

October 2016

KDN PRESTIJIO/09/2012 (022844)

TTGmice

Asia-Pacific's intelligent business events resource

Will sharing economy
travel products take off
with corporates?

Singapore rides the storm

Gardens by the Bay's deputy
CEO preps her garden for MICE

19 WAYS TO FORGE A TIGHT TEAM



Forget tug-of-wars and trust falls.
There are far more interesting ways
to bring a team together, and we've
rounded up some fun ones from
around Asia-Pacific

TTG Asia
**MOBILE APP
OF THE YEAR 2015**
(Merit)
MPAS Awards

TTG Asia
**TRADE MEDIA
OF THE YEAR 2015**
MPAS Awards

TTGmice
**TRAVEL JOURNALISM
BUSINESS ARTICLE**
2014, 2013, 2011 & 2009
PATA Gold Awards



澳門 · 盛會之都

MACAO

MEGA Events City

Macao has come of age as Asia's leading destination for large scale meetings and events, infrastructure, catering for the smallest to the very largest of business events.

With over 180,000 m² of meeting space, 32,000 hotel rooms all within a compact 30 km² and convenient access to 2 international airports.

Macao is a most convenient choice for your next meeting or event no matter what the size.

EDITORIAL**Karen Yue**

Group Editor (karen.yue@ttgasia.com)

Xinyi Liang-PholsenaDeputy Editor, TTG Asia & TTG India
(liang.xinyi@ttgasia.com)**Dannon Har**Assistant Editor, TTG Asia Online
(dannon.har@ttgasia.com)**Paige Lee Pei Qi**Assistant Editor, Singapore
(lee.peiqi@ttgasia.com)**S Puvaneswary**Editor, Malaysia/Brunei
(puvanes@ttgasia.com)**Mimi Hudoyo**

Editor, Indonesia (jdmfasia@cbn.net.id)

Rachel AJ Lee, Yixin NgSub Editors
(rachel.lee@ttgasia.com, ng.yixin@ttgasia.com)**Rebecca Elliott**Australia
(rebeccaelliott@hotmail.com)**Prudence Lui**Hong Kong/Greater China
(prului@yahoo.com)**Caroline Boey**China & Special Projects
(caroline.boey@ttgasia.com)**Julian Ryall**Japan
(jryall2@hotmail.com)**Rosa Ocampo**

The Philippines (rosa.ocampo@gmail.com)

Rohit KaulIndia
(rohitkaul23@gmail.com)**Feizal Samath**Sri Lanka/Maldives
(feizalsam@gmail.com)**Redmond Sia, Goh Meng Yong**

Creative Designers

Lina Tan

Editorial Assistant

SALES & MARKETING**Michael Chow**Group Publisher
(michael.chow@ttgasia.com)**Ar-lene Lee**Senior Business Manager
(arlene.lee@ttgasia.com)**Pierre Quek**Publisher, Online Section
(pierre.quek@ttgasia.com)**Hidy Lee**Business Manager
(hidylee@ttgasia.com)**Cheryl Tan**Corporate Marketing Manager
(cheryl.tan@ttgasia.com)**Kwek Wan Ling**Marketing Executive
(kwek.wan.ling@ttgasia.com)**Cheryl Lim**Advertisement Administration
manager (cheryl.lim@ttgasia.com)**Carol Cheng**Asst Manager Administration
& Marketing (Hong Kong, carol.cheng@ttgasia.com)**PUBLISHING SERVICES****Tony Yeo**

Division Manager

Lynn Lim

Web Executive

Katherine Leong

Circulation Executive

OFFICES**Singapore**TTG Asia Media Pte Ltd, 1 Science Park Road,
#04-07 The Capricorn, Singapore Science
Park II, Singapore 117528

Tel: +65 6395 7575, fax: +65 6536 0896,

email: contact@ttgasia.com

Hong Kong

TTG Asia Media Pte Ltd, 8/F, E168,

166-168 Des Voeux Road Central,

Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2237 7288, fax: +852 2237 7227

TTG ASIA MEDIA PTE LTD**Darren Ng**

Managing Director

Raini HamdiSenior Editor
(raini.hamdi@ttgasia.com)**Karen Yue**
Group Editor

There's no need to get physical

Everyone knows what teambuilding is and what it does. It is a concept most of us are likely to have experienced back in school, when our teachers herded several classes off to a campsite or an adventure park and put us through a physically demanding course that we must tackle as individuals and as a team.

Somehow, the idea that teambuilding programmes should involve some form of Ninja Warrior-esque physical exertion stuck with whoever was responsible for planning the bonding events I was involved in. I've had enough of scaling wobbly net ladders, wading through goopy mud, wriggling through shaky suspended chains of tyres, manoeuvring tricky caterpillar wheels and forming awkward human centipedes (almost as bad as the bizarre Dutch movie of the same name) in this lifetime, all in the name of forging a tighter bond with my school and office mates.

Thankfully, in the market today are so many other ways to celebrate team spirit, facilitate communication, encourage collaboration and motivate people towards a common goal. And one need not go through an exhausting obstacle course every time to achieve all that.

Nowadays, teams can be challenged intellectually with an activity like Asia Ability's Beat the Box, or be made to test their resource management capability by building a dragon for a Chinese dragon dance, led by Team Building Asia. They may even get to see the city sights and learn something about the destination, such as through Apxara's Chronicles of Exploration.

In our cover feature this issue, we have compiled 19 teambuilding ideas from around Asia-Pacific that are not all strenuous but are definitely great fun.

One only needs to think out of the box – or better yet, consult with an experienced event house or teambuilding specialist – to develop a programme that is fun, rewarding, suitable for everyone with a different activity level and preference, and will not cause a laundry headache at the end of the day.



TTGmice, endorsed by the Asian Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, is published by TTG Asia Media Pte Ltd, and is mailed free-of-charge on written request to readers Asia-wide who meet a set of predetermined terms and conditions. Annual airmail subscription charges are US\$70 (Asia) and US\$90 (elsewhere). All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher.

MCI (P) 165/08/2013, KDN
PPS1140/09/2012(022844), ISSN 0218-849X
Printed by Times Printers Pte Ltd
16 Tuas Avenue 5, Singapore 639340

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TTGmice

Follow us at @TTGmice

Get your weekly news update at www.ttg mice.com



TTGmice
www.ttgmmice.com

COVER STORY

14 19 ways to forge a tight team

Forget tug-of-wars and trust falls. There are far more interesting ways to bring a team together, and we've rounded up some fun ones from around Asia-Pacific

COUNTRY REPORTS

22 Build and they will come

Bangkok is replete with business event venues and hotels but still tantalises with new and improved hardware. By Michael Sanderson

26 Bolder steps forward

Multiple infrastructure projects will soon come online in Hong Kong, prompting greater confidence among MICE players in courting new events and businesses. Prudence Lui reports

31 Ready riders of the storm

Global economic woes have hit the Little Red Dot, bringing down BTMICE arrivals and meeting group sizes, but a hefty tourism promotion fund should help lift the mood. By Paige Lee Pei Qi

DEPARTMENTS

- 1** To our readers
- 4** Marketplace
- 8** Talk of the trade
- 12** In focus
- 34** Case study
- 36** People
- 38** Over coffee with...
- 40** Gallery

Play SEOUL



We've been waiting for over a millennium to meet you.

Enjoy the Royal Treatment.

www.miceseoul.com



Seoul:
Your
Complete
Convention
City

We love



Island lures close to the city

The appeal of an all-in-one venue for business events and fun, social functions is clear for all to see, and this is the selling point Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise boasts.

Located within an hour's drive of central Tokyo, Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise is an island theme park spanning 24 hectares at the tip of Yokohama Bay. It is home to the ocean-facing Hotel Sea Paradise Inn which comes with function rooms that can support meetings, training seminars and workshops; four quality aquariums where visitors can see

and interact with Japan's largest collection of marine creatures; the Pleasure Island adventure park with numerous exhilarating rides such as the Blue Fall which drops participants from a height of 107m; a selection of restaurants and fast food outlets; and retail shops.

Despite its variety of facilities, the park is surprisingly tranquil, with beautiful gardens and a serene marina for visitors to stroll down. Visitors can also choose to explore the island by bus, train or boat, before scaling

the Sea Paradise Tower for unparalleled views of the area.

At night, structures on the island are illuminated, creating the picture-perfect setting for outdoor social sessions over a gourmet dinner or casual drinks at one of the theme park's many restaurants.

Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise's close proximity to Tokyo makes it an easy extension option for post-conference programmes, or for incentive groups that desire a more relaxing team-bonding experience.

Crimson Cebu receives halal certification

The Crimson Resort & Spa Mactan in Cebu has achieved Muslim-friendly status, the second hotel in the Philippines to attain the accolade after Manila Marriott Hotel first received it earlier in May.

Leading halal travel authority CrescentRating gave the resort a commendable rating of five – the highest score being seven – for catering to the needs of Muslim travellers property-wide.

"(The high score) means we are able to provide more than the basic services and facilities, including halal food, *qurans*, *qiblas*, prayer mats, a prayer time guide and facilities like a bidet and female attendants, among others," explained the resort's general manager Kristofer Quadros.

Crimson Resort & Spa Mactan had already received halal certification for its kitchen last April. CrescentRating then assessed the resort facilities for compliance to the specific needs of Muslim travellers for the entire property. The resort's staff are also trained to cater to the needs of Muslim travellers.

"We now see a number of Muslim-friendly setup requested by guests through our website. This is free-of-charge and can be requested in advance upon booking or can also be done upon check-in," added Quadros.

"With this service, we are able to better prepare the rooms for our Muslim guests. And we are optimistic to see more of these as promotion efforts kick in."

Ascott takes Citadines to Seoul

The South Korean capital has welcomed Ascott's Citadines Han River Seoul, a 149-unit serviced residence that offers accommodation across three categories – Studio, Studio Deluxe and Studio Executive.

All units come with fully-equipped kitchens and guests can choose from a menu of services such as laundry and dry-cleaning. A fitness corner, meeting room and rooftop garden is available at the property.

Citadines Han River Seoul is located near Seonyudo metro station, granting guests ease of access to other parts of the city.





HOT DEALS

Resorts World Sentosa

The integrated resort on Sentosa Island in Singapore is giving away a basket of treats to events planners who sign up for a two-year contract or longer with the property.

Event planners can enjoy a 10 per cent cash rebate for events held in the second year and a host of freebies including a tablet, Wi-Fi access, additional room, upgrade to suite and a cultural show for the opening party.

Contact Resorts World Sentosa's MICE specialists at mice@rwsentosa.com.

Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur

The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur – located along the capital city's famous historical mile – has unveiled its latest *Residential Meeting Package*.

The package includes a one-night stay in an elegant Deluxe Room with breakfast; complimentary all-day use of the main meeting room; morning and afternoon coffee breaks; lunch at Contango; all meeting amenities and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Prices start from RM480 (US\$120) per person and is valid until December 31, 2016.

Email tmklresv@ytlhotels.com.my.

Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok

Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok is offering a new meeting deal that throws in two benefits for groups that book full-day meeting packages.

Called *Grand Goes Beyond*, the deal rewards groups with tailor-made morning and afternoon breaks with arrival refreshments, and the choice of a Thai set lunch at Erawan Tea Room or Italian set lunch with appetiser buffet at Spasso.

Prices start from 1,500 baht (US\$43) per person, and is valid until December 31, 2016.

Email events.bangh@hyatt.com.

Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok's Tea Room



Resorts World Sentosa's Equarius Hotel's Deluxe Room

Power Your Meeting with Inspiring New Spaces



Please scan to learn more about the package



From now until 29 December 2016, experience our newly refurbished meeting venues with the "Power Meetings" Package. Inspire creativity in our versatile new event spaces, and enjoy additional benefits and privileges the larger your meeting is.

Book 10 guestrooms with a minimum two-night stay at HKD1,988 per room per night to enjoy one full-day meeting package, daily buffet breakfast, and more.

Book 50 guestrooms to receive more welcome benefits such as early check-in and late check-out as well as four complimentary room upgrades. For booking 100 guestrooms or above, extra benefits include two complimentary guestrooms, use of a secretarial room and one round-trip airport limousine transfer.

For details or to book your next meeting, please call our Assistant Director of Sales - Corporate / MICE Daniel Cheung at telephone +852 2313 4516 or email daniel.cheung@newworldmillenniumhotel.com.

千禧新世界香港酒店
NEW WORLD MILLENNIUM
HONG KONG HOTEL

72 MOODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST
KOWLOON, HONG KONG
TEL: 2738 1111
newworldmillenniumhotel.com

A sweet garden

The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore has converted one of its meeting rooms on level three into an elegant private dining space attached to its one-Michelin-star Summer Pavilion Cantonese restaurant.

Named the Garden Suite, the venue comes with a well furnished pre-dinner lounge which can also be converted into a dining area for larger gatherings, as well as a main dining room for 30 guests. It also has a separate entrance for privacy. Built with corporate functions in mind, the Garden Suite is equipped with three built-in projectors and screens.

The Garden Suite can also accommodate a meeting room setup, and has been a popular choice among event planners for corporate lunches and presentations since its opening in August.



Mercure opens in Singapore's cultural enclave

AccorHotels has opened the new-build Mercure Singapore Bugis in the city state's cultural district, offering 395 heritage inspired rooms, lofts and suites.

Built for both leisure and business travellers, facilities include the rooftop bar Sky Deck, western-local fusion restaurant Sauces, a lobby lounge, an infinity lap pool, as well as three function rooms and an outdoor terrace for events. The largest venue is the Marshall Junction at 75m². It can accommodate a 50-pax banquet or 40 delegates in a theatre setting.

Guests will appreciate the hotel's close proximity to Bugis MRT station, which allows them to get around Singapore easily.

Accor expands portfolio in Xi'an with Novotel property

The Novotel brand has made its debut in Xi'an's CBD and the hotel aims to lure small corporate meetings, incentive groups and product launches.

