

UFI tracks the development of sustainability

Paris/Geneva - 13 December 2013: More than 40 participants from 12 countries have attended a conference in Geneva focusing on sustainability in the exhibition industry. The event, organized by UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, and hosted by UFI Member Palexpo, focused on best practices.

Speakers included Rashid Toefy, CEO of Cape Town International Convention Centre (South Africa), winner of the UFI 2013 award on "Best reporting on sustainability" and Justin Hawes, Managing Director, Scan Display, Johannesburg (South Africa), winner of the UFI 2013 award on "Best environmental initiative".

UFI released at the meeting the first edition of a report designed to assess the status of sustainability in the exhibition industry. This report, freely downloadable at www.ufi.org/susdev, identifies key elements such as the current perception of sustainability in the industry, which companies have implemented what and when, together with the barriers and challenges encountered. UFI's goal is to update this research regularly to highlight the progress over the coming years.

The importance of all parties involved in the value chain working together was highlighted by different speakers and Fiona Pelham, Managing Director of Positive Impact, presented a template developed in partnership with UFI to encourage the reporting on sustainability in the exhibition industry.

Michael Duck, Executive Vice President, UBM Asia (Hong Kong) and Chair of the UFI Sustainable Development Committee declared: "Implementing sustainability across the organization is one of UBM's priorities and one of the challenges is indeed to have all parties involved. I am glad to announce that we are going to start using the UFI template with our stakeholders in order to jointly report on our APLF event (Materials, Manufacturing & Technology; Fashion Access) which takes place in Hong Kong in March 2014."

Paul Woodward, UFI Managing Director commented: "A focus on sustainability is definitely on the rise and the fact that many of the largest companies of the exhibition industry are present here today is encouraging. One of our mission statements is to serve our members by promoting, encouraging and supporting sustainability within the exhibition industry, thus becoming a reference point for best practice, tools, standards and learning. The material produced for this event by all the sustainability champions present here today, which will soon be available in our UFI Education Centre (see www.ufi.org/edcentre), surely represents an excellent opportunity for all to learn on this challenging topic."

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Attachments:

UFI "Status on Sustainability in the Exhibition Industry" report

Picture 1: Claude Membrez, Managing Director, Palexpo SA, host of the UFI focus meeting, receives a silver plate from Paul Woodward, UFI Managing Director

Picture 2: photo of the conference

Picture 3: Rashid Toefy, CEO, Cape Town International Convention Centre (South Africa) receives the UFI 2013 "Best reporting on sustainability" award from Michael Duck, Executive Vice President, UBM Asia (Hong Kong) and Chair of the UFI Sustainable Development Committee

Picture 4: Justin Hawes, Managing Director, Scan Display, Johannesburg (South Africa), receives the UFI 2013 "Best environmental initiative" award from Michael Duck, Executive Vice President, UBM Asia (Hong Kong) and Chair of the UFI Sustainable Development Committee

Picture 5: Fiona Pelham, Managing Director, Positive Impact, Manchester (UK).

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 630 member organisations around the world. Over 900 international trade fairs proudly bear the UFI approved label, a quality guarantee for visitors and exhibitors alike. UFI members provide the international business community with a unique marketing media aimed at developing outstanding face-to-face business opportunities.

For additional information on UFI, its programmes and services, please go to www.ufi.org or contact: Lili Eigl, UFI Communications Manager, lili@ufi.org