

# A HISTORY OF PROGRESS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

## UIA DATA ON INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND MEETING TRENDS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

THE UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS DOCUMENTS AND PROMOTES THE ACTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS. WITH AN INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS OF TRANSNATIONAL LIFE AND ACTION THE UIA HAS BEEN RESEARCHING AND REPORTING ON THESE MATTERS SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED 100 YEARS AGO. FOR THE VERY FIRST ISSUE OF HAP, THEY PROVIDED SOME DATA WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN AS BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON MAJOR TRENDS EVIDENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

TEXT JOEL FISHER, HEAD, UIA CONGRESS DEPT AND CO-EDITOR OF THE YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Some data samples for the Asia-Pacific and Australasia regions

What the numbers show us is that progressive trends remain positive in both the associational and meetings worlds. Singapore's rise to the top of recent statistics tables, hosting more than 500 meetings, is exemplary but does not occur in isolation. Recent years have seen significant initiatives in South Korea and China as well as steady performance from Japan, for example.

The Asia Pacific region has faced a number of natural and man-made challenges over the past decades (e.g. the 1997 financial crisis, the avian flu outbreak, SARS, the 2004 tsunami). Further, its business and social sectors remain sensitive to turmoil in other parts of the world. The capacity of individual nations and regional partners to fend off the negative impact of such events is clear from the data. Steady growth, some significant

advances, some gentle reductions are all portrayed and portray a dynamic region that is building on its strengths and capacities.

### Meetings growth rates 1994-2003, some sample countries:

Vietnam had a 100% increase in its meetings activity in this period; from 16 to 32. With some variation trend has stabilized through the present.

South Korea had a 49% increase in its meetings activity in this period; from 77 to 115. This trend has continued to grow with the Korean Republic now hosting over 300 meetings per year.

Singapore had a 38% increase in its meetings activity in this period; from 71 to 98. Singapore's concerted efforts to attract the headquarters of associations and their meetings has been quite successful, with figures for both rising sharply in the 2004-2008 period.

### Meetings growth rates 1994-2003, some sample cities:

Shanghai (China) had a 137% increase in its meetings activity in this period; from 8 to 19 meetings. Melbourne (Australia) had a 128% increase in its meetings activity in this period; from 25 to 57. Brisbane and Sydney also had significant positive increases.

The chart with meeting trends from sample countries in Asia, for the period 1994-2003, shows the sample countries running stable courses or trending progressively higher over time.

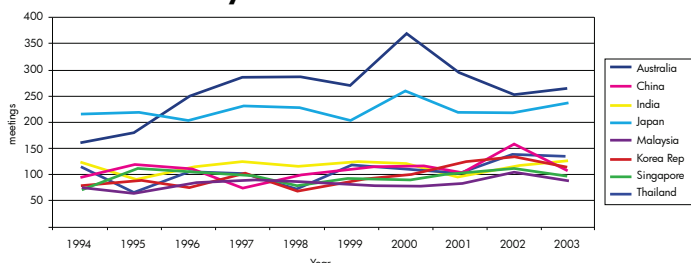
The chart providing sample data for the hosting of primary INGO/association secretariats in the sample countries shows a positive trend across a 19 year period.

This trend is matched by the chart showing Asian participation (membership) in international associations and organizations over a 5-decade period.

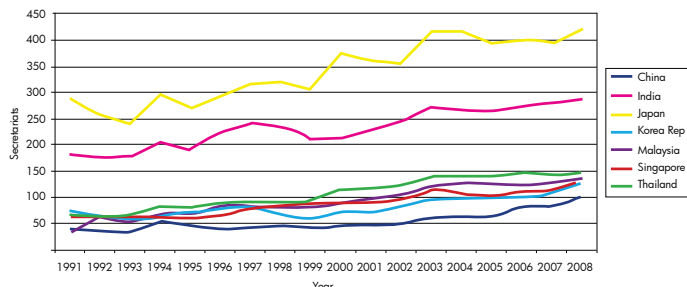
### About the UIA

The UIA's main publication, the Yearbook of International Organizations, is known worldwide in academic and professional circles as the de facto reference guide to international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and intergovernmental bodies (IGOs). The Yearbook is available as an online database and also as a 6 volume book set.

**Country trends 1994 - 2003**



**INGO secretariat hosts**



The UIA's interest in international meetings also dates to its founding and continues today in its work on the International Congress Calendar, a quarterly publication and online database, and its Annual International Meetings Statistics Report, a comprehensive report on global meetings activity.

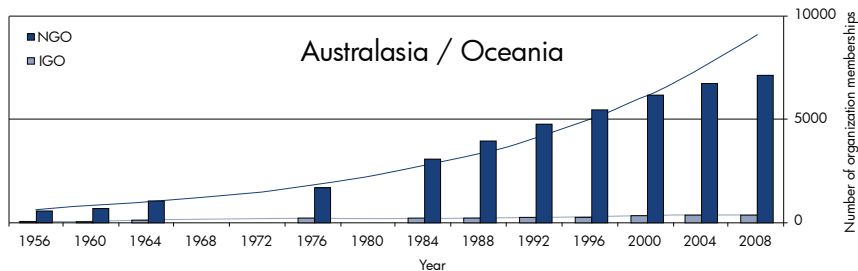
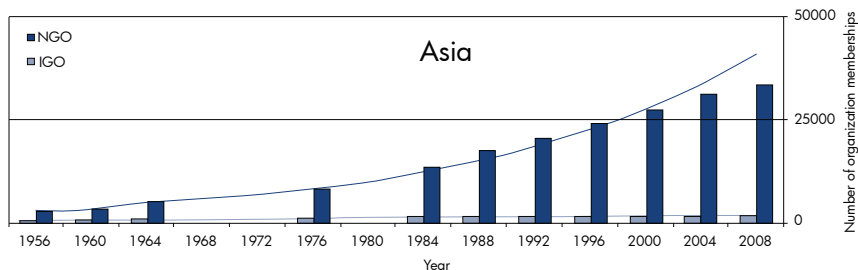
The UIA's databases cover some 37,000 active international organizations and associations and 15,000 international meetings per year. 1,200-1,500 new organization descriptions are added to the database every year which is a clear reflection of dynamic world of transnational association life.

The UIA website provides many resources to aid the public in understanding international association issues and trends. Through its Associate Member program, the UIA offers a cost-effective package of publications and services to the meetings industry. In order to facilitate the actions of the associations and organizations a variety of projects are developed in addition to the UIA's traditional research & publication work.

[www.uia.org](http://www.uia.org) / email: [uia@uia.be](mailto:uia@uia.be)

**Editorial note:** the statistics and charts presented here are all extracted from more detailed UIA publications. Each publication comes with its own set of notes and caveats concerning content and presentation. In the interest of brevity we have not reproduced these notes and inform the reader that the items here should be treated as indicative of the trends. The UIA's information changes over time as more information becomes available.

**Growth in participation in conventional international organizations by continent 1956 - 2008**



**Growth in secretariats of international organizations: 1948 - 2008**