The 275-room Novotel Xian SCPG Hotel is a 15-minute drive from the China Railway High-speed station, and 30 minutes from Xi'an Xianyang International Airport.

Function rooms range from 60m² to 130m² in size and are able to accommodate between 50 and 110 guests theatre-style.

According to Accor spokesman Kelly Chen, the hotel has secured pharmaceutical, automobile and cosmetics industry meetings for between 20 to 80 participants since its opening on July 28.

The hotel features a "crab" set-up, ideal for meetings with audiovisual presentations as it allows the speaker to move among the participants and make visual contact with them.

Other facilities include three F&B outlets, a fitness centre and computers with Internet connection.

Novotel Xian SCPG Hotel sits alongside Accor's four existing properties in the area, namely Sofitel Xian on Remin Square, Grand Mercure Xian Renmin Square, Sofitel Legend People's Grand Hotel Xian and Mercure on Renmin Square Xian.

Outrigger bows out, Angsana Villas steps in

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts has unveiled the Angsana Villas Resort Phuket, which takes over the property formerly operated by Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas.

The resort's 48 rooms and suites come in a numerous configurations, with the larger ones featuring private gardens and pools.

Corporate event planners can utilise two spacious meeting rooms which are ideal for boardroom-style meetings.

Three F&B outlets are available onsite, as well as a fitness centre, kid's club and a swimming pool. Guests also enjoy access to the amenities at the nearby Angsana Laguna Phuket.



Suite ideas at Grand Hyatt Hong Kong

Refurbishment of the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong's largest suites is now complete, marking the culmination of a four-year renovation project at the hotel.

Designed to encourage entertaining, each Presidential Suite houses a grand piano, a bartender's corner, two living areas – a principal area for chairman's meetings and larger, more formal gatherings, and a junior space for casual, intimate soirées. In addition, each suite features a study, a 12-seat dining room and a fully-equipped kitchen.

The two 400m² Presidential Suites follow separate aesthetics, namely Classic Traditional and Contemporary Eclectic. The 110m² Ambassador Suites are evocative of the Bohemian Chic and Aristocratic Adventurer, while the 80m² Diplomat Suites were inspired by Oriental Chic and Feminine Aristocrat themes.

Stays at the suites come with round-trip limousine airport transfers, a one-hour in-room massage, dedicated Suite Butler service, and access to the newly renovated Grand Club Lounge.



Take your events out of the ballroom and into the Gardens



Gardens by the Bay is proud to be awarded the 2016 Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor, thanks to consistently positive reviews by travellers. Discover the best of sustainability and architectural design in a destination where inspiration blossoms. Enjoy panoramic views amidst fascinating flowers that will add a sense of wonder to any occasion. Please email us at venue.hire@gardensbythebay.com.sg to learn more about our unique event spaces.



The Flower Field Hall overlooks the changing Flower Field display in perpetual spring with sweeping waterfront views.



Secret Life of Trees is ideal for private and exclusive events. Enjoy superb views of the Supertrees as they come alive in a nightly display of dancing lights.



Champagne @ OCBC Skyway elevates your event 22 metres above ground. Savour drinks with a view of the Garden Rhapsody show.

   @gardensbythebay
gardensbythebay.com.sg
18 Marina Gardens Drive, Singapore 018953



Asia continues to see rise in Western show clones



By Prudence Lui

Convention and exhibition specialists in Asia have continued to note a growing presence of western tradeshows making landfall in the region.

Executive vice president of Taiwan External Trade Development Council, Walter Yeh, said more exhibition firms from Europe and the US are branching out into Taiwan, China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Ma-

laysia, encouraged by a growing number of event venues and an attractive market potential.

Rosalind Ng, managing director of Globe International Events Consultancy, told *TTGmice* that Asia is attractive as "its size is as big as the other side of the world" and its "economy is certainly more positive than Europe's or the US' at the moment".

Ng said: "We have seen major international firms cloning their large-scale events in Asia. For example, international food exhibition SIAL (based in Paris) by COMEXPO-SUM Group have gone into China and the Philippines. The world's largest building construction show in Munich BAUMA has also cloned a version in Shanghai."

Besides cloned shows in Asia, newly launched events are coming to town too, added Ng.

China is a natural magnet for Western show owners, thanks to its massive population and strong purchasing power. Sungoal Exhibition and Convention Co's

former executive president, Daben Mao, said western tradeshows had started to enter China since 2001, soon after the establishment of Shanghai New International Expo Center.

Mao said: "Some German organisers have been aggressively transplanting their brands into China over the past 15 years, and now run many trade fairs in the country."

UFI's managing director/CEO, Kai Hattendorf pointed out that Asia's market appeal is also attracting delegates keen on making contact with partners in this part of the world. He shared that UFI's events in Asia-Pacific draw people from all over the world.

Indonesia, which witnessed the budding of the trend two years ago, is expected to catch up with China in the next decade, remarked International Energy

Credit Association's chair, Effi Setiabudi.

"And in another 20 years, foreign show organisers may move to Vietnam," Effi added.



Yeh: Asia draws Western trade fairs

South Korea to welcome largest Japanese incentive group



months between this autumn and next spring, said the Busan Tourism Organisation (BTO).

"This is the first time that over 10,000 employees will visit Korea on an incentive trip from Japan. We see this as a clear indication that Japanese firms are considering Busan as a destination for their incentive trips again," Yoon Joong-hwa, convention marketing manager for the BTO, told *TTGmice*.

"This is a mega event that will bring enormous benefits to the local economy. (Moreover), the period from December to March is the off-season for Busan's MICE industry, so this will serve as a solution to our off-season issues," he added.

Groups bound for Busan will also explore nearby tourist destinations, including the picturesque coastal cities of Gyeongju, Tongyeong and Geoje. Those who are scheduled to be in Busan in October will also get to attend the Busan One Asia Festival, one of South Korea's largest music, culture performance and food festivals.

A further 1,000 employees are scheduled to visit Seoul, with shopping expeditions and casino visits high up on the to-do list. — Julian Ryall

More than 10,000 employees of an association that arranges funerals and weddings in Japan are to take part in an incentive tour to Seoul and Busan, the largest Japanese incentive group to ever

visit South Korea.

The Tokyo-based mutual fund society, Zengokyo, has 229 member companies and 2.4 million clients. Its staff will visit South Korea over a period spanning six

ASEAN reveals 50th anniversary brand logo



ASEAN showcased a new brand logo for its Visit ASEAN@50 Golden Celebration 2017 tourism campaign at the ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane on September 6.

The logo is being unveiled as the 10 nation bloc gears up for a major marketing push to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN next year, while at the same time further South-east Asia as a single tourism destination.

The Visit ASEAN@50 celebrations will be

officially launched at the ASEAN Tourism Forum to be held early January 2017 in Singapore.

Prior to that, partners for the campaign will be revealed at ITB Asia, also held in Singapore, this month. Meanwhile, exclusive travel packages and offers will be announced at the World Travel Market in London in November.

A range of print, online and television advertisements will begin roll out as well, in tandem with social media engagement initiatives, as the launch date approaches.

Key target markets for the campaign include both longhaul and shorthaul destinations as well as South-east Asia itself.

The campaign seeks to raise international visitor arrivals to South-east Asia from 108.9 million in 2015 to 121 million by the end of 2017 and increasing tourism receipts from US\$75 billion in 2014 to US\$83 billion by the end of next year.

TTGmice celebrates ASEAN's 50th anniversary with special publication



ASEAN member nations' singular and collective pursuit of the business events market may have started later than their quest for holiday-makers, but it is catching up fast.

Today in this region are several integrated resorts with MICE capabilities as well as a good mix of business hotels under international and homegrown brands. Notable tourism and civil infrastructure investments are being made in every member country. Young individuals are also stepping up to lead and revolutionise the way business is done.

TTGmice ASEAN's 50th Anniversary Special Issue takes a look at these achievements and more, and hears from trade experts how South-east Asia can benefit from being positioned as a single destination and what more needs to be done.

If you are not subscribed to TTGmice and would like a copy of the Special Issue, access the ebook at http://epublishbyus.com/ttg_mice_asean_50th_/10044536



"Did you know that last-minute hotel bookings are significantly cheaper?"



Find out how HRS can help your business

Become a strategic partner and benefit from exclusive advantages

corporate.HRS.com/sg
e: salesapac@hrs.com
t: +65 6580 2828

@HRS_AsiaPac
HRS Global Hotel Solutions

A recent analysis by hotel portal HRS, which examined the booking behaviour of business travellers over the past 5 years, shows that same-day hotel bookings are on average 23 percent cheaper than overnight stays booked far in advance. The analysis also showed that the majority of business travellers tend to book their hotel accommodation up to 2 weeks in advance, giving up on substantial savings for the security of room availability. Thanks to HRS's mobile app technology, business travellers are now able to only book their hotel accommodation on the same day they need it. Using map functionality with GPS positioning, the HRS app allows them to immediately find a suitable hotel nearby, thus enjoying the best of both worlds.

"Mobile is the current trend and it will define the future of the travel industry. We are constantly enhancing our apps and adding additional services so that we can continually offer guests new experiences."

-HRS CEO Tobias Ragge

Currently installed on over 20 million devices, the HRS app also allows customers to check in to participating hotels via their mobile phone, store preferences or requirements for their stay in their profile, and automatically share this information with staff. There are also plans to make mobile payment possible during check out. Hotels that already offer HRS's 'Smarthotel' services will be indicated in the app.

HRS - Global Hotel Solutions

HRS provides end-to-end hotel management solutions to more than 3,000 businesses globally. As well as providing professional hotel procurement services and negotiating special rates with hotels, HRS optimises the cashless and paperless payment of hotel stays, whilst offering automated invoice processing. HRS also provides solutions for meeting and group bookings through a standardised online booking tool.

The continuously expanding group of companies has over 1,600 employees in 26 offices worldwide, among them Shanghai, Tokyo, Singapore, Paris, London, Mumbai, São Paulo and New York. The HRS Group's headquarters are located in Cologne.

Customised content, meaningful participation are key for future events: industry leaders

By Prudence Lui

Business events of the future will need to be highly customised to satisfy delegates' desire for active and meaningful participation, concluded industry leaders speaking on a panel during the 11th Asian MICE Forum which kicked off on September 7 in Taipei.

The *CEO Discussion: The Future of MICE in 2025* panel, moderated by Walter Yeh who is both executive vice president of Taiwan External Trade Development Council and president of Asian Federation of Exhibition and Convention Associations, sought to understand how the MICE industry would be in 2025.

Talley Management Group, president and CEO, Gregg Talley, opined that one of the earliest trends to emerge and impact event management two to three years from now would be the "move towards customisation of everything, including (event) experience".

Talley said: "Our job is to create experiences and content, so this is (a huge impact) on how we think about events from an organiser's standpoint. Given clients' rising expectations, it is vital for destina-

tions to present their assets and align them with what is expected."

Authentic experiences is another a critical requirement future events must satisfy.

Maritz Travel Co., vice president of experiential design, Greg Bogue, said "authentic experience is the new status symbol and personal value will drive decision and behaviour".

Bogue explained: "(Future event design) is no longer an experience-based one but value-based and personalised. It's not B2B

or B2C but B2me."

Adam Charles, senior vice president, Asia-Pacific with Freeman XP, also pointed to the growing emphasis on authentic creativity in events.

Said Charles: "People are no longer passive (when participating in events). They want to participate and be part of the (content) creation and change. Meaningful experience cannot be copied and it's vital to make sure the experience touches delegates' heart."



From left: Maritz Travel Co's Greg Bogue, Talley Management Group's Gregg Talley, TAITRA and AFECA's Walter Yeh, Freeman XP's Adam Charles and UFI's Kai Hattendorf

Philippine agency CITTI powers up with 1 DMC Asia's global reach

Manila's Corporate International Travel & Tours Inc. (CITTI) has joined 1 DMC Asia, an association of professional DMCs throughout the region and globally connected through 1 DMC World.

In return for annual dues, 1 DMC Asia "does the marketing for us to be connected to all MICE travel planners, either through social media, travel shows, and other marketing arms in the industry," explained CITTI president Shan Dioquino David.

David added that the fact that 1 DMC Asia has only one representative in every

Asian country and CITTI is its sole Philippine representative boded well for his company's current MICE expansion.

"They expect us to have the same level of professionalism, high standard of service, unique and creative programs in the country that we represent," David said.

1 DMC Asia has a presence in 17 Asian countries while 1 DMC World is the umbrella association of DMC members in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America, and the Caribbean, aside from Asia. – **Rosa Ocampo**

{ In brief }

Tokyo trains for travellers' safety

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government conducted an exercise in September to test the city's ability to safeguard foreign tourists in the event of a major natural disaster.

The safety drill involved evacuating 120 volunteers playing the part of foreign tourists from the observatory deck of the 634-metre tall Tokyo Skytree after a simulated earthquake of magnitude 7.3 strikes the city.

Local authorities across Japan are stepping up their efforts to provide timely and appropriate information to foreign visitors, whose numbers are expected to swell to 40 million in 2020.

Korea MICE Bureau flaunts website upgrades

The Korea MICE Bureau (KMB) has re-launched its website with upgrades to help business event organisers along the planning process.

First launched in 2009, KoreaConvention.org is a resource for anyone interested in holding meetings, incentives, and other business events in South Korea.

The redesign provides an enhanced planning experience with an updated database of venues and accommodation, MICE events calendar, and free downloadable guides. One main highlight is a new Request for Proposal page, which allows planners to submit event specifications and track the progress of their application.

Ban off, Garuda sets sights on US

Indonesia's national carrier is planning to re-launch flights to the US via a transit in Japan after a safety ban imposed by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) lasting nearly a decade was lifted in August.

Garuda Indonesia is hoping to begin operations as soon as next year, pending preparatory work and a transit permit approval from Japan.

