



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Suntec Singapore - First Venue in Asia to Meet IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting's Requirements Within its Existing Facilities**

Singapore, 19 July 2006 – Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre, built 11 years ago and currently undergoing planned upgrading largely focused on façade, lobby and interior refurbishments, and set to complete by end August 2006, has proved that its facilities have been planned with remarkable architectural skills and foresight. The venue was able to meet all the extensive requirements within its existing structure and no extensions or new additions will have to be built. With just a few tweaks, all facilities will be set for Suntec Singapore to welcome the Singapore 2006 – IMF-World Bank meetings, which will take place from 13 – 20 September 2006.

The IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings are held outside of Washington every three years. Countries hopeful to host the event have to participate in elaborate bidding process not unlike the bid for the Olympics Games or the World Cup. Singapore indicated our desire to host the meeting in 2002 and was subsequently awarded the honour to host it.

While in Dubai, special office towers were erected to accommodate the countries' delegations, in Singapore, these offices will be double-storey contained within the halls on levels 4 and 6. The tweaks at Suntec Singapore will include the building of 1,032 double-storey offices -- the first of its kind for the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings -- complete with elevators, interior design fixtures, electricity, lightings, air-conditioning, telephones and IT connectivity on Level 4 and 6 of the convention centre. The concept for these offices, also a first, was conceived with the active involvement of the Singapore 2006 organising committee, Suntec Singapore's team and the main event contractor Pico Art International.

Suntec Singapore is gearing up for the 16,000 delegates who will converge in Singapore for the largest international and most comprehensive gathering of finance ministers and central bank governors. They will come from 184 countries to address major financial developmental challenges facing the world today.

"This one showcases not just Suntec Singapore's capabilities, but Singapore's foresight and leadership in the convention and exhibition industry," said Warren Buckley, Chief Executive Officer at Suntec Singapore. "This clearly puts Suntec Singapore on the world stage as far as the convention industry is concerned."

Singapore 2006 will take place from 13 to 20 September. This will be the biggest event Singapore has hosted, expected to draw five times more delegates than the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in 1996 and three times the International Olympic Committee session, which was held last year. About 8,000 local staff and volunteers will be deployed for the 8-day event at Suntec Singapore.

The event is set to put Singapore in the world spotlight in September, with more than 2,000 foreign media expected to cover the event extensively. The positive effects are also to be felt in the local economy, with hotels, transportation companies, shopping malls, restaurants, tourist attractions and entertainment areas all expected to benefit from the large number of international visitors coming to town.

Suntec Singapore is also a lead partner for Singapore 2006. Since 2002, Suntec Singapore has been actively supporting the Singapore 2006 committee in making available meeting and training facilities for their needs long before the event in September.

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#### About Suntec Singapore

Suntec Singapore is a world-class venue located in the heart of Asia's most integrated meetings, conventions and exhibitions hub. With 100,000sqm of floor space on six levels, this award-winning facility can cater to events from 10 to 12,000 persons. In addition, Suntec Singapore - Asia's Convention City offers direct access to 5,200 hotel rooms, 1,000 retail shops, 300 restaurants and the region's new centre for the performing arts, Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay. While only 20 minutes from Changi International Airport, Suntec Singapore is conveniently located adjacent to the Central Business District and just minutes from the city's entertainment and cultural attractions.

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