An eventful year

It has been a pleasure to start working with you in my new role as Espoo Convention & Marketing's Managing Director, especially as 2006 is packed with events and significant meetings and conferences.

This year Espoo is an official Unicef City, and in autumn we'll be hosting four meetings related to Finland's EU presidency. What's more, one of our key congress centres is celebrating its 40th anniversary – congratulations to Dipoli!

A new and prominent lifestyle hotel, Palace Hotel Sello, opened its doors to the public earlier this year. The hotel also has a restaurant for connoisseurs which belongs to one of Finland's best known gourmet chains.

Finland's biggest exhibition centre, WeeGee, will be opened during spring and autumn to display top art from around the world. WeeGee houses five museums of varying nature, a gallery, museum shop and café-restaurant.

This year's most significant event in terms of visitor numbers is the Housing Fair in Kauklahti on 14 July to 13 August. More than 200,000 visitors are expected.

I wish you all a successful congress year!

Jaana Tuomi
Managing Director



ESPOO CONVENTION & MARKETING
Member of FCB, ICCA, EFCT

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A good year ahead for 40-YEAR-OLD DIPOLI Congress Centre

The Dipoli Congress Centre is one of the best known architectural monuments in Finland. Completed in 1966, the building was the first joint work by the world-famous architect couple Reima and Raili Pietilä and is renowned for its uniquely close relationship with its surroundings. Dipoli was commissioned by the Helsinki University of Technology Student Union to replace the union's old building as the University transferred from Helsinki to Espoo's Otaniemi district.

Still owned by the student union, the building is today one of Finland's most prominent congress centres and the home of the Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli. Dipoli's main 40th anniversary celebrations will take place in autumn to commemorate the building's original October inauguration. According to the Congress Centre Manager Lea Liesiö, the anniversary year is practically fully booked.

"2006 is set to be very busy conference year throughout Finland, and Dipoli has succeeded in attracting some very large events. For example, we're providing the venue for the 3rd European eLearning Conference in July," she says.

Dipoli is at its very best as a venue for large functions. More than 1,300 guests can be seated for dining in the large halls and, depending on the event, a total of 3,000 guests can be hosted when all facilities are taken into use. Dipoli's remarkable kitchen is run by Chef Juha Jaakonsaari, a recent recipient of the Pro Gaala award.

For congresses that include catering, the ideal size arranged at Dipoli is 200 to 600 delegates. Dipoli's assets in Finland are its proximity both to the capital and the Helsinki-Vantaa airport and a uniquely peaceful atmosphere at the heart of Finland's key concentration of technology-related research and business.

EU politics and prize for innovation

In addition to conferences, the Finnish congress year will be highlighted by Finland's EU presidency. During the six month period starting from July, Dipoli will host four presidency-related ministerial meetings.

"Two of the meetings are arranged by the Ministry of the Environment. One particular factor in the ministry's choice of venue was our Ecomass sustainable development project which gained a lot of visibility during last summer's Athletics World Championships," Liesiö says.

The presentation of the second Millennium Prize will be an international media event in a league of its own. The winner of the world's biggest technology prize of one million euros will be announced in Dipoli on June 15. The winner will receive the prize at another ceremony arranged in Helsinki in September, which will be followed by a Millennium Prize seminar back at Dipoli. The Millennium Prize celebrates innovations that have had a favourable impact on the quality of life and well-being.

A Congress Consultant AT YOUR SERVICE



Congress Consultant Jan Fagerström is readily available to assist congress organizers with a variety of needs.

"I help organizers find the most suitable venue for their conference in Espoo, assist in choosing local partners and provide consultation concerning budget drafts and preparing bid documents," he describes of his various tasks.

Fagerström is also able to supply promotional materials and make preliminary reservations for conference facilities and accommodation.

WEEGEE HOUSE OF CULTURE opens

The WeeGee project has seen a print house from the 1960s turn into a large-scale centre of art and culture. Following refurbishment, the WeeGee House in Tapiola will accommodate a total of five museums, the Cartes Computer Arts Centre of Espoo, a modern art gallery, the Espoo Art School and a number of culture-related enterprises.

The Espoo Museum of Modern Art EMMA, the Espoo City Museum, the Helinä Rautavaara museum, the Finnish Museum of Horology and the Toy Museum of Finland will move into their new premises this spring.

EMMA is the largest of these, and with an exhibition space of 5,000 m² square metres it is also the largest art museum in Finland.

The WeeGee House will open to the public in stages. The first floor will be taken into use in May, welcoming visitors to view the City Museum's extensive Aurora Karamzin exhibition and the modern art on display at Gallery Aarni, and offering the services of a restaurant and museum shop. The rest of the building will be opened in October.

Further information: weegee.espoo.fi



NEW LIFESTYLE HOTEL in Espoo



Espoo's hotel offering expanded in mid-January with the opening of the city's first lifestyle hotel, Palace Hotel Sello. The 140-room hotel is located right next to the Sello shopping centre in Espoo's Leppävaara district, inviting stays by business and leisure travellers alike.

