



**Press Release**

26 June 2019

Immediate Release

## **Union of International Associations releases 60<sup>th</sup> International Meetings Statistics Report**

### **What do Singapore, Keystone Colorado, Tirana, and Geneva have in common?**

The Union of International Associations (UIA) publishes its International Meetings Statistics Report on an annual basis. The Report, this year in its 60<sup>th</sup> edition, provides the answers to questions about meetings organized by international associations: How many? Where? When?

UIA's broad definition of what constitutes an international meeting (that it can be non-governmental and intergovernmental, can include any number of participants, and takes no account of frequency or rotation) means that an unparalleled wide range of meetings and of organizations is included. The Report is compiled from UIA's extensive database of over 494,711 international association meetings in 250 countries and 12,682 cities, reaching back as far as 1850. Thanks to UIA's ongoing research and surveys this database is continuously updated. UIA added 11,240 new meetings which took place in 2018 across 167 countries and 1,197 cities.

With 1,177 recorded meetings, Singapore lays claim to the number one spot of host countries in the Report. The top three is completed by South Korea and Belgium with respectively 854 and 849 recorded meetings. The city rankings parallel the countries, with Singapore, Brussels and Seoul coming out on top.

While the continents of Europe and Asia are the undeniable giants of the associations meetings industry, all continents host their fair share. For the African continent, South Africa leads the way. In the Australasian region it is Australia; for the Americas it is the United States.

The country best capitalizing on the national presence of international associations is Singapore, with a ratio of 400 international associations per 1000 members in the country. When compared to population size, Keystone Colorado, USA makes a surprise first-time appearance, with 12,048 meetings per million inhabitants.

The UIA has marked the 60<sup>th</sup> edition with the inclusion of several new rankings which explore questions requiring more than a single year's data to answer. As attracting association meetings requires strategies spanning multiple years, the Report provides new and exciting long-term insights into the many ways in which a destination can achieve success.

In the ranking of most popular countries from 1999 to 2018, the USA comes out on top, followed by France and Belgium. The most popular city award goes to Singapore, followed by Brussels and Paris.

Tirana comes out on top for cities with the highest average annual growth rate from 1999 to 2018 at 102%. Barcelona has hosted the highest number of total meeting participants over the last twenty



years, with over 2.6 million participants. Geneva has had the most days of meetings take place over twenty years with an average of 1,155 days of meetings per year.

The Report also delves into general trends applying to all international association meetings. While Europe maintains its continental ranking as “the place to be”, year after year the numbers for Asia grow. Just twenty years ago not a single non-European city was to be found in the top ten, and now there are three Asian cities in the top five.

Another notable trend shown in the Report is that meetings have become shorter in length and smaller in participants numbers.

The full Report consists of 163 pages and contains over fifty comprehensive tables. For the first three months following its release the Report is available exclusively to UIA Associate Members. On 1 September it will be made available to the general public for purchase.

The UIA was founded in 1907 in Brussels with the aim of researching international associations, regardless of location or field of activities. Today the UIA is the world's oldest, largest, and most comprehensive source of information on global civil society. The UIA collects, hosts, and provides up-to-date, reliable information on global civil society and maintains the most comprehensive source of information on international associations, their activities and concerns, and their meetings activities.

Every year the UIA also publishes the *Yearbook of International Organizations* which includes detailed information on over 37,500 active and approximately 38,000 dormant international organizations from 300 countries and territories. Approximately 1,200 new organizations are added each year.

-Ends-

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*\*Meeting numbers given are referred to as “Type A” meetings in the International Meetings Statistics Report. These meetings are organized by international associations listed in the Yearbook of International Organizations.*



## Fact Sheet:

Union of International Associations releases 60th International Meetings Statistics Report  
26 June 2018

