

GLOBAL FEATURES

Disseminating Information Across The Globe

Incorporating

Global Technologies

Your Window To The Tech and Startup World

Global Destinations

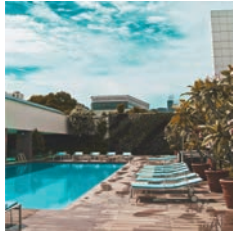
A Guide To The World of MICE and Tourism

- Hilton
- Oman Air
- IMEX
- HICAP
- IT&CMA





It's Not Just A Hotel, It's An Experience.



From the moment you set foot in the hotel, you are taking the first steps to a truly Concorde Experience. Slip into pleasure as you find your grand escape with Concorde Hotel Singapore.

Where luxury is in its simplest form, feel like royalty with exquisite comfort and unparalleled hospitality. Concorde offers a sanctuary from the bustling city, but not too far off from the effervescence of Singapore.

Indulge Inside and Out. Always At Concorde.



www.facebook.com/concordehotelsingapore | [@ConcordeHotelSG](https://www.instagram.com/ConcordeHotelSG) | [@concordhotelsg](https://www.tiktok.com/@concordhotelsg)

CONCORDE HOTEL
SINGAPORE

100 Orchard Road, Singapore 238840
Tel: +65 6733 8855 Fax: +65 6732 7886
Email: singapore@concorde.net

SINGAPORE.CONCORDEHOTELSRESORTS.COM

CONCORDE HOTELS & RESORTS KUALA LUMPUR | SHAH ALAM | SINGAPORE

Dear Friends

The worldwide exhibition for Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events, IMEX tasted great success as it was the first global MICE in person event post COVID. Framed by a fresh new contemporary brand look, IMEX 2023 saw Over 3,500 buyers made 55,000 appointments with IMEX exhibitors, of which 47,000 were individual appointments; the remainder were group and stand presentations.

New this year and free for all exhibitors and buyers was the ability to scan each other's badges through the IMEX app, delivering instant access to a leads report and resulting in more business opportunities.

If it's IMEX, Frankfurt I have always stayed at a Hilton and this year was no different as I again experienced the amazing Hilton Frankfurt City Centre. It was such a delight catching up with Marc Snijders, GM, Hilton Frankfurt City Centre, a very dear friend of mine, after almost 4 years. As the hotel celebrates its Silver Jubilee, Marc also celebrates his Silver Jubilee with the Hilton group. I had the pleasure of interviewing this dynamic, people oriented hospitable hospitality professional who talks with great pride and affinity of the hotel where he has been a GM for nearly a decade.

Hospitality professionals, Investors, Owners, Bankers, Architects etc from across the globe will again converge in Singapore to attend, learn, interact at the much-anticipated Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP).

HICAP has been Asia Pacific's Essential Hotel Conference for 32 years – an annual gathering place for Asia-Pacific's hotel investment community, attracting the most influential owners, developers, lenders, executives, and professional advisors from around the globe. Most delegates are looking to make new contacts, strengthen existing relationships, learn from industry pundits and even orchestrate a deal.

The Tech Challenge and Lounge will make its inaugural debut in Singapore at HICAP 2023 (23-25 October 2023), and the opportunity will be limited to 10 spots. In case your tech product and/or service help hotel owners and/or operators increase their bottom line then this is the perfect opportunity for you to showcase first-hand to the decision makers who can help you grow your business.

For MICE professionals and corporate across the globe IT&CM Asia and CTW Asia-Pacific remains the event to make your presence to be felt annually and this year will be no different as the twin events are set to be as 100% in-person event. Due to covid in 2020 & 2021 these were virtual editions and a hybrid edition was held in 2022. The redesigned 2023 programme features new and reintroduced engagement sessions. This year celebrates 31 years of fostering international MICE business in Asia-Pacific and 26 years of cultivating Corporate Travel and Entertainment (T&E) best practices among Asia-Pacific's travel professionals.

The coming 3-day in-person IT&CM Asia and CTW Asia-Pacific promises a line-up of conferences and networking, curated for the diverse needs and interests of our delegates.

Oman Air was designated 'Best Airline Staff in the Middle East' at the Skytrax 2023 World Airline Awards. Apart from having an excellent in flight service, recently the Business Travel Index from Tipalti has analyzed factors such as service, wide range of food and drink options, lounge facilities, seat comfort and inflight entertainment, to reveal the best airlines to fly with when traveling in business class. It was no surprise to me to see Oman Air topping the list of best business-class airlines with an overall score of 8.39.

Oman Air scores 5/5 across the board when it comes to its aircraft's business-class seats, making it the highest-scoring airline in this category. It also receives 4/5 in areas such as staff service (both inflight and in the lounge), inflight entertainment, and lounge catering.

Oman Air, Qatar Airways, and Turkish Airlines are amongst the best business-class lounges. Oman Air also receives 4/5 in areas such as staff service (both inflight and in the lounge), inflight entertainment, and lounge catering.



Chandragupta Amritkar
Editor
chandraguptaa@hotmail.com
editor@globalfeatures.info

Editor - Chandragupta Amritkar, Consulting Editor - Varsha, Special Correspondent - Pooja, Design - Manoj Durgam
 Contact - Global Features, B-701, Customs Colony, Military Road, Marol Maroshi, Andheri(E), Mumbai-400 059, India.
 Mobile - 91 9969935878/91 8850614577 e-mail: editor@globalfeatures.info/chandraguptaa@hotmail.com
 Annual Subscription Rates - India: Rs. 1200; Overseas: US\$ 60 (Rates include airmail charges).

Printed and Published by Chandragupta Amritkar on behalf of Global Features B-701, Customs Colony, Military Rd, Marol, Andheri(E), Mumbai-400 059 and Printed at Sumangal Press Pvt. Ltd. "Sumangal" G-8 Cross Road "A", Near Marol Bus Depot, MIDC, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 093.

Global Features makes all efforts to ensure that the information published is correct and reliable. However the publication holds no responsibility for any inadvertent errors, commissions or opinions expressed.



The Ascott Limited is a member of CapitaLand Investment. It is one of the leading international lodging owner-operators with properties across Asia Pacific, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the USA. Its portfolio of serviced apartment coliving and hotel brands includes Ascott The Residence, The Crest Collection, Somerset, Quest, Citadines, Iyf, Preference, Vertu Harris, Citadines Connect, Fox, Yello, Fox Lite, and POP!.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES



Buffet Breakfast



Fully Equipped Kitchenette



Pool



Gymnasium



EV Charging



In-room Dining



Laundry Services



Kids Play Area



Complimentary WiFi



Conference Rooms



Steam & Sauna



CITADINES ABHA



RAFAL OLAYA RIYADH



OAKWOOD PREMIER
PRESTIGE BANGALORE



CITADINES OMR CHENNAI



SOMERSET DOWNTOWN
AL KHOBAR



OAKWOOD RESIDENCE
WHITEFIELD BANGALORE



OAKWOOD RESIDENCE
KAPIL HYDERABAD



OAKWOOD RESIDENCE
NAYLOR ROAD PUNE



SOMERSET GREENWAYS
CHENNAI



CITADINES AL
GHUBRAH MUSCAT



STEP INTO A WORLD OF GREATER BENEFITS AND REWARDS

For business or leisure stays - travel, earn and redeem.

Step into a world of endless travel possibilities with Ascott Star Rewards.

Sign up for your complimentary ASR membership and receive a 25% off* welcome voucher! Get an additional 30% off* voucher when you link your corporate email account to your ASR member profile by 31 December 2023.

ASR points will be awarded for qualifying stays booked through discoverasr.com and Discover ASR mobile app, Ascott's reservation offices (email, phone, WeChat), authorised travel agents via Global Distribution System or directly at our ASR participating properties in over 30 countries.

ASR Benefits at a Glance:

- Earn ASR points for every SGD 1 spent on stays
- 10% off Best Flexible Rates all year round
- Seasonal offers of up to 50% off Best Flexible Rates
- Birthday discount e-voucher
- Room upgrades**
- Early check-ins, late check-outs**

*Terms and conditions apply. **Subject to availability.



**NOT A MEMBER YET?
SIGN UP TODAY!**

Membership is FREE! Sign up, add your personal and business emails to earn points on all stays

discoverasr.com/sign-up

Download the Discover ASR app





Hospitality

Hilton

06



Aviation

Oman Air

05

Event Review

IMEX

10



Conference

HICAP

13



Event Preview

IT&CMA

23



Technology

CES 2023

26



Oman Air Offers the Most Comfortable Business-Class Seats

India remains Oman Air's second largest market (after Oman) and has been growing steadily as it expands to multiple cities in India connecting to two key international airports in Oman – Muscat and Salalah. Its gaining popularity among Indian travellers travelling not just to Oman but way beyond, especially the European market.

Oman Air was designated 'Best Airline Staff in the Middle East' at the Skytrax 2023 World Airline Awards. Apart from having an excellent in flight service, recently the Business Travel Index from Tipalti has analyzed factors such as service, wide range of food and drink options, lounge facilities, seat comfort and inflight entertainment, to reveal the best airlines to fly with when traveling in business class. It was no surprise to me to see Oman Air topping the list of best business-class airlines with an overall score of 8.39.

