

CASE STUDY

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| 46th International Association of Women Police Annual Training Conference (IAWP) | |
| TYPE OF EVENT: International Association Conference | DATE OF EVENT: 6-11 September 2008 |
| EVENT DESTINATION: Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia | EVENT VENUE: Darwin Convention Centre |
| ORGANISER/HOST: International Association of Women Police (IAWP) | CONFERENCE ORGANISER: IAWP2008 Conference Director |
| ACTUAL ATTENDANCE: Projected attendance: 500 Actual attendance: A total of 540 delegates from 34 countries | |

PROFILE/OBJECTIVE OF CONFERENCE:

The Northern Territory Police Force hosted the 46th International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Training Conference from 6 to 11 September 2008 in Darwin.

The 2008 IAWP conference in Darwin was only the second time an Australian city has hosted this prestigious meeting and was the first time an Australian jurisdiction has solely hosted the event.

The IAWP conference focused on improving policing for women by identifying best practice and developing technology. The conference attracted senior police, administrators, managers and executives, federal agents, investigators, researchers, academics and students from 34 countries around the globe.

The conference theme 'Policing New Territory' was specifically selected to showcase the Northern Territory Police Force, but also to enhance their training. Streams for the conference focused on: The Changing Face of Crime; Policing – A Career of Choice; Leading by Example and Strengthening Partnerships

A total of 73 speakers included key noters such as Professor Emeritus Eli Silverman a recognised policing authority and author of "NYPD Battle Crime: Innovative Strategies on Policing" about the New York experience, Dr Sue Gordon, Magistrate and Chair of the National Indigenous Council and recipient of the "Order of Australia" Medal for commitment to Aboriginal people and community

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affairs, Julie Spence, President of the British Association of Women in Policing and Order of British Empire for her work in gender equality and Dr Timothy Turner, Supervisory Special Agent (retired) at the Leader Development Institute of the FBI Academy, Quantico, USA.

The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) mission is to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women in criminal justice internationally.

IAWP has 2,400 members from more than 45 countries including Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean Island, Europe and Russia, Mediterranean and Middle East, Nepal, Philippines, Pacific Islands, Central and South America, United Kingdom and the United States.

Ambassadors and supporters of the Conference included past Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Minister and Minister of Police, Fire & Emergency Services, the Honourable Clare Martin, Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Ms Christine Nixon and Goodwill Ambassador of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), internationally acclaimed actress, Ms Nicole Kidman.

REASONS FOR DESTINATION/VENUE SELECTION:

One of the contributing factors to winning the international congress was that the Northern Territory Police Force has one of the highest proportions of women officers with a ratio of 1:4 men to women. In 1961 they only had five.

The NT women police, including Aboriginal Community Police Officers and Police Auxiliaries, are now deployed in nearly every aspect of policing including special operations, remote communities, marine and fisheries, police training and senior management.

The Northern Territory Police Force patrols one of the most isolated and interesting beats in the world with less than one percent of the Australian population inhabiting a land mass covering one sixth of the continent.

Delegate registrations were kept to the lowest fee possible (AUD720) to give the members from all countries the opportunity to participate. There was also a special rate for retired members (AUD370) and companions were catered for with an exciting program of organised tours.

The conference also offered a once in a lifetime experience through workshops in the remote indigenous community of Nguui on the Tiwi Islands. Hosted by Sergeant Rosanna (Milika) Breed, a Tiwi woman born on Melville Island, with sessions regarding policing between cultures and indigenous initiatives such as the Peace at Home project, Indigenous family violence offender programs and the Indigenous Elders program.

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After the two hour ferry ride from Beagle Gulf to Nguiu, delegates were greeted by a traditional welcome before the program commenced.

The Northern Territory is one of Australia's greatest drawcards for international visitors and a 'must-see' for national delegates with the beauty of the world heritage national parks of Kakadu, Uluru and Kata Tjuta and the spectacular eco-adventures and wildlife experiences that Darwin and the Northern Territory offers.

LOCATION/VENUE/ACCOMMODATION INFRASTRUCTURE:

Darwin is a tropical harbour city with a year-round tropical temperature where the focus is on outdoor activities – dining, shopping, move-going, sailing, fishing and visiting the markets.

Home to over 60 different nationalities from more than 70 ethnic backgrounds, Darwin is also the gateway to the region's natural attractions of Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks, is a drawcard for fishing and wildlife enthusiasts plus a wealth of historic locations to explore.

IAWP2008 was one of the first international conventions to be held at the Darwin Convention Centre with its superb harbour location. The Centre is the jewel in the crown of the new Darwin Waterfront Precinct, a 25-hectare lifestyle precinct, hotels, apartments, alfresco restaurants and retail shopping.

The four day conference program incorporated a plenary session and four concurrent parallel streams and an exhibition.