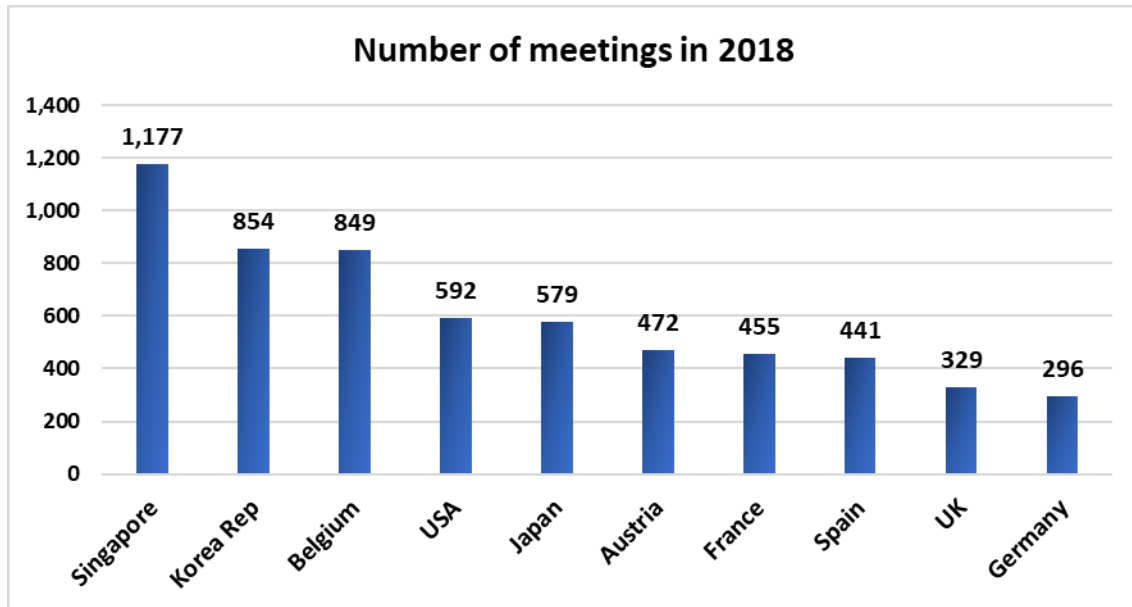
### Scope of the Report

Number of meetings from the UIA database included in this report	453,139
Number of meetings taking place in 2018	11,240
Number of meetings scheduled to take place in 2019 or later	5,052
Number of countries represented for all years	250
Number of cities represented for all years	12,682
Number of countries represented in 2018	167
Number of cities represented in 2018	1,197
Number of active international organizations	40,119
Number of active international organizations known to have meetings activity	23,625