Oman Air scores 5/5 across the board when it comes to its aircraft's business-class seats, making it the highest-scoring airline in this category. It also receives 4/5 in areas such as staff service (both inflight and in the lounge), inflight entertainment, and lounge catering. Following closely behind is Cathay Pacific Airways

Oman Air, Qatar Airways, and Turkish Airlines are amongst the best business-class lounges. Oman Air also receives 4/5 in areas such as staff service (both inflight and in the lounge), inflight entertainment, and lounge catering.

The research used Skytrax to record the scores for each airline for the following lounge-related factors: lounge comfort, lounge catering, lounge washrooms and showers, lounge internet and wifi, and lounge staff service. The same process was repeated for the following seat-related factors: seat sleep comfort, seat sitting comfort, seat/bed width, seat/bed length, and seat privacy.

One can find the full research report at <https://tipalti.com/business-travel-index/>

My Experience

For me Oman Air remains one of the best to experience their incredible business class on both International and domestic sectors. I recently flew from Mumbai to Frankfurt for IMEX and again flew business class.



Oman Air (WY) operates a fleet of around 50 aircraft, with long haul flights are a mix of Airbus A330-200 and A330-300 and Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 aircraft. Most of them feature the same Business Class seats - the APEX Suite (a denser 2-2-2 cabin configuration but cleverly designed by staggering the seats along the sides of the cabin and providing a passageway from the

window seats thus all seats have direct aisle access). While all Oman Air Business Class seats are good, the window seats can be preferred as they give a feel of almost like enclosed suites (thanks to adjustable privacy dividers) and they also benefit from extra legroom due to the positioning of the seats.

With a pitch of 80 inches and a bed length of 76 inches the seat turns into a fully lie-flat bed. There's nice ottoman to place your feet with storage underneath the ottoman for a hand bag. We were provided with quilted duvets and fluffy pillows as well as cotton sleeper suits and slippers for this 7 hour plus flight. Each seat has a 17-inch personal monitor and two USB ports. While there are a lot of movie choices including Indian movies, I opted to watch the map for most of the flight.

Guests also enjoy a set of unisex Amouage kits (the Omani luxury fragrance brand) which contains body lotion, facial moisturiser and lip balm along with a dental kit, mouthwash, shaving kit, silk eyeshades, hairbrush, socks and ear plugs.

The inflight dining

'The dine on demand service' which means you eat at your suitable time is an advantage for those who had sufficient food in the lounge. We were offered pre-departure Omani coffee ('Kahwa') with Omani dates. Pre-departure beverages also include Champagne, water or juice. After take-off they have À la carte menu with varied dining options accompanied by fine wines and for the vegetarian they can book in advance their choice of meal. During meal we were offered specialty coffees – Espresso, Cappuccino, Mocha or even hot chocolate which I prefer (by the way Oman air serves one of the best hot chocolate that I have tasted).

The lounge experience

At Muscat International Airport Oman Air First and Business Class lounges are located on the 5th floor of the terminal. On entering the lounge, the soft brown and gold hues are soothing to one's eyes and the marble floors to walk. The lounge has two self-serve buffets (hot and cold food) and a bar in-between. Those opting for a quick nap there are curtained nap pods, for longer rest there are four sleeping rooms, private showers etc. A spa provides an assortment of treatments at a price.

At Frankfurt and Munich airports Oman Air partners with other airlines and third-party lounge providers.



“Having a fantastic location and product is important, but the people matter most”



Marc Snijders

If it's IMEX, Frankfurt I have always stayed at a Hilton and this year was no different as I again experienced the amazing Hilton Frankfurt City Centre. It was such a delight catching up with **Marc Snijders, GM, Hilton Frankfurt City Centre**, a very dear friend of mine, after almost 4 years. As the hotel celebrates its Silver Jubilee, Marc also celebrates his Silver Jubilee with the Hilton group. In a tête-à-tête with **Chandragupta Amritkar** this dynamic, people oriented hospitable hospitality professional, talks with great pride and affinity of the hotel where he has been a GM for nearly a decade. **Excerpts**

What is so unique about Hilton Frankfurt City Centre? Any WOW factors that you would like to highlight?

Hilton Frankfurt City Centre is situated in the heart of Frankfurt and the hotel provides easy access to the city as well as to the business & financial district.

As the hotel is set in the midst of a park, it provides a scenic experience to leisure and business guests alike.

Over the past year's the hotel received a facelift and transformed from a conventional hotel into a unique urban city hotel, with fantastic room design as well as a great meeting product, suitable for any type of social and corporate function.

Guests enjoy a premium 2000sqm fitness and wellness offer including a half-Olympic size pool. The pool is a Frankfurt landmark, and was built in the 1950s as a city pool for the Frankfurt community. When the Hilton opened, this area was

integrated into the hotel and until today, also locals can continue to use and enjoy the swimming pool (it remains public between Monday and Friday).

What makes the hotel unique however, are the team members. At Hilton we pursue the vision of our founder Conrad Hilton, “to fill the earth with the light & warmth of hospitality”. When scrolling through the numerous reviews of the hotel online and in social media, the team members and their passion for providing exceptional experiences to our guests stand out. As we are in business of people serving people, I firmly believe that this will always make the difference for our guests. Having a fantastic location and product is important, but the people matter most.

COVID did create a stir but the hospitality industry has bounced back. What challenges and opportunities do you foresee in a post COVID world for hoteliers?

I believe that the pandemic showed us all that we are vulnerable, but even more so that we are resilient. People love to travel and that love for human connections through travel, whether it's for personal or business reasons has even become stronger. People are more than ever seeking experiences and authentic hospitality. As hoteliers, that's where our opportunity lies. At Hilton Frankfurt City Centre, we try to understand the purpose of our guest's travel and by doing so, we can create a personal experience, and a lasting impression. That starts with the pre-arrival and reservation experience, through the arrival and during the stay at all the touchpoints up to the departure experience. We aim to make it personal at all these instances, as we feel that it matters to guests, where they stay.





Hilton has committed to reduce the group's environmental impact. What role is your hotel playing?

At Hilton Frankfurt City Centre, we strive to contribute to making the world a better place, in our efforts on the environmental front as well as on the social side.

We are in advanced stages to introduce a solar solution to produce a large part of our energy requirements ourselves. At the same time, we have introduced bulk guest amenities in partnership with Crabtree & Evelyn to all our guest rooms and work with an acclaimed partner in our efforts to reduce food waste. Plastic has largely been eliminated in the past years and we also source food locally more than ever before. Just naming a few of the many initiatives we pursue.

On the social front we have created a truly inclusive culture, with gender parity, as well as team members from all around the world, over 35 nationalities, as well as team members with special abilities and different levels of education.

We work with different refugee organizations and have over the past years integrated numerous team members, who sought refuge in Germany, into the team, enabling them access to education and career growth within Hilton.

How important is MICE and the facilities?

MICE is one of the key pillars of our business. With newly refurbished event facilities for up to 585 guests, and a great food and drinks offer, we attract many international meeting & event

A culinary experience@Hudson Yards

New York's newest neighbourhood, Hudson Yards that has some of the best culinary experiences has reached Frankfurt. Located in Hilton Frankfurt City Centre, Hudson Yards presents to its august guests a combination of New York classics and authentic Frankfurt recipes. Guests can indulge with the classic Hot Dog and New York Cheesecake or choose one of the traditional dishes such as the veal Schnitzel with green sauce. Adding to the dining experience guests can select from an excellent range of drinks or ask one of the friendly team members to prepare one of Hudson Yards signature cocktails. Open daily from 9am until midnight (Fri. + Sat. until 1am) guests apart from the non-vegetarian dishes have options to enjoy vegetarian, vegan and gluten free dishes too.



planners. Frankfurt offers easy access from anywhere around the world, and the city has a lot to offer to the MICE industry, with great facilities and infrastructure.

How much of a role does technology play in the hospitality business and in particular your properties?

Technology plays an instrumental role in hospitality. Whilst we will always be a people serving people business, technology can enhance this. For example the digital check-in and room selection is available for our guests. Once checked-in, guests can use their smart device as key to the room. This saves them time and gives us even more time to focus on providing guest experiences.

Tell us a little about your experience in the hospitality sector – what drove you to pursue a career in hospitality?

Already as a young child, I was fascinated by hotels and the energy one could feel when walking into a hotel lobby. So it was a natural decision for me to study hospitality management and my passion for the hospitality industry kept growing.

Create gratifying experiences for guests and team members is the most rewarding aspect of my role. Every day there are numerous opportunities to make some ones day or stay brighter and above all else, this is feeling I truly love about being in hospitality.

Hospitality is much more than a profession, it's fulfilling a purpose. I can only encourage people to consider a career in hospitality, as it offers such a diverse range of opportunities and a truly global work place.

What are the key priorities that you plan to focus?

We are celebrating our 25th anniversary at the end of the year and this will be such an exciting milestone in the history of the hotel. With the entire team, we are working on the celebrations, which will kick-off in the fall.



