

## **Take off in a new direction”: International career expo for hotel schools**

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"We welcome back the exhibitors who have supported us in the past and several new exhibitors as our Expo continues to grow, attracting more international interest and increasing the opportunities for our students," says Ms Isabella Conde, Chair of the Association of Australian Hotel Schools (AAHS), comprising ten of Australia's leading hotel and tourism management schools, which held its seventh annual National Hospitality Careers Expo at Australian Technology Park, Redfern on 28<sup>th</sup> October.



"This Expo offers industry the chance to meet face-to-face over 1,000 hospitality, tourism and culinary students and graduates from the leading private education institutions in Australia," says Ms Conde. "And through the Exhibitor's Booklet entitled "take off in a new direction", they can communicate their employment opportunities to another 4,000."

"This expo is now well established as one of the most effective recruitment expos for local, interstate and international employers in the hospitality and tourism industry."

"For our students, it is a fantastic networking opportunity to discover new employment openings and traineeship programs, and, if they are seeking employment in the next three months, the chance to be interviewed on the day."

In her opening address at the Expo, Ms Conde thanked the major sponsors, ACCOR Hospitality, TOGA Hospitality, HYATT Hotels and Resorts, INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group (IHG) and STARWOOD Hotels and Resorts Worldwide.

Mr Peter Tudehope, General Manager of the Radisson Plaza hotel Sydney officially opened the expo and welcome students to the event.

Darren Camilleri, Chair of this years Organising Committee said that with a fresh new look for this years

expo, we had many new exhibitors attending for the first time, along with properties that have attended each expo. The committee was very happy with the turnout and the success already coming through for students winning a position as a direct result from the expo.

Ms Cathy Sinden, Recruitment and Training Manager for Four Points by Sheraton, Darling Harbour praised the professionalism and enthusiasm of the exhibitors: "The atmosphere was very energetic and one of healthy competition. We are learning to offer students what they want, not what we think they want." She also said that the event was a rare occasion for industry to network and compare notes among themselves. "This Expo has to keep happening," Ms Sinden added, "The excellent new format of this year's expo allowed for increased exposure for major sponsors and for all exhibitors to spend time with the students that attended.

This year's event saw 34 organisations exhibiting on the day including major hotel groups, individual properties, event venues and recruitment companies including Accor, Carlson Hotels Asia Pacific, Club Med, C-Inc, Fraser Suites, Hilton Sydney, Hostplus, Hotel Gradutes.com, Disney Cruise Line, Nick's Restaurant Group, Star City Hotel and Casino, Swisshotel Hotels and Resorts, Walt Disney world Resort, Westaff, Wise Foundation, Four Seasons Hotel, Global Hyatt, Hamilton Island Enterprises, Hayman, IHG, Marriott International, Merivale, Mirvac Hotels and Resorts, Quest Serviced Apartments P/L,

Shangri-La Hotel, Starwood Hotels, Stella Hospitality Group, Toga Hospitality, and Voyages Hotels and Resorts.

