
UIA

International Meetings Statistics for the Year 2012

For the past 64 years, the Union of International Associations (UIA) has undertaken, for the benefit of its members, statistical studies on the preceding year's international meetings. The statistics are based on information systematically collected by the UIA Congress Department and selected according to strict criteria maintained over the years. UIA's International Meetings Statistics for the Year 2012 reported a rise in the number of meetings captured in its database. Some 392,588 meetings were held in 2012, compared to 376,381 in 2011.

Meetings taken into consideration include those organised and/or sponsored by the international organisations which appear in the *Yearbook of International Organisations* and in the *International Congress Calendar*, i.e.: the sittings of their principal organs, congresses, conventions, symposia, regional sessions grouping several countries, as well as some national meetings with international participation organised by national branches of international associations.

Not included are purely national meetings as well as those of an exclusively religious, didactic, political, commercial, or sporting nature, and corporate and incentive meetings, the survey of these specific markets not being within the scope of activities of the UIA.

WHAT COUNTS

No major changes seem to have taken place in 2012. Singapore remains #1 as a country and a city, Japan and USA have switched places. If France disappeared

from the Top 5, they have made way to the South Korea. South Korea and Australia, with 563 and 287 meetings respectively, are the other only Asian countries in the top 10 collection. South Korea takes fifth spot, up from sixth last year, while Australia holds its 10th position. Brussels is still strongly standing on the 2nd position, with almost 100 more meetings than last year. Copenhagen, Madrid and London make the Top 10 for the first time: the EU Danish presidency, the Olympics and a proactive approach seem to have yielded fruit.

WHAT THE UIA STATS REVEAL IS THE STRENGTH OF SECONDARY CITIES. TAKE JAPAN FOR INSTANCE: 731 MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE COUNTRY IN 2012, BUT ONLY 225 IN THE CAPITAL CITY TOKYO

But what the UIA statistics reveal is the strength of secondary cities. Take Japan for instance: 731 meetings were held in the country in 2012, but only 225 in the capital city Tokyo. That means an outstanding 506 events took place in other Japanese destinations (including 84 in Kyoto). The same goes for Austria and Vienna, France and Paris, Germany (with Berlin nowhere to be seen in the Top 10): it's not only the capital cities that helped secure a great number of events and a good position in the rankings, but obviously other, dare we say emerging towns... Of course Belgium and Brussels are an exception, but we can guess this is mainly due to the relatively small size of the country. One thing is sure: the UIA stats say a lot about the dynamism of 'secondary' destinations and regional convention bureaus... and maybe convention centres!

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TOP INTERNATIONAL MEETING CITIES IN 2012

Rank	City	#Meetings
1	Singapore	952
2	Brussels	547
3	Vienna	326
4	Paris	276
5	Seoul	253
6	Tokyo	225
7	Barcelona	150
8	Copenhagen	150
9	Madrid	149
10	London	119
11	Stockholm	113
12	Budapest	107
13	Sydney	103
14	Helsinki	102
15	Lisbon	93
16	Geneva	90
17	Berlin	89
18	Kuala Lumpur	88
19	Istanbul	87
20	Kyoto	84

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DIFFERENT ORGANISATION, DIFFERENT CRITERIA

For **ICCA**, the city and country rankings cover meetings organised by international associations which take place on a regular basis and which rotate between a minimum of three countries, with at least 50 participants.

For **UIA**, meetings are divided into 3 categories: meetings of international organisations, 3-day other international meetings and 2-day other international meetings.

Meetings of international organisations are organised or sponsored by 'international organisations', i.e. international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) that are included in the UIA's *Yearbook of*

International Organisations, with at least 50 participants.

Three-day other international meetings are not organised or sponsored by 'international organisations' but nonetheless of significant international character, with at least 40% of participants who are from countries other than the host country, with at least 5 different nationalities, lasting at least 3 days, with either a concurrent exhibition or at least 300 participants. Two-day other international meetings have to be attended by at least 40% of participants who are from countries other than the host country, with at least 5 different nationalities, lasting at least 2 days, with either a concurrent exhibition or at least 250 participants.