

# MICE AFFAIRS

FOCUSED MAGAZINE ON MEETING INCENTIVE CONFERENCE EXHIBITION INDUSTRY

## || ICCA Best Marketing

Award goes to Kintex Korea

## || TBO Group Named India's

Leading B2B Portal

## || Top Notch Mice Professionals

Recognition by Mice Affairs Media Group

|| **Indian Automotive aftermarket** Set to Come face-to-face  
at ACMA Automechanika New Delhi in April 2021

|| **South Africa** voted one of the **top 10** countries in the  
world at Conde Nast Traveller's 2020 Reader Choice  
Awards

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# Editor's note



## NAMASTE

### HELLO READERS

We really hope everyone is staying safe in this new normal. News from various parts of the world is good to some extent, where people have started taking the domestic route. Specific to travel business, in case of India, travel has started in form of individual movement.

In case of MICE, from 15 Oct 2020, B2B exhibitions have been allowed in India with aligned SOP's. And whole industry has welcomed the move. So at least Trade Fairs are good to go. Other elements of MICE shall take a little more time as per the market reports. But hopefully shall be on with smaller numbers in case of Meeting & Incentive groups. Conferences are adopting Hybrid Avtar and working on more

engagement with online tools. And that's the case across the globe.

Although with these positive moves, Lockdown is again being reinforced in UK and some parts of Europe. So the wait is still on for the final cure. We really wish it's announced really soon now.

The current issue covers a special conversation with Singapore Tourism Board with latest updates from MICE perspective. Moreover we have launched **"Top Notch Mice Professional"** campaign for MICE Professionals across categories. Other initiatives include the ground reporting of destination safety, where we picked Bharatpur as the first in series and getting the real time update for our readers. Same is going to be the process for MICE entities. Do connect with us on [sachin@miceaffairs.com](mailto:sachin@miceaffairs.com)

Last but not the least, Good News to share with all of you is **"Mice Affairs Media Group"** has been chosen as Rising Media Outlet recently. Thanks to all subscribers, Readers and Partners for their trust and belief in us.

*Stay Tuned for more updates and do subscribe to Mice Affairs across social media platforms.*

*Sachin Manocha*



MICE AFFAIRS MEDIA GROUP  
SEARCH IS ON..... FOR

# TOP NOTCH PROFESSIONALS IN GLOBAL MICE INDUSTRY

MEETING INCENTIVE CONFERENCE EXHIBITION

**FOR THE EXCLUSIVE EDITION OF MICE AFFAIRS MAGAZINE**

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A FOCUSED MAGAZINE ON MICE INDUSTRY

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# etc.venues reports £2m of workspace bookings for second half of 2020 as consequences of Covid-19



etc.venues has acquired close to £2m of workspace bookings for the second half of 2020 as a result of changes to requirements and working practices resulting from Covid-19.

**Nick Hoare**, Chief Operating Officer of etc.venues which has 18 venues in London, Birmingham, Manchester and New York City with more than 270 meeting rooms, says: “Regular workspace bookings have added an exciting additional strand to our business. We are expecting many of the bookings to continue into 2021 while new enquiries continue to arrive as organisations review their workspace needs and costs.”

Workspace has been taken up at etc.venues by a complete cross-section of organisations, from large corporations and the public sector to small businesses and associations operating in a wide variety of markets.

Nick Hoare continues “There are several reasons why our clients are choosing to book this space on a regular basis. Some need additional room to accommodate extra staff and

activity resulting from Covid-19, but do not want to commit to office leases, as their needs may change in the near future. Other organisations have decided to operate without an HQ, with staff mainly working from home, so are booking rooms as a place to maintain connections with their team, suppliers and clients by meeting face-to-face on demand.

Complete flexibility is the key

“Our research has shown that the ongoing uncertainty is making commitment to workspace a challenge. Organisations are fleeing long-term contracts and complicated membership plans with ‘credits’ and choosing complete flexibility. When the future is uncertain, being able to adapt quickly is key. That’s why our fully flexible, instantly available, comprehensive Covid-secure workspace is already supporting so many businesses.

“We have rooms of all sizes, which are thoroughly cleaned after every use, a wide choice of food and beverage is readily available, so too are cycle storage areas and each room has in-built

presentation tech. These can be booked up to 5pm the day before and configured to accommodate any arrangement in line with social distancing guidelines. In fact, we have received a variety of requests from our workspace clients who book different spaces each week to adapt room layouts quickly according to their needs (e.g. hybrid studio, boardroom, meeting room, classroom). It’s further evidence that being agile is now more important for organisations than ever before.”

Workspace clients are an addition to the many organisations continuing to use etc.venues’ facilities to hold meetings and training courses with up to 30 people in the room and often with many more joining virtually.

**Nick Hoare** adds; “Some forward thinking event organisers are being creative within the bounds of the regulations, bringing together more people in person in separate locations connecting virtually, benefiting from our technology partnerships, enabling many customers to stage first class hybrid events with us.”



## Wyboston Lakes Resort wins major award at prestigious CHS Awards 2020

**W**yboston Lakes Resort has reinforced its status as an industry leading venue by winning the award for Best Mid-Sized Meeting Space at the hospitality industry's CHS Awards.

The Bedfordshire-based conference, training and leisure venue was recognised in the category for venues with a capacity for between 51 and 499 delegates at the sixth

CHS Awards, which took place virtually via Zoom (27 October). Louisa Watson, director of marketing at

**Wyboston Lakes Resort, said:**

"This award means so much to our team and this year more than ever. We are so delighted and enormously proud to be part of this great sector we call hospitality and events."

The 380-acre resort, which boasts

two conference venues, a four-star hotel, spa and golf course, has recently launched a hybrid events solution which enables organisers to host live events through a virtual platform and with up to 30 guests in-person at the venue, as permitted by government guidelines. The resort has also been certified as a Covid-secure venue following accreditations from the AA, the Meetings Industry Association and Quality in Tourism.

# Wyboston Lakes Resort launches the comprehensive Hybrid Events solution

Wyboston Lakes Resort has launched a comprehensive Hybrid Events solution that has been designed to allow event organisers the opportunity to create all the elements of a successful live conference and combined that with all the best engagement elements of a virtual event format.

The Bedfordshire conference, events and training centre has partnered with Maddison Media, one of the UK's leading suppliers of staged events, to launch a virtual platform as part of its new hybrid events offering.

The virtual platform has a vast range of interactive functions that seamlessly integrate those who are taking part virtually with those who are at the venue to ensure that speakers and delegates can make the most of the event from the content to networking opportunities.

Among the many features are polling, chat and Q&A, simultaneous captions and translation, data and video capture, bespoke graphics, chat windows, private messaging and unlimited 'virtual' speakers and a sponsor area. Delegates can also register and pay for event passes through the platform.

On offer are three new hybrid event packages that will enable organisers to book face-to-face events – currently permitted by the Government for up to 30 people in a meeting room – at the Resort's spacious, modern and Covid-compliant venues, while also engaging a larger audience online. Wyboston Lakes Resort is



recognised as a Covid-secure venue following recent accreditations from three prestigious organisations for health, hygiene and safety standards, which have become paramount following Covid-19. Certifications include the AIM Secure Accreditation from the Meetings Industry Association, the 'Safe, Clean and Legal' badge from Quality in Tourism and the AA COVID-19 Confident scheme.

**Louisa Watson**, director of marketing at Wyboston Lakes Resort, said: "With current restrictions around large events, hybrid makes them possible, bringing teams, clients and suppliers together. We wanted to create a Hybrid Events solution that not only replicates but enhances the event experience. We can run a variety of events in a seamless hybrid format offering a bespoke service that always delivers results. "Hybrid events are perfect for today because they are safe,

infinitely flexible, enhance green credentials by reducing travel, reduce risk and help to keep costs under control – just what organisations need now as they maintain communication and engagement through events "

Lee Francis, Managing Director of Maddison Media said: "Being asked to work with one of the UK's leading conference venues has been an absolute dream and has most definitely enhanced our company profile.

"Wyboston Lakes Resort is renowned for its quality, service and technical excellence, so a perfect synergy with Maddison Media.

"We believe Hybrid and Virtual events will be with us for some time so the solution we have developed in conjunction with Wyboston Lakes Resort is unrivalled within the industry, and we are looking forward to a successful relationship."

# Indian Automotive aftermarket

## Set to Come face-to-face at ACMA Automechanika New Delhi in April 2021



**A**s the automotive sector gears up to get back on track with shifting consumer trends, the 2021 edition of ACMA Automechanika New Delhi will be the first meeting point for “face-to-face networking” to revive trade discussions. With a view to creating a stronger business impact, Messe Frankfurt India together with Auto Component Manufacturers of India (ACMA) has announced that the 5th edition will take place from 22 – 25 April 2021.

The automotive industry is shifting gears – as it witnesses an uptick in vehicle consumption in Q2 FY 2020-21. With health and safety taking precedence, mobility needs, and consumer sentiments have led to a rise in vehicle buying – and demand for private vehicle has picked up with green shoots emerging in the two-wheeler and small car segments.

Major carmakers reported a near

20 percent jump in August domestic passenger vehicle sales compared to last year which is expected to further rise during the festive season. This growth,

combined with car parc of second-hand vehicles due to increased private-car use is expected to lead to a rise in aftermarket demand. The shifting trends have brought with it a surge in omnichannel aftermarket models as well as ‘new normal’ aftermarket solutions.