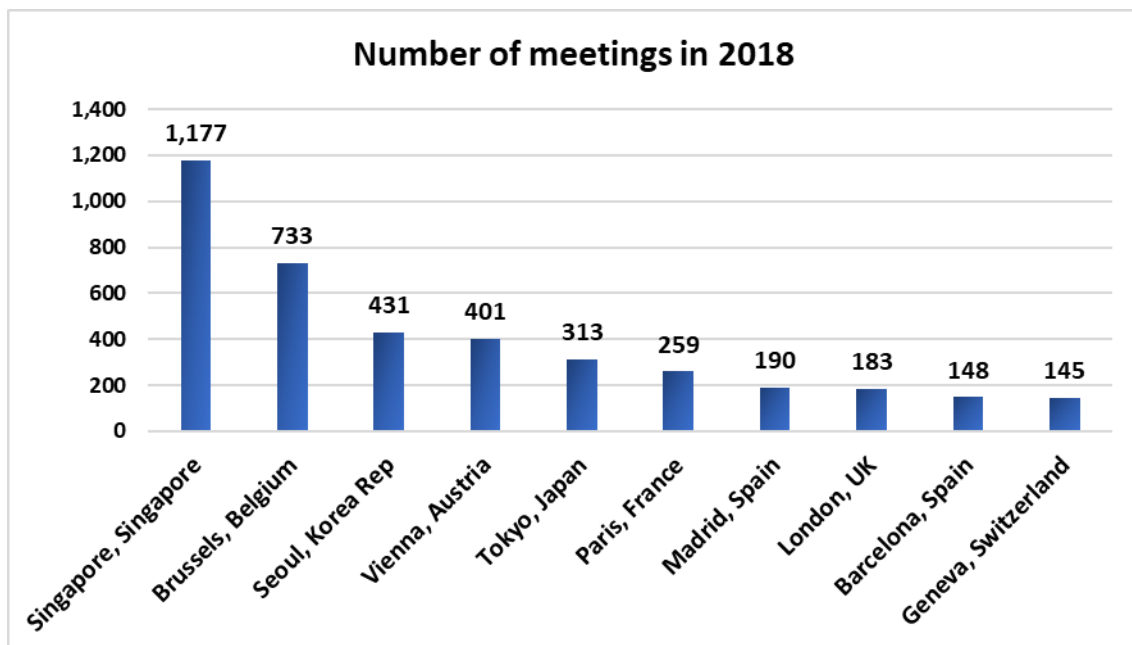
### Contents of the Report

<b>1</b>	<b>Research methodology</b>	4.2	Most popular 2018 meeting destinations by continent (Type "A")
1.1	General methodology		
1.2	What meetings are counted in this report?	4.3	Most popular 2018 meeting destinations (Type "A" + "B")
1.3	What is an "international organization"?		
1.4	Caveat	4.4	Most popular 2018 meeting destinations by continent (Type "A" + "B")
1.5	Geographical names		
1.6	Other resources	4.5	Most popular 2018 meeting destinations (Type "A" + "C")
<b>2</b>	<b>General overview of international association meetings</b>	4.6	Most popular 2018 meeting destinations by continent (Type "A" + "C")
2.1	Comparison with previous report	4.7	Top 2018 meeting destinations per capita
2.2	Number of international association meetings over 150+ years	4.8	Top 2018 meeting destinations compared to association membership
2.3	Meetings by continent	4.9	Top 2018 meeting destinations compared to association secretariats
2.4	Meeting size		
2.5	Meeting duration		
2.6	Meetings with exhibitions		
<b>3</b>	<b>20-year rankings</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20-year full listings</b>
3.1	Most popular meeting destinations	5.1	Participant numbers in the past 20 years
3.2	Most popular meeting destinations per continent	5.2	Number of meeting days in the past 20 years
3.3	Highest annual growth rate	5.3	Most international association meetings for each of the past 20 years
3.4	Most meeting participants	5.4	Annual growth rate over the past 20 years
3.5	Most meetings by size	<b>6</b>	<b>2018 full listings</b>
3.6	Most meeting days	6.1	International association meetings in 2018 compared to association membership
3.7	Most meetings by duration	6.2	International association meetings in 2018 compared to association secretariats
3.8	Most meetings by month	6.3	International association meetings in 2018 per capita
<b>4</b>	<b>2018 rankings</b>	6.4	International association meetings in 2018 overview
4.1	Most popular 2018 meeting destination (Type "A")		