"Our plan is expected to strengthen Garuda's position as a global aviation player, (especially now) with the upgraded rating from FAA which recognises Indonesia's aviation safety and security standard," said Benny Butarbutar, vice president of corporate communications at Garuda Indonesia, adding that a Boeing 777-300ER will likely serve Los Angeles or New York, the two cities Garuda regards as having the highest market potential.

Newly independent China MICE Committee seeks new members to aid inbound promotion

By Caroline Boey

China MICE Committee (CMC), which acts as the country's de factor CVB, is looking to expand its membership categories to include venues, convention hotels, cruise companies and other suppliers that support the industry.

Alica Yao, deputy secretary-general CMC, told *TTGmice* the association, now with 56 member companies primarily providing MICE travel services in each of China's provinces, wants to target a grouping of 100 members.

"Apart from Tibet and Xinjiang, CMC is well represented in all of China's provinces. CMC used to be an association under

the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), but with the policy change regarding associations, it is now separate but still functions as a MICE promotion entity.

"We are also looking for members that provide audiovisual products and services, event companies as well as PR companies that can support the MICE industry," she added.

For the last three years, CMC has been organising courses to train employees on the event business and how to attract business.

Yao commented: "As our association

members so far are companies that provide travel services, we have been helping them stay one step ahead of the end-user.

"With the separation from CNTA in the middle of the year, we now have a bigger challenge to promote China. Of our members, only about 10 per cent are involved in inbound MICE.

"It will be challenging for CMC to continue to do the job of a CVB but a wider category of members, like the international chains, will be able to help promote the destination for incentives and other MICE events."



Yao: power in numbers

SACEOS offers sustainability cert for MICE industry



The Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers (SACEOS) is offering sustainability certification for MICE industry members to encourage greater adoption of the Singapore Tourism Board's (STB) sustainability guidelines.

The STB guidelines were developed based on feedback from those within the MICE sector who were at a loss over how to start pursuing environmental sustainability practices, according to a SAECOS statement.

The association offers a sustainability masterclass, which has generated "strong interest (from) the state's events industry", according to SAECOS president, Janet Tan-Collis.

Two organisations have successfully attained MICE Sustainability Certification (MSC) as of July 2016 and their efforts were recognised at the Singapore MICE Forum 2016 Dinner on July 28.

Marina Bay Sands received certification at the Intermediate level under the category of Venue while Globibo Singapore gained Basic certification as Audio-Visual Provider.

TTG Asia Luxury, TTGassociations bag awards

TTG Asia Luxury has clinched its first award through a feature-length article in the December 2015 issue, *The New Glamorous*, written by senior editors Mimi Hudoyo and Raini Hamdi.

The story wins a PATA Gold Award for Travel Journalism – Industry Business Article, which was presented at the PATA Travel Mart in Jakarta last month.

It studied how and why the old luxury of grand hotels, first-class air travel and limousine rides is simply not enough to satisfy a new breed of customers, and the extent to which the industry goes to provide out-of-the-world experiences for

wealthy folks seeking deeper fulfilment in their travels.

In another win for TTG Asia Publishing, S Puvaneswary, TTG Asia's editor-Malaysia and Brunei, recently took home an award for Business Events Journalism Excellence, Print/Online, given by the Sarawak Convention Bureau.

She won the prize for an article published on *TTGassociations* in April 2015, titled *Watching And Waiting*, which was a profile of Ravi Chandran, congress president of the 24th Asian & Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a convention held in Sarawak last year.



From left: Mimi Hudoyo and S Puvaneswary are recognised for their literary works

{ 2016 Calendar }

**October
19-21**

ITB Asia
Singapore

**November
9-12**

83rd UFI Congress
Shanghai, China

**November
12-16**

55th ICCA Congress
Kuching, Malaysia

**November
11-13**

CITM
Shanghai, China

The sharing economy pickle

Sharing economy travel providers have come up with business travel tools but why are companies slow to bite? **Caroline Boey** finds out



While acceptance of sharing economy travel providers is growing among corporates, most travel managers are still saying no to putting their travellers in Airbnb accommodation citing duty of care issues.

Unlike a hotel, which comes with strict safety and security codes, a private home may not. Protecting the privacy of the traveller – for example being filmed on CCTVs installed by the homeowner – and nobody to turn to in an emergency were some of the reasons companies cited for not travelling down this road.

On the other hand, transportation services such as Grab/Lyft and Uber are facing more green than red traffic signals, but usage still depends on the destination and whether or not there are legal constraints, the managers pointed out.

Peter Koh, Asia strategic sourcing manager – travel and professional services, Corning Singapore Holdings, told *TTGmice*: “We have yet to implement the use of sharing economy providers in our travel policy but one of them has been identified in the pipeline because it can send booking data to our travel security agent International SOS. But even then, we require our corporate security team’s approval, and have to educate our travellers on how to use the app.

“For Airbnb, it will be cumbersome for

our travellers to invest time to find the right property for themselves, unlike a hotel which is easier to identify.”

There are exceptions to a hardline Airbnb stand and a Bangkok-based travel manager in a global manufacturing company said it would reimburse the traveller if prior approval to stay in Airbnb accommodation was given.

“It’s still rare and we are trying to limit the use. But pressure is mounting from travellers who have used Airbnb for leisure. It makes sense to allow it where there is a shortage of rooms especially during peak travel periods. While I don’t foresee (adoption) soon, we have to look into it. Like the LCCs, never say never!”

On the transport side, the Shanghai-based travel manager of a US technology company said the uptake for Grab/Lyft in the US has been very positive. “For now we are not using other sharing economy suppliers mainly due to security concerns. That and better visibility of cost savings are needed for us to consider including them in our travel programme.”

Describing the sharing economy as a “grey area”, another Shanghai-based travel manager said he and his boss had differing opinions. “I want to say yes to ground transport but he is unsure. We have not formally approved the use of sharing economy services in our global corporate travel programme but questions from travellers on whether or not they can use them have been increasing. The main obstacles are the uncertainty surrounding risk and legal issues.

“This is likely the easier one to deal with as these services have matured and can be an alternative to public transportation. Ride sharing is also an attractive

What do you bring

Julian Persaud, regional director, Asia-Pacific, Airbnb



What are key corporate travel trends are you seeing this year?

Asia-Pacific currently accounts for the largest spend in business travel around the world and we expect the growth to continue.

A large driver for this growth is the shift in mindset towards the notion of “business trips”. With enjoyable experiences through personal travels, more than half of Asian business travellers now value the same experience during their business trips as well.

Around 48 per cent of Asian business travellers are interested to extend their business trips for leisure, and around 60 per cent of business trips at Airbnb in the last year included a Saturday or Sunday night because business travellers are looking for opportunities to explore a city. Almost 15 per cent of stays in our business travel programme are for over 10 days and the average stay is more than one full business week.

What corporate travel innovations have been introduced to-date?

The Airbnb for Business product, translated into 26 languages, provides a suite of tools for travel managers to help employees book and stay with Airbnb. Through corporate reporting and duty of care functions, travel managers can access and monitor data, giving them better insight into employee experience.

Airbnb’s third party booking function is the latest product in our business travel suite of tools that allows both the employer who is managing travel and the employee who is taking the trip to view trip details, make changes to the reservation and message the Airbnb host with questions about the listing or neighbourhood.

What breakthroughs in corporate travel have you achieved?

Companies from over 150 countries have signed up for our Airbnb for Business and more than 50,000 companies globally – ranging from SMEs to large corporations such as Google and Morgan Stanley – have completed bookings with Airbnb. These business travellers have travelled to more than 172 countries on Airbnb.

to the table for corporates?

Reuben Lai, head of business development, Grab



Chan Park, general manager, South-east Asia, Uber



What are key corporate travel trends are you seeing this year?

Mobile is a first touchpoint for travellers. Grab for Work links the Grab app to the Grab for Work web portal, enabling corporate travellers to manage transport expenses and reimbursements on their mobile devices. With the growth of on-demand services, Grab provides corporate partners with the Venue App to let guests and concierge teams book rides from their premises, now mostly in hotels, serviced residences, malls and healthcare institutions in Singapore.

What corporate travel innovations have been introduced to-date?

We have collaborated with global ridehailing partners to enable South-east Asian travellers to use their native Grab app to book Lyft, Ola and Didi rides when they visit the US, India and China respectively.

We introduced Grab for Work in May, a free corporate transport expense management solution across six South-east Asian countries. (Employers) can set and enforce ride policies, track and manage expenses, set a preferred payment option and save time by reducing paperwork. Employees can tag all Grab rides as business or personal via the app, access ride histories and manage e-receipts for reimbursements.

Grab is fully integrated with the Concur solution, so companies using that will enjoy faster expense reimbursement.

Grab's integration with Alipay lets Chinese corporate travellers in South-east Asia pay for rides in renminbi.

What breakthroughs in corporate travel have you achieved?

Grab for Work has been used by over 150 companies since its launch. We have partnerships with airports such as in Manila where GrabCar is allowed to pick up passengers from all Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) terminals in designated areas where booking agents will assist passengers without a smartphone or mobile data connectivity.

What are key corporate travel trends are you seeing this year?

We are seeing an extremely strong focus on employee safety in every aspect of business travel. Corporates continue to invest in strengthening risk management procedures and extend their duty of care to their employees.

As corporates continue to seek ways to cut business travel costs, we are seeing a shift in focus to improving employee efficiency more than just achieving cost savings.

We also are seeing a lot of new innovations in corporate travel technology including travel service apps, mobile payments and wearable technology. Corporates are slowly but surely adopting and embracing these new technologies, especially ones that improve policy management and data reporting.

What corporate travel innovations have been introduced to-date?

Uber's mission is to provide access to convenient, reliable transportation for everyone, everywhere. We recently introduced two key products for the Singapore market – Uber for Business (U4B) and UberCENTRAL.

U4B is our corporate ride management platform to centralise and optimise transportation costs across borders. Employees are able to request rides anywhere around the world and have it automatically billed to the company. Corporates are able to easily customise ride policies and manage everything from a single dashboard.

UberCENTRAL enables any business – large or small – to request, manage and pay for Uber rides on behalf of their customers. For instance, hotels are able to now purchase rides on behalf of their guests, property developers can enable rides for their customers to and from their sites, and many others.

What breakthroughs in corporate travel have you achieved?

While we are unable to name names, we have partnered with thousands of large-scale organisations globally to provide strong and relevant data points for the impact U4B has been able to bring about in their industries.

aspect of the service due to sustainability and cost reasons especially with travellers from the same company going to the same destination.

“Lodging is trickier as (it requires us to move) away from suppliers with a brand name and level of service to uphold. The challenge to audit locations for safety and security in the many hotels we use today is huge. With homestays, it will be impossible to manage. There is also the challenge of capturing these bookings and managing risk.”

An IT travel manager in New Delhi added the main obstacle is still the “managed versus unmanaged debate”. “In today's world when terrorist attacks are occurring more (often), duty of care as a focus area is very high and is (more important than cost savings).”

However, technology advancements may start to break down some barriers.

The announcement in July that BCD Travel is now working with Airbnb for Business to provide corporate travel clients with rich data in a new security and risk management tool that can track the location and trip patterns of business travellers who book Airbnb listings, may offer a breakthrough.

US-based Autodesk finally took the Airbnb plunge at the end of March after two years of watching and studying developments. With a millennial workforce of 30 to 40 per cent familiar with the sharing economy, and engineering teams with members ranging between 25 and 55 years old, Autodesk's travellers fit the profile to be Airbnb poster children.

But it was not an easy journey to add the option into its travel policy, according to Adriana Nainggolan, travel programme manager, Autodesk Asia-Pacific. “We faced challenges with the legal and procurement departments. To implement it, we had to develop a training programme on how to use the Airbnb for Business portal, receive assistance from International SOS and ensure accommodation hosts are covered by insurance.”

In two months however, Nainggolan said Autodesk registered a six-figure US dollar cost saving in five cities – San Francisco, Singapore, Mexico City, London and Montreal – based on the “variance for the cost differential taken from the lowest rate of the day and the Airbnb rate”.

And after learning about the Autodesk experience, a travel manager in the oil and gas industry said he was “closely monitoring” sharing economy accommodation suppliers and other developments. “We have not considered Airbnb because of duty of care challenges, but we will listen to what our travellers have to say. However, we still need to be able to control out-of-policy exceptions.”

19 WAYS TO FORGE A TIGHT TEAM

Forget tug-of-wars and trust falls. There are far more interesting ways to bring a team together, and we've rounded up some fun ones from around Asia-Pacific



PHARE, THE CAMBODIA CIRCUS WORKSHOP

How it works: Phare, The Cambodian Circus is an award-winning troupe that use jaw-dropping acrobatics, juggling and other circus acts to retell Cambodian folk tales. It is the brainchild of a group of boys who underwent art therapy to deal with the trauma of the Khmer Rouge reign while living in refugee camps on the Thai border in the 1980s.

Today it offers underprivileged youngsters the chance of a new lease of life. A corporate event spin is provided through opportunities for teambuilding groups to learn a few acts, such as tumbling and juggling, from stars of the troupe.

The programme can be customised, and even include a team dinner and entry to a Phare show.

Where: Siem Reap, Cambodia

Capacity: Minimum eight people

Contact: Phare, The Cambodia Circus; ticketing@pharecircus.org



JUNGLE SURVIVAL

How it works: The indigenous Aetas, many of whom still live in Subic forests, taught the United States Navy Seals and Special Forces units jungle survival skills which proved useful during the Vietnam War.

When the US Navy left Subic Bay in 1992, Jungle Environmental Survival Training Camp was created to help the Aetas transfer their attention to the civilian population. Some of the original tribesmen who taught the Americans are still around to share their knowledge.

Customised activities include an overview of local plants and wildlife and their medicinal properties; and demonstration of mountaineering and survival techniques that the Aetas still use today (making cooking tools from bamboo, creating a full campfire without match, setting up animal traps).

Another option is an overnight stay in the jungle without food and water with an Aeta guide teaching how to retrieve water from various vines, survival skills using only knife, cooking rice using green bamboo, making insect repellent and soap from certain plants.