Re-starting the business year under the new normal, 2021 edition of ACMA Automechanika New Delhi will therefore undoubtedly be marked in the automotive industry calendar as the “first meeting point” for auto component and aftermarket players to come face-to-face for business. The 5th edition will be crucial to re-build customer connections and re-unite businesses in the auto segment through its array of displays for the ‘new normal’.

Initially set to be hosted in February 2021 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, the 5th edition has been rescheduled to 22 – 25 April 2021 at the same venue. The

organizers believe that hosting the fair at a later date in the new financial year will enable the industry to re-connect in a secure b2b environment, creating a stronger impact and rightly serving its objective of business, knowledge and tech-exchange.

**Mr Raj Manek** Executive Director & Board Member, Messe Frankfurt Asia Holdings Ltd. said: “Until now – we were majorly talking about sustainable mobility. The pandemic has now forced us to re-look for innovative solutions for safe, smart and sustainable mobility and auto component suppliers need to assess the impact of these disruptive trends on their business. Mutual collaboration within the industry is important now more than ever and ACMA Automechanika New Delhi will be the convergence point to take these discussions ahead. We are also exploring a hybrid model for the 2021 edition to enhance business networking and overall exhibition experience for the industry.”

**Mr Vinnie Mehta**, Director General, ACMA said: “With shifts in supply chains, mobility and consumer sentiment and focus on ‘Aatmanirbhar’ and local manufacturing, the aftermarket sector represents a growth avenue. This is the perfect time for auto component players to come together to plan the route ahead. As the industry is gearing up to take on 2021, we are geared up to provide a safe, successful and dynamic business platform.”





# ITB Asia 2020 Virtual concluded with a record-breaking participation of almost 35,000 travel professionals

ITB Asia, 'Asia's Leading Travel Trade Show,' successfully concluded today rounding off the first virtual event in its 13-year history.

The highly-anticipated trade show was hosted virtually on the newly established online platform, ITB Community in Asia (ITB Community). Over three days, the virtual event welcomed over 35,000 travel professionals from around the world who participated in the show's vibrant agenda of conference and networking sessions, supported by world leaders and leading destinations. With the virtual platform providing the perfect space for networking, attendees also took part in online business appointments, fuelling confidence in the industry's future.

**Katrina Leung**, Managing Director of Messe Berlin (Singapore), organiser of ITB Asia, shared: "We are proud to be the leading travel trade show in Asia, playing our part in creating a close-knit community who support one another through the good times and the more difficult ones. The past three days have been a testament to

the resilience of our peers with industry leaders coming together, united by a common purpose of paving the way forward in the face of the new normal."

## New exhibitors signal confidence in the industry

This year, exhibitors were present at ITB Asia 2020 Virtual's exhibition through digital exhibition booths. The virtual exhibition featured major players in the hotel, tourism and travel sectors, including Advantage Austria, Inspired by Iceland, Korea Tourism Organisation, Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation, Malta Tourism Authority, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia, Moscow Project Office for Tourism and Hospitality Development, Saudi Tourism Authority, Singapore Tourism Board, State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Visit Finland, Visit Rovaniemi and more. The show floor also featured Department of Information

and Tourism, Taipei City Govt, Park Hotel Group, Promotion Bureau of the Principality of Monaco, Sapporo Convention Bureau, Shizouka Prefectural Govt and Switzerland Tourism joining ITB Asia's exhibition grounds for the first time.

## Conferences on reinventing travel and navigating through challenges

Themed "Reinventing Travel in the New Normal", ITB Asia 2020 Virtual's conference saw more than 160 top speakers from major global brands lead more than 100 conference sessions. This year's conferences specially focused on helping travel industry professionals reinvent traditional business models to adapt to current times and prepare for the industry's recovery.

At the conferences, a specially curated line-up of industry heavyweights shared innovative perspectives on ways to build a more resilient travel industry, as

well as solutions to move the industry forward.

Keynote sessions and topics focused on major themes ranging from MICE, corporate travel, travel technology, tours and activities, destination marketing, air travel, and hotel revenue and distribution.

With the new virtual format of the show, recordings have been made available on-demand for all registered delegates to view and watch again.

## Paving the way for a new show model for ITB Asia

Next year's edition of ITB Asia will be a hybrid show featuring a live and an online model to facilitate continuous engagement with industry stakeholders.

Scheduled to take place in Singapore from 27-29 October 2021, the live segment of the event hopes to bring back human connections through face-to-face business meetings and networking sessions. Complemented by a proven virtual segment, key functions of the show such as online business matching, on-demand content (insights articles and videos) for all-year-round business, networking and learning will further strengthen ITB Asia's offering as the leading travel trade show.

Interest is already being expressed for ITB Asia's 2021 edition, with more than 40% of the exhibition being booked. Confirmed exhibitors will include Advantage Austria, Best Western International, Inspired by Iceland, Korea Tourism Organization, ITB Asia's official hotel partner, Marina Bay Sands, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia, the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan and many more.

## Upcoming ETT Club Events

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12th November 2020

119 seats available. First come, first served. Priority given to Gold Members, with limited places available for Basic Members.



MATTHIAS TESCH-BAUR  
Presenter

REGISTER NOW!

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### Netucation – Hybrid Sales Strategies 12th November

Education - Discussing - Networking:  
In this micro education session, we will share some great insights about hybrid sales strategies which will be followed by a short breakout group session and a final group discussion.

### PANEL DISCUSSION: FIRST TRADESHOWS HAVE HAPPENED - WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE LEARNED?



3rd Nov 2020



Michael Degen  
Executive Director,  
Messe Düsseldorf



Tommaso Cancellara  
CEO of MICAM Milano



Michael Kruppe  
CEO of SNIEC

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### ETT Club Onboarding Webinar 3rd December

Interested in what the Exhibition Think Tank can offer and how it works? Then join the ETT Onboarding Webinar to understand what the ETT Club can offer!



# Seoul to be Connected to the Global MICE Society at ICCA Congress 2020

Seoul Convention Bureau organized a HUB SEOUL in participation for the 59th ICCA Congress 2020 which will be in hybrid format for the first time in the ICCA history. Considering the current travelling situation, ICCA take on a hub-and-spoke system, like how the airline routes map the globe, to be inclusive of its members and industry stakeholders. Seoul set up a meeting point at COEX to be one of the 6 hubs from different regions along with Cape Town, Kuching, Luxembourg, Malaga, and Riyadh. There are also two virtual hubs for Latin America and North America regions.

It is a motivating opportunity for Seoul to present the city to the global MICE society as the ICCA Congress is one of the must attend events for professionals and stakeholders of MICE industry. Attendees learn about latest trends in association meetings and

newest technologies in order to organize better meetings with other meetings industry professionals and association executives. Besides the enriched interactive programs at Kaohsiung, the highlight of HUB SEOUL program are successful case studies of Seoul in digitalization, attracting and hosting international conferences during pandemic, and how these cases will lead to long-term benefits in the future as well.

HUB SEOUL will be open for two days, November 2 and 3, and the officials and executives of RTO, Convention Center, PCO, Association are invited to join. The delegates will observe the global MICE industry connecting with each other and exploring new ideas, formats, and technologies in finding the possible solution to transform their professional works and shape a better future of MICE industry.

# MCEC and Guides Dogs Victoria help continue vital services for Victorians with low vision or blindness

Guide Dogs Victoria (GDV) and Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) have entered into a partnership to ensure Victorians with low vision or blindness can continue to receive essential services during coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdowns, with the venue being used as a space for the training of Guide Dogs Victoria Clients and Guide Dogs-in-training.

With Melbourne experiencing restrictions in-line with directions from the Chief Health Officer, and with the Victorian Government's roadmap to reopening, MCEC is currently closed to the public. GDV has also faced significant challenges during this time - adapting to Covid-safe protocols and finding innovative new ways to continue providing vital services to Victorians with low vision or blindness.

Through this initiative, MCEC is providing an environment that is safe, contained, accessible and free of charge for GDV to continue indoor and outdoor training, in compliance with government restrictions.

**Guide Dogs Victoria's CEO, Karen Hayes AM** said the collaboration with MCEC had made a significant difference to GDV being able to continue delivering Guide Dog services during these challenging times.

"Thanks to Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Guide Dogs Victoria has been able to continue to provide essential

services to Clients and train life-changing Guide Dogs during this lockdown. We know that our Clients have felt significant isolation and an increasing loss of confidence, as the restrictions continued. We are incredibly grateful to MCEC for working creatively with us to get people back on track to be confident and independent again" she said.

"Furthermore, with such strict government restrictions aimed at keeping us all safe, it is fabulous to have a space like MCEC where Clients and our dogs we can still train 'real world' experiences. They can practice navigating escalators, elevators, stairs, and chairs to name a few examples, but in an environment that is safely contained and controlled."

**MCEC Chief Executive, Peter King** said the venue shares GDV's commitment to creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for people with low vision and blindness.

"We have an environment that is accessible and safe for GDV to provide their training and essential services and the lockdown has meant we can offer the space they need," he said.

"In these unpredictable times we need to pull together as a community and be resourceful to help those who need our support."

GDV's Guide Dog Mobility Instructors and Clients began training at MCEC in September, and will continue using the venue as a training space while space is not in use.

