

SUCCESS: NEW AUSTRALIAN MICE VENUE



Australians have a new convention center in Darwin that started its operation in 2008. It cost \$115 million and occupies 22,900 square meters of the city's waterfront.

Darwin City, the tropical capital of Australia's Northern Territory boasts with the Australia's newest convention center, the **Darwin Convention Centre**. The facility has already hosted 135 events and it positively contributes to the territory's economy.

The construction of the venue started in 2006 and it became operational in mid 2008. According to the territory's Chief Minister, opening of the new Convention Centre was a start of a new era in Darwin's economy. The construction **cost \$115 million** and most of the money was spent here using services of local businesses.

The centre has a floor area of 22,900 square meters and it provides various facilities for **10 to 4,000 delegates**. There are 4,000 square meters of fully air conditioned exhibition space that could be used as a whole for 225 exhibition booths or it could be subdivided into smaller spaces.

The center has its own chefs and well trained security personnel. It is also naturally equipped with the state-of-art communication technologies. Special requirements like e.g. video conferencing could be met on request. The center has also its own parking though only for 300 cars.

Construction of the venue was seen as an opportunity for the territory, its people and businesses. According to Mr. Paul Henderson, the development of the Darwin Convention Centre showed the confidence his government has in Darwin as a luring MICE destination.

According to the Centre's General Manager, Malu Barrios, Darwin is an ideal spot for both big and small events. She also mentioned that there were no cancellations in booking despite the global economic crisis.

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