Where: Subic, the Philippines

Capacity: Five to 20 people

Contact: Jungle Environmental Survival Training Camp; adventure@jestcamp.com



**WE MAKE THE
WINNING TEAM!**

CHRONICLES OF EXPLORATION

How it works: Teambuilding participants get to live a day as a travel blogger through this activity. As they explore the city, they are required to take photos according to specified topics using an iPad or any mobile device, and share the images – edited with PicsArt app – on Pinterest. The images must go along with a description of the experience. Teams will be judged based on their ability to address all specified topics, photography and editing quality, writing flair and usage of mobile applications.

Where: Across Malaysia

Capacity: 20 to 500 people

Contact: Apxara Travel & Events;
ivanlim@apxara.com



DRAGON SQUAD

How it works: Time and resource management capabilities are put to the test in this activity themed after the traditional Chinese dragon dance. Participants are placed in teams and then tasked to construct their own bold and vibrant dragon while overcoming problem solving elements and interact to forge a stronger bond. Once completed, each team will perform a dragon dance with their uniquely created dragons. Teams are awarded points for creativity and performance. The dragon heads can be taken back to the workplace as a reminder of collaborative company success.

Where: Indoor locations across Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore

Capacity: 24 to 500 people

Contact: Team Building Asia; hongkong@teambuildingasia.com, shanghai@teambuildingasia.com, singapore@teambuildingasia.com

TAB TOUR

How it works: This interactive activity is flexible enough to be adopted by small groups working on hotel-based puzzles during meeting breaks or by massive groups of 1,000 people on city-wide explorations. Participants are equipped with a tablet PC and given a map with target destinations where they will take photos or videos and perform a task to earn points. Strategy is required in choosing targets, and participants get real-time information about their competitors through the map and scoreboard. A central PC collects the images and videos, which will be used in the results session. The Tab Tour can be customised to incorporate company branding and corporate goals.

Where: All major Thai destinations

Capacity: 10 to 1,000 people

Contact: Tabtourthailand; reinier@tabtourthailand.com

MINI OLYMPIAN GAMES

How it works: As its name suggests, Sydney Olympic Park, just 14km from the city centre and once home to the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, provides corporate groups with the opportunity to hold their own sporting competitions. Over the course of two to four hours, participants are split into teams and rotate through events such as Ultimate Frisbee, Laser Clay Shooting and Volleyball held at various locations throughout the Park. At the culmination of the Games, results are tallied and the winning team takes home a gold medal at a ceremony. Prices start at AU\$88 (US\$67) per person for groups of 20 to 50 pax, and drop to AU\$66 (US\$50) for groups of 100 or more.

Where: Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney, Australia

Capacity: 20 to 500 people

Contact: Sydney Olympic Park; info@sopa.nsw.gov.au



**SAY
CHEESE!**

SELFIE CHALLENGE

How it works: Selfie Challenge works by dividing groups of three people into three zones. To move through the zones, teams will get a set of four clues to help them answer challenges by taking selfies. These selfies are then sent to a designated mobile number via Whatsapp. Getting the right answer allows them to proceed to a physical challenge, which once completed takes them to the next zone. The game ends when all teams cover all three zones.

Where: Any outdoor venues in Malaysia

Capacity: 80 to 200 participants

Contact: TRUevents; terence@truevents.my



PARTY MAKER

How it works: This full-day team building programme challenges participants to deliver a party with stage entertainment, where the actors and the entire production stage worked together. They share the work load by practising song and dance, making decorations and ornaments, and preparing for a production.

Participants are divided into two groups. One takes care of the stage and party preparation while the other one handles the stage performances. The event organiser will assist and facilitate the groups' needs, including musical instruments, a dance teacher who will impart a few dance moves, and a decorator who will provide guidance on venue and stage décor.

Party Makers aims to stimulate out-of-the-box thinking and challenge creativity.

Where: Indonesia

Capacity: 50 to 500 people

Contact: EGO Global Network; harry.egology@yahoo.com

SIGNAL TOWER

How it works: Teams 'stranded' on an island must build a signal tower in order to get help. They have to find suitable materials to build the tower, and during construction, surprises are thrown their way to encourage them to work under pressure. Upon completion, a spokesperson for each team will have to give a detailed presentation of their build and describe how they overcame challenges. Teams are evaluated on their presentation and integrity of their build design.

Where: Anywhere in Brunei

Capacity: 10 to 100 people

Contact: Freme Travel; fremeinb@brunet.bn

EXITUS

How it works: This exhilarating activity sees teams trapped in a puzzle room with only one way of getting out – working together to solve clues in under only 50 minutes. Each venue has three themed escape rooms to choose from such as Forensic, The Garden and Da Vinci. Prices from A\$37 (US\$28) per person and include the escapism experience, a drink on arrival and a selection of pizzas.

Where: Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane in Australia

Capacity: Five to 20 people

Contact: Strike Bowling; strikebowling.com.au



GIVE YOUR TEAM BUILDING EVENTS A WET & WILD SPIN!



Head down to Singapore's newest integrated waterpark resort to experience a team building event unlike any other! Forge stronger bonds with team members through exciting team challenges that promise wet and wild fun. A stone's throw away, D'Resort @ Downtown East makes a perfect team retreat getaway. With a range of versatile event venues, we cater to land-based team building activities as well.

SAVE
up to
\$8,000

EXCLUSIVE TEAM BUILDING PACKAGE DEAL

Half Day from **\$128** per pax (U.P. \$168) **Full Day** from **\$188** per pax (U.P. \$228)

Quote "TEAMBUILDING" to enjoy these deals.
We also offer corporate rates for a minimum booking of 5 rooms at D'Resort!

For enquiries and bookings, please call **+65 6589 1666** or email **corpsales@ntucclub.com.sg**

Terms & Conditions apply. Valid for events held before 31 March 2017. Minimum of 30 pax.

STAY

PLAY

EAT

SHOP

 **Downtown East**
A leisure & lifestyle destination by NTUC Club

THE HOME OF D'RESORT & WILD WILD WET



www.wildwildwet.com
www.downtowneast.com.sg
www.dresort.com.sg



ADVENTURE IN MASUNGI GEORESERVE

How it works: Masungi Georeserve in the rainforests of Baras, Rizal province, a few hours overland from Manila, is a 1,500-hectare conservation area with facilities that can be customised for teambuilding.

Participants can go around on a *lambat* or giant net; climb up a *sapot* or a cobweb-style viewing platform to get a panoramic view of the country's biggest lake, Laguna de Bay; race to be the first inside Yungib ni Ruben, a cave formation within a karst landscape; climb one of the two peaks of natural sculpture and formation composed of several rocks piled on top of one another or the second peak with five limestone rock peaks interconnected by bridges.

Take a rest finally on the *duyan* or giant hammock.

Where: Masungi Georeserve, Rizal province, the Philippines

Capacity: Seven to 10 people

Contact: Masungi Georeserve; trail@masungigeoreserve.com

TEAM BUILDER

How it works: Touted as Australia's first aerial playground, MegaAdventure Aerial Park offers teambuilding activities for the brave. Over four to six hours, the Team Builder experience sees participants split into groups of four to six to compete in both ground and aerial challenges, working within specific rules and restrictions. Activities include the ParaJump, a 20m high free fall simulator, and SkyMate, a 70 obstacle high ropes course comprising of scramble nets, rope bridges, beams, swings, log steps, aerial surfboards and even Adelaide wine barrel steps.

Where: MegaAdventure Aerial Park, Adelaide, Australia

Capacity: Four to six people per team

Contact: MegaAdventure Aerial Park; achieve@megaadventure.com

TWILIGHT MYSTERIES

How it works: Twilight Mysteries is a game of twists and turns. The Twilight Bus of Horror will take participants to clues and they are then required to complete a series of hair-raising tasks, such as Fear Factor-type dares and entering a 'haunted' house. The team that completes all tasks without losing most of their nerve and in the shortest time, wins.

Where: Across Malaysia

Capacity: 20 to 500 people

Contact: Apxara Travel & Events; ivanlim@apxara.com

YUMMY!

SCAVENGER HUNT TEAMBUILDING PROGRAMME

How it works: The traditional scavenger hunt gets updated by being conducted at Universal Studios Singapore, where teams will pound the streets of New York and comb the ancient pyramids of Egypt.

The three-hour Scavenger Hunt Teambuilding Programme is designed to incorporate most of the rides and attractions at the world-class theme park on Sentosa island. Placed in group, participants will solve quizzes by finding answers at specific spots in the park.

The activity can be shortened to suit group's preference.

Where: Universal Studios Singapore

Capacity: Minimum 30 people

Contact: Universal Studios Singapore; (65) 6577 9977

SAIGON COOKING CLASS

How it works: The tantalising tastes of Vietnamese food are renowned across the world, so what better way to bond with colleagues than sampling the famous flavours of the country?

Saigon Cooking Class offers a range of food themed teambuilding exercises to whet the appetite and challenge the mind. An interesting exercise is the Street Food Secrets tour, which puts participants on the back of a scooter to follow expert chefs on a journey through the capital's back alleys and markets to discover some of the best street food around. A blind tasting test is thrown in, challenging participants to identify a range of local ingredients and dishes – some more unusual than others. All activities are led by Vietnamese chefs and assistants who are fluent in English.

Where: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Capacity: 15 to 100 people

Contact: Saigon Cooking Class; i.briosca@saigoncookingclass.com



18 to 20 April 2017
2017年4月18日至20日

Shanghai, China | 中国 上海
Shanghai Convention & Exhibition Center
of International Sourcing 上海跨国采购会展中心

CTW
中国 China
国际商旅大会

The Leading Corporate Travel Management Conference for China

中国首屈一指的商务旅行管理大会

RELEVANT AND TARGETED CONTENT 高度相关的内容、受众明确

For Chinese corporate travel professionals & professionals with responsibility in China.
针对中国商务旅行精英和负责中国区业务的专业人士。



BEST GLOBAL PRACTICES, TRENDS, BENCHMARKS & CASE STUDIES 汇聚全球最佳实践、行业动态、市场标杆和案例分析

Localised for the Chinese market by more than 30 expert practitioners over 10 sessions.
30多名行业专家通过10余场论坛与中国市场分享本土化经验。

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH KEY INDUSTRY PLAYERS 结交业内精英之良机

Structured platforms for meeting and engaging peers through an exciting programme & sponsored events and tours.
通过精彩的议程、赞助活动与游览等组织良好的平台，与业内人士齐聚一堂，互动交流。



BUSINESS WITH ONLY THE BEST 合作龙头企业

Explore opportunities to collaborate and source with leading corporate travel solution brands.
寻觅良机，让业内一流的商务旅行解决方案品牌企业成为你的合作伙伴或供应商。

FROM CTW CHINA 2016... 2016中国国际商旅大会

Expected USD 75 million generated from the event
大会交易额预计将达0.75亿美元。

Expected purchases of USD 1 million and above each for 30% of corporate buyers
30%的企业商旅买家预计其采购额将突破100万美元。

GRAB THE LIMELIGHT WITH YOUR BRAND 提升品牌知名度

Exhibit or sponsor and gain exposure to quality travel corporate buyers.
通过展览或赞助的形式面向优质企业商旅买家，增加品牌曝光度。

Corporate Travel Buyer 企业商旅买家

CTW China is a good platform to meet professionals and experts from the industry. Learning from their experiences to avoid potential issues and develop better solutions. 中国国际商旅大会是一个结识这个特殊行业内的众多专业人士和专家绝佳平台。从他们的丰富经验里学习，可规避可能出现的问题并制定更好的解决方案。

Ashland China Holdings Co, China 亚什兰（中国）投资有限公司，中国
William Cheng, Senior Procurement Manager 高级采购经理

Exhibitor 参展商

CTW China exposed us to more business opportunities and relevant knowledge. We got to meet buyers and we hope to generate more business through this platform. 中国国际商旅大会是一个开拓商机和学习相关知识的绝佳平台。我们结识了新的企业客户并希望这会为我们带来更多业务。

Delta Airlines 达美航空公司
Meng Li, Account Manager 客户经理



PARTICIPATE IN CTW CHINA 2017 NOW 参加2017中国国际商旅大会

Corporate Travel Buyer* | Exhibitor/Sponsor | Conference Delegate
企业商旅买家* | 参展商/赞助商 | 会议代表

Corporate Travel Buyer Profiles Include 欢迎以下商务旅行管理专业人士参加

差旅经理 | 差旅专员 | 间接采购/采购经理 | 财务经理 | 人事/行政经理 | 办公室经理
Travel Managers | Travel Specialists | Indirect Procurement / Purchasing Managers | Finance Managers | HR / Administration Managers | Office Managers

Hosting places available for eligible Corporate Travel Buyers
合格的企业商旅买家还可享受特邀资格

Find Us On WeChat
(ID: CTW-CH)
通过微信联系我们
(微信号: CTW-CH)



www.corporatetravelworld.com/china
Contact 联络方式: ctwchina@ttgasia.com | Tel 电话: (65) 6395 7575

Organised By 主办机构:
TTG Events

Carlson
Wagonlit
Travel

Industry Partner 行业伙伴:
CWT
Meetings&Events

Official Media 官方媒体:
TTGmice

TTGmice

TTGassociations

TTG

TTG

TTG

LUXURY

TTG



WIN IT IN A MINUTE

How it works: Inspired by the popular TV game show *Minute to win it*, Asia Ability Training's Win It In A Minute is packed with fun and bizarre 60-second challenges that build team dynamics, raise morale and get participants to get to know each other outside of the usual work environment.

The challenges are fun and inclusive, and the open format ensures everybody is encouraged to join in comfortably without feeling any pressure to take centre stage.

Facilitators will also reveal additional challenges and bonus activities to allow teams to pick up extra points, keeping the energy high throughout the programme.

Win it in a minute is also suitable as a conference ice-breaker or a post-lunch energising activity.

