Fresh breezes for the autumn season

After another long, hot summer it is once again time to pause for thought. How did the summer go – and did we meet our expectations? We still have to wait for the exact statistics and final data, but it is already possible to see the general trend. This issue provides a short summary of this summer's congress scene and news from one of the key congresses.

We are also directing our thoughts towards the autumn and its many events. We'll be finding out what's happening at the LänsiAuto Areena and what Innopoli offers its congress customers. The new Sello Hall has now been taken into use, and it will be a fabulous venue for many events, including the concert performances during the 7th Espoo International Piano Festival. The fully refurbished Scandic Espoo will open its doors in the beginning of October, and there's also good news to tell about Radisson SAS Hotel Espoo and Tapiola Garden Hotel.

I hope this issue will provide new ideas for your own events. It's well worthwhile paying a visit to our web-site at www.espootravel.com for the latest information on the Espoo scene.

Wishing you all an inspiring autumn!

Ann-Britt Jukka
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Espoo Convention & Marketing

ESPOO CONVENTION & MARKETING
Member of FCB, ICCA, EFCT, BTC

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Komppa Symposium
commemorates a full century of synthetic natural product chemistry

In 1903, Finnish chemist Gustav Komppa became the first to succeed in manufacturing a complicated, naturally-occurring chemical substance in a laboratory. The product of his synthesis was camphor, which at the time had important medicinal uses but was thought to be in increasingly short natural supply.

A hundred years later, Komppa's achievement was commemorated at the Komppa Centenary Symposium entitled "100 Years of Natural Product Synthesis". Appropriately, the symposium took place at HUT's Dipoli Congress Centre, the venue of Komppa's work. He was the first professor of chemistry at the Polytechnic University that in 1908 became Helsinki University of Technology.

"Komppa is a figure well worth celebrating. The success with camphor made him world-famous and it launched a global drive to synthetically manufacture increasingly complicated and interesting natural substances, which is something that still continues today," says Chairman of the symposium's organizing committee Ari Koskinen, who today holds the same HUT professorship in organic chemistry as Komppa did in his own time.

In addition to his achievements in chemistry, Komppa is remembered for his role as one of the founders of all the three companies that later formed the foundation of the Finnish forest industry. He was also one of the founders of Suomen Gummitehdas, which is the origin of the Finnish mobile phone giant Nokia. Before the Second World War, he studied the possibilities for making fuel out of wood oil. This activity led to the establishment of the Finnish petrochemical industry.

Delegates from the world's top

The Komppa Centenary Symposium brought together a total of 300 researchers and students from around the world to Otaniemi on 6-9 July. Among the delegates were top names from the Harvard, Berkeley, Tokyo, Chicago, Cambridge and Stockholm universities and the esteemed Scripps and Kitasato institutes.

"Having such a large number of world-class scientists in the same place at the same time is a very unique occurrence. To achieve this, we started making the arrangements two years before the event," Koskinen says.

The symposium's programme comprised 25 top-level lectures and more than a hundred other scientific presentations of a very high standard. The speakers had been asked to give their views on the future of chemistry.

"Many interesting views were presented. In the future, chemistry can help create new intelligent materials and enable the development of totally new kinds of computer memory, for example. Chemistry can also provide new means for repairing damage to the environment and make it possible to develop smart drugs that find their way to damaged cells in a human body themselves."

In addition to the scientific programme, the delegates enjoyed an evening of chamber music sponsored by the City of Espoo. A tour of HUT's Laboratory of Organic Chemistry provided a rare chance to get a glimpse of Gustav Komppa himself – well, at least a look-alike.



Innopoli houses 3 000 events a year at the heart of Finnish high-tech

Innopoli has rapidly become a popular venue for a broad range of functions. The number of events has reached 2 500 to 3 000 a year, and the annual number of participants has risen to 50 000.

Innopoli comprises two buildings, Innopoli 1 and Innopoli 2, and is located in Otaniemi at the heart of the largest concentration of high technology in Finland. The nearest neighbours include Nokia, Helsinki University of Technology and VTT. Innopoli itself accommodates 300 technology and service businesses.

"We provide venues for a lot of meetings, seminars and customer events for both Innopoli-based companies and other businesses operating in Espoo. All in all, we host almost anything, from product launches to cocktail parties and concerts," says Tuija Tarkiainen, Communications Manager at Innopoli.

