

Press Release June 2011, By Joel Fischer

Union of International Associations **International Meetings Statistics for the Year 2010**

Introduction

For the past 62 years, the Union of International Associations has undertaken, for the benefit of its members, statistical studies on the preceding year's international meetings. As in previous years, the report is also available for sale to the public following a period of three months' exclusive use by UIA Associate Members. The full report will be available from September 15th 2011.

The statistics are based on information systematically collected by the UIA Congress Department and selected according to strict criteria maintained over the years, thus enabling meaningful comparison from year to year.

Meetings taken into consideration include those organized and/or sponsored by the **international organizations** which appear in the *Yearbook of International Organizations* and in the *International Congress Calendar*, i.e.: the sittings of their principal organs, congresses, conventions, symposia, regional sessions grouping several countries, as well as **some national meetings with international participation** organized by national branches of international associations.

Not included are purely national meetings as well as those of an exclusively religious, didactic, political, commercial, or sporting nature, and corporate and incentive meetings, the survey of these specific markets not being within the scope of activities of the UIA.

More prominence is also given to presenting data which, due to the passage of time, can be considered to have stabilized. The editors emphasize that the number of meetings for the current reporting year (2010) is expected to be around 80 percent of that extracted from the database five years hence.

Since the 2008 edition of this report (published in 2009), the UIA meetings database has been enriched by connecting it more closely to its sister database on international organizations, the source of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. This enhances the data available across the time scale and in particular enables historical surveys of international organization meeting activity as far back as 1850. It has also affected the rate of change in data.

It should be noted that UIA criteria for collection and inclusion have *not* changed; only the presentation has changed.

How many...

	In report for 2010 (published 2011)
Total number of meetings in the UIA database	359,673
Number of those answering the criteria for inclusion in this report	316,534
Number of those taking place prior to the reporting year	297,724
Number of those taking place in the reporting year	12,015
Number of those scheduled to take place after the reporting year	6,795
Number of countries represented for all years	256
Number of cities represented for all years	11,047
Number of countries represented for the reporting year only	181
Number of cities represented for the reporting year only	1,573

General picture

No continental divisions are presented in this edition. The editors welcome comments on the usefulness of the continental divisions used previously and suggestions as to possibly more useful divisions and groupings of countries.

Top international meeting countries in 2010 (extracted from Table 1.2, A+B column)

Country	Number of meetings	Percentage of all meetings
1. USA	936	8.1%
2. Japan	741	6.5%
3. Singapore	725	6.4%
4. France	686	6.0%
5. Belgium	597	5.2%
6. Spain	572	5.0%
7. Germany	499	4.3%
8. Korea Rep	464	4.0%
9. UK	375	3.3%
10. Austria	362	3.1%

Top international meeting cities in 2010 (extracted from Table 1.3, A+B column)

City	Number of meetings	Percentage of all meetings
1. Singapore	725	6.5%
2. Brussels	486	4.4%
3. Paris	394	3.6%
4. Vienna	257	2.3%
5. Seoul	201	1.8%
6. Barcelona	193	1.7%
7. Tokyo	190	1.7%
8. Geneva	189	1.7%
9. Madrid	175	1.6%
10. Berlin	165	1.5%

The Table of Contents of the complete statistics report and the criteria descriptions are given on the following pages.

Associated and complementary information is available in the Yearbook of International Organizations: Volume 5 (Statistics, Visualizations and Patterns) which contains extensive statistical information on international meetings and organizations (see <http://www.uia.org/uiapubs/vol5.htm>).

For more information on UIA Associate Membership, statistical and other information products, please contact us (<http://www.uia.org/contact/>).

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Union of International Associations

International Meeting Statistics for the Year 2010

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What meetings are counted in this report?

The data in this report are drawn from the *International Congress Calendar*, the UIA's meetings database.

At the time of producing this edition (May 2011) there were 359,673 meetings in the UIA meetings database of which 316,534 (88%) meet the criteria for inclusion in this report. Of these 316,534 meetings, 297,724 took place in 2009 or earlier, 12,015 took place in 2010, and 6,795 are scheduled for 2011 or later.

Meetings included are divided into three types. The types are indicated by letters: type A, type B and type C. These letters have, in themselves, no significance in relation to the meetings they group, and are used merely for convenience.

It should be noted that events taking place in more than one city are counted in this report for each city separately.

