

CIMPA

October 2009

CONNECTED INTERNATIONAL
MEETING PROFESSIONALS
ASSOCIATION

Volume 3, Issue 4

ITMIC 2009, A Success

“I HAD A GREAT TIME WITH EVERYONE AT THE CONFERENCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BACK IN PUERTO RICO.”

**-WANDA OTERO
RST DMC**

The 18th Annual International Technology, Meeting & Incentives Conference was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico on October 8-11, 2009. The keynote speaker, Bob Burg, expanded upon the theme of his book titled *'The Go-Giver'* by discussing how anyone can build an endless network of referrals by always following an overall philosophy of 'giving' to others (be a 'giver') – i.e., giving people some information or item of value to help gain their trust and gratitude – instead of always looking to 'take' from others (be a 'taker'). He talked about five simple rules to follow when dealing with people from whom you are interested in garnering business. Copies of his book *'The Go Giver'*, which was co-authored with John David Mann, were given away at the drawing following the conference exhibition. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the book can go to <http://www.thegogiver.com>. Bob preceded his keynote presentation with a dazzling display of name recognition where he asked all the people whom he had met briefly that morning for the first time to stand up – and around 20-25 people stood up– and he proceeded to recite all of their names!

CIMPA's own Board of Advisors member Roberto Llames next spoke about the topic 'Communication and Teleconferencing' during which he gave several pointers on how to use technology as a tool to have successful conferences. He added that many of these tools can be obtained and used for free. Anyone interested in getting a Powerpoint copy of Roberto's presentation can send an email to info@cimpa.org.

The next day, longtime CIMPA member and Board of Advisors member Dr. Kenneth Webster spoke about the challenges faced by meeting planners in order to survive in the current tough economic climate. He gave several examples from his own experience of small changes that can be made during a meeting planning event, which, when taken together, can amount to significant cost savings. For copies of Ken's Powerpoint presentation, also send an email to info@cimpa.org.

“I ENJOYED THE CONFERENCE FROM START TO FINISH. VERY FRIENDLY ATTENDEES AND A NICE FAMILY ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT.”

**-STEVEN GONZALEZ
IAHMP**

Master of Ceremonies duties for the conference were ably handled by Emmanuel Payton – despite his bout with illness towards the end of the conference. Emmanuel, a longtime CIMPA member, has attended several ITMIC conferences over the years.

Kudos and gratitude must go to musicians Valli Scavelli and Don Baaska of *'Baaska and Scavelli'* for providing superb Latin jazz-based band music via a trio of musicians during the Welcome Reception, and for providing a sensational and very spirited group of Puerto Rican Folkloric Dancers as entertainment during the conference's Saturday luncheon. The dancers earned a lengthy and heartfelt standing ovation from the audience. Baaska & Scavelli have provided musical entertainment in Puerto Rico for decades and you can find out more about them at their website which is <http://www.donbaaska.com>.

Wanda Otero of RST, a destination management company, took some conference participants on a tour of the old Spanish fort Castillo de San Juan and on a walking tour of Old San Juan. For information about RST, which provided outstanding service during the conference, go to their website at <http://www.ricosuntours.com>.



ITMIC 2009, cont.

One tradition of the ITMIC conferences is the 'CIMPA Honors'. CIMPA, in conjunction with the Asian Leaders Association (ALA), annually awards the Asian Academy Hall of Fame Award to a deserving Asian for leadership in his/her own profession and who in his/her own right has made significant contributions to communities as well as to the Asian community as a whole. This year's recipients were Bill Imada and Erwin Furukawa. Check out http://www.cimpa.org/2009_honorees.htm to learn more about these two outstanding men.

Another award given each year at the conference is the Friendship Corp Award which has been renamed the Andrea Sigler Friendship Corp Award in honor of CIMPA's founder and past president. This award is given to longtime CIMPA members who, through their lives and work, 'embody' the overall mission of CIMPA. This year, the award was given to Maryann Jones who has been a member of CIMPA since 2004 and has been a Certified Planner of Professional Meetings (CPPM) since 2005. Maryann currently works as an Assistant Vice-President of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce Convention and Tourism Department.