Back With Greater Business Focus, Wider



SAVE DATE

31st IT&C
26th CTW A

26 - 28 Sept

Bangkok Conve
Centra
Bangkok,



3 Day 100% In-Person Event
26 - 28 September 2023, Bangkok



Largest Collection of Asia-Pacific
MICE Destinations, Product & Service
Suppliers and Buyers



Distinct Event Programmes including
perennial IT&CMA and CTW APAC
favourite segments that deliver on
Business, Learning and Networking
objectives

Organised By

TTG | Event

itcma@ttgasia.com

www.itcma.com

Strategic Destination Partner



Supported By





Register Now

er Reach and Even Bigger Value

THE
2023

CMA and
Asia-Pacific

September 2023

Convention Centre at
World
Thailand



Hosting Programme for eligible in-person buyers from around the world!



Attractive Buyer Incentives that are among the industry's most generous



Not 1 But 3 Valuable Buyer Segments MICE, Association and Corporates with dedicated programme for each different delegate profile



Partner Event



Official Technology Partner



ctwapac@ttgasia.com

www.corporatetravelworld.com/apac

IA
ings

CTWEvents
Leading Corporate Travel Management Events
In Asia-Pacific and China

CTW
Asia-Pacific
Corporate Travel World

CTW
中国 China
国际商旅大会

IMEX again taste success

The worldwide exhibition for Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events, IMEX tasted great success as it was the first global MICE in person event post COVID. IMEX is always evolving so you'll find brand-new ideas, exhibitors, educational sessions and networking programmes every year. Loved the IMEX Vision: Be inspired and explore the IMEX Vision initiatives to help build your business and stimulate fresh ideas. The show also introduced its new brand - evolved with new colours and shapes.



Framed by a fresh new contemporary brand look, IMEX 2023 saw Over 3,500 buyers made 55,000 appointments with IMEX exhibitors, of which 47,000 were individual appointments; the remainder were group and stand presentations.

"The 2023 edition clearly reflected an industry pride and renewed confidence among exhibitors and, of course, a strong desire to do business with thousands of buyers," said IMEX Chairman, Ray Bloom.

New this year and free for all exhibitors and buyers was the ability to scan each other's badges through the IMEX app, delivering instant access to a leads report and resulting in more business opportunities.

Reflecting business confidence on the show floor, Pablo Sismanian, Argentina National Institute of Tourism Promotion, said: "So far, we've had 15 events finalised at the show, worth

more than \$10m – and this is just the tip of the iceberg. We've received many enquiries for incentives, and some congresses."

Claire Smith, VP Sales & Marketing at Vancouver Convention Centre, commented: "The meetings we've had have really moved discussions along, including conversations about bringing medical and scientific



associations in with between 1,200 and 4,000 attendees. We involve our event partners so buyers can meet the wider team – this helps build trust, which is crucial."

A new German language Impact Academy, organised by IMEX Brand Ambassador in the German speaking markets, Tanja Knecht, welcomed 60 hosted buyers who share a special interest in using events and event design to achieve both environmental and community engagement goals. Its successful launch augurs well for a repeat in 2024.

Intentional design, brand refresh

Noting the importance of intentional design in both Hall 8 by the exhibitors and Hall 9 by the IMEX team and its industry partners, IMEX Group CEO Carina Bauer, remarked on the show's visual impact and memorability factor being stronger than ever. "This year's show demonstrated how much more we all know about designing experiences with sustainability and purpose in mind, ensuring accessibility, inclusivity, higher standards of psychological safety and wellbeing...in fact all our human needs," she said.

Bauer noted that, although IMEX pioneered elements such as the Be Well Lounge many years ago, this year many more people had used it and appreciated its calming atmosphere. A



choice of high-quality, locally sourced, low carbon food, plenty of comfortable and innovative places to rest and work together with low-level lighting in Hall 9 made the whole event experience more enjoyable and ultimately extended its value as a business and learning platform for everyone attending.

Also adding to engagement and positivity at the show was the IMEX brand refresh. Giant letters in the Galleria became the Instagram hit of the week, while attendees responded positively to the IMEX logo's 'handshake' motif and contemporary colour palette.

The show floor was buzzing with people and as a visitor rightly put it as an electrifying atmosphere. Spread over three days, it can be a challenge to connect with everybody but a scheduled meeting plan can help manage your time. IMEX though relatively a compact show some faced the challenges in navigating as for some buyers there their next appointments were on the other end of the hall. But the best part was that hall layout on the floor of each hall guiding visitors as well as exhibitors.

Next year's IMEX Frankfurt will take place 14 - 16 May 2024.

AsiaWorld-Expo
亞洲國際博覽館



HongKong Shine

始於香港 閃耀世界

AsiaWorld-Expo
Your Ideal Venue Partner

AsiaWorld-Expo Management Limited
AsiaWorld-Expo

Hong Kong International Airport, Lantau, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 3606 8888 Fax: (852) 3606 8889
Email: sales@asiaworld-expo.com
www.asiaworld-expo.com

Find us on:       

A member company of HKIA SHL, subsidiary of the Airport Authority Hong Kong



75th Anniversary Celebration@Frankfurter Buchmesse

Publishers, booksellers, literary fraternity, authors, tech innovators, multimedia companies creative geniuses, digital content creators, leading thinkers, celebrities all will converge in Frankfurt for the Frankfurter Buchmesse (Frankfurt Book Fair), the world's leading book fair to exchange ideas, conclude international deals and trading, be inspired, try out new technologies and certainly cultivate contacts.



The Frankfurt Book Fair is the world's largest trade fair for books as several thousand exhibitors from the publishing world gather at a single venue. This year Frankfurter Buchmesse celebrates its 75th Anniversary as it opens its doors in October (18-22 October) to celebrate exciting stories and their authors. This year's Guest of Honour, Slovenia, will present itself not only as an attractive destination for travel, but also a country with a long-standing literary tradition. It is also a place to gain valuable industry insights from top-class publishing experts. New this year is the Comics Centre.

What began in 1949 as a small exhibition with 205 German publishing houses in Frankfurt's St Paul's Church has grown over the decades into the world's largest international book fair. Each year, authors, members of the publishing industry, players in the rights and licensing business, and high-profile guests from culture, politics and business from over 100 countries come to the publishing industry's most important global gathering.

As early as 1953, there were more international than German exhibitors at the fair, demonstrating the increasing cross-border networking taking place. In the 1960s, student protests drew attention to the fairgrounds, while women's demands for greater equality became more audible in the following decade.

The 1980s and 1990s were all about the ongoing development of electronic media, not to mention the impact of the Cold War and Germany's reunification. In 1999, 10 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Hungary presented its cultural achievements in Frankfurt – the first Eastern European country to do so. And the more important the global rights and licensing business became for the industry, the more important Frankfurt became as a marketplace, meeting point and hub.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 overshadowed the activities on the fairgrounds. In an atmosphere of uncertainty and reorientation, Frankfurter Buchmesse highlighted the relevance of intercultural dialogue and bridge-building, consciously assuming its responsibility as a politically relevant event.

In 2009, Frankfurter Buchmesse was subject to criticism due

to China's appearance as Guest of Honour. German Chancellor Angela Merkel forthrightly addressed this issue in her opening remarks, emphasising that even the People's Republic cannot shy away from critical questions relating to freedom of expression.

In the 2010s, the rights and licensing business advanced in Frankfurt in multiple directions. Books, films, games, music, images, illustrations, even merchandising – all of these markets, which are crucial to the content business, became part of the fair. The main topic addressed in interviews, panel discussions and presentations continued to be digitalisation: e-books, enhanced e-books, apps, crowdfunding, fan fiction, 360° storytelling, social DRM, self-publishing, metadata, the agency model – the market's professionalisation and transformation has meant that the book trade's to-do list grows longer each year.

In 2017, Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron came to the fair. In a memorable speech, the French president emphasised the power of diversity and proposed a Europe-wide educational offensive. He called for developing the vision of a culturally and politically united Europe. And it goes on....

Partial list of Indian presence

This year India has a good presence with participation from National Book Trust, India, Chennai International Book Fair, Repro India, Alka Publications, Lumina Datamatics, Quarterfold, Sheth Publishing, Transforma, Langscape Language Solutions, Integra Software Services, DrillBit SoftTech India, Tibetan Translation & Research Institute, Thomson Press (India), Prakash Books India, Little Pearl Books, Anand Diaries, Dreamland Publications, BPB Publications, CBS Publishers & Distributors, Roli Books, Om Book Shop, Brijbasi Art Press, Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers, Koral Books, Nutech Print Services, Mammoth World,

Red Ink Literary Agency, Replika Press, Vishv Books, LHB Learning LLP, B. Jain Publishers, Compro Technologies, Om Books International, Sterling Graphics, Ukiyoto Publishing, Wise Eagle, Xact Studio International, Oxford Book Company, Mapin Publishing, B K Publications, CDC Printers etc.