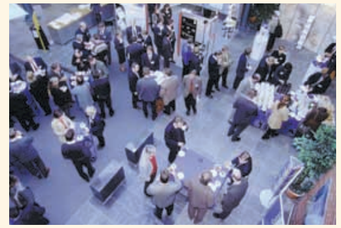
"At Innopoli we're able to offer an excellent venue for almost any need. You can choose from about 60 facilities, from auditoriums and lecture halls to seminar rooms, computer rooms and restaurants. The professional arrangements and catering are guaranteed through services provided by Amica."

According to Tarkiainen, the meetings held at Innopoli are most commonly for 16 to 20 or 70 to 120 participants. Innopoli's largest auditorium seats up to 200 people, and much larger functions are possible if they are divided into several simultaneously occurring events.

"The Eurotori square in Innopoli 1 offers a very flexible, high-ceilinged and well-lit space, which is superb for functions like exhibitions and concerts. The restaurant facilities and seminar rooms are right next-door. We've even had cars driven into Eurotori for the launch of new models. There's also similar set-up, Innotori, in Innopoli 2," Tarkiainen says.

A sauna is an integral part of many kinds of get-togethers in Finland. Innopoli has five sauna departments, all of which provide state-of-the-art meeting facilities in addition to the steam room itself. The largest sauna can house an event for up to 40 people and offers a panoramic view from Innopoli's top floor.

Further information: **www.innopoli.fi**





LänsiAuto AREENA – as you like it!

LänsiAuto Areena in Tapiola is best known as the home of the Finnish premier league ice hockey team, the Espoo Blues. But it is also a modern multifunctional facility that adapts to a variety of needs.

At maximum capacity, the 1999-built LänsiAuto Areena can host events for up to 9 000 people. On the other end of the scale, Areena's fine restaurant and club facilities and the 2001-built seminar facilities also make it a practical venue for even the smallest meetings and get-togethers. Good traffic connections and a generous number of free parking spaces add to the appeal.

"Companies are a fast-growing customer group. We host sales meetings, seminars, exhibitions, fairs and pre-Christmas celebrations for employees," describes LänsiAuto Areena's Marketing Manager Juha Schmidt.

So far, the number of big concerts held at Areena has remained on the level of four to five each year. The Espoo Blues play around 30 home games there each season.

New openings in ball games

Over the years, LänsiAuto Areena has steadily strengthened its position as one of the key Finnish venues for indoor ball games.

Areena has hosted a number of international basketball, volleyball and floorball games. This season it will also be the venue for the games played by Finnish champion basketball team Tapiolan Honka against the continent's top teams in the FIBA Europe League. And in December, Areena will host both the men's and women's Finnish cup finals in basketball, volley-ball and floorball – a total of six games during three days.

"Negotiations for further cooperation with the national sports federations for basketball, volleyball and floorball are currently underway. We hope to become the official home ground for these sports' national teams," Schmidt says.

"We're also working on deals concerning a couple of other major sports events. If all goes well, we'll see some really top-level sports in Espoo this coming winter," he reveals.

Further information:
www.lansiauto-areena.com



The latest from our partners in cooperation

New look for Sokos Hotel Tapiola Garden

During the autumn, all 89 rooms at Sokos Hotel Tapiola Garden will be refurbished in warm, light and soft colours. The new look will be ready by the end of October. The hotel chain and the building's owner have worked in cooperation all summer to get the hotel into the best possible shape for Tapiola Garden City's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Tapiola Garden welcomed a new Hotel Manager in April when Tuovi Kovanen took the helm. She is also the hotel manager of Sokos Hotel Helsinki.

"I'm really delighted about the purposeful co-operation between various players in Espoo for the development of Tapiola into a versatile centre of business, services and culture. We also want to provide our own input in this work. We'll continue working closely with Espoo Convention & Marketing, and we'll actively keep looking for new development initiatives with entrepreneurs and other players in the area," she says.



Doors open at the renewed Scandic Espoo

The totally refurbished Scandic Espoo hotel opens its doors on 1 October. All 96 rooms have been renovated from floor to ceiling to meet the needs of modern travellers. Scandic Espoo also has a new General Manager, Tiina Jytilä.



Well-connected at the junction of the Turku motorway and Ring Road II, Scandic Espoo is close to attractions such as Water Park Serena, the Glims Farmstead Museum, the Leppävaara and Tapiola sports parks, LänsiAuto Areena and Ikea.

Guests at the hotel have a total of four saunas and a swimming pool at their disposal. They and local diners can also enjoy new world cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere at the Colonial Bar & Kitchen restaurant.

