Aman Kyoto, and the Four Seasons Hotel which is slated to open in autumn 2016.

Venues like the Sodoh Higashiyama Kyoto and the Funatsuru Kyoto Kamogawa Resort feature beautiful small to mid-sized meeting and banquet facilities (Approx 30 - 200 pax) that are deeply infused with Kyoto's culture and spirit and fully utilize their incredible surroundings.

The Kyoto Convention Bureau is ready to give you full access to Kyoto's amazing cultural heritage, such as Maiko and Geiko (Kyoto-style Geisha), sake-barrel opening ceremonies, Japanese drummers, demonstrations by master artisans, and many other traditional forms of Kyoto culture to your projects to give your guests the experience of a lifetime.

With the opening of these top class hotels and meeting facilities, Kyoto continues to develop its reputation not only as a historically and culturally rich tourist mecca, but also as one of the world's most innovative and breath-taking destinations for meetings and incentives.

kyoto@helloworld.or.jp - <https://meetkyoto.jp/en>

JAPAN, SENDAI: CONVENTION CENTER UPDATES!

Last December, Sendai's Tozai Subway Line opened, which means Sendai's convention area including Sendai International Center and Tohoku University is just a five-minute ride from the JR Sendai Station. There are covered passageways from International Center Station to both the Sendai International Center Conference Building and Exhibition Building, making the complex among the most convenient in Japan no matter the weather.

The Sendai International Center is located at the foot of the site of Sendai Castle which overlooks the entire city of Sendai. In addition to the former Conference Building, the Exhibition Building opened in May 2015 and it consists of a 3,000 m² exhibit hall with a capacity of 2,560 people and four 200 m² meeting rooms that accommodate approximately 200 people each. The Exhibition Hall can be divided into five rooms by March 2017, it is now dividable into two rooms with movable partitions. The Exhibition Hall is all carpeted and column-free, making it suitable for a wide range of events.

The adjoining Sendai International Center Conference Building has a main hall seating 1,000, a 755 m² reception/exhibition hall and a total of 12 meeting rooms of various sizes. It is equipped with everything required to host international meetings and receptions of all sizes.

Together, these two facilities will allow Sendai to host larger events than ever before. In addition, they are close to Tohoku University, museums and other academic and cultural facilities. Sendai is a cosmopolitan convention area with lots of exciting cultural and sightseeing opportunities.

conv@sentia-sendai.jp - www.stcb.or.jp/english

Museum, a new meeting and event space in Lausanne region which can host up to 150 guests for conferences and dinners and up to 200 for cocktail receptions.

The museum, which is located on the vast estate of the Manoir De Ban on the Swiss Riviera where Chaplin spent the last 25 years of his life, offers breath-taking views of the Swiss countryside and provides visitors with an insight into both the intimate family life of Chaplin and his Hollywood existence. The museum opening coincides with the 127th anniversary of his birth.

It houses sets from iconic Chaplin films, 30 wax figures of 20th century celebrities, an outdoor forum, cinematic presentations and a gallery of graphic artists from around the world. The versatile event space allows for a variety of corporate and business events.

Olivier Mathieu, Congress and Meetings Manager at Lausanne Tourism & Convention Bureau, says: "Our whole region is delighted to be opening the Chaplin's World Museum, which is an excellent new addition to our collection of cultural attractions that offer unique exhibition and event experiences, such as the Castle of Chillon and The Olympic Museum. We are certain it will become one of Lausanne region's most prestigious attractions.

I believe this will help to strengthen Lausanne's positioning as a great destination for international events, as well as for the tourism industry."

With this opening, Lausanne's Conference, Congress and Exhibition Centre, the SwissTech Convention Centre and Beaulieu Congress and Exhibition Centre see another highly attractive venue to underline the cities offerings to meeting organizers.

Maximum capacities	
Swiss Tech Convention Centre	
Meeting Rooms	18
Theatre max.	3,000
Classroom max.	879
Reception max.	2,211
Banquet max.	1,400
Beaulieu Congress and Exhibition Centre	
Meeting Rooms	30
Theatre max.	5,200
Classroom max.	2,000
Reception max.	4,600
Banquet max.	2,800

www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en