Entertainment for the Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday night of the conference was provided by 'Entertainment Concept' who did an outstanding job. The renowned musical group 'Kameleon' provided great dance music at the Awards Gala during which everyone literally danced the night away. Cecelie Doevle and Myrna Hernandez of Entertainment Concept made sure that everything went as planned during the Gala. Visit their website at <http://www.entertainmentconceptspr.com> for more information.

The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, especially Michelle De Leo, provided great help in soliciting help and sponsorship from Bureau membership for the event. Conference attendees were able to get a taste of Puerto Rico – especially those who toured the Bacardi rum distillery – and will hopefully return to Puerto Rico in the future with their own conference groups.

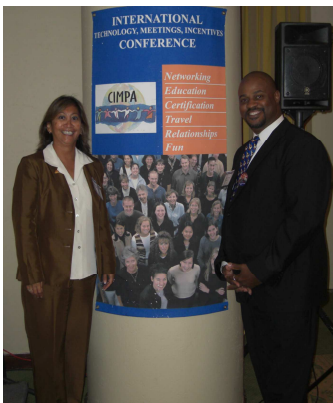
Dragonfly Adventure arranged the optional tours for the conference that were attended by many ITMIC attendees – Bacardi rum distillery tour; El Yunque Rainforest tour; and Bioluminescent Bay tours. For the Bioluminescent Bay tour, some attendees opted for two-person kayaks instead of riding with others on a catamaran and this proved a physical challenge for them – in the pitch black of night! – and one they will never forget.

The conference venue, the Caribe Hilton, and its group sales team of Edgar Ortiz and Gloriann Torres, provided tremendous help and support, and conference participants raved about the service and friendliness of the Caribe Hilton staff. The resort's stunningly beautiful location on the coast was conducive to a relaxed atmosphere throughout the conference.

Join us next year for ITMIC 2010 at either Los Cabos, Costa del Sol, Dubai, or Panama.

“I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE WONDERFUL CONFERENCE THAT YOU HOSTED IN PUERTO RICO. YOU AND FAITH DID A FABULOUS JOB AND YOUR MOM MUST BE GRINNING FROM UPSTAIRS AND SAYING, ‘THOSE ARE MY GIRLS’.”

**-MARYANN JONES
ALBUQUERQUE
HISPANO CHAMBER**





Some of the attendees at the El Yunque National Rainforest



Our Keynote Speaker, Bob Burg



Roberto Llamas talking about Communication and Teleconferencing



Dr. Ken Webster talking about Hard Decisions for Meeting Planners in Tough Economic Times



Folkloric Dancers with ITMIC 2009 participants on the Dance Floor



ALA Awardees Erwin Furukawa and Bill Imada at the Awards Gala Dinner

We are attempting to change the rules of the game and take meetings to the next level

Connected International Meeting Professionals Association

9200 Bayard Place
Fairfax, VA 22032

Phone: 1 512 684 0889
Fax: 1 267 390 5193
Email: info@cimpa.org



CIMPA is unlike most meeting planning organizations. It is an online association of buyers and sellers of meeting and travel products and services with a mission.

MISSION

The mission of CIMPA is to connect people of different cultures through meetings, travel and the internet for the purpose of promoting understanding, tolerance and friendships. By being connected to each other and to resources on the internet, members of this community will more easily share tools, information and ideas to plan cost-effective and successful meetings, travel and incentives.

FOCUS

CIMPA takes it for granted that state-of-the-art tools and methodology are important for efficient travel and meetings. But its focus is on results. We focus on achieving meeting objectives and allowing attendees to experience the world and bond with its people.

This is probably the most significant difference in philosophy between CIMPA and other meeting planning organizations.