Scandic Espoo is an ideal venue for meetings of up to 64 people. The hotels' five facilities are equipped with the latest technology and fitted with modern interiors to meet the needs of the most demanding events.

Ranta – a new restaurant with the flavour of sea at Radisson SAS

Ranta is Radisson SAS Hotel's new restaurant for dining and socializing on the seashore at Otaniemi. The menu offers both Finnish and international delicacies, and true to its name – ranta being the Finnish word for shore – the restaurant will never run out of fresh Finnish fish.



Forthcoming international meetings in Espoo



September	
Sep 11-14 120	Partnership for Diversity *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*
Sep 29-30 100	Biotech Society *Dipoli Congress Centre*
October	
Oct 10-11 120	Kultur ger hälsa *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*
Oct 13-18 30	Finland i Norden *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*
November	
Nov 17-19 200	8. Nordiska Avloppsvattenkonferensen *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*

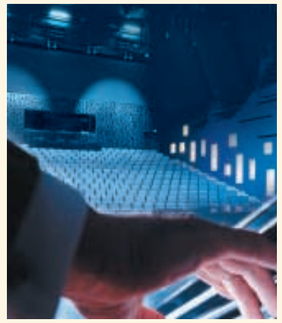
The above lists information that has the organizers' consent for publication, possessed by Espoo Convention & Marketing, regarding forthcoming international congresses. The estimated number of attendants is printed in red.

What's on in Espoo

Sep 18 – Dec 28 **Gift and obligation**	Images of religion from Salvador de Bahia in Brazil, at the Helinä Rautavaara museum.
Oct 6 – Dec 31 **Tarvaspää – A Castle for Children**	At the Gallen-Kallela museum
Oct 12 **30th Solvalla Juhla-marssi**	Marching event
Oct 12-19 **The 7th Espoo International Piano Festival**	At the Espoo Cultural Centre
Nov 3-9 **Tapiola Choir 40 years**	A celebration week at the Espoo Cultural Centre
Nov 11-12 **One Way Street**	The Sandglass Theatre at the Espoo Cultural Centre
Nov 22-23 **Arts and crafts fair**	At the Espoo Cultural Centre
Dec 14 **Christmas concert**	At the Sinebrychoff villa in Karhusaari
Dec 18 **Swinging Christmas 2003**	Antti Sarpila's Christmas concert at the Espoo Cultural Centre
Dec 20 **Christmas concert**	Tapiola Choir's traditional Christmas concert in Tapiola Church

Further information about these and other events can be found from our website at **www.espootravel.com** and the Espoo Guide brochure.

A NEW VENUE
for acoustic music in Leppävaara



Espoo's latest big venue, Sello Hall, is a 400-seat facility located on the top floor of the Sello shopping centre in Leppävaara. Run by the City of Espoo, the hall was taken into use in September.

"Sello Hall has been designed especially for the needs of acoustic music. The result is outstanding. The acoustics received generous praise after the venue's first concert, which was a performance by the Borodin Quartet during the Helsinki Festival in early September," says intendant Helena Värri.

The hall's acoustics can also be adjusted to suit electronic music and speech. The hall has already been booked for close to a hundred culture-related and company-arranged functions during the autumn season, including the hall's own and first festival week on 25 September to 3 October. The acts for the week include a puppet theatre, hip-hop and concerts by the Tapiola Sinfonietta and soprano Soile Isokoski.

7th Espoo International Piano Festival

Sello Hall will also be one of the venues for the 7th Espoo International Piano Festival, which takes place on 12-19 October. The hall will be the scene for three concerts on Saturday 18 October. The festival's other venues are the Espoo Cultural Centre, Tapiola Church, the Finnish National Opera and Finlandia Hall.

This year's international stars at the festival include the outstanding pianists Lang Lang, Idil Biret, Dmitri Bashkirov, Gergely Bogányi and the winner of the 2002 Maj Lind Piano Competition, Alberto Nosè. Top-ranking Finnish artists will also perform in a total of fifteen concerts, and the Tapiola Sinfonietta and the Radio Symphony Orchestra will lend their own additional colour to the programme. One of the festival's climaxes will be the first performance of Paavo Heininen's new work during the final concert.

The festival is organized by Espoon Musiikkifestivaalit yhdistys ry, which produces the international Choral Espoo Festival every second year in turn with the Piano Festival.