Where: Indoor and outdoor locations worldwide

Capacity: At least 10 people

Contact: Asia Ability Training; ask@asiaability.com



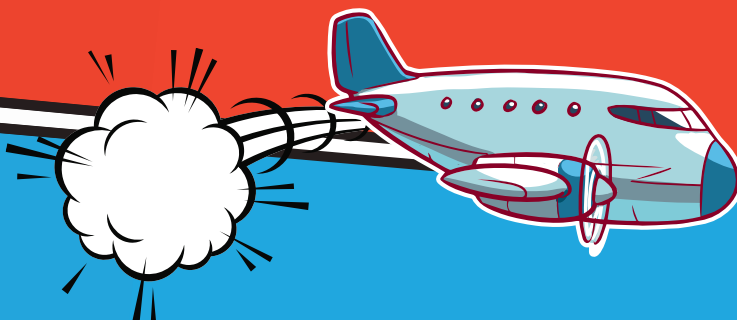
BATTLESPACE

How it works: New to Sabre Corporate Development's teambuilding portfolio is Battlespace, a military-style team activity, which begins with a commando raid during a meeting. Teams are transformed into a military unit, complete with camouflage uniforms. Each team member assumes various functional roles to plan and execute a complex operation with parallels to business unfolding in real time. Teams gather intelligence, plan their logistics and deploy combat air and ground assaults to complete their operation in accordance with both their overall vision and mission over three hours or a full day on request.

Where: Across Australia

Capacity: At least five people

Contact: Sabre Corporate Development; admin@sabrehq.com



SEARCH & RESCUE

How it works: A small VIP airplane has just crashed into the sea. Safety teams are many hours away but a small group of people happen to be nearby. How can they help? This is where teambuilding participants come in. After spending the morning carrying out underwater training with professional divers, including safety, dive theory, equipment handling and scuba techniques, the afternoon is spent on the rescue mission with the team split up to put to test the skills they have learnt. Accompanied by divers, the teams must communicate underwater to help rescue crash survivors in depths of up to six metres.

Where: Seaside resorts in Nha Trang, Vietnam

Capacity: Unlimited

Contact: Top Team Vietnam; info@topteam.co

BEAT THE BOX

How it works: The challenge begins with a mysterious and chilling video message that beckons participants into partaking in a game that requires them to crack a special code fast to stop the countdown.

To get this code, teams must solve four intriguing cases, whose details are hidden in locked aluminium boxes. The final case will unveil letters that when placed in the right order, will yield a predefined slogan and allow participants to crack the code.

The winning team is the one that stops the countdown first.

Where: Indoor locations worldwide

Capacity: 12 to 200 people

Contact: Asia Ability Training; ask@asiaability.com



“Everybody loves
this show.”



HURRY, IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE

Don't miss your amazing opportunity to be at IMEX America. With business, networking, education, innovation and ROI on the agenda, this is one event that can change your year and career.

Come meet us in Las Vegas—register now!

THE *pulse* OF THE MEETINGS INDUSTRY.

REGISTER.IMEXAMERICA.COM


imex
america

OCTOBER 18-20, 2016

LAS VEGAS



Clockwise from right: Demon Guardian Wat Phra Kaew
Grand Palace Bangkok;
Skywalk in Sathorn, Bangkok;
BITEC; Magnolia meeting room
at Banyan Tree Bangkok



Build and they will come

Bangkok is replete with business event venues and hotels but still tantalises with new and improved hardware. By **Michael Sanderson**

All eyes will be on the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) next month as its US\$170 million expansion is put to the test with the heavy duty Grand Metalex 2016, a Machine Tool & Metalworking Technology Expo.

The expansion nearly doubles the 19-year-old venue, with three new

event halls bringing the total exhibition space to 70,000m², making it one of Asia's largest and a formidable growth catalyst for Bangkok's conventions and exhibitions sector.

Complementing the event halls are three convention halls, 12 meeting rooms, a visitor centre, VIP rooms and the launch of Bhira Tower at BITEC, a mixed-use office

building with retail, dining and entertainment facilities.

Managing director, Panittha Buri, told *TTGmice* construction had "progressed quite smoothly" and she was now "looking forward to showing what our new facilities can offer".

Panittha said: "One of the key highlights will be an event hall with a 25-metre-high ceiling, which is a

standard requirement today for concerts, lifestyle and live entertainment shows as well as large-scale exhibitions and conventions.”

The expanded centre will also boast improved accessibility.

Panittha said: “Getting to and from the venue will be easier with new infrastructure such as a direct link to the BTS station, connecting visitors to all the major attractions and hotels in Bangkok. We will also have three underground levels of parking for over 4,000 cars.”

Investments are being made on BITEC’s software too, revealed Panittha. She said: “In order to stay ahead, we need to be able to deliver the right information to the right people in the right way. And so, we’ve developed a greater online presence through our comprehensive and responsive website and various social media channels which are always up-to-date and allow our customers to connect with us using their preferred method.”

Rival IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Muang Thong Thani is also adding new infrastructure. After recognising growing client demand for accommodation near the centre, operator IMPACT Exhibition Management Co invested one billion baht (US\$28.7 million) to develop a second hotel in the centre’s complex. Ibis Bangkok IMPACT Hotel, slated to open in early 2017, will offer 587 rooms. It joins the existing Novotel Bangkok IMPACT Hotel.

Foreign delegates attending events at IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center also have another fresh accommodation option close by. The 183-key Best Western Plus Wanda Grand Hotel opened in May on Chaeng Wattana Road, a 3.4km drive from the centre. The upscale hotel has nine function spaces, including a 927m² grand ballroom.

Corporate groups from Muslim nations can seek familiar accommodation at Al Meroz Hotel, Bangkok’s first hotel certified by Dubai-based Gulf Halal organisation. The hotel has 424 rooms and meeting facilities.

Come 1Q2017, Park Hyatt Bangkok will welcome its first guest. It offers 222 rooms and suites, a selection of F&B venues on the top three floors (35th to 36th), and outdoor terraces with lush gardens.

Exisiting hotels in Bangkok have also been stepping up their game to better compete with the glut of hotels in the city, and Events Travel Asia’s group managing director Max Jantasuwana is particularly impressed with what have emerged.

Pointing to the recently renovated Plaza Athénée Bangkok, A Royal Méri dien Hotel, and new function spaces at the Swissôtel Nai Lert Park Hotel and Banyan Tree Bangkok, as prime examples, Max said these properties “offer something different to what have been done before in Bangkok or Thailand”.

He said these properties were getting good responses from his clients.



“In order to stay ahead, we need to be able to deliver the right information to the right people in the right way.”

Panittha Buri
Managing director, BITEC

{ Talking numbers }

493,383

The number of business events travellers to Thailand between October 2015 and March 2016, according to the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB)

103

The number of international association meetings held in Bangkok last year, according to ICCA, making it the 16th busiest city for such events in the world

12

The number of organisations joining TCEB in encouraging companies to hold meetings and seminars in other provinces to boost the domestic MICE sector



Destination: Thailand

{ Developments to watch }

1 Domestic MICE has become a focus under the Thai government's State of People policy, with both state and private organisations encouraged to hold inter-provincial meetings and conferences. The domestic MICE market was worth US\$1.32 billion in the 2015 fiscal year, and the government hopes to improve on this as part of a strategy to stimulate a stagnant economy.

2 After the Board of Investment rejected the Thai Chamber of Commerce's request for hotel renovation privileges, it remains to be seen whether the idea will have more luck with the Revenue Department in the form of a tax break. As Thailand's hotel rooms outstrip demand, the challenge for older properties is to renovate and modernise to remain competitive.

3 Thailand is offering special perks and discounts for MICE travellers through the *Spice Up Your Business Agenda in Thailand* campaign. The Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) has teamed up with the government, Thai Airways, Thai Smile and Visa to offer incentives on everything from flights and accommodation to spa treatments, and is targeting the Chinese and CLMV markets.

4 August saw the introduction of the Thailand Incentives and Meetings Exchange, which TCEB will use as an annual platform for education and sharing experiences. The one-day forum will have a particular marketing focus, with the first centred on the Chinese market.

{ Review central }

Avani Bangkok Riverside Hotel By Xinyi Liang-Pholensa

As the brand's global flagship, the 26-storey Avani Bangkok Riverside Hotel is conceived as an upscale brand to complement Minor Hotel Groups' traditional, resort-style Anantara brand. And with a location just next to sister hotel Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River, both properties combine to offer MICE planners more than 650 keys and a choice of resort-style amenities and contemporary business facilities.

Rooms All 248 rooms and suites are located on levels 12 and above, whose high locations command sweeping views of the surroundings. Suites measure upwards of 62m², going up to 138m² and 166m² for two- and three-bedroom units respectively.

My 30m² River View Room, the smallest room type, boasts a contemporary design with an open bathroom concept.

I especially like the expansive window, framing unobstructed views of the Chao Praya River bend.

The work area could do with some improvements however. The work desk, which was fixed against the wall, was too narrow for my liking. Guests with bigger physiques may find it a tad uncomfortable after a while.

MICE facilities The main event spaces are located on the 10th floor, offering 4,500m² of versatile multipurpose space that can accommodate 1,500 delegates or 80 exhibition booths. The 27 meeting rooms are named after the elements – Wind, Sky, Air, Horizon and Breeze – with generous pre-function areas which could serve as a space for coffee break or additional space for large conferences.



With a soaring 11-metre-high ceiling, the 1,152m² Grand Riverside Ballroom can be separated into four spaces and accommodate up to 1,500 pax. It also offers the options of an open-plan show kitchen at one side and a car lift (with a 3,000kg weight load) that gives direct access to the venue.

As well, the Terrace is an outdoor balcony that can be used for evening cocktails.

The open event spaces, coupled with wraparound views of the Chao Phraya River, make the hotel a strong MICE option in a city replete with choices.

Other facilities Residing on the light-flooded lobby on level 11 are the all-day dining restaurant Skyline as well as Pantry, which offers speciality snacks and drinks round the clock as well as meeting corners that make great spots for smaller, informal meetings.

On the level 26 rooftop, there is a 25m infinity pool, spa and Attitude bar and restaurant, which makes a great cocktail spot at sunset.

The lower levels of the building is home to a shopping mall, giving guests access to additional dining and retail outlets, while a complimentary shuttle boat service connects to Asiatique night market and Saphan Taksin skytrain station on the opposite bank.

Room count 248

Star rating Five

Contact

Address: 257 Charoennakorn Road, Thonburi, Bangkok

Tel: (66) 2 431 9100

Email: riverside.bangkok@avanihotels.com

Website avanihotels.com

{ Review central }

Park Society

By Xinyi Liang-Pholensa

Perched on the 29th floor, So Sofitel Bangkok's signature restaurant and bar named Park Society was one of city's most talked-about venues when the hotel debuted in 2012.

In the face of relentless competition in Bangkok's dining scene, the restaurant recently underwent a revamp to boast a new head chef and concept focused on the "social dining experience".

Concept

Presided by new chef de cuisine, Joost Bijster, previously of Savelberg fame, Park Society eschews its former haute gastro credos in favour of a more casual vibe. The Dutch chef has given his modern European concoctions playful Asian influences – think Risotto Tom Yum, with tiger prawns and coconut foam. Tasting sets customisable to taste and group size are also available.

MICE application

The reimaged restaurant seats 60 and

features a long table for larger groups suitable for corporate dinners. Book the chef's table to watch chef Joost at work.

The adjoining terrace, a semi-outdoor space, is great for parties and cocktail receptions for up to 120 pax, with the option of having live band entertainment.

The Hi-So lounge above overlooks the terrace with spillover room for 100 pax. A roof is currently under works so all fresco spaces can host events in all weather.

Head to the more exclusive bar – Super Hi-So – which can fit 30 pax. Groups can opt for a small stage for DJs.

With its 29th floor location that overlooks Lumpini Park and a skyscraper-studded skyline, Park Society makes an outstanding option as a hip venue – just make sure to get the party going by sunset to watch the city light up.

Service

Attentive and unobtrusive. Chef Joost and wine and dine manager Falko Flamme made rounds to seek feedback from diners.



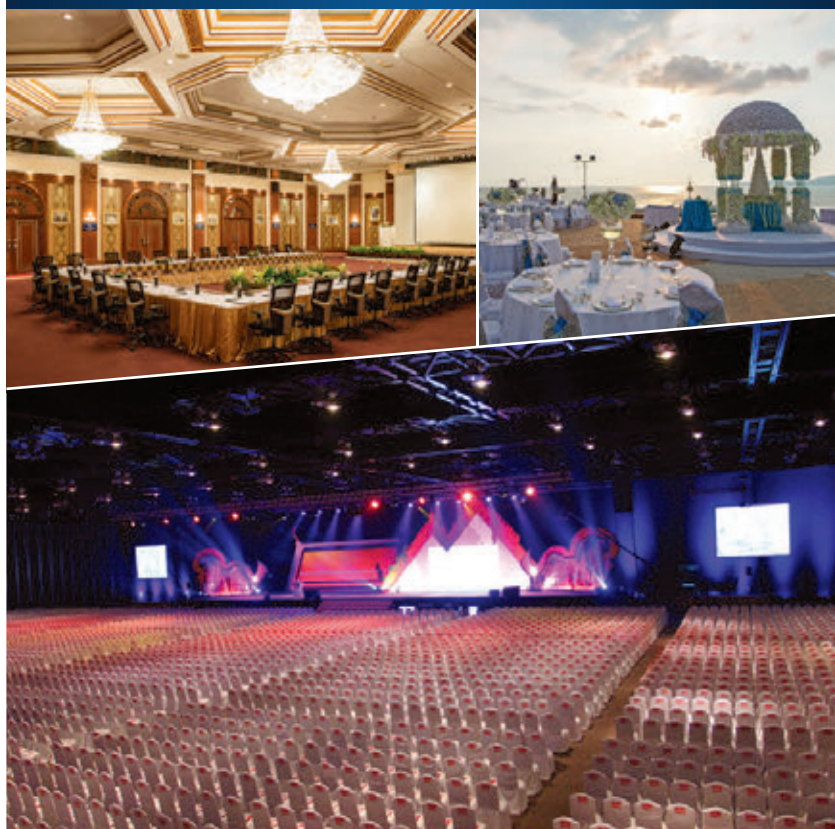
Contact

Address: 2 North Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Bangkok
Tel: (66) 2 624 0000
Email: h6835@sofitel.com
Website: www.sofitel-so-bangkok.com

Operation hours

Dinner: 18.00-22.30
Bar and snacks: 17.00-00.30
Drinks and cocktails: 17.00-02.00

Inform this promotional code **TGM16M** and receive a special discount



TAKE YOUR EVENT TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

As the largest 5-star property in Thailand with over 10+ years experience in the events and hospitality industry, offering a state of the art convention center accommodating up to 10,000+ delegates, 50+ meeting rooms and the convenience of 1,000+ 5-star accommodations within the property... We are the perfect destination for your next event. **Your success is our top priority.**


ROYAL CLIFF HOTELS GROUP
THE STATE OF EXCLUSIVITY & FASCINATION

PEACH
PATTAYA EXHIBITION
AND CONVENTION HALL

To discuss your event options with our team or for more information, please contact
+6638 250 421 ext. 1513 | mice@royalcliff.com | www.royalcliff.com | fb.com/royalcliff

Bolder steps forward

Multiple infrastructure projects will soon come online in Hong Kong, prompting greater confidence among MICE players in courting new events and businesses. **Prudence Lui** reports



Clockwise from above: An aerial shot of the Hong Kong International Airport; dim sum is a local delicacy; The Peak Tram; traditional shops in Tsim Sha Tsui, southern Kowloon



Daniel Fung/shutterstock



Gabrielle Chan/shutterstock



I love photos/shutterstock

With numerous infrastructure projects like the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB), Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link and the third runway of Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) well underway, Hong Kong's Lantau Island is poised to become an even greater force to be reckoned with.