# HAVEN RIVIERA CANCUN RESORT & SPA FULLY OPENS

## The adults-only, all-inclusive resort welcomes guests with open arms



Haven Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa is proud to announce that it is fully open and in operation. The adults-only, all-inclusive, oceanfront resort is actively catering to vacationers seeking a luxurious beach getaway. Because the safety of guests, staff and community remain a top priority, Haven has put in place strict safety guidelines and health protocols.

“From the pandemic to the most recent Delta hurricane that passed through the Cancun area, this has not been an easy year for any of us. We are fortunate that the resort did not have any structural

damages, outside of broken glass and downed foliage. Clean-up and repairs are already well underway, leaving our guest experiences unaffected,” says

**Florian Connert,**  
Sr. Director of Sales & Marketing for Haven Resorts & Spas.

To commemorate the grand reopening, travelers can enjoy rates up to 50% off including the exclusive Serenity Club suites with private, oceanfront, swim-out pools. Haven Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa is also offering guests three exciting packages:

**“Back to the Beach”**

Package at Haven Riviera

Cancun Resort & Spa  
Perfect for couples  
looking to reconnect  
and rejuvenate, Haven's

**"Back to the Beach"**

package offers a 2-for-1 deal where your better half stays for free. To qualify, travel must be completed by January 2, 2021.

"Our Resort, Your Office" Package at Haven Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa Designed for remote workers,

**"Our Resort, Your Office"**

package invites digital nomads to bring their laptops and work from the beach with a view. Enjoy up to 50% off rates when travel is completed by January 2, 2021.

"Book Now, Beach Later" Package at Haven Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa

For the traveler that wants to take advantage of opening rates, but isn't ready to travel just yet, this package allows guests to book their stay now for travel in 2021 and still enjoy rates discounted up to 45% off.



# Rent Your Event – Reshaping the world of events in India, Dubai & Thailand

## A platform that Re-defines procurement for personal and professional events



A platform that Re-defines procurement for personal and professional events. And the world was never the same again! The COVID-19 reshaped and made us rethink the future and the past both in the same breath. The way we conduct our daily lives and celebrate our events were amongst that would go through a massive paradigm shift.

This pandemic brought the world to a grinding halt. The celebrations and events across the globe were impacted and the distances were felt even more glaringly. As resilient we are as humans and a society, we bounced back and trotting slowly back on the track. The opening up of the Indian economy lent a ray of hope across sectors. The

Indian event, experiential, and LIVE entertainment industry was now transformed. Raring to bring its former glory, it had to be re-imagined. The distances between the consumer and the vendors had to be bridged. The world was closer now with technology playing a key role. Amidst this metamorphosis, the seed of Rent Your Event was born.

A brainchild of Ananya Kapur and Preeti Singh, who hail from a celebrated career in the event industry saw this as a much-needed gap to fill. As a tribute to the ever-evolving Industry of events and celebrations, they present to you Rent Your Event - Be ready to witness a new platform that will revolutionize the way this industry is looked at. Rent Your Event is the 'new kid' on the block with a vision of transforming this industry. Up until now, the event industry was characterized as a fragmented market with highly stiff geographical limitations. These limitations are now challenged by this new platform.

Founded by two young women entrepreneurs with an idea to re-shape the world of events, re-imagine the event space and re-define the event manager in you!

This is a one-of-a-kind digital platform aimed to connect consumers with the right event partners for them to plan an event effortlessly. This unique model helps users, both individual and agency, plan and execute events seamlessly with easy availability of event partners within their budgets and across geographies, in just a few clicks.

Rent Your Event aids consumers to directly tap on the website, search for their requirements from



a plethora of partners listed, connect with partners via the online directory, and enjoy the experience of effortless events.

Rent Your Event is a tribute, an ode to the Indian Prime Minister's vision of an Atma Nirbhar Bharat for creating a platform that will help event partners to become self-reliant once again. Rent Your Event aims at uplifting our partners beyond the metros, in tier 2 and tier 3 cities so that they can increase their visibility and have a great chance in maximizing their expertise to a larger client base.

*To quote the words of the founders, Ananya Kapur and Preeti Singh*

"We fervently believe this platform will be pivotal in connecting potential buyers and sellers from across the globe and will help revolutionize the way events will be planned in the future

This well thought yet the simple platform is a celebration and tribute to the craftsmanship of the makers of the event industry, created to re-shape the future of the event industry in India, Dubai, and Thailand to begin with"





# Messe Frankfurt India & MEX Exhibitions

## announce first hybrid event for Gartex Texprocess India & Screen Print India



India's most comprehensive exhibition on garment and textile manufacturing – Gartex Texprocess India is all set to be launched as a 'hybrid' event in 2021. A significant event in the textile trade calendars, the 2021 edition will be held alongside yet another premier fair for screen, textile, sublimation and digital printing technologies – Screen Print India, thus bringing the entire textile value chain together for business through their new hybrid format.

In conjunction with MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd, Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd announced that Gartex Texprocess India will be the first textile sector exhibition to take the hybrid route. Scheduled alongside Messe Frankfurt's Screen Print India fair after a hiatus of one year due to trade and travel disruptions caused by the pandemic, both Mumbai and Delhi editions aim to bring the entire textile value chain together through their new co-located and hybrid

formats.

A year after textile and printing sectors were hit by unprecedented business challenges, the much-awaited Mumbai edition is set to bring industry players face-to-face with new opportunities from 18 – 20 March at the Bombay Exhibition Centre. However, with the on-going travel restrictions that are still in place globally, the new-age multimodal exhibition will allow screen printing and textile sector exhibitors and visitors to take full advantage of both physical interactions and virtual networking opportunities.

The hybrid format for both the fairs are being specially curated by the organisers with live product demonstration features to allow exhibitors to showcase their innovations and new product range to buyers who may be unable to attend the physical fair, thus ensuring dual access to trade opportunities.

A first for the Indian subsidiary, Mr Raj Manek, Executive Director and Board Member, Messe Frankfurt Asia Holdings Ltd shared: "We are delighted to announce our first hybrid venture for the co-located shows – Gartex Texprocess India & Screen Print that will offer an intelligent combination of digital and physical interactions for business exchange. The textile and printing businesses thrives on the 'touch-and-feel' aspect of networking which makes the physical trade fair the number one choice for buyers.

However, its virtual features will be the perfect extension to expand exhibitor visibility and networking opportunities with buyers."

Highlighting the synergic effects, **Mr Gaurav Juneja, Director, MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd added:** "The demand to meet in-person for business networking is strong and I believe the hybrid format together with its co-location with Screen Print India fair will create the perfect business synergy for the sector. We are looking forward to welcoming the entire industry for a successful first hybrid edition and are confident it will provide multi-fold trade opportunities to the sector."

**New Delhi edition of Gartex Texprocess India & Screen print India rescheduled to August 2021:**

In order to keep the trade momentum going in the second half of the buying calendar, the organisers have also confirmed that the New Delhi edition of the co-located fairs (initially slated in December 2020) will now be rescheduled to 6 – 8 August 2021 at Pragati Maidan with its new hybrid format.

Both Mumbai and Delhi editions will allow fair goers to explore a wide range of features like targeted business matchmaking, real-time video calling, scheduling meetings in advance, live knowledge sessions through the digital platform alongside the traditional physical event.

# Liam Neeson, Guide Dogs and new ideas: MCEC's response to pandemic sees new uses for venue

Coronavirus restrictions have seen Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) explore new ways to use their award-winning but unutilised spaces, including the filming of a Hollywood blockbuster starring Liam Neeson, and the training of Victorian Guide Dogs.

MCEC closed its doors in March due to the pandemic, but as a major contributor to the Victorian economy, the venue has been exploring new ways to contribute to the community.

“Even with the impacts of the pandemic, we contributed \$740 million in economic impact to the state last financial year, and a further \$1.1 billion the year prior,” **Peter King, Chief Executive of MCEC, said.**

“We can play an important role in the state's economic recovery by using our spaces in new ways, both to bring jobs back to the city and support the wider community.”

One example of using the enormous venue's space differently includes as a film studio – an idea that was originally floated as part of an innovative new idea-generating ‘hackathon’ held by MCEC in August called ‘Unconventional Ideas’.

Since that event, MCEC has been working with the Victorian screen industry, and is now hosting the production of a major Hollywood film called *Blacklight*, starring Liam Neeson. Directed by Mark Williams (co-creator of *Ozark* and director of box-office success *Honest Thief*), the production is expected to bring more than 500 local jobs for cast and crew back to the local film sector.

As well as the economic benefit the venue is providing, MCEC is also supporting the community by providing Guide Dogs Victoria a safe, contained space and free-of-charge space to train Guide Dogs. This will ensure people with low vision or blindness can continue to receive essential services during

restrictions.

“We have an environment that is accessible and safe for the community to continue to work to their needs,” Mr King said.

“In these unpredictable times we need to pull together as a community and be resourceful, and we are looking for opportunities to make sure our wonderful space is being utilised.”

MCEC continues to explore new uses for the venue as Melbourne moves towards a ‘new normal’. Utilising the creativity and experience of its employee base, MCEC has already installed new virtual event studios and technologies for hybrid and online events, and in the pipeline are opportunities to use the building for safe and physically-distanced entertainment and events that may support the heavily affected hospitality, cinema and arts industries.