**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**

18-22 OCTOBER 2023
GUEST OF HONOUR SLOVENIA



HICAP Tech Connection to make its inaugural debut

Hospitality professionals, Investors, Owners, Bankers, Architects etc from across the globe will again converge in Singapore to attend, learn, interact at the much-anticipated Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP)

HICAP has been Asia Pacific's Essential Hotel Conference for 32 years – an annual gathering place for Asia-Pacific's hotel investment community, attracting the most influential owners, developers, lenders, executives, and professional advisors from around the globe. Most delegates are looking to make new contacts, strengthen existing relationships, learn from industry pundits and even orchestrate a deal.

HICAP Tech Connection

The Tech Challenge and Lounge will make its inaugural debut in Singapore at HICAP 2023 (23-25 October 2023), and the opportunity will be limited to 10 spots. In case your tech product and/or service help hotel owners and/or operators increase their bottom line then this is the perfect opportunity for you to showcase first-hand to the decision makers who can help you grow your business.



HICAP Tech Connection provides you with the opportunity to exhibit and present your innovation at the leading and largest hotel investment conference in Asia Pacific. Delegates consisting of hotel investors, owners, lenders, developers, hotel chain and management companies, investment bankers, consultants, and more attend HICAP.

As a Tech Sponsor you have the opportunity to compete in this fast-paced session to prove you have the hottest technology for hotel owners and operators to improve their bottom line. This special session on the first day of HICAP allows you the rare opportunity to take the HICAP stage for 5-minutes and showcase your innovation to a judging panel of hoteliers, as well as a room full of HICAP delegates.

The HICAP Tech Lounge allows sponsors the opportunity to showcase their tech product and/or service to hundreds of key decision makers via a display space on the event floor. This display space provides you with both visibility and the unique opportunity to market your hotel technology to HICAP delegates throughout the duration of the conference.

Chanin Donavanik: HICAP Lifetime Achievement Award

This year at HICAP Chanin Donavanik, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Executive Committee and former Chief Executive Officer of Dusit International, will

be awarded the HICAP Lifetime Achievement Award.

The HICAP Lifetime Achievement Award honours exceptional individuals who have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments and contributions to expanding, enhancing, and advancing the hotel industry in the Asia Pacific region and the world.

Serving as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Dusit International since January 2016, Mr Chanin Donavanik, former Chief Executive Officer, continues to uphold the values and vision introduced more than 70 years ago by his mother, Thanpuying Chanut Piyauoi, who founded the company in 1948.

Dusit International, or Dusit Thani Public Company Limited (DUSIT), is a leading hospitality group listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Its operations comprise five distinct yet complementary business units: Dusit Hotels and Resorts, Dusit Hospitality Education, Dusit Foods, Property Development, and Hospitality-Related Services.

“We are delighted and honored to award Khun Chanin Donavanik with the prestigious HICAP Lifetime Achievement Award. Khun Chanin Donavanik's impact on the hotel industry is both symbolic and a true testament to Thailand's rich tradition of generating world-class hoteliers.” said Jonathon S. Zink, COO, The BHN Group.



Chanin Donavanik

The HICAP Deals of the Year Awards

HICAP's commitment to the regional hotel investment community extends beyond hosting networking events and conferences. The HICAP Deal Of the Year Awards highlight the most dynamic deals and developments and honour the on-going achievements of our industry's leaders.

Reggie Shiu Development of the Year – This Award recognizes the single development of the year representing the accomplishments of material market impact in a variety of ways including: overcoming challenges to completion, scale, innovation, quality, performance, and return on investment.

HICAP Deals of the Year – The HICAP Single Asset Transaction and Merger & Acquisition of the Year Awards are given to the transaction, merger or acquisition of the year representing the most significant and/or dynamic deals. The HICAP Single Asset Transaction of the Year Award recognizes hotel(s) and/or resort(s) in which more than a 50 percent ownership stake has been acquired (transaction closed) in Asia Pacific between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.

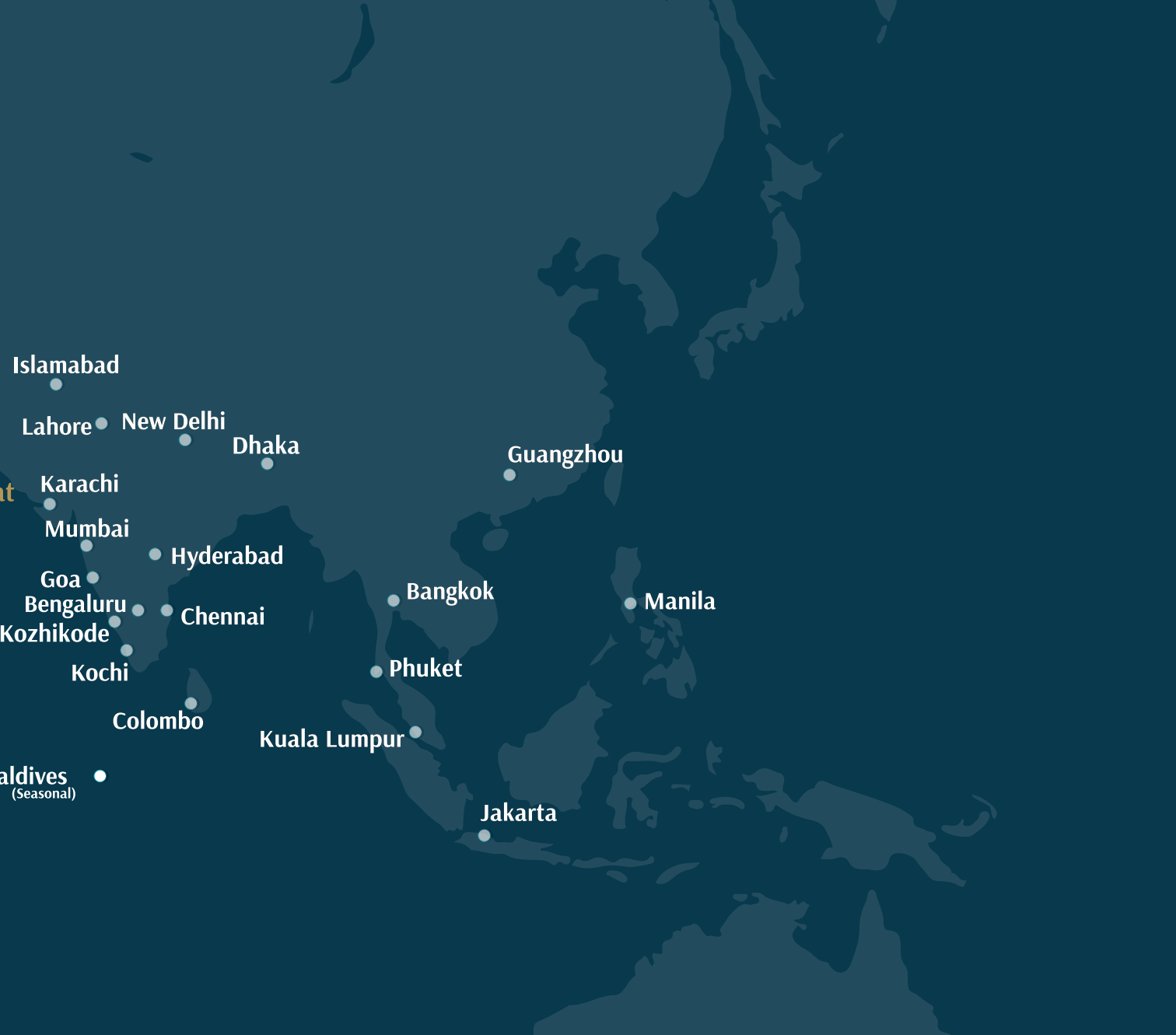
Merger & Acquisition of the Year - The HICAP Merger & Acquisition of the Year Award recognizes an acquisition of a controlling stake in a portfolio of hotels, company, or brand ownership entity in Asia Pacific or undertaken by an Asian-based company between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.



CONNECTING YOU TO THE WORLD

Enjoy an elevated travel experience to a growing range of destinations

Oman Air flies to over 40 destinations across Europe, the GCC, Middle East and Africa, Far East and Indian Subcontinent, as well as domestic flights to Salalah and Khasab. With frequent timings and convenient connections, our guests can enjoy award-winning service and signature Omani hospitality throughout every journey.



WORLD

✉ res.del@omanair.com | res.bom@omanair.com | res.hyd@omanair.com
res.maa@omanair.com | res.goi@omanair.com



الطيران العماني
OMAN AIR

A family outing in Hong Kong Kerry Hotel: Stunning views with exemplary service



Kerry Hotel though located on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong is right on the waterfront and caters to most needs of a business and leisure traveller – spacious, modern, tech savvy rooms with great amenities, bright and airy lobby, excellent food including Indian, warm service and much more feels **Chandragupta Amritkar** who paid a visit with his family.

