

## NEWS RELEASE

### 13 SAACI MEMBERS RECEIVE CERTIFIED MEETING PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Thirteen members of the Southern African Association for the Conference Industry (SAACI) graduated as Certified Meeting Professionals (CMPs) today.

This international recognition was given to Robert Blake, Estelle Lotter, Gwynn Matthews, Nicola Brown, Samantha Nel, Errol Ninow, Glenn van Eck, Troy Reynolds, Nigel Walker, Beryl Suriah, Gwen Watkins, Peta Thomas and Adriaan Woudstra.

The distinguished CMP credential, recognised worldwide throughout the meetings, conventions and exhibitions industry, demonstrates an individual's comprehensive knowledge of meeting management and a commitment to the meeting profession. Established by The Convention Industry Council in 1985, today there are more than 14 000 CMPs in 35 countries and territories worldwide.

SAACI National Chairperson Nina Freysen-Pretorius congratulated the new CMP graduates, saying this is a significant step in the drive to increase professionalism in South Africa's conference industry. "Achievers like these help put SAACI at the forefront of the meetings industry. We salute them for their individual achievements as well as the expertise they bring to our industry."

Obtaining the CMP designation is a two-part process – an application and a written examination, administered and monitored by an independent testing agency. Eligibility to take the examination is based on an extensive review of the candidate's professional qualifications and meeting industry experience.

According to Kimberly Miles, CMP Board Chairman and Senior Vice President, Industry Relations of the American Hotel & Lodging Association the CMP continues to enjoy a positive reputation in the industry. "It is the perfect tool for meeting professionals to demonstrate their level of knowledge and professionalism in our industry."

South Africa currently has 23 CMPs. Other SAACI members who passed the CMP exam before are Helen Brewer, Kerry Eley, Chris Prieto, Dave Walther, Petru Swanepoel and Pieter Swart.

(Ends)

---

Issued by:	Martin van Niekerk, Junxion Communications Tel 012 804 8812
For:	Nina Freysen-Pretorius, SAACI Tel 031 303 9852
Date:	1 October 2009

---