# In conversation with Raymond Lim

Area Director – India, Singapore Tourism Board



**Q1: How Singapore is handling the pandemic situation? An update for our readers from the Government's viewpoint?**

**RL:** Singapore is fortunate that we have the capacity and resources to manage the Covid-19 pandemic in a robust manner and we have made good progress. Majority of the economy has re-opened since Singapore entered into the second phase of "A Safe Singapore" on 19 June 2020. The Covid-19 recovery rate has surpassed 99% and the Covid-19 fatality and ICU admission rates are among the lowest in the world.

Singapore is ranked by Deep Knowledge Centre, an independent think tank body, as the 4th safest country in the world for Covid-19. This is a mark of assurance that Singapore is doing things right, though we must remain vigilant as the situation continues to evolve.

In February, Singapore launched "SG Clean", our national mark of excellence for environmental

public hygiene, to rally businesses and the public to uphold good sanitisation standards and hygiene practices.

To date, more than 25,000 premises including MICE venues and facilities such as Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Singapore Expo, Resort World Convention Centre, and Suntec Singapore Convention Centre have been certified. Singapore is going digital and contactless to provide added reassurance to visitors when international travel resumes. For example, Changi Airport's kiosks have proximity sensors instead of touchscreens, immigration lanes use biometric face and iris recognition, and robots in the terminals spray disinfecting mist. Some attractions have gone completely contactless too, with apps that allow customers to pre-book at appointed time slots to visit them.

Singapore also recently announced the safe and gradual resumption of cruising starting with the piloting of safe cruises in November. The pilot round-trip sailings with no ports of call will commence in November; sail at a reduced capacity of 50%; and will only be open to Singapore residents. STB has developed a mandatory CruiseSafe certification



## Q2: What's the update on STB initiatives on Business Restart? An overview of initiatives planned?

**RL:**1 The certification programme is jointly developed by STB and DNV GL, a global classification body and recognised advisor in the maritime industry. It takes into consideration global standards and protocols from various cruise lines, airlines and global institutes such as the World Tourism Organisation, World Health Organisation, Cruise Lines International Association, as well as our own national safe management measures and certification programmes such as SG Clean.

We have gradually resumed MICE events with precautionary measures in place, starting off with pilot events. To do so, STB has established the Safe Business Events framework to guide the industry on how to implement Safe Management Measures to meet a set of health and safety outcomes. Under the framework, organisers of MICE events must display their ability to implement these outcomes in order to receive approval to pilot MICE events. From 1 October 2020, in line with the safe and gradual resumption of economic activities in Singapore, the STB started accepting applications for organisers to pilot MICE events of up to 250 attendees. This follows the decision to accept applications to pilot events of up to 50 attendees, which was first announced in July 2020. The upcoming Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW)

Conference on 26-30 October 2020 will be one of the pilot events.

Separately, the Emerging Stronger Taskforce (EST) under the Future Economy Council (FEC) has convened the Singapore Together Alliances for Action ("Alliances"), which are industry-led, government-supported coalitions that act quickly by prototyping ideas on key strategic areas for Singapore. The Alliance for Action on Enabling Safe and Innovative Visitor Experiences has developed a prototype for safe tradeshows and exhibitions – larger events that would otherwise not have been permitted under the current limit of 250 attendees. This was developed in partnership with the private sector, and will provide delegates with the degree of interaction they would be accustomed to in a regular tradeshow setting – but in a far safer way.

This prototype will be test-bedded at TravelRevive - powered by ITB Asia & STB in November. To prepare Singapore for the eventual resumption of leisure travel, the Alliance has also designed safe itineraries, which will be trialed with the MICE delegates of TravelRevive. These itineraries comprise a selection of leisure activities that comply with prevailing safe management guidelines. They also provide high quality bespoke experiences supported by ground handlers and tourist guides, who will assist with visitor movement management. Through our pilots, we will continue to explore innovative prototypes, as well as adapt existing protocols to ensure that MICE events are conducted safely.

To provide further guidance for our MICE businesses, STB and Enterprise Singapore (ESG) have collaborated with the Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers

and Suppliers (SACEOS) to formulate an Industry Resilience Roadmap (IRR) – a public-private partnership focused on three strategic objectives: Establishing best-in-class standards for new event safety measures, creating agile business models with a focus on digital capabilities, and developing pathways for professional development in the post-COVID-19 world. The IRR serves as the “roadmap” to guide Singapore’s Event Organisers as they plan for the safe resumption of other B2B events in Singapore and a sustainable recovery.


Hybrid event formats have become increasingly significant, where content is delivered virtually, while retaining the live aspect for limited, small groups of attendees. Marina Bay Sands has launched a hybrid event broadcast studio with hologram functionalities at its Sands Expo and Convention Centre. This state-of-the-art studio is designed to accommodate a live studio audience with a maximum capacity of 50 persons at any one time, enabling it to be versatile in hosting meetings in a hybrid format with immersive content. We will certainly see more of such innovations as the industry landscape and experience evolve. Singapore has also secured the rights to host the Worldchefs Congress and Expo in 2024 and the 110th Lions Clubs International Convention in 2028. The Lions Clubs International Convention is expected to attract around 20,000 foreign delegates. These successes build upon Singapore’s track record as Asia Pacific’s top

meeting city for 18 consecutive years and demonstrates confidence in Singapore’s robust and transparent handling of the Covid-19 situation.

### **Q** 3: Plans for India Market, considering rise in cases, what would be the strategy of STB going forward?

**RL:** It will take a while for global travel sentiments to return and for borders to re-open, and we have to be prepared for recovery to be a slow process. As India is a key visitorship source market for Singapore in leisure, MICE and cruise travel, we continue with our consumer and stakeholders outreach activities.

We have stepped up our engagement with the travel trade and launched a WhatsApp business account to keep our trade regularly updated. We have conducted many joint product update webinars with key travel intermediaries, took part in the ReConnect virtual exhibition, and most recently, conducted a Wedding Webinar with key wedding planners. On the MICE front, we invited MICE industry experts from India and Singapore to share and exchange ideas at a Singapore MICE Think Tank Webinar targeting at Corporates. From June, we had re-commenced our consumer engagement efforts to keep

A nighttime photograph of the Singapore skyline, featuring the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay and the Marina Bay Sands hotel. The city lights are reflected in the water, and a large firework is exploding in the upper right corner.

Singapore as a top of mind destination. Zomaland@ Home, Windmill Festival 2020, and a collaboration with Tripoto are some of the initiatives we have taken to bring engaging content to our audiences.

## **Q**4: What's your key message for Industry Partners?

**RL:** Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, STB India has undertaken the #UnitedWeStand theme in our trade engagement efforts such as update sessions and webinars.

As the world adjusts to COVID-19 present norms, MICE destination choices will be shaped by heightened concerns about safety and hygiene, expectations for clear, hassle-free travel arrangements, and strong co-operation among corporates, MICE intermediaries and other stakeholders. Singapore is well-known for its safety, cleanliness, efficient infrastructure and systems. Together with our industry partners, we aim to be one of the world's leading destinations for safe, trusted and innovative business events.

Singapore's business events sector has shown much resilience during this difficult period, and we are grateful for the innovativeness and adaptability shown by our industry. We are confident that Singapore will lead the way in reimagining what safe and high-quality business events could look like. We will continue to extend our hands in partnership in India and work with MICE players and corporates to bring groups to Singapore, when the timing is right. We remain confident in the long-term prospects of Singapore's tourism sectors – both for leisure and for MICE & business travel – as the fundamentals that make Singapore an attractive place for a unique, high quality travel and MICE experience, and a key business hub remains unchanged.

# PROPERTY SHOWCASE

REGENTA RESORT BHARATPUR



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- 49 KEYS
- Appx 4 KM from Bird Sanctuary
- 2 Meeting Rooms (40-150 Guests)
- Swimming Pool
- Gymnasium
- Indoor Games
- Outdoor Open Lawn



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## Organise the most aesthetic wedding celebration only at EsselWorld

### A ROMANTIC PRE-WED SHOOT, A PEPPY MEHENDI & SANGEET CEREMONY AND AN EXTRAVAGANT WEDDING AT COUNTLESS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE BIGGEST PARK OF THE COUNTRY

Your favourite entertainment destination, EsselWorld can now become your one stop venue for your wedding celebrations. Plan your bachelorette, pre-wed shoot, cocktail party, mehendi, sangeet and your wedding ceremony across the 100 acres of land that comprises of EsselWorld and Water Kingdom. Right from hosting a colourful set-up to a classy aesthetic mandap, your dream wedding can now be a reality in customizable packages. Situated on the coastal Gorai Village amidst the lush green surroundings, visualize your wedding in a breathtakingly beautiful gazebo decked with mesmerizing decor adorning

lilies and carnations at various locations at EsselWorld and Water Kingdom.

On initiating the new project, **Mr. Paresh Mishra, VP, Sales & Marketing, EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd.** said, *"EsselWorld & Water Kingdom are spread across 100 acres of land, and we are making various locations of our Park available for weddings and pre-wedding photo shoots without any hassles and interruptions. With the given space and area, one can create spectacular sets and mandaps and host some of the best and memorable weddings."*

Since EsselWorld is located across the creek, it is a known

fact that the Park also has its own ferries that run between Borivali (Gorai) and Malad (Marve). You can use these ferries for your guests or for a dramatic entry of the Bride and the Bridegroom. Set up your beautiful pandals and mandaps amidst the greenery and fresh air while our rides of EsselWorld will surely add the vibrant colours to the background. Water Kingdom, which has a premium Italian aesthetic architecture could be your cocktail party destination or set up a beautiful walk down aisle over the wave pool of Water Kingdom with a shamiyana. Dance away to the Bollywood tunes as we have the perfect stage setup for your Sangeet and Mehendi Party. Your courtship period is the most beautiful phase of your relationship. Capture some of the most romantically breathtaking shots for your pre-wedding shoot at one of the greenest Park of the country.

