

Celebrating 15 Successful Years

The Cairns Convention Centre recently celebrated 15 successful years of operation with a special function attended by over 200 local dignitaries, civic and industry leaders and major local clients. Since opening in 1996 the Cairns Convention Centre has delivered AUD700 million directly to the regional and Queensland economy, generated 1.5 million hotel room nights and hosted almost 2 million delegates and patrons.

It has also been the home base for the Cairns Taipans in the National Basketball League since 1999.

When it opened in 1996 it was Australia's first regional convention centre and Australia's first environmentally designed major public building. That same year it was awarded the inaugural EIBTM 'Most Environmentally Conscious Congress Centre Award', an internationally recognised accolade for convention centres.

The Centre has been proudly managed on behalf of the Queensland Government by AEG Ogden since its opening and General Manager Ross Steele said that the strength of this network as well the stability and the longevity of the team has been instrumental in the continuing success of the Centre.

A major highlight was the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC) Apex Award for the World's Best Congress Centre in 2004, the only regional centre in the world to have achieved this distinction. This Award is based on comprehensive performance and customer satisfaction analysis covering topics such as congress facilities, project management, catering and technology. The Cairns Convention Centre has consistently ranked in the top four in the world in all AIPC surveys since 2002.

Adding to these credentials was the awarding this year of the AIPC Quality Standards Programme Gold Certification, with the Cairns Centre being one of only 13 venues from throughout the world to have successfully achieved this distinction. This is in addition to its ISO9001 and EarthCheck (formerly Green Globe) certification. Ross Steele, General Manager said whilst international awards and recognition for the Centre are heartening, the most important measurement for us is the success of our clients' events. "We have just completed our most successful year of international forward bookings which will ensure the Cairns Convention Centre's economic contribution will continue well into the future.", he said.

ENDS

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http://www.cairnsconvention.com.au/images/media/15th_birthday_image.jpg

PICTURE CAPTION: Pictured at the celebration are Ross Steele, General Manager, Cairns Convention Centre; Geoff Donaghy, Group Director - Convention Centres, AEG Ogden; Macarthur Coal Chairman and Former Queensland Treasurer Keith DeLacy, Harvey Lister, Chairman & CEO, AEG Ogden; Rod Pilbeam, Executive Director, AEG Ogden.

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For further information contact

Ross Steele

General Manager

Cairns Convention Centre

T: (07) 4042 4200 intl code (617)

F: (07) 4052 1152 intl code (617)

E: rsteele@cairnsconvention.com.au

W: www.cairnsconvention.com.au

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A Queensland Government initiative operated by AEG Ogden

About AEG Ogden

AEG Ogden is a joint venture between Australian interests and AEG Facilities of the United States.

AEG Ogden manages venues throughout the Asia Pacific region including the Cairns, Brisbane, Darwin and Kuala Lumpur Convention Centres, the Qatar National Convention Centre (currently under construction); Sydney's Acer Arena, the Brisbane Entertainment Centre and the Newcastle Entertainment Centre, and the Perth Arena (currently under construction); Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane and live theatres including Perth's His Majesty's Theatre and the Perth Concert Hall.

About AEG Facilities

AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Anschutz Company, is the leading sports, entertainment and venue operator in the world. AEG Facilities, a stand-alone affiliate of AEG, owns, operates or consults with 100 of the industry's preeminent venues worldwide, across five continents, and works in concert with affiliated AEG entities, including live event producer, AEG Live, AEG Global Partnerships and AEG Development to support the success of AEG venues across the globe. AEG owns, operates or provides services to venues including STAPLES Center (Los Angeles, Calif.), The Home Depot Center (Carson, Calif.), Nokia Theatre L.A. Live (Los Angeles, Calif.), Citizens Business Bank Arena (Ontario, Calif.), Valley View Casino Center (San Diego, Calif.) Sprint Center (Kansas City, Mo.), XL Center and Rentschler Field (Hartford, Conn.), The Rose Garden (Portland, Ore.), KeyArena (Seattle, Wash.), KFC YUM! Center (Louisville, Ky.), American Airlines Arena (Miami, Fla.), AT&T Center (San Antonio, Tx.), Time Warner Cable Arena (Charlotte, N.C.), Prudential Center (Newark, N.J.), Target Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), Mercedes-Benz Arena (Shanghai, China), MasterCard Center (Beijing, China), The O2 Arena (London, England), O2 World (Berlin, Germany), O2 World Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Ahoy Arena (Rotterdam, Netherlands), Pernambuco Stadium (Recife, Brazil), Acer Arena (Sydney, Australia), Globe Arenas (Stockholm, Sweden) and the Qatar National Convention Centre (Doha, Qatar). For more information, please visit www.aegworldwide.com.

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