The country is already a MICE hub thanks to its direct international air connections as well as links with major cities along the Pearl River Delta.

AsiaWorld-Expo's (AWE) CEO, Allen Ha, pointed out the HZMB will further facilitate the flow of people, cargo and services, bringing over 80 million people to a market with unprecedented opportunities for new business growth.

Ha explained: "Many organisers have already made strategic moves to relocate, or introduced new shows in Hong Kong, to enjoy the first-mover advantages and pave the way to grow their shows in a highly prospective market. For instance, after Asia Fruit Logistica's relocation to AWE in 2012, the organiser Global Produce Events has also teamed up with Cool Logistics Resources Limited to launch the inaugural Cool Logistics Asia conference, also held at AWE, last year."

AWE is also collaborating with neighbouring cities. Last year, it signed a partnership with Zhuhai International Convention and Exhibition Centre (ZHICEC). They will jointly promote local and international sales and marketing opportunities, including working together on mega conferences to provide the concept of "one event, two venues".

Attractions are also gearing up for bigger crowds and larger events.

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) will open its third hotel in 2017. The 750-room Disney Explorers Lodge will boost the resort's capacity to accommodate larger groups.

Ngong Ping 360 is counting on



STAY & MEET PACKAGE 2016 / 2017

Royal Plaza Hotel, Hong Kong offers diverse range of venues from 8 state-of-the-art function rooms to a spacious pillar-free ballroom, which can host a fabulous event up to 600 guests in style. By staying with us, you and your guests will be pampered in the chic and cozy guest rooms after an exciting day of meetings. No matter that you are on business or it is time to relax, our dedicated team will make your MICE experience a productive and indulging one.

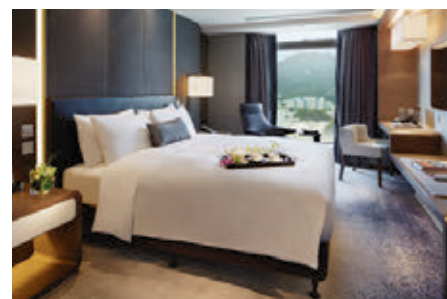
Comprehensive Meeting Package is priced at HK\$1,130* up per person per day

Highlighted privileges included:

- One night accommodation
- One complimentary breakfast
- Complimentary Wi-Fi internet access
- Complimentary use of Health Club
- Use of meeting venue from 9am to 5pm, including two coffee breaks with three choices of snack for each from our theme menus
- Enjoy Executive Western Set lunch, Chinese Set Lunch or Buffet Lunch

Terms & conditions:

- The package is valid from July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.
- *Rate is subject to 10% service charge per person per day on twin sharing basis and is non-commissionable.
- Supplement of HK\$500 + 10% service charge per day will be applied to single occupancy.
- Supplement will be applied to trade fair and high demand periods.
- The package is only applicable on Sunday – Thursday.
- The package is applicable to a meeting of minimum 10 persons with 5 guest rooms or more per day.
- Advance reservation is required.
- The package is subject to change without prior notice.
- The package cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts or promotional offers.
- In case of any dispute, the decision of Royal Plaza Hotel will be final and conclusive.



For enquiries, please contact our Sales and Marketing Department at rpsales@royalplaza.com.hk or Tel: +852 2622 6289



Sun Hung Kai Properties
HOTELS

ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL
帝京酒店

193 Prince Edward Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Telephone: (852) 2928 8822
E-mail: inquiry@royalplaza.com.hk
www.royalplaza.com.hk

the HZMB to lift its visitorship as the future link will make it more convenient for MICE groups from Macau and Zhuhai to visit Hong Kong.

Managing director of Ngong Ping 360, Stella Kwan, said: "For instance, they can consider visiting Hong Kong for a business event and do short stays in the country to enjoy a Lantau excursion, or have a joint Macau/Hong Kong itinerary. (Similarly), MICE groups that visit Hong Kong may also make a short trip to Macau or Zhuhai for sight-seeing or business meetings. The three destinations will complement each other and become a MICE hub by developing joint promotions and partnership projects."

Kwan said her team is preparing for upcoming opportunities driven by HZMB, and is "considering teaming up with other theme parks and attractions in Zhuhai or Macau to develop new partnership products".

Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott

Hotel, which has stepped up its presence in Zhuhai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, is planning to tackle the anticipated demand surge with refreshed and upgraded meeting spaces. The hotel has also reached out to meeting organisers to work together on long-term events and projects.

General manager of Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel, Michael Muller, said: "With our unique positioning next to AWE, HKIA and the Boundary Crossing Facilities, we anticipate more event organisers will look for opportunities in Lantau. As Hong Kong's city centre is usually busy and congested, the new connection will (aid us when it comes to) exploring new opportunities with MICE operators based in Zhuhai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. We also hope to further engage event organisers in South-east Asia who now have the option to hold dual-destination events in Zhuhai, Macau and Chek Lap Kok."

Team Building Asia, which does

"The three places (Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai) will complement each other and become a MICE hub by developing joint promotions and partnership projects."

Stella Kwan

Managing director, Ngong Ping 360

more than 20 events a year, regards Lantau as a destination to watch.

Its co-founder and director, David Simpson, said: "Access to venues (in Lantau) is not perfect now but the new HZMB and infrastructure developments – like the expansion of HKDL and HKIA – will hopefully change that. For sure, new infrastructure will make it easier for teambuilding companies like ourselves to get our equipment to venues, which are currently limited due to restricted roads and areas."



{ Talking numbers }

3.4

The percentage year-on-year growth in overnight MICE arrivals into Hong Kong in 2Q2016, crossing the 828,000 mark

407,693

The total number of visitors from China in the first six months of 2016, up 1.5 per cent from the same time last year

20,000

The total number of participants – hailing from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau – who attended the three-day Nu Skin Greater China Regional Convention. It was held at the AsiaWorld-Expo in June 2016

{ Developments to watch }

1

The construction of Hong Kong International Airport's three-runway system is underway. The upcoming development on Lantau Island will lead to the formation of the Aero-Bridgehead Economy Zone, where the new commercial and residential developments aim to drive long-term economic growth.

2

The Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link will connect HKIA and Hong Kong's north-west New Territories to the economic powerhouses of Shenzhen and Qianhai. Travelling time between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta cities will be significantly shortened. This will further facilitate the flow of people, cargo and services, bringing over 80 million people to a vibrant and affluent market with unprecedented opportunities for new business growth.

3

The opening of the Iron Man Experience attraction at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort in late 2016, as well as the 750-room Disney Explorers Lodge in 2017, will provide more themed settings for business events. With a third hotel in place, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort will be able to take in larger corporate groups.



GRAND | HYATT™

GOOD BOOKS A MEETING. GRAND HOSTS AN ESCAPE.

With a variety of indoor and outdoor meeting venues, together with heart-warming service, we make any business trip feel like a vacation. Plan now for a rejuvenating #LivingGrand experience.

BOOKINGS +852 2584 7722
GRAND HYATT HONG KONG | LOBBY FLOOR, 1 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG

{ Review central }

FreshBiz By Prudence Lui

FreshBiz is a game-based workshop that requires participants to think multidimensionally with the help of a boardgame. The aim of the game is to mimic a constantly changing business environment, where different skills are required to solve problems.

Concept Unlike the traditional Monopoly boardgame where the goal is to win by bankrupting the other players, FreshBiz

is a play-to-win activity where collaboration, cooperation and sharing success together is the main aim.

Each game requires four or five people to play as a team. Multiple teams can play simultaneously and the winner is the first team in which all players have reached the "Winner" lot in 90 minutes.

To start with, participants are offered action cards and chips. They then pass from section to section – paying tolls to pass. During the game, participants have to exercise their entrepreneurial skills by taking loans, trading stock, negotiating and closing deals.

MICE application Players will have to be creative and smarter in handling their budget, cash flow, and strategise in order to turn their original capital into the profits they need to move ahead in the game.

The game emphasises that collaboration is the new competition, and is promoting the development of entrepreneurial thinking and smart businesses sense in the New Shared Economy.

Take my team for example. We chose to play as a team by sharing all our resources and investing collectively in

order to ensure all members reach the destination in the shortest time possible. We also learnt how creativity with money is more important than the amount of money itself.

Service Throughout the game, there were certified and qualified facilitators on hand to answer our queries, in addition to the written instructions.

After the game, an event director guides participants through a reflection. Participants share their thoughts on the game and learn how to implement them in their businesses.

While this activity is typically held indoors, holding it outdoor in a cafe is also feasible. It costs US\$160 per person for a half-day workshop. A minimum of 30 pax is required, while the maximum of participants is 100.

Contact

hongkong@teambuildingasia.com

Operation hours Flexible; usually suitable for a half-day workshop



Maison Eight By Prudence Lui

Perched on the 21st storey in a new-build commercial complex in Tsim Sha Tsui is Maison Eight. The restaurant opened in April in a lavish and enviable location, and serves up French cuisine, innovative cocktails and Bollinger champagne.

Concept Guests enter through the hand-stamped Italian leather doors that lead into a penthouse designed by Two Men in Hats. Views of Kowloon and Hong Kong are spectacular on all sides.

MICE application Tired of staging events in hotel ballrooms? Maison Eight could well be your relief. It is able to host small to mid-scale events, and the 740m² restaurant features four different venue concepts.

There is the intimate 32-seat French restaurant Esmé, available for a sit-down lunch or dinner.

Next, Salvatore at Maison Eight is the first cocktail bar in Asia by The Maestro (world-renowned bartender Salvatore Calabrese), and is headed by



his protégé Fabien Marcault.

The Ballroom at Maison Eight is an elegant salon – with its own private terrace – that transforms into a lounge in the evenings. Both The Ballroom and Salvatore has space for a 120-pax sit-down dinner, or 220 guests cocktail-style.

Lastly, Le Club 1829 – the first Bollinger champagne room in the world – features a wine cellar with a collection of over 2,300 bottles (that includes cuvé and key vintages) for up to 18 people.

Corporate buyouts are possible.

Service Maison Eight scores with its el-

egant and relaxing ambience, and friendly staff. Another plus point is its amazing view of the city.

Contact bookings@maisoneight.com

Tel: (852) 2388 8160

Website: www.maisoneight.com

Operation hours

Ballroom and Salvatore at Maison Eight: Monday to Sunday, 12.00 till late
Esmé: Monday to Sunday, 12.00 to 15.00, 18.00 to 23.00

Ready riders of the storm

Global economic woes have hit the Little Red Dot, bringing down BTMICE arrivals and meeting group sizes, but a hefty tourism promotion fund should help lift the mood. By **Paige Lee Pei Qi**

Singapore's tourism earnings dipped 6.8 per cent year-on-year in 2015 to S\$22 billion (US\$15.7 billion), even as international visitor arrivals climbed 0.9 per cent to 15.2 million.

The poorer tourism receipts were largely due to a six per cent fall in BTMICE visitor arrivals, with a corresponding eight per cent drop in per capita expenditure, according to the Singapore Tourism Board's (STB) chief executive Lionel Yeo.

While 25 per cent of the total visitor number belonged to the BTMICE pie, Yeo said: "As the average BTMICE visitor spends about twice more than the average leisure visitor, the fall in BTMICE visitor arrivals and spending due to companies cutting back on

both travel and trip budgets has had a significant impact on our tourism receipts."

STB deputy chief executive, Melissa Ow, added that China and India has taken a hit in terms of business travel traffic. However, she added that they are "encouraged by the performance of our business events in 2015 where attendance was very healthy".

In 2015, STB supported more than 350 business events, a 27 per cent year-on-year increase from 2014. This resulted in 287,000 visitor arrivals, a year-on-year hike of 0.3 per cent.

"An example was Sibos 2015 in October, which saw an over 30 per cent increase in attendance to more than 7,000 visitors," Ow said.

"We recognise business traffic will

be subjected to some of the conditions that will impact overall economies. That means there are a lot of opportunities for us to think about how we might grow our business events," she remarked.

For Arun Madhok, CEO of Suntec Singapore, he said that business events have performed well in 2015 and 1H2016. In particular, 2015 was an excellent year for the centre as Suntec Singapore saw its "best ever financial performance".