To take advantage of the idyllic tropical climate, energetic morning activities were held from 6.00am with the choice of Yoga, Tai Chai or Boot Camp on the Esplanade or the option to walk the Historic Sites of Darwin.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME/ACTIVITIES:

A comprehensive social program was handled by the local organising committee and a Darwin-based professional conference organiser.

The social events effectively showcased the attractions of Darwin and the Northern Territory with warm tropical evenings providing the perfect climate for al fresco functions.

With real live crocodiles, a baby wallaby, indigenous dancers and children performing in a local multicultural society choir, the opening ceremony in the auditorium of the new Darwin Convention Centre provided something for everyone and set the scene for the conference. This event also celebrated the recipients of the Dr Lois Higgin-Grote Heritage Award and the IAWP International Scholarship.

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The Parade of Nations reception was held outdoors at Liberty Square in the city and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory's Welcome Reception was held in the spectacular surrounds of Parliament House, an iconic landmark in Darwin located overlooking Darwin Harbour.

Next year's IAWP Conference hosts held a "Sleepless in Seattle" hospitality night at a classic Aussie "pub" in the heart of the city where more than 300 delegates donned their best slippers and night attire to celebrate in style with their future Seattle hosts.

A Gala Dinner Masquerade Party was held on the lawns of SKYCITY Darwin resort hotel and casino with the finale being a spectacular sky show of colourful fireworks.

To wind up the conference, delegates enjoyed the exotic sights, sounds and aromas of Darwin's famous Mindil Beach Markets. A fabulous Darwin sunset over the water set the mood before delegates tried unusual tastes including crocodile kebabs, shopped till they dropped at the markets and enjoyed unique Territory entertainment.

After all the sessions were over, 150 delegates stayed on for eight days in the official post-conference tour to Alice Springs and the Red Centre to see the World Heritage listed areas of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) National Park.

EVENT TRIUMPHS:

One of the more memorable aspects of the 2008 IAWP Conference was the Remote Community Workshop which was held at the indigenous community of Nguiu in the beautiful Tiwi Islands, located some 80 km north of Darwin in the Arafura Sea. The workshop was fully subscribed and some 160 participants enjoyed Tiwi Island hospitality as well as the opportunity to undertake training showcasing how indigenous women "police between two cultures".

The spectacular Parade of Nations through the streets of Darwin was a conference highlight with delegates in full-dress uniform receiving an unmistakably warm Australian welcome from locals, tourists, and even bikini-clad backpackers who lined the streets. More than 500 policewomen, police commissioners, retired police officers, mounted police officers and junior police rangers were accompanied by an army band as they made their way through the city.

Over 80 local volunteers assisted the committee with a multitude of tasks to ensure the smooth running of the event. The support teams worked tirelessly to ensure registration kits were ready and 600 delegate bags were packed full of information, with the inclusion of the all-important chocolate biscuit 'Tim Tams' and good old Aussie 'Vegemite' as well.

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EVENT CHALLENGES:

Visas were arranged for some 100 delegates from Special Consideration Countries.

Some visitors officers did admit to 'firearms withdrawal' when international regulations required they leave their weapons at home.

The international dimension was handled on a local scale, with a neighbourhood committee and conference secretariat team of five setting aside their proper jobs just two weeks before the start of the conference to concentrate full-time on the essentials.

Challenge

The Darwin Convention Centre had only been officially opened two months prior. It was the first time that the Centre's team had operated two conventions running simultaneously being the IAWP conference with 540 delegates and the International Alumina Quality Workshop of more than 400 attendees.

Solution

Both clients commented on how well the Centre' team worked and the traffic flow was seamless, as both Conventions were held on different levels of the Convention Centre.

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QUOTES/FEEDBACK:

“The feedback we have received confirms that delegates have learnt a great deal and appreciated the high level of training programs on offer and are immensely pleased with their Northern Territory experience. I believe the Northern Territory Police has achieved its goal in raising the benchmark for future IAWP conferences across the world.”

Mr Paul White, APM

Commissioner of Northern Territory Police

“The Darwin Convention Centre is second to none; in fact it was one of the best venues ever to hold our event. The food was excellent, the auditorium had great visibility, the audio visual and IT communications were outstanding. The Centre’s staff were informative, very friendly and polite and the location was magnificent, overlooking the crystal blue waters of Darwin harbour.”

Dr Amy Ramsay, International President

International Association Of Women Police (IAWP)

“All the volunteers were so wonderful and helpful, the training was top notch, the gala was probably the most beautiful event I ever attended. The entire experience was fantastic. Comments suggest a resounding “impressed” by the Gala night. The fireworks were a huge hit. Thank you for making the conference an enjoyable event.”

Bernadine Chapman

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

“Our special blend of experience and personalities within the committee ensured success and I must commend the committee for their outstanding efforts in providing this world class conference. It has put Darwin on the map for our guests, many of whom have enjoyed holidays in the Top End and explored Australia before making their way back home. Our feedback is – they will return!”

Superintendent Joanne Foley

IAWP 2008 Conference Coordinator

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