Meetings counted under the heading "A" are "Meetings of international organizations":

- meetings organized or sponsored by "international organizations", i.e. non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) that are included in the UIA's *Yearbook of International Organizations* (see below "What is an 'international organization'") and whose details are subject to systematic collection and updates on an annual basis by the UIA

and

- with at least 50 participants, or number of participants unknown.

In previous editions, this type was referred to as "Meetings of international organizations". The criteria for this type have not changed since at least the early 1990s, although they were not always fully described in the accompanying notes.

There are 292,086 type "A" meetings included in this edition, and they are included in all sections.

Meetings counted under the heading "B" are "Other international meetings (3 days)":

- meetings not organized or sponsored by "international organizations" but nonetheless of significant international character, notably those organized by national organizations and national branches of international organizations

and

- at least 40 percent of the participants are from countries other than the host country and at least 5 nationalities are represented

and

- lasting at least 3 days, or of unknown duration

and

- with either a concurrent exhibition or at least 300 participants

In previous editions, this type was referred to as "Other international meetings". In the edition *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (published in 2008), it was further defined as "Other international meetings (3 days)". The criteria for this type have not changed since at least the early 1990s, although they were not always fully described in the accompanying notes.

There are 41,872 type "B" meetings included in this edition, and they are included in Sections 1 and 2.

Meetings counted under the heading "C" are "Other international meetings (2 days)":

- meetings not organized or sponsored by "international organizations" but nonetheless of significant international character, notably those organized by national organizations and national branches of international organizations

and

- at least 40 percent of the participants are from countries other than the host country and at least 5 nationalities are represented

and

- lasting at least 2 days, or of unknown duration

and

- with either a concurrent exhibition or at least 250 participants

This type was included for the first time, at the request of users of this report, in the edition *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (published in 2008), where it was referred to as “Other international meetings (2 days)” and included only in presentation 1/2. Type “B” and type “C” are counted separately in order to ensure continuity with prior editions and the creation of type “C”.

There are 50,013 type “C” meetings included in this edition, and they are included in Sections 1 and 2.

Logically, all meetings counted under the heading “B” are also counted under the heading “C”. The reverse is, equally logically, not true.

All selections have been made on the basis of “at least” 50 participants in the case of meetings of international organizations, and “at least” 300 participants for other international meetings. In editions prior to *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (published in 2008) it has not always been clear if selections were made on the basis of “at least” 50 (or 300) participants, or “more than” 50 (or 300) participants.

In editions prior to *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (published in 2008) it was the intention to exclude meetings of intergovernmental bodies if the title of the meeting contained the words “ministerial” or “summit”. Unfortunately, this criterion was not always strictly applied: some such meetings were excluded, others were included. As of the edition published in 2008, this criterion has been abandoned. Meetings of intergovernmental bodies are included if they meet the standard criteria. The number of meetings concerned is, for the most part, negligible.

What meetings are not counted in this report?

The data in this report are drawn from the *International Congress Calendar*, the meetings database of the UIA.

Excluded from the UIA database are:

- purely national meetings, as well as those of an exclusively religious, didactic, political, commercial or sporting nature, such as religious gatherings, courses, party conferences, sales meetings, contests, etc;
- meetings with strictly limited participation, such as those of subsidiary (internal) statutory bodies, committees, groups of experts, etc, of which the greatest proportion are held at an intergovernmental level and take place at the headquarters of the large IGOs;
- corporate and incentive meetings, the survey of commercial activities and markets being outside the UIA’s scope.

The information in this report is biased by the UIA’s restriction to:

- meetings organized by non-commercial and non-profit organizations, though these may still include meetings concerned with commercially relevant topics such as those of professional, trade and industry associations, and meetings organized by non-profit organizations in order to generate revenue;
- publicly announced meetings, thereby excluding unpublicized, secret and closed events;
- meetings reported within the time frame permitting their inclusion in this annual review, thereby excluding meetings on which information is available only after this period;
- participation figures generally being those indicated pre-meeting, not post-meeting.

The process of detecting newly announced meetings, and building up an adequate profile, is not as straightforward as might be assumed. Announcements may be tentative, variously misleading according to source, and subject to frequent revision. For these reasons, the UIA retains in its meetings database many meetings that do not meet the criteria for this annual review. At the time of producing this edition (May 2011) there were 359,673 meetings in the UIA meetings database of which 316,534 (88%) meet the criteria for inclusion in this report.

It should be noted that UIA criteria for collection and inclusion have remained unchanged for many years, apart from the addition of type “C” meetings as described above. The above descriptive text has, however, changed: every year we try to make it clearer.