**Most popular international meeting countries in 2018\*:**

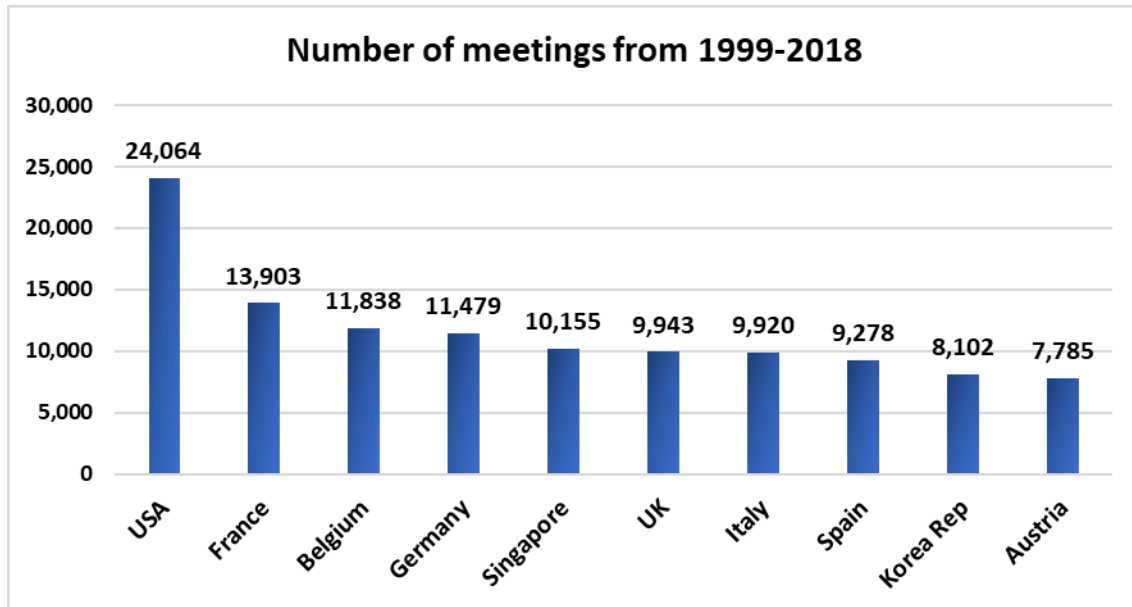


**Most popular international meeting cities in 2018\*:**

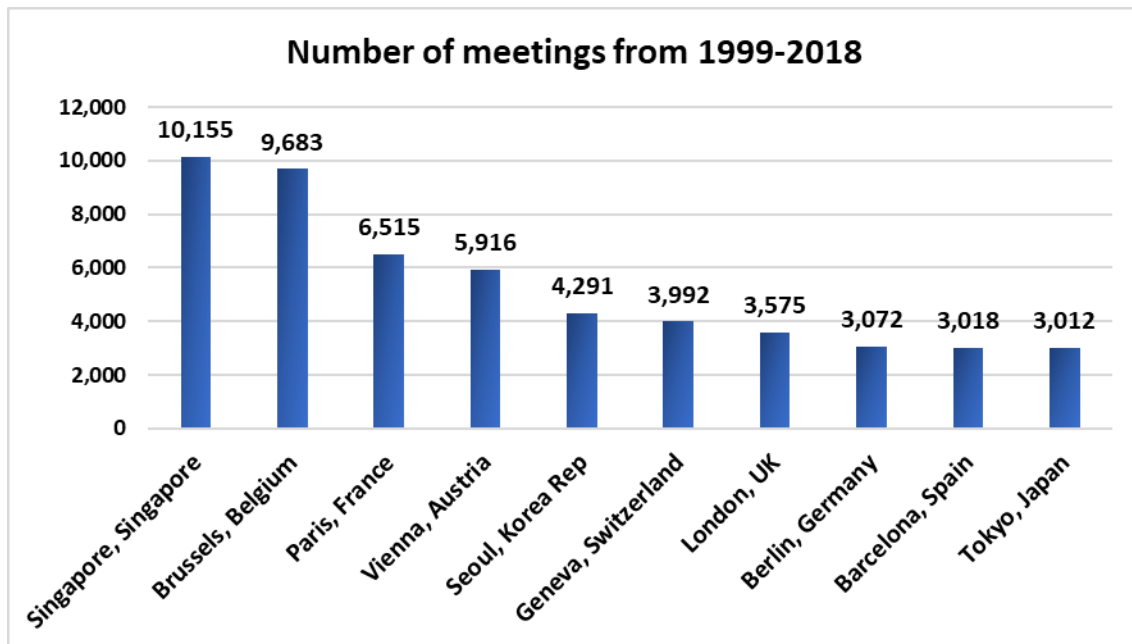


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**Most popular international meeting countries from 1999-2018\*:**