In October I was invited to attend the HICAP (Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific) event in Kerry hotel Hong Kong – again the only Indian journalist. Pretty impressed by the size of the hotel (546 rooms) and the excellent meeting spaces including



the pillar less Grand Ballroom I thought it should be an ideal hotel for my august readers – many of which are from corporate (for MICE or groups). I also had the pleasure of interacting with the charming Alice Miller, Senior Communications Manager, Kerry Hotel, Hong Kong and when I expressed the desire to cover this beautiful hotel, she was kind enough to extend hospitality. Having visited quite a few Shangri-La properties across the globe this was my first Kerry property. The Kerry Hotels brand is part of the Shangri-La Group and the first Kerry in Hong Kong.

Since I was visiting Hong Kong again in April, I decided to use this opportunity to not just cover the hotel but also look at promoting Hong Kong itself. So I contacted a few partners and all of them came forward – a few did mention that since Indians prefer to go on family holidays can it be possible to focus on a family oriented feature. The idea was good and I put forward the idea to my wife Varsha and daughter Pooja who agreed.

While Indian nationals continue to enjoy 14-day visa-free visit

to Hong Kong, they need to successfully complete Pre-arrival Registration (PAR) online. The process is easy, convenient, free-of-charge and quick.

On arrival after immigration and customs we found a representative from Kerry Hotel (well dressed) who then escorted us to our Limousine via a Limousine Lounge. The ride was excellent with complimentary WiFi being provided in the limousine. There are two advantages taking the hotel limousine – a. the driver knows the exact and quickest route to the hotel and b. the hotel knows exactly when you are arriving and can keep the room ready. That's exactly what happened. On arrival we were directly taken to our room- a Club Premier Sea View Room, where we were able to do a private check-in.

We loved the 560 sqft super spacious room (a rarity for Hong Kong hotels) which was going to be our home for 4 days. The room had a distinct living and dining area in the same room with a huge double bed and a nice full length sofa which was ideal for my daughter. The bathrooms are expansive with bathtubs. The welcome amenities included macarons, a fruit platter, cookies and a chocolate sculpture. Indians drink lots of water and there is plenty of in-room water also the first round of minibar is free. There's a Handy phone also but we did not use it. The harbour views from my room were simply stunning and my daughter went



trigger happy on her mobile (worth paying additional amount for a harbour view room). The free Wi-Fi has a strong signal across the property including open spaces.

After a little bit of rest I met Angela Wong, Director of Communications, Kerry Hotel, Hong Kong (Alice Miller was not there as she was required in Shangri-La, Fiji which was relaunching their property) who took me around for a show round.

With 546 rooms, it's a large hotel that sits rights on the waterfront in Whampoa overlooking the magnificent harbour. Designed by award-winning architect Andre Fu 60% rooms feature spectacular harbour views. The room sizes range from the 42 sqm to the 294 sqm (The Presidential suite).

The hotel is ideal for business travellers as well as families. Its conveniently located to ferry terminal as well as metro - MTR station in Whampoa (a five minute walk). The hotel also provides frequent shuttle service to Hung Hom railway station and the famous Tsim Sha Tsui East shopping district. We used this service quite often.

The ever charming Alice Miller also provided us access to the Club Lounge. It's a wonderful place to relax and view the ocean and the city. We went on two evenings and all of us loved the variety of chocolates. Club guests also enjoy a two hour cocktail experience.



Though club guests have the option of having breakfast at the club lounge we preferred the Big Bay Café – the hotels all day dining restaurant that offers a well spread breakfast and lunch buffets with both

Asian and Western options. It has a matrix of pavilions - Steam, Grill, Chill, Fry, Stew, and Dessert Lab. On our last night the Indian chef Pradeep Singh prepared some tasty Indian dishes and we all relished it. The dal makhani and nan were superb.

Red Sugar houses an impressive collection of craft beers, an extensive wine selection, oak barrel-aged cocktails and innovative bar snacks. With hints of the former Hung Hom entwined into the design and an outdoor terrace offering a 270-degree harbour view.

The Lobby Lounge offers local dishes, a drinks menu with Asian-inspired cocktails, homemade soft drinks and unique local specialities such as Yuanyang and Silk Stocking Tea. The international food court is another attraction with different kiosks including Indian and also has a Starbucks.

But it's the MICE that is making the hotel a popular destination. It's probably the largest hotel for meeting, event and catering facilities in the Hong Kong. Their Grand Ballroom spanning 1,756 sqm can accommodate a banquet of over 1,000 guests and a standing reception of up to 2,100 guests. There are also plenty of breakaway rooms. When we were there, a big tech event was being held. Fortunately during HICAP I had experienced the ballroom as well as some of the breakaway rooms.

Kerry Sports has a luxurious health club, swimming pool, a range of health and beauty treatments. The 25-metre outdoor pool overlooks Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island and is heated during the winter months. The only thing I missed out was experiencing their Spa.

I believe a major reason for their success in the long run will be the helpful attitude (friendliness and attentiveness) by most staff as its bound to bring repeat traffic to the hotel.

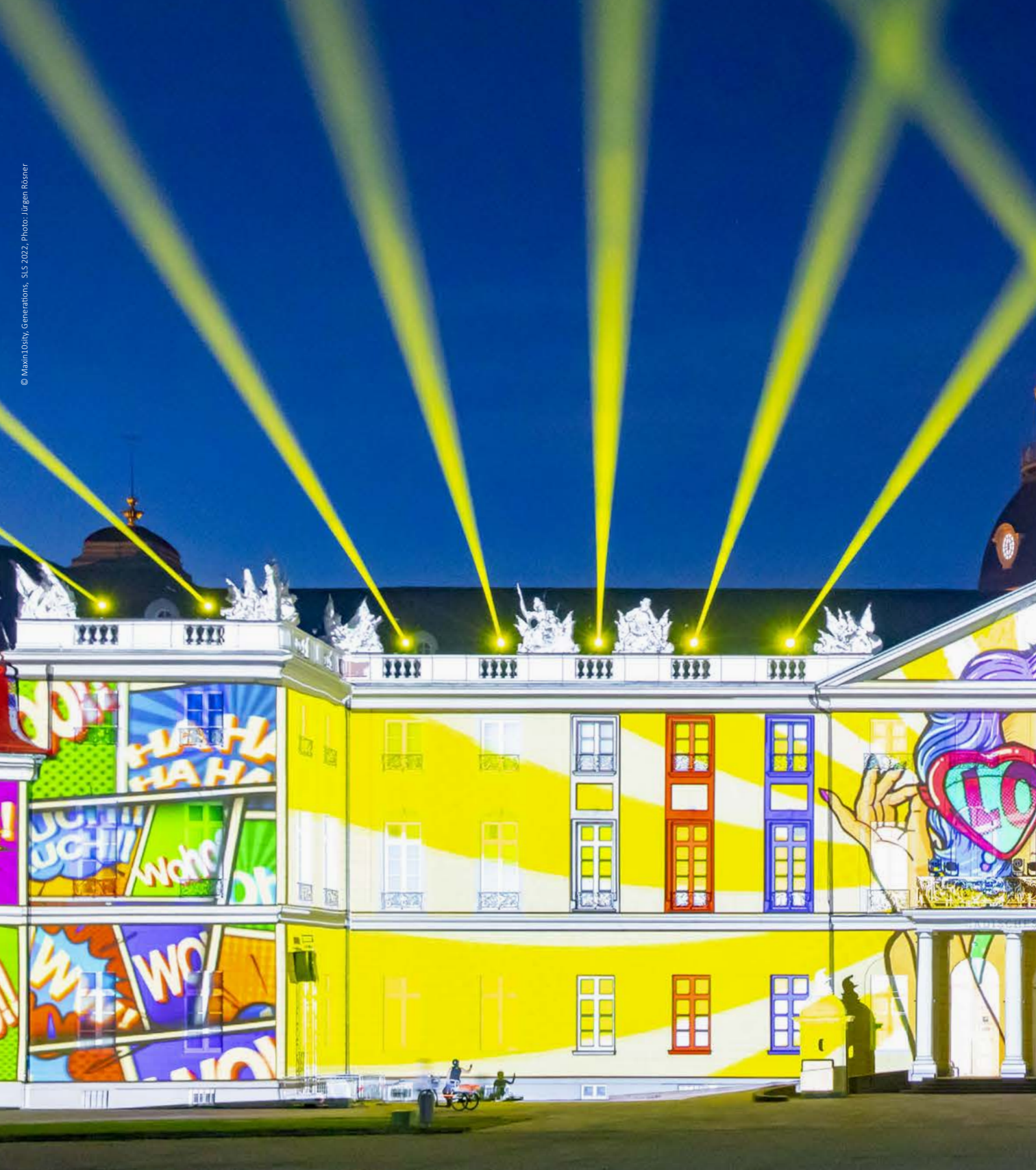


AWARDS

Kerry Hotel has received lots of awards proving their worldwide recognition. These include

- Best Bars in Hong Kong - Red Sugar, Conde Nast Traveler (United States), 2018
- Best New Hotel in Hong Kong, TTG China, 2018
- Top 20 Bars in Hong Kong - Red Sugar, Business Traveler Asia Pacific, 2018
- Bar, Club or Lounge - Red Sugar, AHEAD Awards (Singapore), 2018
- Best Urban Hotel New Build, AHEAD Awards (Singapore), 2018





16 August – 17 September 2023
Karlsruhe Palace
www.schlosslichtspiele.info

SCHLOSS LICHTSPIELE

Light Festival Karlsruhe



KARLSRUHE
UNESCO CITY OF MEDIA ARTS

////// **KIII** zkm karlsruhe

KARLSRUHE
MARKETING | EVENT GMBH



Hong Kong: Tourism places and Experiences

Hong Kong is a great city and though allowed to operate as an independent country, it is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) and for official purposes a part of China. There's plenty to see and we all enjoyed the trip says **Chandragupta Amritkar**. A few not to be missed tourism places and experiences

Big Bus: As always the best

Having traversed across the globe (46 countries – 800 + hotels) I have always felt the Hop-on, Hop-off buses ideal to explore the city as they give you the freedom to plan what you want to see



and for how long. The buses are wifi enabled with pre-recorded commentary available in 10 languages. Even if you are on a business trip with limited leisure time this is a good option. I got in touch with Vicky Leung, Marketing Executive, Big Bus, Hong Kong who was kind enough to provide the

best tickets - Deluxe 2-day tickets.