***Go head to EsselWorld with your wedding planner and make your D-Day a special one!***

# AIMCommunication acquired the majority stake in Gas Communication



The company, part of AIM Group, has consolidated its expertise with the acquisition of the agency specialized in Media Relations and Awareness Campaigns in the healthcare sector

AIM Communication, the open innovation network dedicated to communication, brand activation and digital technologies, which is part of AIM Group, acquired the majority stake in Gas Communication, an established communications agency specialized in PR and Media Relations. The consolidated teams are now providing fully integrated communications strategy and services including, brand communication, PR, media relations and digital technology.

With the acquisition, AIM Communication takes over the management of Gas Communication and establishes a new governance structure. The board of directors of Gas Communication is now comprised

of Gianluca Scavo (CEO of AIM Communication) as President; Giuliana Goggi (partner and former CEO of GAS Communication) as CEO and Simone Casiglia as Partner and Board member. To further strengthen the

link between the two companies, Giampaolo Rossi, a shareholder of Gas Communication, joins the AIM Communication Board of Directors.

“With this acquisition, we continue the consolidation of AIM Communication, strengthening the link with a company known for its high level of professionalism and specialization as well as its rich portfolio of clients and services” underlines Gianluca Scavo, CEO of AIM Communication. “This additional investment in the area of communication and digital enhances our capacity to help our clients achieve their communication goals and gives us the opportunity to reach new clients, in line with our ambitious

development plan”.

GAS Communication is a communication and public relations agency specialized in the health sector, which has been offering communication consultancy and highly professional services since 1999.

“We are ready to write a new chapter in the history of our agency, a new path full of challenges but also of great opportunities” states Giuliana Goggi, CEO of GAS Communication. “Joining AIM Communication opens up broader and stimulating opportunities and allows us to offer a more complete and diversified offering to our clients, whilst maintaining the same level of commitment and expertise. I am also proud of being able to provide the young professionals, who have grown up with us over the years, the exposure to an international context, so that they will be able to experience new environments and enrich their skills”. AIM Communication, launched on the market in June 2020, operates like a start-up and is structured as a specialised hub which brings together excellence in the field of digital and non-digital communication under the one roof.

In addition to Gas Communication, the network includes reputable agencies like:

Vangogh, Nautes and the Fandango Club. Gas Communication’s value is twofold, it is opening up collaborate across all AIM Group companies for projects that today involve third-party suppliers and will generate new opportunities, also due to the collaboration with PalazziGas Events, an agency specialized in live communication.

“We are really happy to expand our corporate structure, opening new paths and widening our client offering. Uniting different professionals with a vision of the future is fundamental to the organisation and success of AIM Communication” explains Patrizia Semprebene Buongiorno, Vice President of AIM Group and President of AIM Communication. “We want to continue to grow and evolve, interpreting and responding to clients’ needs in order to position ourselves on the market in an innovative and complete way, combining the experience the Group has gained over 60 years with the most up-to-date skills in digital communication”.



# Kintex Korea Wins ICCA Best Marketing Award



**Frank Yang, CMP, PMP, CEM**

Director of Convention Marketing, KINTEX  
South Korea



**Certificate**  
of Recognition  
**2020**

**KINTEX**  
South Korea

*Senthil*  
Senthil Gopinath, ICCA CEO

Date: 3 November 2020



**Ankush Nijhawan**  
**TBO group Founder**

TBO Group Picks Up World Travel Awards 2020  
for second Time in Row

**CONGRATULATIONS**

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travelboutiqueonline 

**A BIG WIN once again for TBO**



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Travel Portal

**Travel Boutique Online has won  
World Travel Awards 2020  
second time in a row**

We will continue to provide our partners with the best and a warm  
thank you to the entire travel fraternity in India that voted for us  
once again.

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Our SUCCESS is your SUCCESS**

**Team TBO**

# MICE AFFAIRS MEDIA GROUP

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PRESS RELEASE



Sachin Mannocho | Group CEO | MICE AFFAIRS MEDIA GROUP

## MICE AFFAIRS MEDIA GROUP: A Rising Media Outlet

In this day and age, media houses play a vital role in relaying appropriate information amongst the masses. To get the clear picture of what is going on in the society is very

# A Rising Media Outlet



## PHDCCI Appoints Ankush Nijhawan as Co-Chair of the Tourism Committee

Ankush set up and launched “Travel Boutique Online” in 2007. Today TBO Group is the largest and leading B2B travel portal in India and emerging as a strong player globally. TBO Group works with almost +60, 000 travel agents in India, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Europe, China, Australasia, and the Asia Pacific with a turnover of USD Two Billion Dollars. The TBO Group tag line, “Technology inspiring travel” and many travel agents are empowered by TBO to survive in this competitive market. He was also chosen by CNBC as a Young Turk for revolutionizing the travel trade

through his B2B travel portal and has won numerous awards over the last many years. TBO Group today is truly a Multinational Company with a presence in +100 countries with 26 global offices.

Ankush today by far is one of the most successful youngsters in the travel trade. He was recently awarded Most Influential person 40 under 40 by URS Asia one and PWC and ET Game Changer . A keen sportsman and a music and movie buff, Ankush loves living life to the fullest.

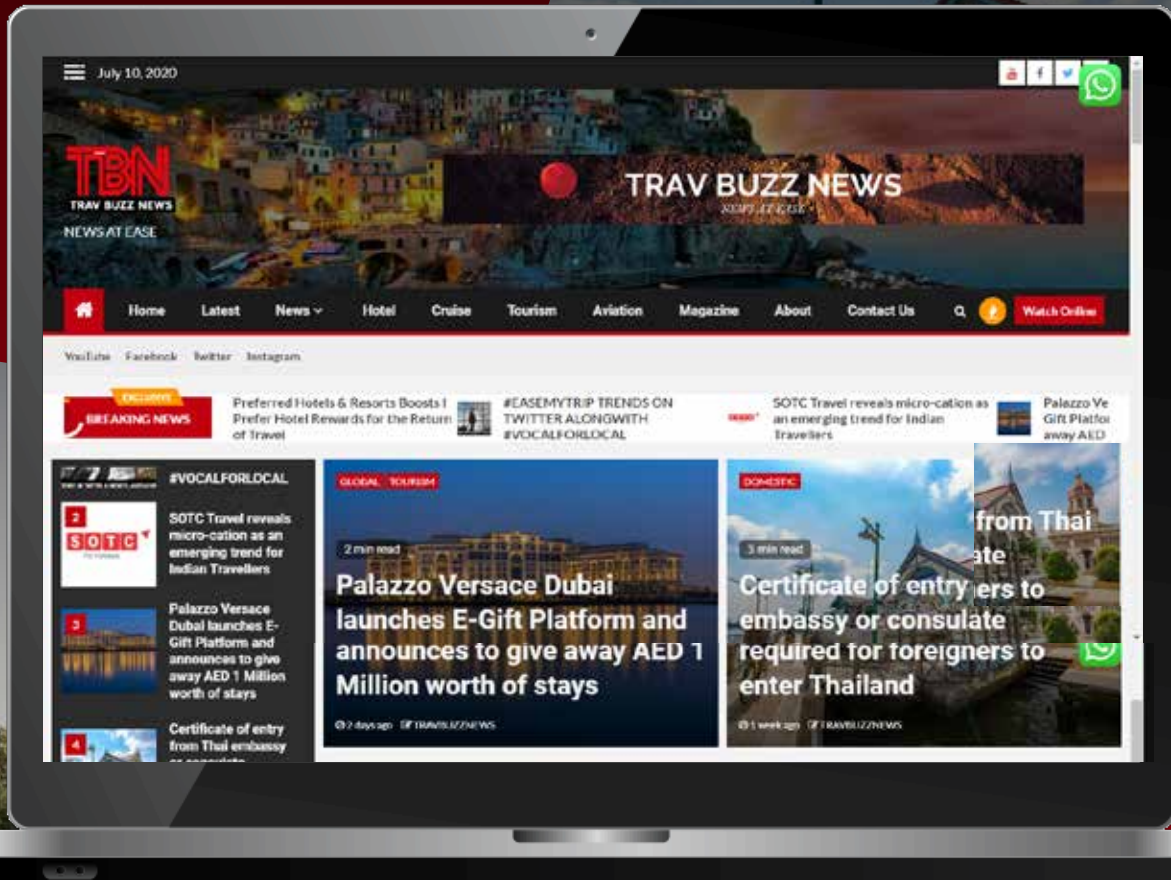
Ankush Is a successful angel investor and has currently

invested in 12 startups— Few popularly ones are In Shorts, Dineout, Lets Transport, Qdesq, Pee Buddy, Witlinger Beer, Advantage Club, Fleet X, My Green Box, Shaadi Saga Also with his efforts, today Nijhawan Group currently exclusively represents top hospitality brands and excursions in India such Address Hotels, Armani Hotels, Banyan Tree, Aitkens Hotels, Adaaran Resorts, Kempinski Hotels, Serena Hotels, Ocean Park and Dubai Parks etc. The group also represents DTCM (Dubai Tourism Commerce Marketing, and Bosnia Tourism



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# UFI elects its new Board of Directors for 2020–2023

UFI is very pleased to announce the results of the elections for the new UFI Board of Directors for the 2020 – 2023 mandate.

