



UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Press Release

16 June 2018

Immediate Release

Union of International Associations releases 2018 International Meetings Statistics Report

The Union of International Associations (UIA) publishes its International Meetings Statistics Report on an annual basis. The Report, this year in its 59th edition, looks at the numbers of meetings organized by international organizations.

The Report is compiled from UIA's extensive database of over 480,000 international association meetings in 248 countries and over 12,000 cities, reaching back as far as 1850. Thanks to UIA's ongoing research and surveys this database is continuously updated. This means that the number of recorded meetings may increase by 34% over the following five years. As UIA's criteria for collection and inclusion have not changed since the first edition in 1960, the Report provides a fascinating series of comparable snapshots of international association meetings activity.

For 2017 there are 10,786 meetings of international associations recorded, in 166 countries and 1,104 cities. With 1,105 recorded meetings South Korea lays claim to the number one spot of host countries in the Report for the first time ever. The top three is completed by Belgium and Singapore with respectively 804 and 802 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-Pacific region it is Australia; for the Americas it is the United States.

The country best capitalizing on the national presence of international associations is South Korea, with a ratio of one meeting to 3.5 international associations with members in the country. When compared to population size, Monaco takes the crown, with one meeting to 4,333 people.

The Report also contains an overview of the top twenty countries throughout the last fifteen years, giving an interesting overview of how the sector has evolved. In 2009 the top three spots were occupied by the United States, France, and Germany. For the cities, only New York managed to break into the Europe-dominated top 10 in 2009. Fifteen years later, half those spots have been ceded to Asian cities.

The full Report consists of 99 pages and contains over twenty comprehensive tables. For the first three months following its release the Report is available exclusively to UIA Associate Members. On September 1st 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.

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Fact Sheet:

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Scope of the Report:

Total number of meetings in the UIA database (1850-2054)	480,474
Number of those answering the criteria for inclusion in this report	434,286
Number of those taking place prior to the reporting year (2017)	419,613
Number of those taking place in the reporting year (2017)	10,786
Number of those scheduled to take place after the reporting year (2017)	3,886
Number of countries represented for all years (1855-2017)	248
Number of cities represented for all years (1855-2017)	12,475
Number of countries represented for the reporting year only (2017)	166
Number of cities represented for the reporting year only (2017)	1,104

Report Contents:

Section 1: Statistics for the current reporting year, 2017

International association meetings by country and city in 2017

Top countries for international association meetings in 2017

Top cities for international association meetings in 2017

Top countries for international association meetings in 2017 by continental grouping

Top cities for international association meetings in 2017 by continental grouping

Section 2: Statistics for the current reporting year, 2017: supplementary information

Ratio of association membership to meetings in 2017

Ratio of association secretariats to meetings in 2017

Ratio of population to meetings in 2017

Section 3: Fifteen year review, 2003-2017

Top countries for international association meetings in 2003-2017

Top cities for international association meetings in 2003-2017

Top countries for international association meetings in 2003-2017: ranking

Top countries for international association meetings in 2003-2017: development

Top cities for international association meetings in 2003-2017: ranking

Top cities for international association meetings in 2003-2017: development

Section 4: Fifteen year review, 2003-2017: supplementary information

International association meetings, exhibitions and number of participants in 2003-2017

International association meetings, and international association meetings with concurrent exhibitions, by month in 2003-2017

Participant numbers in international association meetings by month in 2003-2017

Section 5: Long-term review

Change in number of international association meetings by country 2003-2012

Change in number of international association meetings by city 2003-2012

Top countries and cities for international association meetings 1863-2012

International association meetings 1855-2017



Top international meeting countries in 2017:

Ranking	Country	Total	Global %
1	Korea Rep	1105	11.7
2	Belgium	804	8.5
3	Singapore	802	8.5
4	Austria	545	5.8
5	USA	536	5.7
6	Japan	425	4.5
7	Spain	379	4.0
8	Germany	343	3.6
9	France	337	3.6
10	Thailand	301	3.2

Meetings taking place in 2017 and organized or sponsored by international organizations that are included in the UIA's Yearbook of International Organizations

Top international meeting cities in 2017:

Ranking	City	Total	Global %
1	Singapore, Singapore	802	8.5
2	Brussels, Belgium	757	8.0
3	Seoul, Korea Rep	639	6.8
4	Vienna, Austria	488	5.2
5	Tokyo, Japan	247	2.6
6	Bankok, Thailand	223	2.4
7	Paris, France	205	2.2
8	Berlin, Germany	172	1.8
9	Busan, Korea Rep	171	1.8
10	Geneva, Switzerland	158	1.7

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