The same afternoon of reaching Hong Kong we proceeded from Kerry hotel to Big Bus Tours Information Centre at Tsim Sha Tsui. Our ticket included all three different routes, a Night Tour, Star Ferry return ticket, walking tour, Sampan ride, and visit to the Peak. We took the ferry from Tsim Sha Tsui - a journey across Victoria Harbour on the iconic Star Ferry that has been linking Kowloon and Hong Kong Island since 1898. One has to experience the Star Ferry across Victoria Bay at least once. The views of both Kowloon and Hong Kong Island are incredible

Big Bus provides over 20 conveniently located bus stops covering most of Hong Kong tourist attractions. The three different routes include Blue Route, Green Route and Red Route with a frequency of 30-45 minutes. If you want to cover all the three routes you have to have a 3 day pass.

Victoria Peak

Our first stop on Big Bus was Victoria Peak. Soaring 1,811 feet above sea level, Victoria Peak is a must visit. The best way to start is with the 130-year-old historic red tram – a funicular railway to get up to Victoria Peak. There was a long queue for the tram but with Big Bus you get fast track entry to enter the Peak Tram and Peak Sky Terrace observation deck. The steep tram ride was great - a bit scary for a few – treating us to a visual experience.

The Peak Tower has lots of dining and retail outlets. Situated atop



the highest point on Hong Kong Island, The Peak provides views of one of the world's most spectacular cityscapes, skyscrapers as well as the city's beautiful blue waterways. The Sky Terrace 428, standing at 428 metres above sea level, is the highest viewing platform in Hong Kong offering a stunning 360-degree panoramic view across the Hong Kong. One sound advice - do check the weather forecast beforehand.

Madame Tussauds: Waxwork replicas of megastars

As I was planning the trip to The Peak, a visit to Madame Tussauds is a must. At Madame Tussauds one can get close and personal with celebrities, icons and historical leaders in a fully interactive experience.

The museum is divided into numerous sections. World Premiere is quite popular as it features a range of movie stars - Bollywood stars including Amitabh Bachchan, Varun Dhawan, Salman Khan etc and from Hollywood there were Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn



Monroe, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp etc.

Historical And National Heroes showcases familiar faces from the political world and national heroes. There is the royal family of Britain, Mahatma Gandhi, Narendra Modi, Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and former president Barack Obama.

Then there is the Art Gallery, a Fashion Zone, Hong Kong Glamour, Kung Fu Zone that is a tribute to martial arts with Bruce

Lee, Jackie Chan and Michelle Yeoh, The Champions is for sports, Music Icons, Animated World which has Hello Kitty, The Hulk, Iron Man etc.

On an average keep at least a couple of hours to complete a visit of Madame Tussauds. There are plenty of photo opportunities so the time spent can increase. Infact there is a Selfie Gallery that was built for young adults (and also parents) and consists of two parts – silver color themed Cafe and pink color themed Ice Cream zone.

sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck

When I first met Josephine Lam, vice-chairman, sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck, six years back in India I was impressed by her dynamism and keenness to promote sky100. I decided to make it a point to include sky100 in my Hong Kong feature whenever I planned. Six years later co-ordinating with Stella Wong, GM of sky100 and Ellen Wong, Associate Director, Marketing, sky100, I visited this amazing deck. Stella Wong suggested if you are coming with wife evening would be the best time. And how right she was.

Arriving in the evening the charming and extremely knowledgeable Ellen Wong was there to receive us. "Most major cities around the world have their own iconic observation decks and now Hong Kong has one," said Ellen Wong. Developed by Sun Hung Kai Properties, sky100 is on the 100th floor of International Commerce Centre - the tallest building in Hong Kong. At 393 meters above sea level, it is the only indoor observation deck with 360-degree views of the city and Victoria Harbour.

Ellen Wong took us on Hong Kong's fastest double-deck high-



speed elevators, which reached the 100th floor in just 60 seconds. Entering it we were fascinated by the views. I was impressed by the 28-metre-long multimedia story wall, showcasing 100 fascinating local tales and anecdotes. The interactive sky100 mobile app also was superb. It provides an amazing experience of augmented reality (AR) where you can take pictures of paragliding above the world-famous Victoria Harbour or alongside the International Commerce Centre (ICC). As my wife's birthday was a few days later Ellen Wong created an image of all of us standing alongside ICC.

We also saw witnessed "Love is in the Sky" light show, featuring dreamlike 3D images with unique projection technology and

music. If you are hungry there is Café 100 by The Ritz-Carlton.

Ngong Ping 360

I met Angela Sue, Manager, Sales & Distribution, Overseas & MICE, Ngong Ping 360 at ITB Berlin and she is quite bullish on the Indian market having visited India several times. She was more than happy to welcome us.

Leaving Kerry hotel early we reached the Ngong Ping Cable Car station. The crowds had already begun queuing (and I would advise you to book tickets in advance) but as we were in VIP category we got the tickets immediately and moved on through a special lane. We took the crystal car that has a glass-bottom. Ngong Ping Cable Car connects downtown Tung Chung and Ngong Ping on Lantau Island. The 30 minutes ride covering a distance of 5.7km in length (longest bi-cable ropeway in Asia) provides the breathtaking panorama of the Hong Kong Airport, verdant, mountainous terrain of Lantau Island, the Big Buddha



and the 360-degree view of Ngong Ping Plateau.

Arriving at Ngong Ping Village and after a photo at the selfie point, we walked through a series of cafes and tourist shops including an Indian restaurant - Ebenezeer's, one of Hong Kong's well-known eateries. Ngong Ping Village is a culturally themed village designed and landscaped to integrate into the scenic nature of Ngong Ping. On top of shopping, dining and entertainment, this "must-see" Hong Kong attraction also boasts three themed attractions – "VR 360", "Motion 360" and "Walking with Buddha". All of us enjoyed the three attractions. Apart from this one should visit the Big Buddha (At 34-meters literally dominates the Lantau Island), Po Lin Monastery and Tai O fishing village.

Hong Kong Disneyland

Hong Kong Disneyland was on the top list of my daughter. My first point of contact was the dynamic John Sinke, Director, Marketing, Hong Kong Disneyland who has been systematically promoting the destination with regular updates on LinkedIn. He in turn





connected me to their media consultant, Shuk Wa Tsang.

This was our last tour and it was the only day when we had to face the rains. Arriving into Hong Kong Disneyland at noon we were surprised to see crowds in spite of rains. There is something so magical about any Disneyland and its official tagline is "The Happiest Place On Earth" which is true.

There are several fun and themed rides and amazing live musicals for both kids and adults. Though we were there till late evening we would not even finish everything – though rain did hamper our visit – ideally visit least for a full day.

The park starts with Main Street that is full of shops and restaurants and we stopped on the way for souvenirs and photos. The Disneyland is split into Tomorrowland, Fantasyland, Adventureland, Grizzly Gulch, Mystic Point and Toy Story Land. The sad part was there were long queues most places.

One should not miss the Iron Man Experience, Hyperspace Mountain, Jungle River Cruise, Toy Story Land, Rafts to Tarzan's Treehouse, Mickey and the Wondrous Book. The Festival of The Lion King show was the last we attended and one of the best – worth the long wait. My daughter enjoyed the parades with Disney characters.

Ladies' Market

This is one place that my wife and daughter just simply loved and were reluctant to leave. Seeing the crowds – local and International Ladies Market for sure is Hong Kong's most popular market. Stretching more than a kilometer and with over 100 stalls of modern and traditional dresses, hand bags, watches, cosmetics, bags, home furnishings, CDs, trinkets accessories for women of all ages and souvenirs, the Ladies' Market is a shopping paradise. It's a great place to bargain and sellers expect you to bargain. Do look out as the market is flooded with fakes or copies.

Due to time constraints we missed out on Ocean Park Hong Kong. Over all it was a great trip and the Hong Kong people were too kind everywhere.

