



International Society of Surgery (ISS)  
Soci t  Internationale de Chirurgie (SIC)



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### **The International Society of Surgery and the Global Congress Centre Alliance**

The International Society of Surgery was founded in 1902 at the Congress of the Belgian Surgical Society. Since then, membership of the International Society of Surgery/Soci t  Internationale de Chirurgie (ISS/SIC) has increased to around 4,000, being mainly leading surgeons representing more than 95 countries.

From a base of only 200 congress participants, in 1902, the average attendance has increased to more than 3,000 surgeons and accompanying persons. The concept of organizing the biannual International Surgical Week (ISW) at which general surgeons and highly specialized organ related surgeons can meet simultaneously, has proved to be a great success.

During the last two decades it became apparent to Society Officers that the success of the Surgical Week was primarily dependent upon the attraction of the host country and the availability of a superior convention centre close to hotels of interna-

tional ranking. With this is coupled a scientific programme of high standard, featuring internationally well known "local heroes" and key speakers.

The flexibility of the convention venue, particularly involving meeting rooms, and fulfilling requirements to combine scientific sessions with a trade exhibition is essential. The financial success - and indeed the survival of a congress, can only be assured through support from related industries. Consequently, careful attention has to be paid towards fostering sponsors, ensuring their interests are preserved and they receive the maximum benefit from their involvement. Maximising exposure and exhibition opportunities are most important. Consequently, ISS/SIC has focussed upon countries with convention facilities which fulfil all requirements, as defined in their catalogue.

Selection of Hamburg as congress venue for the 30th World Congress of Surgery in 1983, Hong Kong for 1993, Durban for 2005, and Adelaide for 2009, are surely not pure coincidence, for we only became aware of the Global Congress Centre Alliance after the decision to host the 43rd World Congress of Surgery in Adelaide was taken in 1999. The selection by ISS/SIC of all four Global Congress member centres is firm proof that all are meeting our specific requirements in providing venues and service of high global standard.

Retrospectively, it can be summarized that we were very pleased with the facilities and services provided by the convention centres of Hamburg and Hong Kong for our past congresses. We are convinced the same experience will apply to our future congresses at the Durban International Convention Centre in August this year and at the Adelaide Convention Centre at the beginning of September 2009.