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## **Paul Van Deventer of Meeting Professionals International to Co-Chair Meetings Mean Business Coalition**

*Van Deventer joins leadership of national advocacy initiative to promote the value  
of face-to-face meetings to people, businesses and communities*

October 18, 2016 – Washington, DC – The [Meetings Mean Business Coalition](#) (MMB), a cross-industry communications and advocacy initiative, appointed Paul Van Deventer, president and chief executive officer, [Meeting Professionals International](#) (MPI), as the coalition co-chair effective January 2017. Van Deventer will work with fellow co-chair Richard Harper, executive vice president, [HelmsBriscoe](#), to lead the organization as it highlights the critical role of in-person meetings, conferences, conventions, incentive travel, trade shows and exhibitions.

“Paul is already an active coalition member and I am thrilled to work alongside him next year as we continue to expand MMB’s reach and influence,” said Harper. “He is the first MMB co-chair who leads a meeting professionals organization and his insights and experience will help us spread the MMB message to a larger audience in the coming years.”

Under Van Deventer and Harper’s leadership, MMB will continue to shine a light on the industry’s value around the world by working with partners, including MPI, to host the second annual [Global Meetings Industry Day](#) (GMID). They will also work to continue building awareness and driving engagement with key stakeholders including business leaders, policymakers and the media. In addition, the coalition will work with its newly formed [Meeting Planners Task Force](#) to engage this critical segment of professionals and use their powerful voices as advocates for the industry.



"I'm very excited to join the coalition as co-chair and continue the great work done by Michael and Richard," said Van Deventer. "I'm confident that MMB will keep advocating for the industry with one strong, united voice."

Van Deventer assumes the leadership position previously held by Michael Dominguez, senior vice president and chief sales officer at [MGM Resorts International](#), who has co-led MMB since 2015. Under Dominguez's leadership, the coalition has expanded its reach across the [globe](#), showcased the importance of how face-to-face impacts the [presidential race](#), received testimonies from [business leaders](#) both in and outside of the industry validating its importance, refreshed MMB's online presence with a new [website](#) and much more. With his guidance and support, MMB has grown to house more than [50 members](#) and continues to shape discussions around some of the meetings and events industry's most critical issues.

As president and chief executive officer of MPI, Van Deventer determines and implements the overarching vision and strategy and works to ensure the association's staff, budget and membership programs and services operate smoothly. MPI has a global community of 60,000 meeting and event professionals including more than 17,000 engaged members. It has more than 90 chapters and clubs in 24 countries. Prior to his position at MPI, he served as divisional vice president of Health and Wellness at Walgreens, where he took the lead on B2B sales and account management.

### **About Meetings Mean Business**

Meetings Mean Business is an industry-wide coalition to showcase the undeniable value that business meetings, trade shows, incentive travel, exhibitions, conferences and conventions bring to people, businesses and communities. By rallying industry advocates, working with stakeholders, conducting original research, engaging with outside voices and more, the coalition brings the industry together to emphasize its importance. Comprised of more than 50 members, the coalition unites the meetings industry with one strong and powerful voice. For more information, visit [www.MeetingsMeanBusiness.com](http://www.MeetingsMeanBusiness.com) and download our app on iTunes and Google Play.



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