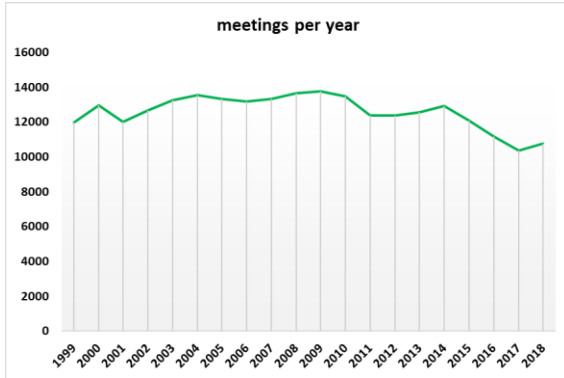


**Most popular international meeting cities from 1999-2018\*:**

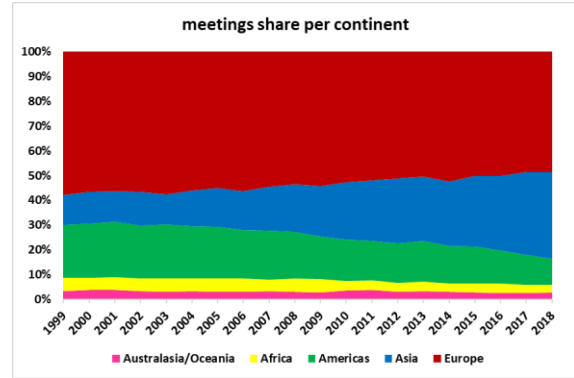


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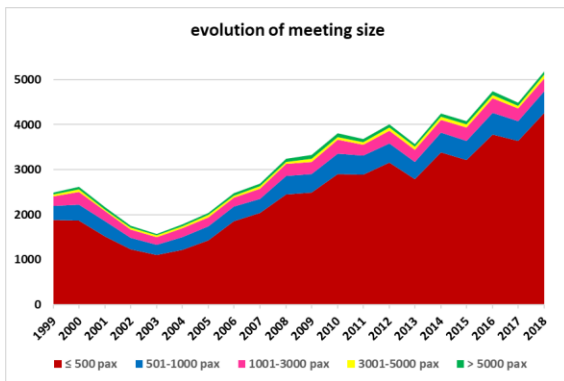
**Twenty-year international association meeting trends:**



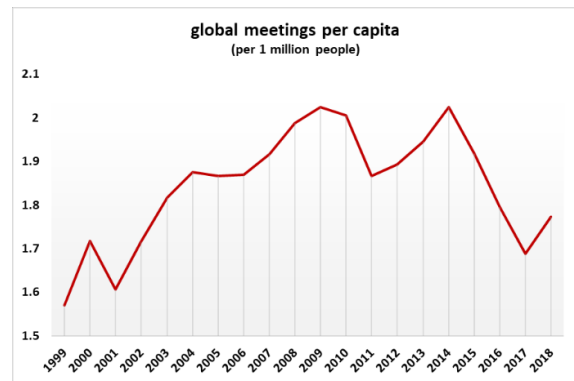
Meeting numbers have been relatively stable at around 12,000 annually.



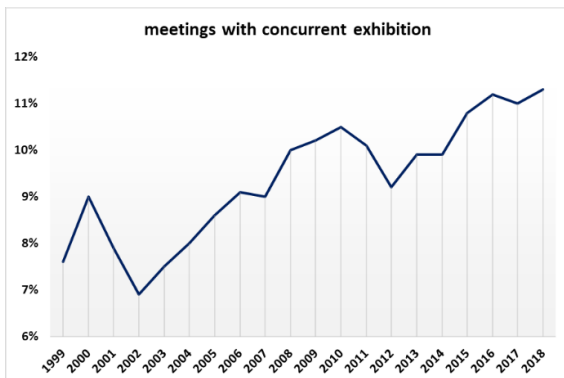
While Europe remains the undisputed old favourite, Asia's market share is growing significantly.



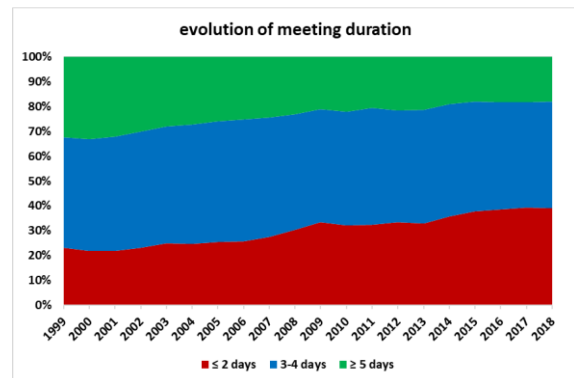
There is significant growth in the number of meetings with under 500 participants.



In 2009, 2010, and 2014 there were over two association meetings per million global inhabitants.



The number of meetings with a concurrent exhibition has risen.



Meetings have become shorter in duration.