"As a lifestyle hotel we offer our customers individual experiences. A great deal of attention has been paid to the hotel's interior, wich has been designed by Kaisa Blomstedt, as well as the high level of service," describes General Manager Petri Alanko.

Generously equipped with a wireless broadband connection, safety box and minibar as well as a bath and room-specific air-conditioning, the hotel's stylish rooms facilitate work and promote rest and relaxation. 35 rooms have also been fitted with a mini kitchen for the comfort of those enjoying an extended stay. The hotel's colourful gourmet restaurant, Paul's Bistro, provides San Francisco style cuisine from dawn till late at night.

For meeting and conference purposes the hotel offers nine modern and individual facilities which can be modified and combined to meet a wide range of needs. A perfect event is assured by cosy interiors, individual catering and, above all, dedicated staff.

"There are 700 companies in the immediate surroundings and this provides a lot of potential in regard to business travellers. Since we first opened our doors we've been very satisfied with the way customers have managed to find us," Alanko says.





The latest from our partners in cooperation

Kimmo Niittymäki starts as Hotel Manager AT RADISSON SAS HOTEL ESPOO



Kimmo Niittymäki has been appointed as the new Hotel Manager of Radisson SAS Hotel Espoo as from the beginning of 2006. The 36-year-old's last position was Reception Manager at Radisson SAS Royal, and prior to that he performed managerial tasks in Radisson SAS Plaza and Sokos Hotel Puijonsarvi in Kuopio. Niittymäki studied in Tampere where he began his career. He also has international experience from the Arlington Renaissance Hotel in the United States.

Petter Juhala new Key Account Manager AT HOTEL KORPILAMPI



Petter Juhala started work as Hotel Korpilampi's Key Account Manager at the end of November. Juhala is a Bachelor of Hospitality Management and has 20 years' experience in hotels and restaurants. He switched to Korpilampi from the Key Account Manager's position at the head office of Lomaliitto.

BLUE1 opens new non-stop routes from Europe

Blue1 has opened its first new non-stop routes from Europe to Helsinki. It is now possible to fly directly to Helsinki from Athens, Barcelona, Paris and Rome. When the air carrier switches to its summer timetables on 26 March, Blue1 will open new routes from Dublin, London-Stansted, Nice, Warsaw and Zurich, and on 1 May from Budapest.

Blue1 is the largest operator between Finland and Scandinavia, holds a strong position in the Finnish domestic market and is now lengthening its stride further into Europe. Blue1 already has several flights to Helsinki each day from Copenhagen, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Oslo, Amsterdam, Berlin and Hamburg.

Blue1 is a regional member of Star Alliance, the world's largest flight alliance. Membership strengthens both Blue1's own and Star Alliance's position in the Finnish market. Through Star Alliance, Blue1 is able to offer flexible flights to more than 800 destinations worldwide.



Forthcoming international meetings in Espoo

May 28–30 60 delegates	EFC Task Force II *HUT*
Jun 10–13 100 delegates	NORDTEK 2006 *HUT*
Jun 12–15 200 delegates	ESCS-2006 *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*
Jul 4–5 500–600 delegates	eLearning Conference 2006 *Dipoli Congress Centre*
Jul 17–21 500 delegates	WMO Conference on Living with Climate Variability and Change *Dipoli Congress Centre*
Aug 2–5 600 delegates	NFS 2006 *Dipoli Congress Centre*
Sep 4–8 300 delegates	EAGE-NSGD 2006 *Dipoli Congress Centre*
Sep 12–15 250 delegates	Mobile HCI *Dipoli Congress 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 blue.

What's on in Espoo

Apr 26–30	April Jazz
May 12	Aurora Karamzin and the Stages of Power – A Trip through Time in Espoo, at the Espoo City Museum. The Espoo City Museum and the Finnish Museum of Horology reopen after renovation.
May 17–19	National museum days in Espoo
May 20–Sep 3	The Painter's Triad – Akseli Gallen-Kallela and Colorism, at the Gallen-Kallela Museum
Jun 5–Aug 31	Guided sea trips in the Espoo archipelago, on Monday evenings
Jun 6	Nice Run – women's running event in Tapiola
Jun 8–Aug 31	Organ Night and Aria on Thursday evenings at Espoo Cathedral
Jun 10–12	Espoo-Volvo Suursaari Race
Jul 14–Aug 13	Housing Fair in Espoo
Aug 11–13	Ropecon – Finland's biggest role-playing event
Aug 22–27	Espoon Ciné film festival
Sep 10	eCross – cross country running event in Leppävaara

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

Over 200,000 visitors expected AT THIS SUMMER'S HOUSING FAIR


Housing fair in 2005

For a month starting from mid July, Espoo will be the centre of attention for all Finns and visitors interested in the latest trends in living and home decoration. The 37th Finnish Housing Fair will span a 13 hectare area in the city's western Kauklahti district.

"This summer's fair focuses on housing in Finland's most densely populated areas. As usual, the exhibition is a showcase for high building quality and innovative solutions," describes Marketing Manager Kari Salmi from the Finnish Housing Fair Cooperative Organization.