Relish the best vegetarian food in Hong Kong

Having visited Hong Kong a few times I was always on the look out for a good Indian vegetarian restaurant. That's when I met Aman Chawla, Director, Fusion Concepts Ltd, who is also into textiles and an excellent human being. He introduced me to his restaurant Khana Khazana and I was pretty impressed by the wide array of authentic North-Indian, South -Indian vegetarian cuisines and Indian street food options like chats. Apart from food spending time with Aman Chawla is such a pleasure – hearing to his experiences and anecdotes.

"At that time there was not a single place in Hong Kong where one could enjoy delicious and fresh Indian vegetarian dishes. With plenty of Indians and many locals as well as foreigners opting for vegetarian and vegan dishes, I think our launch of the first Indian vegetarian restaurant and bar in Hong Kong- Khana Khazana was at the right time. It received an overwhelming response and proved to be a motivation to launch more restaurants with different themes and positioning," said Aman Chawla.

Today, Fusion Concepts Ltd. owns and runs three food and beverage outlets -Khana Khazana, Spice8 and Legends of India. At Khana Khazana, located in Wan Chai and close to the trade fair grounds is my favourite with South Indian Platters, Chats like Paani Puri, Dahi Puri, Pay Bhaaji and the neumerous main dishes and desserts.

Legends of India is located at Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon and is probably the biggest Indian restaurant in Hong Kong with a seating capacity of over 150 pax at one time. "Spread over 3000+ Square feet area with a 1000+ Square feet open terrace it can be a perfect venue for corporate events, social events, private parties - big or small," said Aman Chawla.

So this time when I went with my family I told them that we will be going to the best restaurants in Hong Kong and meeting a fine human being. We tried both Khana Khazana and Legends of India. And my daughter on our return to India said it was a wonderful experience.



Aman Chawla

IT&CM Asia and CTW Asia-Pacific resumes as in-person event with a redesigned 2023 programme



Come September and the global MICE and corporate professionals will converge into Bangkok for the now renowned IT&CMA and CTW events.

For MICE professionals and corporate across the globe IT&CM Asia and CTW Asia-Pacific remains the event to make your presence to be felt annually and this year will be no different as the twin events are set to be as 100% in-person event. Due to covid in 2020 & 2021 these were virtual editions and a hybrid edition was held in 2022. The redesigned 2023 programme features new and reintroduced engagement sessions. This year celebrates 31 years of fostering international MICE business in Asia-Pacific and 26 years of cultivating Corporate Travel and Entertainment (T&E) best practices among Asia-Pacific's travel professionals.

The coming 3-day in-person IT&CM Asia and CTW Asia-Pacific promises a line-up of conferences and networking, curated for the diverse needs and interests of our delegates.

Calstas Jof the Director General of ICOM, Switzerland shared "I am ready for the business appointments, casual get-togethers, networking sessions and insightful presentations. Additionally, I aim to explore for partners who are able to build fruitful relationships with our organisation, and share the same visions with ours after the pandemic."

Here are some features attendees can look forward to

- Opening Keynote – An immersive discussion on Connecting Minds, Supporting Communities presented by Khun Bhummikitti Ruktaengam, President of Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation and Adviser of Phuket Tourist Association. The opening keynote will highlight the positive impact tourism/MICE partnerships can have on local communities.
- Fireside Chat with TCEB and TICA – A fireside chat with TCEB and TICA officials on how business events can support the development of cities and the livelihood of the locals.
- Asian MICE Cruise Conference will discuss the post pandemic cruise comeback as well as exploring new ways to meet.
- Association Day Forum – International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA) presents a session for thought leaders, industry experts and practitioners to connect, exchange ideas and chart a course toward a future of growth and association success.
- ASEAN MICE Forum – Proudly hosted by Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE) and Kasetsart University, the forum

aims to gather the industry experts and professionals to engage in insightful dialogues on subjects such as "What Corporations want versus what qualifiers want from Incentive Travel Experiences" and "Embracing Sustainability and Empowering Community".

- Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception – Co-hosted by Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), the gathering marks the official commencement of IT&CMA and CTW APAC and offers yet another opportunity for attendees to get to know fellow delegates.

Official Partners

The show continues to see invaluable support from Thai and international partners, trade associations and media affiliates who have played a vital roles to the success of this year's show.

Destination Partner: Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB)

Supporting Organisation: Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Thailand Incentive & Convention Association (TICA), Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT), Airports of Thailand (AOT), Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)

Partner Airline: THAI Airways International

Official Venue: Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld

Industry Partner: Euromic, International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA), Korea MICE Association (KMA), Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE), Philippine Council of Associations and Association Executives (PCAAE)

Technology Partner: eventsair

The event is scheduled to be held from **26 – 28 September 2023** at Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, Bangkok, Thailand

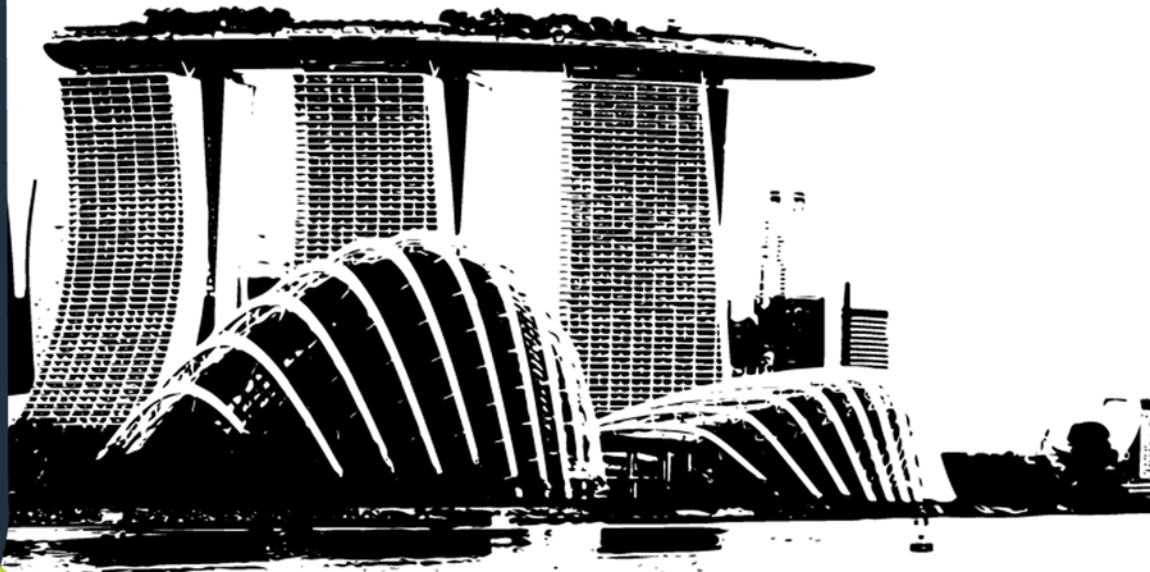
Incentive Travel & Conventions, Meetings Asia (IT&CMA) and Corporate Travel World (CTW) Asia-Pacific is Asia-Pacific's Only Doublebill Event in MICE and Corporate Travel. Both events have been co-locating since 2004, offering its delegates an unparalleled platform to do business, learn and network with industry players from around the region and beyond.

HICAP

HOTEL INVESTMENT
CONFERENCE **ASIA PACIFIC**

HICAPCONFERENCE.COM

For over 30 years, HICAP has been the unequaled annual gathering place for Asia Pacific's hotel investment community, attracting the most influential investors, owners, developers, lenders, executives, and professional advisors from around the globe.



23-25 OCTOBER 2023

Fairmont Singapore & Swissotel The Stamford

PATRONS

Accor
CBRE
Horwath HTL (*FOUNDER PATRON*)
IHG Hotels & Resorts
JLL
Ministry of Tourism Saudi Arabia
Pan Pacific Hotels Group
Radisson Hotel Group

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Anantara Vacation Club
Baker & McKenzie Global Services LLC
BWH Hotel Group
Club Med
Fraser Hospitality Pte Ltd
Global Hotel Alliance
H World Group Limited
Hilton
Hilton Grand Vacations
HotStats
HVS
Interval International
Marriott International
Marriott Vacations Worldwide
Outrigger Hospitality Group
Ovolo Group
RCI
Salter Brothers
STR
The Ascott Limited
Travel & Leisure
Watson Farley & Williams LLP

MEDIA SPONSORS

Global Features
Hotel Investment Today
WIT

SUPPORTERS

Accommodation Association of Australia
APRDO
HAMA
IFC
ISHC

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF HICAP

Travel Weekly Asia

Patrons, Sponsors, & Supporters as of 31 July 2023



Produced by:



In association with:



CES 2023: Innovations Galore

CES has always been very demanding - both physically and mentally (my 16th year to be fully hosted media and first time post COVID). This year was no different as the convention floors spread across several venues in Las Vegas - Mandalay Bay (Media Days and CES Unveiled Las Vegas), Hotel Aria, Venetian Expo and the Palms, LVCC - was truly buzzing with a wide array of gadgets, gizmos, innovations and certainly bizarre ones too + some Beta products which may or may not see the light of the day. For many visitors, exhibitors and media it's a first look at next-generation gadgets feels our **Editor, Chandragupta Amritkar**



With over 3200 exhibiting companies, including 1000 startups, featuring the latest technologies CES 2023 drew attendance of over 115,000 industry professionals – marking the largest audited global tech event since early 2020. CES 2023 showcased the next era of innovation from transportation and mobility to digital health, sustainability, Web3, metaverse and beyond.