Elections to the UFI Board take place every three years. During this process, the members elect a truly global body with representatives from UFI chapters around the world. The Board of Directors is tasked with implementing decisions taken by the General Assembly, developing UFI policy, and preparing all proposals related to matters affecting international trade fairs. After thorough preparation, these proposals are submitted for vote to UFI members at the annual General Assembly. The Board of Directors is comprised of a maximum of 60 members.

The new mandates will commence after the UFI General Assembly that will take place on 10th November 2020 and the newly elected Board members include:

**Saif Mohamed Al Midfa** – Expo Centre Sharjah (UAE)

**Ahmed Al Obaidli** – Qatar National Tourism Council (Qatar)

**Said Salim Al Shanfari** – Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (Oman)

**Xabier Basañez** – Bilbao

Exhibition Centre – BEC (Spain)

**Carina Bauer (Ms.)** – IMEX Group (UK)

**Sergey Bednov** – EXPOCENTRE AO (Russian Federation)

**David Boon** – BRUSSELS EXPO (np) (Belgium)

**Gerald Böse** – Koelnmesse GmbH (Germany)

**Sébastien Brunet** – GL events (France)

**Panittha Buri (Ms.)** – BITEC (Thailand)

**Benjamin (Kai Leung) Chau** – Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Hong Kong)

**Diane Chen (Ms.)** – Shenyang New World EXPO (China)

**Lisa Aixin Chen (Ms.)** – Donghao Lansheng (Group) Co., Ltd. (China)

**Geoff Dickinson** – dmg events (UAE)

**Klaus Dittrich** – Messe München GmbH (Germany)

**Severine Dubarry Bardon (Ms.)** – Comexposium (France)

**Michael Duck** – Informa Markets – Asia (Hong Kong)

**Roland Fleck** – NürnbergMesse GmbH (Germany)

**Lisa Hannant** – Clarion Events Ltd. (UK)

**Hugh Jones** – Reed Exhibitions (UK)

**Carin Kindbom (Ms.)** – Svenska Mässan Stiftelse (Sweden)

**Taro Komiya** – Japan Management Association (Japan)

**Ned Krause** – E.J. Krause & Associates, Inc. (USA)

**Michael Kruppe** – SNIEC (China)

**Mary Larkin (Ms.)** – Diversified Communications USA

**Wolfgang Marzin** – Messe Frankfurt GmbH (Germany)

**Lau Wai Meng (Benson Lau)** – Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (Macau)

**Trixie LohMirmand** – Dubai World Trade Centre (UAE)

**Eduardo Lopez-Puertas** – IFEMA (Spain)

**Juan Pablo Maglier** – La Rural, Predio Ferial de Buenos Aires (Argentina)

**Giovanni Mantovani** – Veronafiore SpA (Italy)

**Daria Ostrovskaya (Ms.)** – RusJewellerExpert (Russian Federation)

**Enrico Pazzali** – Fondazione Fiera Milano (Italy)

**Matt Pearce** – Talk2 Media & Events Pty Ltd (Australia)

**Valerii Pekar** – Euroindex Ltd (Ukraine)

**Corrado Peraboni** – Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A. (Italy)

**Pietro Piccinetti** – Fiera Roma SRL (Italy)

**Kyriakos Pozrikidis** – TIF-HELEXPO SA (Greece)

**Birgit Rieder (Ms.)** – MCH Group AG (Switzerland)

**Maria João Rocha de Matos (Ms.)** – Lisboa Feiras Congressos e Eventos (Portugal)

**Constanti Serrallonga** – Fira de Barcelona (Spain)

**Mark Shashoua** – Hyve Group



Plc (UK)

**Lori Silva (Ms.)** – Emerald Expositions (USA)

**Xueli (Shirly) Song (Ms.)** – Chongqing International Expo Center Co., Ltd (China)

**Georgy Surkov** – RESTEC Exhibition Company (Russian Federation)

**Saleem Khan Tanoli** – FAKT Exhibitions (Private) Limited (Pakistan)

**Dina Tomšić (Ms.)** – Zagreb Fair Ltd (Croatia)

**Sergey Voronkov** – ExpoForum International LTD (Russian Federation)

**Simon Wang** – TAITRA (Taipei)

**Erhard Wienkamp** – Messe Düsseldorf GmbH (Germany)  
Previously elected to the UFI Board as the Chairs of the Regional Chapters are:

For Asia-Pacific: David Zhong

(VNU Exhibitions Asia, China)

For Europe: Andreas Gruchow (Deutsche Messe AG, Germany)

For Latin America: José Navarro Meneses (Tarsus Mexico)

For Middle East/Africa: Albert Aoun (IFP, Lebanon)

And elected to the Board as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the UFI Associations Committee:

Chair: Chris Skeith, AEO (UK)

Vice-Chair: Jörn Holtmeier, AUMA (Germany) And already elected in their roles as the UFI Presidential Trio are:

Anbu Varathan, IMTMA and BIEC, Bangalore (President 2020 – 2021)

Monica Lee-Müller, HKCEC, Hong Kong, Incoming President

**Mary Larkin, Diversified Communications USA, Outgoing President**

“I wish to congratulate all elected and re-elected board members. This year, we have seen a record number of industry leaders standing for these elections. It stresses the role UFI is playing in supporting and representing the exhibition industry globally”, says Mary Larkin, UFI President and President Diversified Communications USA. “I am also very pleased to see more diversity at UFI Board level: 28% of the UFI Board is now made up of women. Just seven women were part of the UFI Board in 2017 so we have more than doubled the female representation. I am very happy that I was able to move the needle there during my year as UFI President”.



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**Mr. Balvinder Singh Sawhney**  
Asst Sec General, FICCI



them a productive landscape to showcase their products and capabilities, project their achievements, and engage in discussions to advance their business prospects. While the well-appointed booths allow virtual handshakes through video and chat, the B2B meeting rooms transform business relationships. The state-of-art auditorium is fully equipped to host large-format webinars and conferences, thus providing a world-class environment for global business.

FICCI Annual Expo will be organized in conjunction with the FICCI Annual General Meeting, a flagship event and one of the most eagerly awaited congregations involving representatives from the Government, Industry, Bureaucracy, Academics and Research, addressing a high-powered audience of policy-makers, corporates, media, among others. The theme for this year would be "Inspired India."

## Key highlights:

- A high-profile event with participation from the who's who of the Indian industry, government and representatives from Indian and international chambers and associations.

- Visitors can access exhibitors round-the-clock across all 365 days.
- Visitors can choose from a host of online options to find the products or services they are interested in. They can do a keyword search, sector-wise search, sort, and filter options to search an exhibitor of choice according to their geographical area.
- The visitors can send meeting requests and fix their meetings with the exhibitors as per their convenience.
- Products and services across 50+ sectors to be showcased in structured Exhibition Halls segregated as per sectors.
- Sectoral webinars will be organized inviting delegates from across the globe.

The event will be promoted extensively across India and the globe through regional chambers and sectoral associations which are FICCI members and through Indian Missions all over the world. Important Initiatives and key schemes of GoI at display during FICCI Annual Expo 2020 commencing December 11, 2020

- Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- Make in India
- Swachh Bharat Mission
- 'Vocal for Local'
- Digital India Mission
- UDAY
- Skill India Mission
- Boosting the Engine of Growth- Railways
- Focus –Infrastructure, electrification, and freight corridors
- RCS UDAN
- Infrastructure – Smart Cities Missions
- One district one product

A lot has changed around us globally. The pandemic has impacted every sphere of human activity and most of us are still navigating through the challenges of the new normal. A lot to learn, and look forward to, with renewed spirit and passion. As the world presses the reset button, we at FICCI are all set to play our part in bringing the businesses back to normal.

We are proud to announce the FICCI Annual Expo 2020 (FAE 2020), a one-of- its-kind virtual event in the country focused on manufacturing and services sectors. An engaging and progressive platform where buyers and sellers from across the globe connect, interact, and grow to their fullest potential.

Starting 11 th December 2020 and extending for a period of one year, this unique event operates with the objective of elevating Indian business sector while envisioning new prospects and accelerating businesses.