As a first this year is an interior decoration exhibition featuring almost all of the big brands available in Finland. In addition to 58 decorated homes, the latest trends in interior design will be displayed in a 1,200 square metre exhibition hall.


Housing fair in 2005

Showcasing the best of Espoo

Preparations for the fair began four years ago and have now advanced to the stage where building work is at its most intense. A total of 263 homes will be built, from small blocks of flats to terraced, semi-detached and detached houses.

According to Project Manager Seppo Kallio from the City of Espoo, the fair is expected to attract a minimum of 200,000 visitors. With good weather and all being well, visitors numbers could rise even higher.

"The Housing Fair provides a great opportunity to show off some of Espoo's best assets – high-quality living close to nature in the metropolitan region. In addition to the general public, there will be extensive participation by various expert groups including municipal decision-makers, civil servants and building professionals to whom we can demonstrate Espoo's practices," Seppo Kallio says.

The Housing Fair is set to significantly boost trade in Espoo as well as promote overnight stays and outings to the city's other attractions.

In the next issue 2/2006

to be released in October.

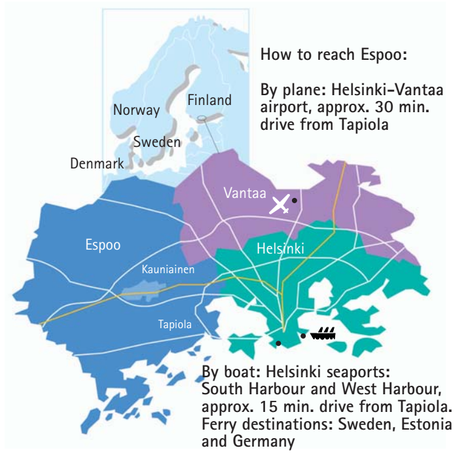
We`ll be focusing on the prospects offered by meeting and congress activities in Espoo



Hertz
www.hertz.fi

Blue1

SAS



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

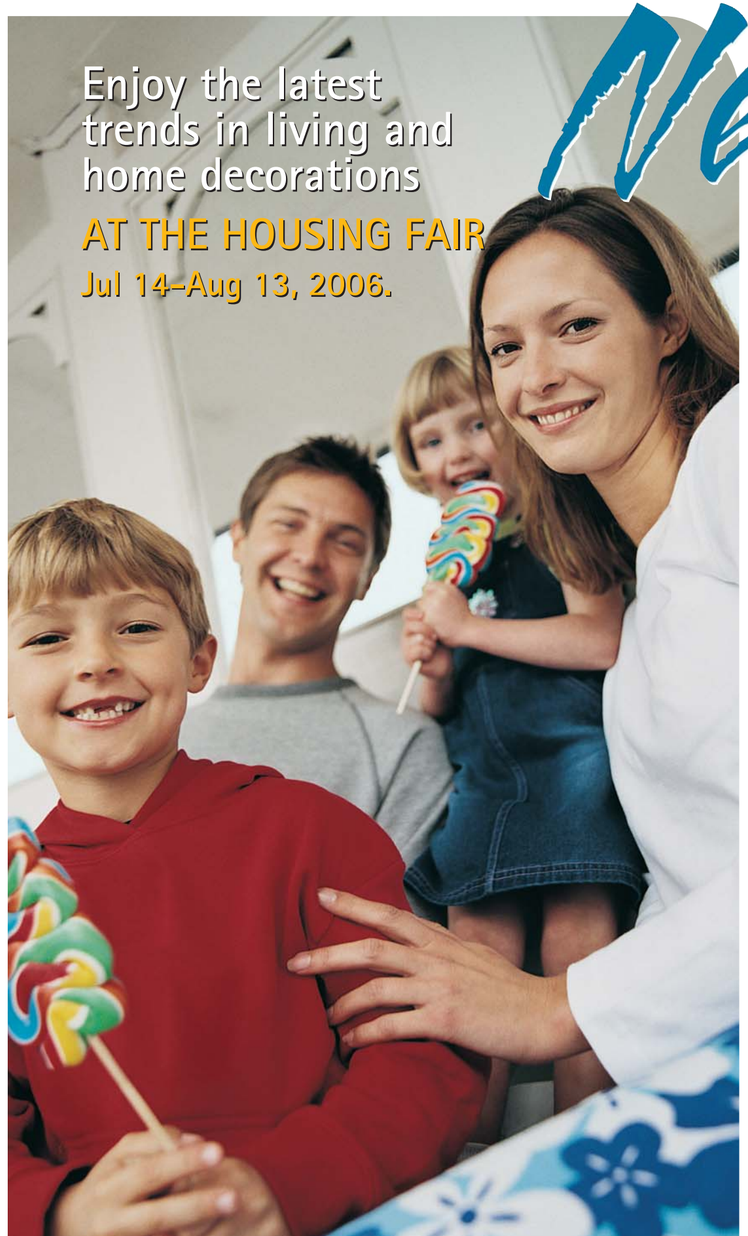
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