At the press conference Gary Shapiro, president and CEO, CTA proclaimed “CES is back! The halls are buzzing with energy and excitement – attendees, exhibitors and media from around the world are passionate about gathering together and advancing our industry.” Joining Shapiro on stage were John T. Kelley, vice president and acting show director, CES, and Kinsey Fabrizio, SVP, membership, sales and marketing at CTA to provide updates on expected trends and sessions at the show.

CES 2023 saw a major focus on automobiles, autonomous mobility and auto related software and hardware. Media and visitors were treated to a life-size model of the VISION EQXX - the most efficient Mercedes-Benz with capabilities of 1,200 km on a single battery charge with an average energy consumption of 8.3 kilowatt hours per 100 kilometres. In collaboration with Sony, Honda unveiled an electric mid-sized sedan, Afeela. Samsung-owned Harman unveiled its AR heads-up display. Volkswagen ID.7 - Volkswagen's first electric sedan featuring a 15-inch dash screen using AR (augmented reality) to provide turn-by-turn navigation.



Dolby Atmos is a sound technology that has been around for a while in movie theaters and home theaters, but the deluxe Mercedes-Maybach S-Class is one of the first cars to use it.

While BMW chairman Oliver Zipse outlined BMW's vision including a colour-changing concept car called the BMW i Vision Dee and plans to introduce full-windscreen heads-up displays in its cars from 2025, AMD's president and CEO Lisa Su in her keynote

outlined the brand's next-generation 7000-series mobile CPUs.

Two other well-known auto tech companies were - Mobileye that's driving the autonomous vehicle evolution with life-saving technologies and KPIT Technologies which aims to make software-defined vehicles a reality.

The Indy Autonomous Challenge (IAC) returned to CES 2023 showcasing the future of autonomous mobility at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway with ASPIRE, Cisco, and Luminar as premier sponsors

Who wouldn't love to hop over the traffic? While flying cars gave a glimmer of hope ages back and remain part of the public imagination we were quite impressed (surprised) when Aska,



It was also, nice to see the new transformation of Las Vegas Convention Center, LVCC (visiting after 3 years) especially the atrium with natural light and experiencing the Vegas Loop (It is a 1.7 mile tunnel 40 feet underground at the LVCC connecting the South Hall to Central Hall and West Hall, making a 30 minute walk less than a four minute drive). Caught up with two dynamic professionals (and also dear friends) – Sarah and Allison who played a vital role in making CES popular among media. Also, great catching up with my COEP college mate Anup Sable, CTO and member of board KPIT Technologies.



revealed its A5 flying car at CES and opened prior bookings for the \$789,000 vehicle. Aska hopes to start its ride-hailing service in 2026.

Some interesting products included - Aeo, a service robot from Aeolus Robotics, JBL Tour Pro 2 true wireless earbuds, HTC Vive XR Elite - a new virtual reality (VR) headset, Schneider's Smart Home System, Lenovo ThinkPhone by Motorola, Samsung Galaxy A14 5G, Sony PlayStation Project Leonardo controller, Razer Leviathan V2 Pro soundbar etc.

LG showed LG M3 Series 97-inch wireless OLED TV that only needs a power cable for the TV itself thus giving the freedom of placing your TV where you like it and when you want it – living



room, kitchen, bedroom etc.

Lenovo's Yoga Book 9i featured two screens, Samsung premiere projector can create an image up 150 inches diagonally in ones living room wall. The new Asus laptops OLED screen produces a 3D experience sans glasses.

AjnaLens, a startup based in Mumbai, showcased its Mixed Reality (MR) headset named the AjnaXR that aims to facilitate learning and training through visualization.

The Withings U-Scan pee sensor was another attraction - when you pee it collects the urine and monitors daily ketones, vitamin C levels, urine's pH level (updates you on kidney health it and then sends the results to your phone via Wi-Fi. Women can use it to



track their menstrual cycles.

Now one can charge laptop while you pedal. The eKinekt BD 3 converts energy from the rider's pedaling power to charge laptops or other devices, allowing for exercise and work productivity at the same time. It features two USB Type-A and one USB Type-C port for multiple mobile device charging, a bag hook, and a beverage holder.

CES returns to Las Vegas, January 9-12, 2024.

Top Trends at CES 2023

With over 3200 companies, including Abbott, Amazon, Bosch, BMW, Canon, Delta, Google, Hisense, John Deere, LG Electronics, Microsoft, Qualcomm, Panasonic, Samsung, Sony and Stellantis launching products, key trends on the CES show floor included:

- **Human Security for All** – With unprecedented global challenges, the HS4A campaign was a central theme at CES 2023 highlighting the importance of collaboration and innovation across all industries, and all countries, to improve the human experience.
- **Automotive and Mobility** – With some 300 vehicle tech exhibitors, CES 2023 was one of the largest auto shows in the world. Keynotes from BMW, John Deere and Stellantis and products launches from global companies focused on self-driving tech, electric vehicles and personal mobility devices for land, air and sea.
Exhibitors: Candela Marine Technology, GM, Italdesign Giugiaro, Magna, Mercedes-Benz, MobilEye, Waymo, RYSE and Volvo Penta.
- **Digital Health** – CES 2023 brought more digital health innovations and brands to the global stage, showing how rapidly the market is growing. Innovations included digital therapeutics, mental wellness, women's health tech and telemedicine.
Exhibitors: Abbott, LOTTE Healthcare, MedWand Solutions and Omron Healthcare.
- **Sustainability** – Global brands like John Deere, LG, Samsung and Siemens showcased how innovation can conserve energy and increase power generation, create sustainable agricultural systems, power smart cities, and support access to clean water.
Exhibitors: 3M, Bridger Aerospace, Caterpillar and NexGen Power Systems, Panasonic and Sony.
- **Web3 and Metaverse** – For the first time, CES 2023 had a dedicated Metaverse area on the show floor, highlighting groundbreaking sensory technology building immersive, interactive digital worlds. A Web3 Studio, produced by CoinDesk, was the focal point of the Web3, Metaverse and Blockchain area at CES.
Exhibitors: Magic Leap, Microsoft, OVR Technology and SK.
- **Startups** – Eureka Park at CES featured 1000 startups from countries, regions and territories, including Japan, Korea, France, Italy, Taiwan, Turkey, Hong Kong, Netherlands, US, and Ukraine. Technology included renewable paper solutions to reduce CO2 emissions; AI technology used to reduce food waste; solar technology to capture both electrical and thermal energy; personal safety apps and more.



A NSE Listed Company

IT Products



Laptops



Tablets



Servers & Workstation

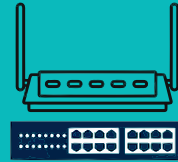


AIO PC

Telecom



Phones



Routers & Switches



Firewall



4G/5G/Wifi Devices

Others



EV Charging Station



Solar Solution



POS Machines



Self Checkout Kiosk

Annual Production Capacity
1 Million Devices and
Adding ...

Production Linked
Incentive for IT Hardware
& Telecom

OEM / ODM for ICT & IOT Design & Manufacturing Services Company

Disclaimer :

© 2022 Panache DigiLife Limited. All Rights Reserved.
Panache reserves the right to alter product offerings and specifications at any time, without notice. Panache makes every effort to ensure accuracy of all information and is not liable or responsible for any editorial, photographic or typographic errors. All images are for illustration purposes only. Reproduction in part or in whole, without the written permission from Panache, is strictly prohibited. "Panache" & "Making Human Life Easy" are trademarks license owned by Panache DigiLife. All other trademarks are properties of their respective owners.

Powered by:



Windows 11



AN ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified AND ISO 14000 : 2015 Certified Company



EXPERIENCE REJUVENATING STAYS with Hospitality Like Never Before



239 Rooms

05 Banqueting Space

04 Elegant Restaurants



sayajihotels.com



REST, REVIVE, REJUVENATE

Meluha The Fern makes business travel easier.



Rooms : 141



Meeting & Banquet
Facilities : 3



Bar : 1



Dining : 1



Located in the heart of Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, and situated in close proximity at a distance of 8 kms and 12 kms from the international and domestic airports. The hotel offers 141 well appointed guest rooms and suites, multiple restaurants, a bar, extensive meeting and conference facilities, a full service spa and a fitness centre. With easy access to the entertainment, shopping and recreation centres of Mumbai. Meluha The Fern, Mumbai, is the ideal business hotel for the discerning traveller.

For Reservations, Call: +91 22 25755555 / 42611111
E-mail: res@meluhafernhotel.com

MELUHA
THE FERN
AN ECOTEL HOTEL
A leading environmentally sensitive hotel
MUMBAI

www.fernhotels.com

ECOTEL® - The Hallmark of Environmentally Sensitive Hotels