Also feeling positive is Nicholas Maratos, vice president of sales strategy and operations, Asia Pacific, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, despite having seen a reduction in meeting group sizes and even shorter booking lead times.

Clockwise from below: Bird's-eye view of Gardens By the Bay; street art along Haji Lane; the spacious plazas of Resorts World Sentosa



Destination: Singapore

Fuelling his optimism is the growing demand and numerous requests for proposals for meetings, as well as an increase in product launches and incentive groups being hosted at Starwood properties across the city state.

Maratos told *TTGmice*: "Singapore has always been seen as attractive location for meetings and events due to great geographical location, strong infrastructure and flight connectivity".

However, Madhok has cautioned against expecting easy months ahead.

He said: "In the next six to 12 months, we anticipate a somewhat softer overall business events market, especially for smaller meetings of less than 500 pax due to a more uncertain economic outlook.

"Singapore has always been seen as attractive location for meetings and events due to great geographical location, strong infrastructure and flights connectivity"

Nichlas Maratos

Vice president of sales strategy and operations, Asia Pacific, Starwood Hotels & Resorts,

"(Hence), we will see an emphasis on quality and value, and greater demand for customisation."

Whatever the global economic conditions may bring, STB is ready for it and destination promotion efforts will not falter.

The bureau had announced in April at the Singapore Tourism Industry Conference that it would be getting S\$700 million (US\$520 million) to support its destination promotions over the next five years. A part of it will be channelled to the Business Events in Singapore (BEiS) fund to provide organisers, corporations and associations greater support for their events.

At this point, the exact amount

of funding for BEiS is yet to be determined, and STB assistant chief executive, Yap Chin Siang, said that "detailed perimeters are still being worked through".

The enhanced funding will enable the bureau to support business development initiatives that are industry driven. For example, a MICE venue, a DMC and a cluster of hotels can now be supported in their joint effort to go after an incentive group or large-scale business event, said Yeo.

BEiS will also be used to support associations in their pre-bidding activities.

Meanwhile, Singapore's MICE scene will continue to keep busy with several significant business events coming up. They include the International Council of Nurses World Congress 2019 which will see 3,000 visitors; the Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress 2019 which is expecting 6,000 guests; as well as the Lions Clubs International Convention 2020 which is expected to host an impressive number of 20,000 delegates from around the world.

{ Talking numbers }



242.40

The average hotel room rate in Singapore dollars – equivalent to US\$180 – for the months of January to March 2016, compared to S\$244.60 the same time last year

64,347

The number of hotel rooms Singapore is expected to have by the end of 2016, up from 61,947 last year

2,500

The number of engineers and developers from all over the world that will be descending on Singapore for two pinnacle IT events – the ISACA Cybersecurity Nexus Asia Pacific in November 2016 and the Internet Engineering Task Force 100 meeting in November 2017

{ Developments to watch }

1

SIA restarts non-stop flights between Singapore and US. Singapore Airlines (SIA) has announced its longest flights in its network, with the launch of non-stop services between Singapore and San Francisco, which started from October 23 this year. This comes on the heels after United Airlines started the only non-stop flight between the two destinations this year. These new connections are expected to herald good business for inbound tourism and events from the US.

2

Singapore Tourism Board is extending its *In Singapore Incentives & Rewards* (INSPIRE) rewards programme beyond China and India to target corporate meeting and incentive groups from Europe and North America. In partnership with Singapore Airlines and Changi Airport Group, the programme will feature discounted group airfares, a choice of six cocktail experiences hosted in historic venues or rooftop bars, and a choice of six themed business tours around the Lion City.



3

Seoul, Singapore join hands for tourism memorandum. The Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) have inked a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to drive two-way tourism traffic and exchanges between the two destinations. This is the first such MOC between both organisations, and the general framework of cooperation includes marketing and promotion to drive awareness, and regional integration which encourage the participation of business communities and tourism enterprises.

{ **Review central** }**InterContinental Singapore** By Yixin Ng

InterContinental Singapore has just completed an extensive multi-million dollar renovation which upgraded its facilities to provide a fresher interior as well as a more comprehensive solution for event organisers.

Rooms All 338 guestrooms in the main wing now flaunt a new look after a round of facelifts was completed in February.

My Club-InterContinental room was as luxurious as one would expect of a higher-tier InterContinental room, and it came with club benefits. But the ultimate luxury

for me was the bed. The sheets and duvet were feathery smooth to the touch and the mattress firm and springy.

For those who appreciate more spaciousness, I found that rooms on the top floor have higher ceilings.

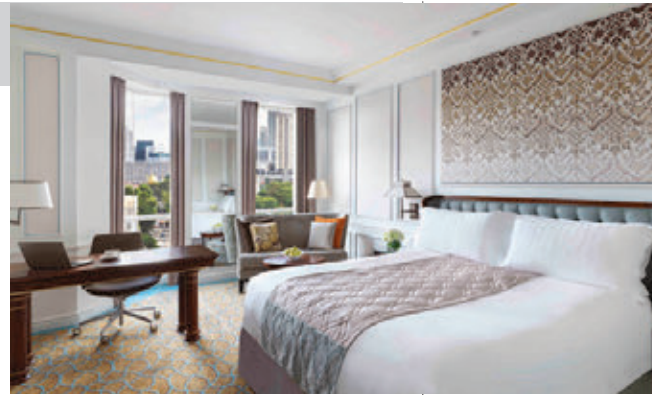
MICE facilities The hotel is home to more than 1,000m² of event space, including 11 meeting rooms and a pillar-less ballroom for up to 500 people. Event organisers have even more venues to choose from post-renovation.

Breakouts and networking lunches can be hosted at the chic European brasserie Ash & Elm. A private dining section can seat groups of up to 40, while another for 10 guests is suitable for VIP gatherings.

The newly renovated Presidential Suite welcomes exclusive events too, while the Lobby Lounge, an elegant new space with whitewashed pillars and a subtle blend of classic and contemporary decor, is the perfect spot for pre-event networking or afternoon tea.

Other facilities Fitness buffs can look forward to the upgraded hotel gym. An open studio space complete with yoga mats is also available.

The hotel's new complimentary guided



walking tour can be a potential activity for small-sized corporate groups. Conducted every Saturday, the walking tour visits 20 art institutions and historical sites including the former Saint Anthony's Convent, now home to the National Design Centre.

Options for retail, dining, nightlife and arts and culture are all within walking distance of InterContinental Singapore, and I'm certain time-starved business travellers will appreciate the convenience.

Room count 403

Star rating Five

Contact

Email: singapore@interconti.com

Website: www.intercontinental.com/Singapore

Amazing Heritage Race By Paige Lee Pei Qi

The Amazing Heritage Race is Food Playground's latest product, a fun activity that gets teams racing through Singapore's heritage-rich Chinatown while picking up interesting knowledge about local culture and feasting on popular local eats.

Concept This three-hour outdoor activity combines good food, cultural immersion and fun experiential learning.

Participants are placed in teams and must wind through Chinatown following route markers, overcome road blocks and work through unique challenges, fun detours and a variety of interactive tasks.

The skills and cultural diversity of team members will come through as they have to work closely to solve the various challenges and obstacles in a race against the clock.

MICE application Food Playground can arrange this activity for group with 12 to 60 people. The programme can be customised to accommodate special dietary needs and include Halal, vegetarian or gluten-free food items.



The duration of the race can also be tailored to group's preference.

The Amazing Heritage Race is also not confined to Chinatown. Groups can choose to race through Tanjong Pagar, which is another heritage enclave within the CBD.

In the event of light rain, disposable ponchos will be provided. The race cannot be conducted in extreme weather conditions and an alternative indoor cooking programme will be activated.

Rates from S\$80 (US\$60) nett per participant.

For groups desiring a full-day programme, Food Playground can pair the Amazing Heritage Race with a half-day team cook out.

Service The Amazing Heritage Race is hardly the run-of-the-mill races I've experienced. Furthermore, what's there not to love when the activity blends cultural showcase with food and fun games?

Contact www.foodplayground.com.sg/amazing-race-team-building.html



A venue befitting stars

Nu Skin Japan looks for something special to celebrate its top performing staff and finds that the prizes are in the venue, writes **Paige Lee Pei Qi**

Event brief

Nu Skin Japan was sourcing for a unique venue to host their World Star Tour 2015, which involved a special dinner party, a casual welcome dinner, a seminar and an award party over three days for 250 guests. As this event served to celebrate their star performers, Nu Skin Japan wanted to ensure that the venue would give an unforgettable and world-class experience that is unlike any they have ever experienced before.

Challenges

Given the requirement for disparate programmes, Nu Skin Japan had to source for “venues within a venue” so the event spaces could all be within close proximity of each other.

Moreover, these venues have to be unique to help deliver themed dinners. To further excite the delegates, Nu Skin Japan was brainstorming for ways to add a touch of personalisation and needed the venue to help facilitate that.

Solutions

With their extensive suite of venues and facilities, RWS was chosen as the perfect venue to host the delegates.

Combining five-star service with a rock and roll edge, Hard Rock Hotel Singapore was home to the delegates of Nu Skin Japan during their special trip. A personalised room drop of Nu Skin amenities added a sense of celebrity treatment, and a heart-warming surprise to the experience while reinforcing their feelings of pride and belonging.

The event kicked off with a dinner party

Event
Nu Skin Japan's 2015 Success
Trip Singapore

Organiser
Resorts World Sentosa

Venue
Resorts World Sentosa

Date
February 10-13, 2015

Number of participants
250 people

ramic floor-to-ceiling marine vista became an instant icebreaker as delegates mingled and networked.

The official welcome dinner, which was held at the Malaysian Food Street, saw delegates mingling along the “streets” of the charming old-town style casual restaurant, while they indulged in some of Malaysia’s finest and most famous hawker fare.

The key highlight was the Awards Dinner night held in Universal Studios Singapore, where delegates were “teleported” to the streets of the Big Apple. The lively New York zone was awash in vibrant, celebratory colours. The New York Library was paved with red carpet, and topped with a huge LED wall that showcased proud moments of Nu Skin Japan and its delegates all through the evening. And of course the delegates had their share of fun with unlimited rides at the Universal Studios Singapore.

The Hollywood magic was brought to life when the park’s key mascots Woody and Winnie Woodpeckers made their appearance to the delight of the delegates towards the end of the night.

Key takeaways

It was critical for the venue to understand early what the requirements of the client are in order for them to provide and execute accordingly to their demands. Pre-event planning and brainstorming sessions together with the client were key components which led to the event’s success.



for the company’s
crème de la crème. The elegance
and glamour of the Ocean Gallery at S.E.A.
Aquarium set the tone for the exclusive
50-person dinner banquet, while the pano-



India's definitive show on Business, MICE and Luxury Travel

India is the fastest growing business travel market in the world.

Delhi is a major business hub of India, with decent buyer potential of Business, MICE and Luxury Travel spending. In addition to hundreds of buyers from the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), BLTM will provide you guaranteed visit of hundreds of Hosted Buyers from all major cities in India.

At the BLTM you will meet India's leading business, MICE and luxury travel buyers, and some of the high profile media editors. Our team is rigorously qualifying and personally inviting up to 500 top hosted buyers from all over India and additional 2000 local buyers from Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) with equally high buying potential.

BLTM is brought to you by Fairfest Media Ltd, the oldest and the leading travel trade show organiser in India. Our OTM in Mumbai is India's biggest travel trade show, with participation of 1000+ sellers from 50+ countries.

India: The Next Big Thing?

According to GBTA: "More than any other country, India is poised for breakout growth. In 2014, India had \$26 billion in business travel spending, which will grow by a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.5 percent through 2019 to \$45 billion." (From its present position of 10th largest market in the world) "Fifteen years from now, India will likely be a top-five market in business travel spending"

Participation Package

	Tariff *	Early Bird Offer **	
		Before 31 May'16	1 June - 31 July'16
Shell Scheme	US\$ 495 / sq m	US\$ 395 / sq m	US\$ 445 / sq m
	INR 29,700 / sq m	INR 23,700 / sq m	INR 26,700 / sq m

- Add 10% for Corner, 20% for Peninsula and 30% for Island locations

- Add 25% surcharge for extra upper floor area

- Deduct US\$ 10 per sq m for bare space.

* Service Tax extra * Payment is due at the time of booking

Early Bird Offer is strictly as per date of payment

To book your vantage stand at BLTM write us to contact@fairfest.com or visit www.bltm.co.in

For More Details Please Contact : Amit Nag +91 - 99999 39497

{ Hot moves }



Judy Koh

Christoph Hoeflich

Hoeflich has been appointed general manager of Marco Polo Shenzhen. He was last hotel manager of the three Marco Polo hotels in Hong Kong, and has over 20 years of hospitality experience under his belt.

Judy Koh

Pan Pacific Hotels Group has appointed Koh as director of sales and marketing at the Pan Pacific Singapore. She was last director of sales and marketing at Parkroyal on Beach Road and prior



Per Kredner

to that, the director of sales at Group's central sales department.

Graham Kiy

Jumeirah Group has appointed Kiy as regional vice president, Greater China and general manager of Jumeirah Nanjing. He moves into this newly created role from Jumeirah Vittaveli in Maldives, where he was general manager since 2012.

Guy Poujoulat

Poujoulat has been appointed to dual roles at



Preet Inder Singh

AccorHotels – general manager of Grand Mercure Danang and area general manager for Central Vietnam. He moves on from his most recent post as general manager of Sofitel Plaza Hanoi.

Marc Landgraf

Landgraf is now general manager of Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort, Thailand. He joins from Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas.

Per Kredner

Kredner now leads Hyatt Regency Hong Kong,



Rhys Challenger

Tsim Sha Tsui as general manager. He joins from Grand Hyatt Shenzhen, China where he was hotel manager.

Preet Inder Singh

Singh is now at the helm of the soon-to-open Radisson Blu Resort Hua Hin. He was last general manager at Radisson Blu Hotel New Delhi Paschim Vihar.

