



International Association of Professional Congress Organisers

MEETING  
QUALITY

## **PRESS RELEASE // FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

### **IAPCO's Anniversary ends in Ghent**

The 40<sup>th</sup> IAPCO Annual Meeting and General Assembly took place in Ghent in February this year. Following a frenetic year of anniversary activities throughout 2008, it was appropriate that the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting should take place in such an auspicious and historic town. Taking advantage of the medieval city, under the personal management of IAPCO member Luc Niville, M.D. of Semico, an exceptional programme was organised by way of content balanced by dreamy social events. Slipping quietly amongst the sleepy canals of the ancient walls, IAPCO members enjoyed viewing the city from an angle seen more often in the 16<sup>th</sup> century than in the 21<sup>st</sup>. Arriving at the Castle of Counts, one would be forgiven for believing that the clock had been turned back a few 100 years. But not so the excellent hospitality and delicious cuisine for which the region is well known. Despite the mediaeval environment, modern facilities abound. The Ghent Marriott provided an excellent service, facilities and culinary delights. The Conference Centre itself, in Ghent, is of a size to suit many of the meetings organised by IAPCO members. With a 5000 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition hall, a main auditorium of 1600 and a further 25 meeting rooms, it is able to accommodate the average sized event comfortably and exclusively, rare in today's environment of bigger is better. Ghent is a destination which organisers would do well to consider, and IAPCO once again had the pleasure of toasting its host, Semico, for the provision of such an excellent Annual Meeting.

*Photos available from Secretariat – [info@iapco.org](mailto:info@iapco.org)*

#### **ABOUT IAPCO: Meeting Quality**

IAPCO, founded in 1968 is the worldwide association representing professional congress organisers. With over 100 members, IAPCO organises every year its annual meeting and general assembly in a different city and plays a leading role in the promotion of the professionalism of congress organisation throughout the world (Annual Wolfsberg Academy, Regional Seminars, political actions). IAPCO also publishes a number of documents including a code of ethics, a dictionary of technical terms (in 14 languages) and working brochures. IAPCO is a member of the Joint Meetings Industry Council [JMIC] and the Convention Industry Council [CIC].

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