



New president commits to furthering IAPCO in Asia



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Mathias Posch, of Canada's ICS, has been elected the new president of the International Association of Professional Congress Organisers (IAPCO) at the recent General Assembly in Japan.

Supported with three new council members, Sarah Markey-Hamm (ICMS, Australia), Monica Freire (AIM Group, Portugal), and Barbara Calderwood (MCI Group, UK), Posch already has very close links with Japan, having organised several meetings there including the World Lung Cancer Conference in Tokyo last year.

In his presidential acceptance speech he committed to continuing the mission begun by previous president Jan Tonkin to further IAPCO's presence in Asia, by way of education and training.

"IAPCO meets Asia" was the tagline of the IAPCO Annual Meeting in Japan and IAPCO members showed up in record numbers to get to know Tokyo and learn more about the culture, opportunities and the Japanese spirit of innovation that perfectly melts with old traditions.

"As the association has grown its reach across Asia, it stays committed to continue on the path to promote the quality mark while putting a special focus on emerging conference markets," says Posch.

"It is exciting to be a part of educating an entire new business sector in some areas as we see our industry expand in China and South East Asia. This is good news for everyone – a healthy conference market is a sign of not just

a healthy economy but advances in society as a whole.

"Continuing education and international networking will not just help develop societies further, it will also help close gaps in international collaboration and understanding that will create more equal societies.

"By assisting the industry in emerging economies, associations can play a vital role in the next chapter of social and economic change in the region. Expanding global outreach, whether it be an industry association, or indeed an international medical society, or a world congress, is more than just a 'tick' on the map, it is the responsibility of all to make this their future goal." **clm**