Rhys Challenger

AccorHotels has named Challenger general manager of new Mer-



Stanley Tan

cure Singapore Bugis. Challenger has been with AccorHotels since 1996 and was most recently hotel manager at Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay.

Stanley Tan

Tan has joined The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore as director of sales & marketing. He most recently led the sales and marketing team at Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo, and was part of the hotel's opening team in 2008.



{ Career inspiration }

Ines Sukandar

Event management consultant and professional master of ceremonies

How long have been a professional emcee and what do you like most about this job?

I have been emceeing since January 1985, a few months after I was accepted as a news presenter at TVRI Jakarta.

(Although) all eyes and ears are on me when I emcee and people (notice) when I make a mistake, I love the feeling that I am running the show.

I also like expanding my network when I am emceeing; it is a form of personal marketing.

Furthermore, I acquire new knowledge whenever I host an event. I get to learn about new products, for instance.

Besides, the money is good!

What are your best work experiences?

I always consider experiences – both good and bad – as lessons learnt. Emceeing events and gala dinners is not always a straight-forward process, and one must play by ear and be prepared for the unexpected.

Once I had to emcee for a state event, and we were all ready and waiting for the (then) head of state to arrive and deliver his keynote

address, followed by the official opening of the conference. To our surprise, he cancelled his attendance.

(The sudden change of plans) was new to me then, and the burden to tackle the situation was on me. Thank God, I handled it as calmly as I could (and) all went well.

What preparations do you need to make before hosting an event with heads of state in attendance?

A lot of preparation must be made before going on stage, especially when it involves heads of state. I usually do research on who's attending and on the event to facilitate script-writing. I am particular about this stage of preparation, and will not emcee without a proper script. It does not have to be written completely, but must contain essential information.

What are your top tips for becoming a successful professional emcee of business events?

Be prepared, be humble and be wise.



Bigger PHITEX 2016

More than 200 international buyers from across 35 countries, together with Philippine sellers of travel and tourism products and services from 132 companies across the country, gathered at the Marriott Hotel Manila for the most important annual travel trade event in the country, the **Philippine Travel Exchange (PHITEX) 2016**.

Presented by the **Tourism Promotions Board (TPB)** and the **Department of Tourism (DOT)**, PHITEX served as a venue for business-to-business (B2B) sessions between international buyers and local sellers. The event aims to broaden the chance of interaction, as well as encourage in-depth discussions on tourism and travel trade opportunities.

The event was graced by the newly-appointed DOT Secretary Wanda Corazon Tulfo-Teo. She was joined in by DOT Undersecretary Benito Bengzon, Jr., DOT Assistant Secretary Ricky Alegre, TPB COO Joselito Gregorio, TPB OIC Deputy COO for Marketing and Promotions Maricon Basco-Ebron and PHITEX Deputy Secretary General Susana J. Del Mundo in welcoming the international delegation.

"PHITEX will only grow stronger and more competitive through the coming years with the continuous commitment and dedication of everyone – our partners, buyers and sellers. Your immeasurable support only fuels us to push and go further," remarked Secretary Teo.

On top of the B2B sessions, buyers also experienced the country's world-famous entertainment from renowned Filipino performers such as the 36-year old festival dance company Buganda Dancers and Drumbeaters, multi-awarded ballet dancers Candice and Carissa Adea, World Champion violinist Juleous and Asia's Got Talent season 1 Grand Finalist, Junior New System.

Fun and exciting tours that include inspection of hotels, entertainment and convention venues and facilities around the country's capital and top tourist attractions and destinations in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were made available to the participants.

Now on its 15th year, PHITEX has gained popularity and recognition in the global tourism market. By making the event bigger and better, TPB is giving foreign travelers more reasons to visit the Philippines again.

Led by Philippine Airlines as the official flag carrier, and Marriott Hotel Manila, PHITEX 2016 is also supported by TTG Asia as the official media partner, Manila Bulletin and Philippine Daily Inquirer. Other sponsors include Resorts World Manila, Diamond Hotel, Tourism Infrastructure Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), Duty Free Philippines, Philipines Craft Distillers (LAKAN), Marco Polo Ortigas Manila, Seda Bonifacio Global City, Bellevue Resort, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Fairmont Makati, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Radisson Blu Cebu, Park Inn by Radisson, Plaza del Norte and The Mind Museum.



PHITEX 2016 buyers enjoyed their Intramuros Heritage Tour on 04 September at the Intramuros, Manila where they had a peek on Philippines' history.



PHITEX 2016 served as the perfect venue for foreign buyers where they were introduced to the best Philippine offerings in travel and tourism products and services.



Delegates and guests were treated to performances by some of the country's multi-awarded talents such as Ryan Cayabyab Singers, Baihana, Juleous, Junior New System, Buganda Dancers and Drumbeaters, Candice and Carissa Aldea, Sindaw Philippines Performing Arts Guild and Whiplash.



Peggy Chong

The deputy CEO of Singapore's iconic Gardens by the Bay tells **Karen Yue** that her garden is always kept fresh and beautiful to entice event planners who are yearning for unconventional venues

It has been four years since Gardens by the Bay opened with Bay South Garden in June 2012. I remember reporting on the strong MICE interest in your venues ahead of opening. How has demand been since?

More than 800 events have been held here since opening. What makes the Gardens a venue of choice for many is perhaps its unique setting of outdoor and indoor gardens, juxtaposed with the striking architecture of the Supertrees and the cooled conservatories.

We have seen a steady growth in the number of events held here, with the highest number recorded last year during Singapore's Golden Jubilee.

Event planners are constantly on the lookout for unconventional venues and unique experiences. The Gardens takes an event beyond the confines of a conventional ballroom or function hall, making it an ideal off-site venue.

What are some of your most memorable corporate and public events throughout these four years?

The SG50 Appreciation Dinner (March 2016), which marked the finale of Singapore's 50th birthday celebrations, is one. Our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong placed the final item into the SG50 Time Capsule, which was then housed in the Gardens and will be opened in 2065.

Another memorable event is the Tourism 50 Gala Night and Singapore Experience Awards (November 2014), organised by Singapore Tourism Board and graced by the Prime Minister. That event was held in celebration of 50 years of the transformation of Singapore's tourism landscape.

We've also had plenty of fun public events and festivals such as Christmas Wonderland, Mid-Autumn Festival, and Singapore Garden Festival, as well as concerts by international artistes such as Jennifer Lopez, Jason Mraz, Aerosmith, Psy, AR Rahman, DJ Hardwell and Corinne May.

The St Jerome's Laneway Festival has also been held at the Gardens for four years in a row.

What is your most popular venue, and how far in advanced does it get booked?

Well, we've got two hot ones actually – the Flower Field Hall which is indoors and The Meadow which is outdoors. Advanced booking for them can range from nine to 18 months.

The Flower Field Hall is housed within the Flower Dome – the “Largest Glass Greenhouse” in the Guinness World Records 2015 – and its signature feature is the LED lighting with 100 colour options and can be customised to suit a specific theme or to evoke a certain ambiance. As you can imagine, Flower Field Hall is a popular venue for weddings, gala dinners, networking events and product launches.

The Meadow is the largest outdoor garden events space in Singapore. Spread across 22,000m² with a panoramic view of the Supertrees, cooled conservatories and the Marina Bay skyline, it provides a stunning backdrop for mega events like concerts, festivals and carnivals.

Surely you must have had some challenging event requests over the past four years.

We do our best to cater to the varied nature of each event. We have had a number of automotive events held at the Gardens before, where we made special arrangements for the vehicles to be brought directly into the Flower Field Hall, and even converted The Meadow into a test drive circuit.

Has the Gardens evolved its products for planners over time? What has changed?

Well, we introduced two new incentive experiences in July 2016.

One is the Secret Life of Trees. This newly refurbished outdoor venue is nestled amid lush greenery in our World of Plants outdoor themed gardens, and



makes an intimate venue for an evening cocktail party. It boasts an unparalleled view of the Supertree Grove and provides an optimal vantage point for guests to enjoy the nightly *Garden Rhapsody* light and sound show.

The other is Champagne @ OCBC Skyway. For the first time, the suspended walkway between two Supertrees in the heart of the Gardens, will be available for private hire. It provides an unusual setting for an unforgettable experience. Plus, guests can enjoy an exclusive *Garden Rhapsody* show as they sip champagne and take in the panoramic view of Marina Bay.

The Gardens has an interesting collection of education programmes for the young. Are these programmes available to corporate groups too?

At the moment, the educational programmes in the Gardens cater to the general public. However, we do provide private guided tours which can be customised to suit the needs and interests of the group.

The current year has been said by many MICE players to be a particularly challenging one. Often when this happens, corporates tighten their belts and event expenditures are among the first to be affected. What are you doing to ensure corporate event bookings remain strong going forward?

It is not uncommon for some months to be quieter than others. On the whole, the Gardens remains popular with events and we continue to see a steady stream of enquiries on our venues.

Having said this, we continue to innovate by refreshing our offerings and introducing new incentive experiences such as the ones mentioned earlier.

As an added incentive to encourage event planners to host their events with us, we have also created a package where local event planners can enjoy a 20 per cent rebate for each event they bring into the Gardens.

This is valid until December 2016, and our Event Venues team will be happy to tell your readers more about this promotion.

I like how the Gardens holds several thematic exhibitions every year to keep the attraction fresh for local and foreign visitors. Have these thematic exhibitions helped to reel in corporate planners too?

Why, yes! The changing floral displays are a perennial favourite with visitors and they do add to the unique selling point of the two event venues within the



Flower Dome – the Flower Field Hall and the Waterview Room.

As a horticulture themed attraction, we constantly inject fresh ideas into our floral displays by incorporating new themes and introducing plants not commonly seen in Singapore, such as tulips, dahlias and cherry blossoms.

“Event planners are constantly on the lookout for unconventional venues and unique experiences. The Gardens takes an event beyond the confines of a conventional ballroom or function hall, making it an ideal off-site venue.”

Earlier this year in March, we surprised visitors with the opportunity of experiencing *sakura* (cherry blossoms) in Singapore. Response was extremely heartening, and we have even received enquiries from companies wanting to coincide their events with next year's display. Some of our floral displays coincide with festive seasons like Lunar New Year and Christmas, making them a popular

choice too among event planners who are organising corporate events during these periods.

At the beginning, the Gardens opened first with Bay South Garden, while Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden were supposed to be ready at a later stage. How are Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden coming along?

Bay East Garden, when completed, will be a place with a serene ambience, where visitors can take in the beautiful vista and skyline of Singapore.

Full development of Bay East Garden will only be carried out at a later stage, taking into consideration the infrastructural works of other projects in the surrounding area.

However, we have opened Bay East Garden as an interim garden with basic infrastructure such as parking lots and restrooms.

As for Bay Central Garden, we are currently in the master-planning stage. The experience gleaned from designing Bay South Garden and Bay East Garden will prove useful when we design Bay Central Garden at a later stage.

For now, our focus is on Bay South Garden, including the event venues that we have in place, as well as the two new incentive experiences that we have rolled out in July.



Brainstorming for the future

Asian MICE Forum 2016 in Taipei brought global MICE leaders together to paint a picture of the industry in 2025. Now in its 11th edition, the event was organised by Taiwan's Bureau of Foreign Trade, and Ministry of Economic Affairs, and implemented by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council.



Busy bees buzzing in Beijing

The 11th **ibtm China** in Beijing in September featured a series of presentations on key industry issues, technology, destinations and hotels, as well as networking functions and an exhibition component that saw 7,000 appointments between buyers and exhibitors.



Bright expectations

Sanya inaugurated the **2016 International Island Sanya Forum** as part of its move to position itself as China's next top MICE destination. The MICE-focused forum drew more than 200 delegates from China and beyond.



What's next?

The next issue of **TTGmice** heads down the fun way and checks out interesting event entertainment options that also provide a taste of the destination's unique culture. Then it is a ride to Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan and China to find out what's brewing for events. Buckle up and get ready to go!



Southeast Asia
feel the warmth

ASEAN CELEBRATING



Fifty Years A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Endorsed by the 10 ASEAN NTOs

EDITORIAL CONTENT



Features

50 Most Established Travel Agencies in ASEAN: A look at the 50 most enduring travel companies in ASEAN and the next-gen agencies/travel tech start-ups to watch

50 ASEAN Home-grown Hotel Brands: Discover 50 native brands stories and their expansion in the region and beyond, and why ASEAN is favoured by international chains

50 Best ASEAN Travel Experiences: Industry experts' guide to the best ASEAN travel experiences



Spotlight

50 Movers and Shakers in ASEAN: Spotlight on the outstanding individuals who have made a mark in the region and/or have contributed immensely to the growth of ASEAN tourism



Infographics

How ASEAN destinations have grown in the last 50 years and the who's who that make the ASEAN tourism industry go round

And many more!

LEISURE EDITION

TO ADVERTISE

SINGAPORE
HONG KONG

Shirley Tan
Ingrid Chung

| shirley.tan@ttgasia.com | (65) 6395 7535
| ingrid.chung@ttgasia.com | (852) 2237 7262

Spectacular venues with equally spectacular offers to match.

Whatever your company's MICE requirements, you can rest assured we will customise a package that is truly memorable.

Visit us at ITB Asia Booth F30

Drop your business card with us and stand to win a luxurious ESPA treatment with a lunch for two at Tangerine, total worth over S\$1,500.



Book your MICE package with us and receive additional privileges worth up to S\$8,000!

Also, sign up for a 2 year contract or more and receive 10% cash rebate for the second year. Speak with us for more information.



Book with us at ITB Asia and enjoy these add-ons:

- Complimentary dinner for two at One Michelin star restaurant, Osia Steak and Seafood Grill (worth up to S\$300), with a confirmed pre-arranged tour of Resorts World Sentosa.
- Complimentary 2D1N weekend stay at Equarius Hotel with breakfast for two for confirmed MICE bookings.



MOMENTS TO REMEMBER AT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

T: (65) 6577 9977 E: mice@rwsentosa.com