The sprawling Exhibition Centre plays host to exhibitors from across the globe, giving

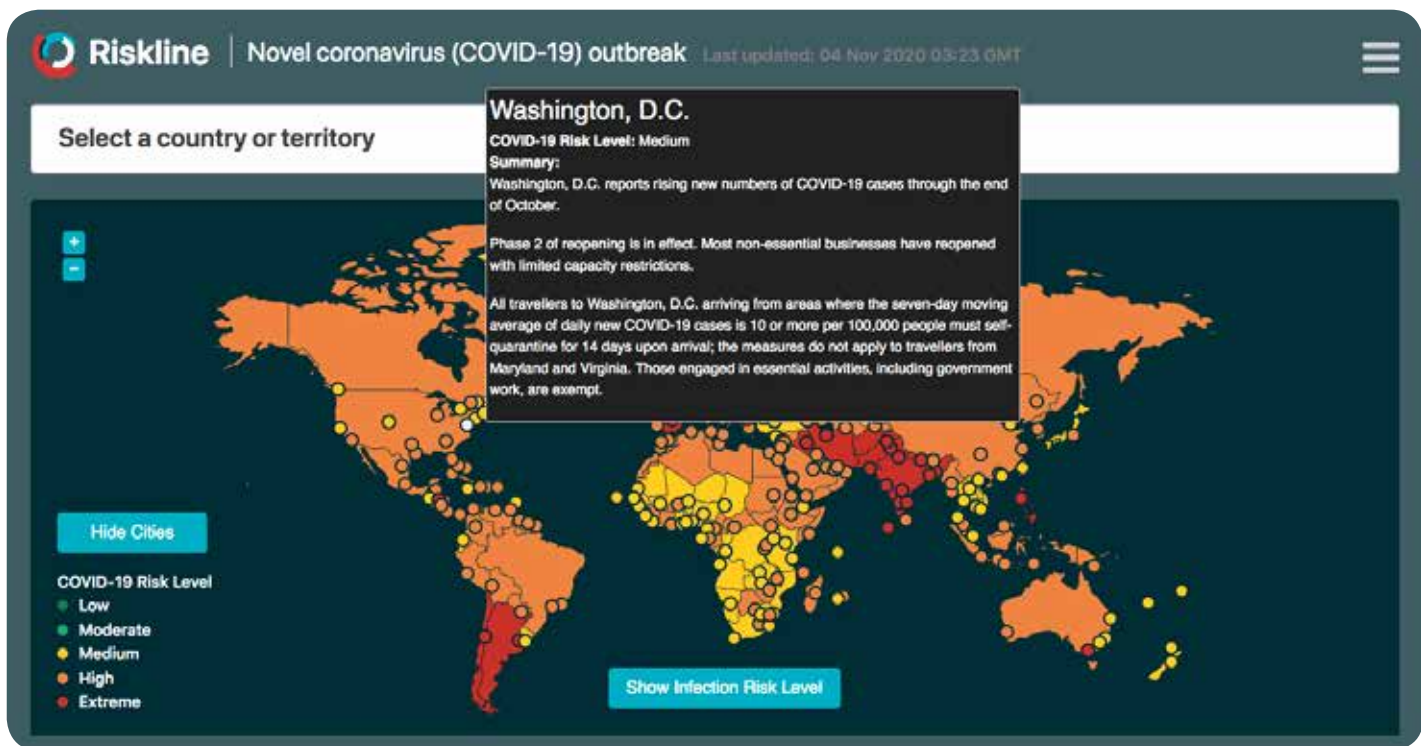


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# New Covid-19 microsite evolves to respond to changing business travel climate

**'The aim is to give travel managers confidence to plan safely & successfully'**

With countries around the world delivering a slew of new measures in response to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the challenge for travel managers lies in keeping up to date with the latest information.

Riskline's comprehensive Covid-19 microsite, launched this summer, has been enhanced to ensure it continues to capture all the latest updates and government guidance all in one central hub, arming managers with the details and data they need to plan and manage travel with confidence.

## The updates include:

- The microsite's comprehensive country reports – covering over 220 countries and territories – have been updated to include rules on health and travel documentation, masks, and testing. This accompanies existing advice on what to expect when travelling including screening measures at airports and restrictions on public transport.
- Travel managers can navigate the new regional tiers introduced by many countries using an interactive map which delivers critical travel and

security information detailed down to city level. This includes risk levels, travel restrictions, quarantine procedures, lockdown measures and other restrictions on movement.

- This hyperlocal approach will be supported by new regional COVID-19 reports for the USA, Canada, France, Spain, and Australia, scheduled for publication soon.
- A new quarantine tool for the United States allows users to check the quarantine rules before undertaking domestic travel in the USA.

As part of access to Riskline's comprehensive Covid-19 microsite, travel managers also receive real time news alerts reporting the latest Covid-19 updates as they happen. Suzanne Sangiovese, Commercial and Communications Director at Riskline, says: "By evolving our COVID-19 microsite to reflect the rapidly changing health, security, and travel environments around the world, we hope to support travel managers in what is an incredibly challenging time. The aim is to give them confidence to plan travel safely and successfully."



# The Postcard Hotel wins Asia's Leading Luxury Hotel at World Travel Awards

The latest entrant in the Indian luxury hotel space, The Postcard Hotel walks away with multiple honours at The World Travel Awards, 2020.

The Postcard Dewa, Thimphu has been voted as 'Asia's Leading Luxury Boutique Hotel' and 'Bhutan's Leading Boutique Hotel', The Postcard Cuelim, South Goa has been voted as 'India's Leading Boutique Hotel' and 'Goa's Leading Boutique Hotel' and The Postcard Velha, Old Goa has been voted as 'India's Best Wellness Retreat'. In just a year of being operational, the brand has managed to make a mark for itself amongst the top luxury hotels in Asia.

Kapil Chopra and a team of experienced hospitality professionals founded The Postcard Hotel with a vision to open experiential luxury hotels in unique destinations.

The immersive hospitality and its unconventional and fluid nature is what truly sets the brand apart. No set breakfast hours, personalised exclusive

dining, cocktails on arrival and the flexibility of anytime check-in and check-out are some of the unique offerings that have contributed to the vast recognition and appreciation of the brand.

"Evolving rapidly and staying positive in this new environment was the need of the hour. While our hotels continued to provide the highest levels of service and genuine care for our guests, enhancing the procedures and protocols for safety of our guests and team became our priority. Additionally, to ensure that they feel safe and reassured, The One Key Hotel was introduced." says Chopra.

The 'One Key' access is a unique service that allows guests to book the entire hotel for themselves, during which the property is completely closed off to non-residential guests with a complete sanitisation of the premises including the pool prior to arrival.

The boutique nature of The Postcard properties and their polished safety and service standards is what contributed to their success post opening after

the nationwide lockdown this year. With limited inventory and plenty of outdoor spaces, social distancing is naturally inbuilt in the way the hotels are designed, with enough space for each guest to feel secluded and enjoy their own private experiences. This has led to possibly the biggest success story globally for any brand with revenue for the current year already exceeding last year's - buoyed by an increased occupancy and high average room rates.

Each hotel by The Postcard offers unique experiences that are true to its surroundings, giving guests a sense of the neighbourhood and the destination in a way never seen before. The Postcard Cuelim, is a 350 year old restored estate located in South Goa. This six room hotel overlooking 3500 acres of lush green paddy fields seamlessly blends in with Goa's rich culture and tropical radiance, providing the experience of seclusion and disconnect. The Postcard Dewa, Thimphu is nestled in a forest on the outskirts of Bhutan's capital city. The newly built hotel with 15 suites and a minimum room size of 995 square feet is located with a spectacular hilltop view of the Thimphu valley and surrounding forests. Just a 20-minute drive from Thimphu city's sights and sounds, the hotel aims to provide a sense of splendid seclusion. As the only carbon negative country in the world, 72% of Bhutan is forest covered, and The Postcard is a perfect base from which one can explore the magnificent landscape and culture of Bhutan.



The Postcard Hotel is committed to opening a multitude of new hotels in hidden holiday destinations across India and the globe. The Postcard, Gir Wildlife Sanctuary, The Postcard on the Arabian Sea, Karnataka and The Postcard in the Himalayas, Mashobra are expected to open first amongst their planned openings in 2021. "Travellers today are receptive and eager. They're not simply satisfied with stunning sceneries, but also want to expand their cultural knowledge and grow as individuals- Gir provides the option of a great wildlife experience and an opportunity to sight the majestic Lion" says **Kapil Chopra, founder and CEO,**

The Postcard Hotel. He added, "Untouched locations that allow people to get away from their urban lifestyles and reconnect with nature is what the affluent traveller is looking for. For those wanting a coastal experience that is slightly off the beaten track, the Maravanthe coast in Karnataka is one of the most picturesque coastal stretches in India. As Indian travellers start looking for new domestic destinations, the more pristine areas in the Himalayas will also come into vogue. I see Mashobra having the benefit of easy accessibility and close proximity to Shimla, along with the sense of being cut off from the crowds."





# IAEE Transitions the Live Event to Virtual Expo! Expo! in 2020



The International Association of Exhibitions and Events® (IAEE) today announces that due to the enhanced negative realities of COVID-19 around the world, the in-person portion of this year's Expo! Expo! IAEE's Annual Meeting and Exhibition slated for 8-10 December in Louisville, KY will not take place. IAEE will refocus its efforts on the virtual Expo! Expo! with many of the same show elements presented in an engaging virtual format.

*"I'm proud of the IAEE staff's work toward planning for the IAEE Expo! Expo! scheduled in Louisville, Kentucky, next month," said IAEE Chairperson of the Board, Bob McLean CPA, CAE, CEM. "Our board, staff and members were excited to take part in this annual, in-person event. However, in light of current health and safety concerns, the board has unanimously decided to transition this face-to-face event to a*

*wholly virtual experience. With this decision, the board and staff have recommitted our efforts to deliver the same high-quality event you have come to expect from IAEE."*

The virtual Expo! Expo! will feature a robust buyer experience with multiple ways to network with other attendees and exhibitors through chats and messaging functionality; a Buyer Resource Center housing important content spanning 60+ product/service categories through case studies, product demos, and research papers; and an exhibitor marketplace to conduct business for 2021 and beyond.

