

Orthodontists Herald a Big Year for Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre has welcomed 3000 orthodontists to the harbour city as the venue embarks on one of its busiest years in recent history.

With more than 116 major events scheduled for 2010, Australia's leading convention venue will host some of the world's most prestigious association meetings during 2010, including a succession of major international medical and scientific congresses.

The largest event this year will be the giant Lions Club International Convention from June 25 to July 2, expected to bring 22,000 delegates to the Centre for workshops, an exhibition and a leaders' seminar.

The next largest event is this week's 7th International Orthodontic Congress, bringing 3000 orthodontic surgeons and industry representatives together on behalf of the World Federation of Orthodontists, until February 9.

Other major international conferences this year include the XXIV FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) International Congress for 1500 delegates in April, the 9th World Congress on Computational Mechanics for 900 delegates in July and the 21st International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition for 900 delegates in August.

Centre Chief Executive Ton van Amerongen said 2010 would be a stand-out year for Sydney.

"The combination of new and returning events has made 2010 an especially big year for what is already Australia's busiest venue," Mr van Amerongen said. "The Centre continues to be at the cutting edge in terms of event management, technology and catering, and this is reflected in our ongoing international popularity."

As well as hosting international events, the Centre will remain a hub for national conferences including the Australian Council of Educational Leaders Conference for 1400 delegates in September, the Australian International Education Conference for 1100 delegates in October, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' National Conference for 900 delegates in April and the Australian Society of Microbiology Conference for 900 delegates in July.

Among the large-scale exhibitions scheduled at the Centre in 2010 are IT event CEBIT, the Australian International Motor Show, the Reed Gift Fairs and the Sydney International Boat Show, each expected to attract tens of thousands of people.

The Centre last year became one of the world's first venues to achieve Green Globe Silver Certification, recognising its environmental leadership in the business events sector through its Ecowise program which promotes renewable energy and sustainable practices.

It was also named Australasia's leading conference venue for the fourth consecutive year in the 2009 World Travel Awards.

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