

UNION des FOIRES INTERNATIONALES UNION of INTERNATIONAL FAIRS

35bis, rue Jouffroy d'Abbans, 75017 PARIS, Tel. (33) 1 42 67 99 12, Fax (33) 1 42 27 19 29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2003

UFI MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Paris, France – The following statement was released today by Mr. Ruud van Ingen, UFI Incoming President, on the occasion of the opening of the Advanced Workshop for the China Exhibition and Convention Industry.

Quote:

Dear Friends of the Exhibition and Convention Industry,

It is with sincere regret that earlier commitments keep me from joining you today at the official opening of your educational programme.

On behalf of UFI, the Union des Foires Internationales/Union of International Fairs, the worldwide association of the exhibition industry, I would like to extend our congratulations on the occasion of the Advanced Workshop for the China Exhibition & Convention Industry sponsored by the China Association for Exhibition Centers (CAEC) and Beijing University.

One of the goals of associations such as the CAEC and UFI is to provide continuing education to professionals in our industry. UFI believes that this workshop will provide a positive contribution to the future development of China's exhibition and convention industry. UFI is pleased to provide its full encouragement for your new educational programme.

I wish you all success in this course. There is no doubt that the rapid professional development of a strong exhibition and convention industry will contribute to the development of the Chinese economy for years to come.

Ruud G. van Ingen UFI Vice-President UFI Incoming President (October, 2003)

Unquote

-END-

UFI is the union of the world's leading show organisers and fairground owners, the major national and international associations of the exhibition industry, and their partners. Via its 234 member organisations, including 37 associations and industry partners, UFI is present in 73 countries in 144 cities on 5 continents. UFI members organise 640 approved international exhibitions around the world.

For more information please contact: UFI Ms Lili Eigl, Press Officer 35bis, rue Jouffroy-d'Abbans 75017 Paris, France phone: +33 1 4267 9912 email : <u>hili@ufinet.org</u> website: www.ufinet.org