

Report on the 6th UIA Associations Round Table Asia-Pacific, 26th – 27th September 2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 6th Union of International Associations (UIA) Round Table Asia Pacific was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The local host for this Round Table was MyCEB – Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau. The event was attended by 130 delegates from 62 associations from 15 countries. ANGVA participated as delegate and was represented by its Executive Director.

At the Roundtable, presentations on common challenges were made by those working in international associations. Small group discussing sharing and exchanging knowledge and experience were also held. The Roundtable and group discussions were lead and moderated by representatives from UIA. UIA is a research institute founded in 1907 to promote and document the work of international associations. Its primary task is the collection and dissemination of information on international associations, fulfilled largely by its two main publications: the Yearbook of International Organizations, and the International Congress Calendar. The UIA also promotes the work of international associations by organizing educational activities, such as the Round Table.



At the UIA Roundtable

Among the messages highlighted during the Roundtable were:

- (i) Valuable support that local Convention and Visitor Bureaus can offer to associations organizing events in that particular countries.
- (ii) Associations are partners of the meeting industry.
- (iii) Existence of Predatory conferences i.e. illegitimate conferences created purely for profit and feed off eager academicians and PhD students looking for short cuts to get their works published or to speak at international conferences.

These conferences are jeopardizing attendance and performance of legitimate ones. Predatory conferences would naturally present poor quality content, the fact masked by glossy websites that imitate the real thing, thus fooling sincere delegates who would pay for registration fees. One sign of such conferences is missing contact information or organizers that have scheduled several conferences on different fields of expertise on the same day but at different locations.