



MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

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MPI OPENS GLOBAL TRAINING CENTERS FOR MEETINGS AND BUSINESS EVENTS

DALLAS (June 14, 2009) – Meeting Professionals International (MPI) announces the opening of three Global Training Centers for Meetings and Business Events as part of extending the delivery of the MPI Global Knowledge Plan. San Diego State University, France’s CERAM Business School, and QMDI in Qatar are the first of an anticipated fourteen training centers scheduled to be activated over the next two years.

As part of MPI’s Global Training Practice – which is a core delivery system for the Global Knowledge Plan – MPI will collaborate with the faculty and professional education community at all three schools to deliver a broad range of educational content pertinent to the meetings and events industry. All three schools are globally recognized to have a strong meeting or event management course (Bachelors or Masters programs) and have a strong business management focus.

“MPI recognized a need for a standardized body of knowledge that will enable meeting and event professionals to obtain globally transferable skills and competencies. Along with this development, we witnessed an increased interest in globally transferable and recognized certificate and certification programs and designations,” says Didier Scaillet, Chief Development Officer for MPI. “These partners will form a strong and collaborative network supporting these education and research needs in our industry.”

The activation of the MPI Global Training Centers for Meetings and Business Events will allow MPI to globally distribute the modules of the MPI Global Knowledge Plan. MPI’s knowledge plan is a learning path for the global community that ensures appropriate career and personal development at each stage of an individual’s career.

About the three Global Training Centers:

San Diego State University: San Diego State University (SDSU) is the largest university in San Diego and the third largest in California. The campus community is home to more than 34,000 students and approximately 6,400 faculty and staff. Renowned for its academic excellence, San Diego State University is home to top-ranking programs in hospitality, international business and entrepreneurship. www.sdsu.edu

CERAM Business School: CERAM, the higher Education Institution of the French Riviera Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1963. CERAM, ranked 29th on the Financial Times' Best Business School for Masters Programs, is accredited by the French Ministry of Education and is Founding member of the 'Chapitre Management de la Conférence des Grandes Ecoles' and is Member of the EFMD – EQUIS ACCREDITED - (European Foundation for Management Development) and of the AACSB – AACSB ACCREDITATION in progress (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

CERAM Business School caters for 2,600 students from over 60 different countries. Due to its location at the heart of Sophia Antipolis, Europe's leading science and technology park, this "Grande Ecole" benefits from close proximity to go-ahead companies within an international environment.
www.ceram.edu

Qatar MICE Development Institute (QMDI): as part of Qatar Foundation, QMDI plays a strategic role working alongside the Qatar Government and industry stakeholders in an advisory capacity to help facilitate the future growth of the MICE sector. QMDI offers impartial MICE industry knowledge for international event organizers proposing to bring events to Qatar and to raise professionalism in the region. www.qmdi.com.qa

About MPI:

Meeting Professionals International (MPI), the meeting and event industry's largest and most vibrant global community, helps our members thrive by providing human connections to knowledge and ideas, relationships, and marketplaces. MPI membership is comprised of more than 24,000 members belonging to 71 chapters and clubs worldwide. For additional information, visit mpiweb.org.

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