

Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands (Singapore) and UBM EMEA claim the wins for the 2015 UFI Sustainable Development award

Paris, 15th April 2015: UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, has announced the winners of its annual Sustainable Development Award competition for 2015. This year's competition theme was "Innovative cost-saving in the value chain" and the jury decided to recognize 2 winners: Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands (Singapore) as a venue, and UBM EMEA as an organizer.

UFI's objective when setting up this year's theme was to demonstrate how innovative sustainable actions can lead to cost-savings and both finalists made evidence of this in their respective programs.

As a venue hosting more than 2,500 events in 2014, the Sands Expo and Convention Centre concentrated on energy conservation as its primary Key Performance Indicator for its sustainability targets in 2014. They introduced an interface project between their events booking system and building management system that contributed to a 29% reduction in chilled water energy (kWhr) consumption compared to their previous annual baseline data.

UBM EMEA, a UBM plc company that operates in over 23 countries, set detailed senior management sustainability objectives for 2014. This program led to many examples of initiatives which reduced environmental impact and increased a positive community legacy. These actions also led to cost savings that are more than double the initial targets.

Paul Woodward, Managing Director of UFI commented: "Both entries were very strong: they successfully tackled different sustainability issues and challenges and they complement perfectly our objective of recognising and promoting the best initiatives in all segments of the industry. Our judges were very impressed with all the valuable entries selected during the first round of the competition, but these two really stand out".

"Operating responsibly has always been part of Marina Bay Sands' DNA. Our teams are constantly evaluating and implementing innovative sustainable actions that reap long-term benefits for the company and our clients. The move to integrate our backend systems to enable automated scheduling of air-conditioning in meeting spaces was not a simple turnkey project. We have a massive property - over 120,000 square meters in convention space, 250 meeting rooms and a constantly evolving space utilization footprint. The team had to creatively put together a solution that integrated existing systems, effectively tracked data, improved productivity for our teams and above all, drove environmental and cost savings in the long term. We are proud that our hard work has been recognized by UFI. This is a very big encouragement to the teams at Marina Bay Sands to continue leading the market in the green space," said Mr Benny Zin, COO and VP of Conventions & Exhibitions at Marina Bay Sands.

Simon Foster, CEO of UBM EMEA, said, "All of us at UBM EMEA work diligently and passionately to achieve our sustainability targets, as we not only understand but also believe in them. It was a natural step to create a set of senior management objectives, which filter through the entire organisation, to continue our pursuit of excellence in sustainability. We receive creative ideas about sustainability from all functions within the business, and we ensure it is part of all of our business decisions. I am so proud of this honour, recognising all of the work we have put in and all that we have accomplished, and I look forward to our future developments in sustainability for us, our partners, and our customers."

The final entries of the finalists are available at www.ufi.org/susdev, together with the entries selected during the first round of the competition: Consumer Electronics Association (USA), The Cape Town International Convention Centre (South Africa), ExCel (UK), Fira Barcelona (Spain), Singapore International Water Week (Singapore) and Specialty Food Association (USA).

Attached: UFI Sustainable Development Award

About UFI - The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry

UFI is the association of the world's leading tradeshow organisers and exhibition centre operators, as well as the major national and international exhibition associations, and selected partners of the exhibition industry. UFI's main goal is to represent, promote and support the business interests of its members and the exhibition industry. UFI represents over 650 member organisations in 83 countries around the world. Over 900 international trade fairs proudly bear the UFI approved label, a quality guarantee for visitors and exhibitors alike. UFI members continue to provide the international business community with a unique marketing media aimed at developing outstanding face-to-face business opportunities.

For more information about UFI:

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