An active congress summer

In Finland as a whole, the congress season is at its liveliest in June and August. The most popular months for congresses this year in Espoo have been June and September. July is traditionally quieter as the holiday season reaches its peak, but this year has been the exception with three international congresses that month. One of these, the Komppa Symposium, is among the year's most important congresses.

According to a preliminary listing, 39 international congresses will be held in Espoo this year, and 19 have been held during the summer. The total number of congresses in 2002 – also an excellent year – was the same, but only 11 were arranged during the summer months and the distribution was more even around the year.

Technology continues to be the most common congress topic. Other topics include culture, medicine and sports.

More detailed information on the numbers and participants of this year's congresses will be available at the beginning of 2004.

In the next issue 1/2004
to be released in February.



The next issue of Espoo Convention & Marketing News will focus on forthcoming congresses and other large events. It will also deliver the latest news from Espoo Convention & Marketing's cooperation partners.





How to reach Espoo:

By plane: Helsinki-Vantaa airport, approx. 30 min. drive from Tapiola

By boat: Helsinki seaports: South Harbour and West Harbour, approx. 15 min. drive from Tapiola. Ferry destinations: Sweden, Estonia and Germany

Tapiola 50
KAIKKI HYVÄ YHDESSÄ

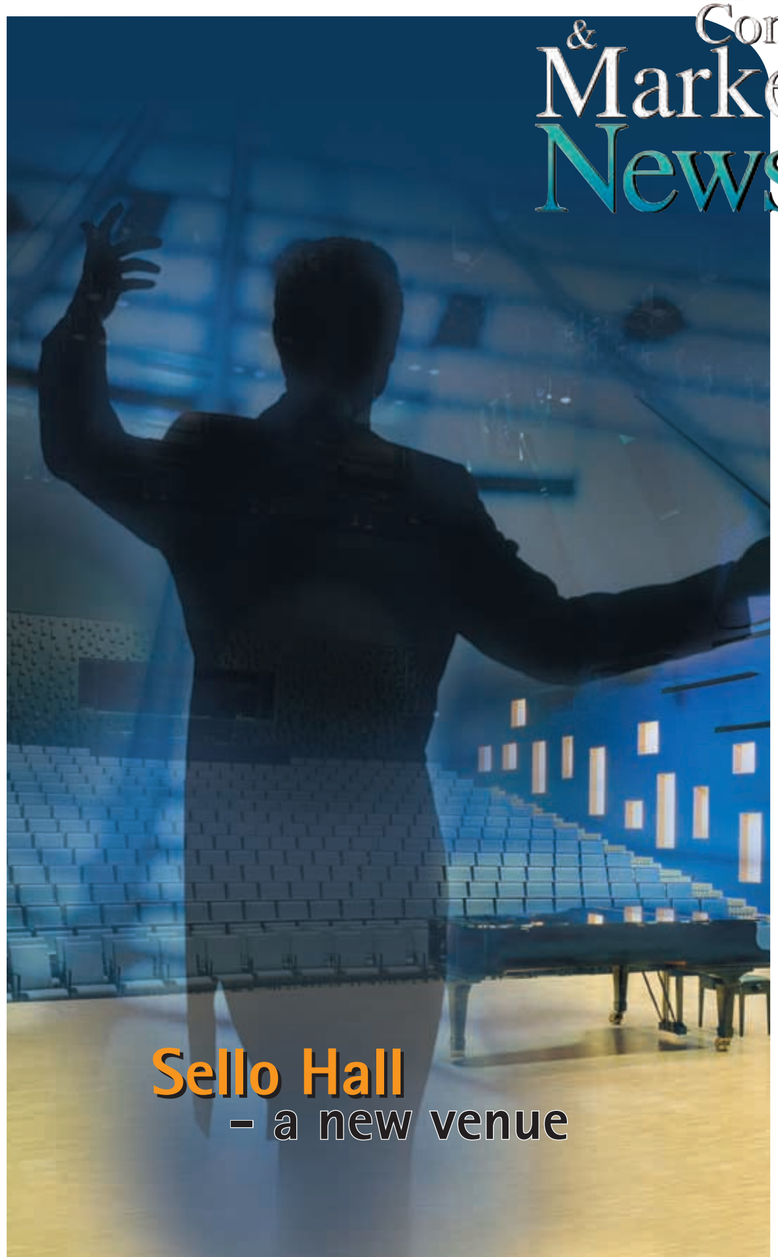
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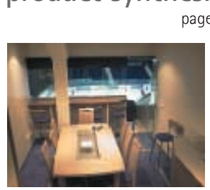
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