Relevant and timely content for planning future events will be presented through five education tracks on Virtual Event Production; Wellness & Personal Development; Young Professionals; an Executive Experience; and Safely Reopening Exhibitions & Events. Sixty-five sessions will be pre-recorded followed by live

Q&A discussions, including the IAEE Asia Forum. Additionally, specialty content including seven BUZZ sessions, and a general session with Risha Grant who focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion, will be featured over three days along with elements from the in-person show including a Tech Theatre presenting tech use cases and new product pitches and industry icon interviews through News and Views theatre.

Key face-to-face activities will be transformed into virtual activations for Summit Club, Chapter Leaders, new comer orientations and more.

*"While our core mission is to bring buyers and sellers together face-to-face, we are utilizing the Swapcard platform to deliver valuable content to plan future events while also providing an engaging marketplace to meet and make plans for 2021 and beyond,"* added IAEE President and CEO, David DuBois, CMP, CAE, FASAE, CTA.

# South Africa voted one of the top 10 countries in the world at Conde Nast Traveller's 2020 Reader Choice Awards

The Rainbow Nation of South Africa has been nominated amongst the top 10 countries in the world by international readers, as part of Conde Nast Traveller's Reader Choice Awards 2020. The only country from the African continent to be featured in the top 10, South Africa is renowned for its 3000+ unique adventure offerings, captivating wildlife, beautiful golden coastal beaches, vibrant nightlife and culinary treats.

Conde Nast Traveller's 33rd Readers' Choice Awards represented the first time that readers voted when almost no one was traveling, due to pandemic-induced lockdowns and travel restrictions. It only goes to show that places nominated in this year's edition are the ones that readers still felt connected to and those which exuded a sense of familiarity and along with adventure.

"We are honoured to be top-of-mind for travellers across the world, and this award only stands testament to the fact that South Africa – with its high standards of hospitality and warm local culture – is

a memorable destination. This acknowledgement only motivates us to continually provide bespoke, immersive experiences that form an integral part of the great South African adventure, while also ensuring travellers receive great value for money," said Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head – MEISEA, South African Tourism.

Due to a government mandated lockdown coupled with high standards of safety and stringent precautionary measures, South Africa is relatively safer than its global counterparts. This gives the Rainbow Nation a vast edge over other traditional markets frequented by Indian travellers.

Other than low Covid-19 rates, there are a few upcoming trends that suggest Indian travellers to South Africa will increase: the destination expects self-drives to be popular with Indian travellers given that South Africa has some of the most beautiful self-drive routes in the world. The fact that Indian licenses are valid in South Africa is a huge bonus!

Travellers are now actively seeking safety assurance and good deals – and the competitive pricing edge that South Africa has over most other long-haul international destinations, will go a long way in aiding travel conversions.

South Africa has developed a risk categorization model for different countries. This model classifies countries according to a scale of high, medium and low risk. High risk countries are those with higher numbers of Covid-19 infections and reported deaths compared to South Africa. Medium risk countries have a relatively equal number of infections and death toll to South Africa, while low risk countries have a lesser number of Covid-19 infections and death toll in comparison to South Africa.

*"While India is currently a high risk country and is not on the list of countries permitted entry to South Africa yet, the list is being actively reviewed every two weeks. We hope to welcome Indians soon!"* concluded **Ms. Neliswa Nkani.**

# Diwali shines light on opportunities for domestic LED and lighting industry

“Localising LED supply chain will not only help in meeting festive demands during this Diwali, but also kindle a new confidence among domestic manufacturers to capitalize on the momentum.” – says **Mr. Raj Manek, organiser of India’s leading lighting fairs – Light India & LED Expo**

With the Indian government pulling the plug on LED imports, domestic manufacturers have a massive opportunity in their hands to expand their footprint in the market. LED exporters offering products at cheaper price have hitherto dominated the Indian market outselling even local businesses. This Diwali, however, could spark a new phase for Indian lighting segment as demand for festive and decorative lighting will present a lucrative avenue for domestic manufacturers.

According to a recent report from the Electric Lamp and Component Manufacturers Association (ELCOMA), the Indian lighting market is expected to de-grow by INR 30 billion between years 2020-21 since the industry has faced slowdown due to the recent 2-month nationwide lockdown followed by slow recovery rate. However, the association is also certain that Indian lighting industry can make a strong comeback through localisation as Diwali festivities bring back demand.

Affirming the industry’s potential to make a positive return, Mr Shyam Sujan, Secretary General, ELCOMA shared “Although the lighting industry is currently facing a slowdown due to global supply chain disruption, the industry is expected to bounce back stronger by gaining 5% year-on-year growth in the next three years with LED market occupying 92% share of total lighting value. As the economy resettles, the step to localise supply chain will definitely strengthen the industry and eventually help us become one of the major players in the global lighting segment”

Even though a majority of LED assembly plants operate in India, a huge chunk of LED lights, tubes and chips are still being imported internationally, depicting the segment’s major dependency on imports. During a webinar on 'Impact of COVID-19 on lighting industry' organised by Messe Frankfurt India, industry players gathered together to discuss the fate of the LED segment and the need for increasing domestic capabilities. “The COVID crisis has been a real eye-opener to the LED industry. It is crucial for Indian LED segment to encourage local manufacturers to start in-house production of goods and materials in order to make our supply chain self-reliant.” shared **Mr Divyansh Gupta, Managing Director, Kundan Edifice Pvt Ltd** during

the same webinar.

Innovation is the key to growth in every segment including the lighting industry, and Messe Frankfurt India’s building technology portfolio which includes the country’s leading lighting fairs – Light India & LED Expo (Mumbai & Delhi Editions) have played a key role in showcasing the transition from CFLs to LED, and now moving towards solar-LEDs, smart lighting and UV lighting innovations. “As intelligent systems gradually gain the attention of modern consumers and advancements such as wireless, sensor-based and solar-based smart lighting as well as enhanced technologies like Light Fidelity (Li-Fi) now coming up, this is the right time for sector players to strengthen their supply chains to meet the market demand.” shared, **Mr Raj Manek, Executive Director & Board Member, Messe Frankfurt Asia Holdings Ltd.**

Even on a national scale, the rapid adoption of energy-efficient street lighting systems, development schemes and upcoming smart building projects initiated by the government offer inordinate opportunities to domestic manufacturers to produce complete LED products within India. The ‘Make in India’ initiative and recent call for 'Atmanirbhar' Bharat by Prime



Minister Narendra Modi has brought focus on local manufacturing potential in the country. Localising LED supply chain will be a prominent step as it will not only eliminate import costs, but also help India transform into a major exporter of LED goods in the coming years.

Apart from conventional lighting applications, LED technology is crucial for many major sectors

such as automotive, infrastructure, hospitality and health care (due to increasing need for UV disinfection). Amid the current scenario,

*“Localising LED supply chain will not only help in meeting festive demands but also kindle a new confidence among domestic manufacturers, urging them to capitalize on the momentum.”— concludes Manek.*



# SEASIDE FINOLHU APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF AND DIRECTOR OF FOOD & BEVERAGE

The newly redesigned five-star Seaside Finolhu reopened on November 1, 2020, as the first member of the Design Hotels in the Maldives. Bolstering the already impressive ranks of talent at the hotel will be two newly appointed members of staff: Memo V. Hernandez, Executive Chef and Benjamin Gouet, Director of Food & Beverage.

Together, they will reinforce Finolhu's outstanding levels of gastronomy and service. Rounding out the offering of culinary craftsmanship and international flair – from traditional Maldivian fare, to modern Japanese cuisine, or flavours of the Middle East and North Africa – will be a focus on handmade produce, crafted from fresh ingredients.



**Memo V. Hernandez**  
Executive Chef

Bringing more than 16-years' experience in managing restaurants and hotel kitchens internationally, Hernandez joins Finolhu following his previous role as Executive Chef at The Nautilus Maldives. The Costa Rican native brings a wealth of luxury experience, including training at the three Michelin rated Quique da Costa Restaurant, Valencia.

Hernandez has as a passion for the traditional, including farming, local produce, and the rustic production of cheeses. This is coupled with a modern outlook towards keto, superfoods, wellness, and vegetarianism and veganism – this includes ambitions to create a variety of dishes where the vegetable is the star. With ecological and environmental awareness at the forefront, he's looking forward to putting his touch on the menus, including a focus on seasonality, wholesome breakfasts, and plans to grow thyme, rosemary, basil, mint, and coriander on the island.



**Benjamin Gouet**  
Director of Food & Beverage

French-born Gouet, has more than 15-years' experience in the food and beverage industry and previously held the position of Director of Food & Beverage at Bandos Maldives Resort. His earlier work experience in senior roles has taken him to key luxury hotels across the world, including the Sheraton Club des Pins Resort, Algeria and Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa, French West Indies.

He will manage the resort's overall food and beverage service operations, ensuring the highest of standards are met across Finolhu's six food and beverage outlets – each with its own distinct personality and aesthetic to accentuate. As a wine lover and cocktail connoisseur, Gouet will enhance the culinary journey with beverage pairings for each cuisine, ranging from wines and whiskeys to specialty teas.

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