

UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, applauds election of first Chinese President for 2013 term

Paris – June 24, 2011: Meeting in Ghent earlier this week, UFI's Board of Directors unanimously approved the nomination of its next Presidential 'trio', effective at the 78th UFI Congress in Valencia in November 2011.

The UFI Presidential term of one year builds on a three year UFI Presidential cycle: one year as Incoming-President, one year as incumbent President, and one year as Immediate Past-President. For the 2011/2012 session, Arie Brienens (CEO, Jaarbeurs Holding, Netherlands) will succeed Eric Everard (Executive Chairman, Artexis Group, Belgium) as UFI President. Everard will continue to provide support to the Presidential trio as UFI's Immediate Past-President. Joining the "trio" is Chen Xianjin (Chairman of the Organizing Committee of China Association for Exhibition Centers, China) as UFI Incoming-President. Chen's position will automatically evolve at the 79th UFI Congress in November 2012 in Abu Dhabi when he will assume his mandate as UFI President.

The selection of Chen is the first of a Chinese President in UFI's 86 year history. Today the 82 Chinese member organisations of UFI represent 15% of the association's total membership. Mr. Chen has been engaged in organizing international exhibitions since 1984, most recently as the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination. He has been Chair of the UFI Asia/Pacific Chapter since 2006. Upon his election, Chen Xianjin, stated, "I am honoured to have been selected to this important position by my colleagues from around the world. UFI plays a unique role as the association representing the leaders of the exhibition industry and I will be encouraging our Chinese organizers and venue managers to play an active role within the association. I look forward to continuing the good work of my predecessors as UFI promotes the business benefits of this dynamic marketing medium."

Since the last UFI Congress in Singapore, UFI welcomed the membership of 14 new members and granted the "UFI Approved" quality label to 20 international exhibitions organized and managed by UFI members. Today UFI's members in 84 countries include over 550 exhibition organizers, venue managers, and partners of the industry. UFI's membership also gathers 48 national and international industry associations on a regular basis to examine issues and topics of relevance to all concerned. Paul Woodward, UFI Managing Director, commented "UFI is remarkably fortunate in having the strong support of the exhibition industry's global leaders. They make a huge contribution to progressing everybody's interests when they step forward and volunteer their service. I am very grateful to the members of the new Trio for their commitment to UFI and, having spent more than 26 years visiting exhibitions in Shanghai, delighted that Mr. Chen will receive recognition for his contribution to the industry when he steps up to the President's role in 2013."

*Attached: - CV and photo of Chen Xianjin
- List of UFI new members and list of exhibitions recently accepted as UFI Approved.*

UFI is the global association of the world's leading tradeshow organizers 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.

For more information about UFI, please go to www.ufi.org or contact: Lili Eigl, UFI Communications Manager, lili@ufi.org