

ITB Asia 2018
17 – 19 October 2018

PRESS RELEASE

ITB Asia 2018 kicks off highly-anticipated event with a record-breaking number of exhibitors

- *Exhibition space sold out by mid-August following overwhelming response this year*
- *Over 1,000 exhibitors and 1,000 buyers to feature on show floor*
- *20% increase in new exhibitors signing up for this year's show*
- *More than 125% growth in number of hotel groups signing up as part of the Buyers Programme Partners*

Singapore, Wednesday 17 October 2018 - ITB Asia, 'Asia's Leading Travel Trade Show', opened its doors today at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. The three-day conference and exhibition will run until Friday 19 October 2018.

Under the overarching theme, "Travel Reimagined", top industry leaders will deliver insights on the key trends provoking disruption across the travel industry and how brands are innovating to stay competitive. The expected over 1,000 exhibitors and over 1,000 buyers will be able to appreciate the exciting exhibition event and conference programme, featuring the strongest line-up of exhibitors and speakers yet.

"ITB Asia continues to maintain its position as the leading travel trade show in Asia. It remains one of the top business platforms for connecting exhibitors and partners with key decision makers in the MICE, Corporate and Leisure travel industry. Working in close collaboration with our partners and exhibitors, we are delighted to unveil one of our most engaging and exciting programmes yet. We look forward to welcoming visitors to this year's show!" said Katrina Leung, Managing Director of Messe Berlin (Singapore), the organiser of ITB Asia.

As part of the keynote line up today, Microsoft and Google will provide insights on what will disrupt and change the way we travel and do business, whilst Ctrip will shed light on challenging the international travel market. Tomorrow, leading companies discussing the future of travel distribution, will include Booking.com, Hotelbeds Group, Jacobs Media Group, KAYAK, Skyscanner and Triptease. On Friday, the final day of the show, Thomas Cook, Mileslife, Tujia, Fliggy & Dragon Trail Interactive will discuss how Chinese travellers are changing the world and how brands can win them over.

The number of Corporate and MICE participants at ITB Asia has increased by 49% compared to last year. To reflect this strong support and the increased focus in this area, ITB Asia will launch several new initiatives for the MICE and Corporate segments, including gathering industry leaders at the newly launched MICE & Corporate Hub. Confirmed partners and speakers include Airbnb for Work, CWT Meetings & Events, site and Troovo, to name a few. Other new initiatives include the dedicated MICE & Corporate Speed Networking sessions which have already sold out, and the MICE Tech Showcase which will feature some of the most exciting innovations helping to solve today's complex issues in the MICE industry.

The show has seen a 20% increase, compared to 2017, in new exhibitors signing up for this year's show following the growth in demand from Asian and European participants.

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This year's new registrations include National Tourism Organizations (NTO) and Regional Tourism Organizations (RTO). ITB Asia is pleased to welcome new NTO exhibitors from Abu Dhabi, Botswana, Croatia, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea as well as RTO exhibitors such as Fukuoka, Kansai, Rovaniemi and more.

Whilst Asian exhibitors continue to dominate the show floor this year, we have seen a strong growth in the number of European exhibitors participating in the show for the first time. These include the Ministry of Transport & Construction of the Slovak Republic, Polish Tourism Organisation, Tourism Association of Canton Sarajevo and Visit Ukraine.

Compared to last year, ITB Asia 2018 has experienced more than 125% growth in the number of hotel groups signing up as part of the Buyers Programme Partners. Exceptional support has been received from leading hotel groups such as Best Western International, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), Melia Hotels International and Worldwide Hotels, Pan Pacific Hotel Group, Radisson Hotel Group, WorldHotels AG and Wyndham Hotel Group.

The launch of a dedicated Muslim Pavilion, housing the Muslim Travel Showcase sees Muslim travel as a key theme for ITB Asia this year. With the release of the Mastercard-Halal Trip Digital Muslim Travel Report (DMTR) 2018, the latest insights and in-depth analysis into the Muslim travel market and behaviours when it comes to trip planning, research and engagement in the digital space will be revealed. CrescentRating will present its 'Halal in Travel Asia Summit' focusing on the key theme of 'Innovation & Technology in the Muslim Travel Space' as it continues its partnership for the third year running.

ITB Asia 2018 will welcome a number of leading media and creative agencies at the presentation hub this year, including high profile thought leaders from BBC Global News, ESL Gaming, Google, LaLiga, Ogilvy & Mather and Twitter who will discuss innovation in destination marketing. Destination Marketing is a new topic for this year, and these leaders will provide key insights on how destinations can better market themselves to different groups of travellers. This includes touching on the latest technology available in the market to enhance the customer experience and leverage the multiple touch points with travellers.

For more information on ITB Asia 2018, visit www.itb-asia.com.

About ITB Asia 2018

ITB Asia 2018 will take place at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, from 17 - 19 October 2018. It is organised by Messe Berlin (Singapore) Pte Ltd and supported by the Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau. The annual three-day B2B trade show and convention will feature hundreds of exhibiting companies from the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, covering not only the leisure market, but also corporate and MICE travel. Exhibitors from every sector of the industry, including destinations, airlines and airports, hotels and resorts, theme parks and attractions, inbound tour operators, inbound DMCs, cruise lines, spas, venues, other meeting facilities and travel technology companies are all expected to attend.

Now in its eleventh year, ITB Asia is the premier meeting place for the travel trade industry for forging new partnerships and strengthening existing business relationships with the most important players in the region. Whilst celebrating a decade of ITB Asia, last year, its huge success saw 940 exhibitors, 951 quality buyers, 6,140 minutes of conference, more than 11,000 attendees and 22,000 business appointments.

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