

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IFFS 2016 Fulfills Industry's Needs for *Trade and Design* 33rd Edition Closes with Resounding Success

Singapore, 8 April 2016 – The **International Furniture Fair Singapore 2016 / 33rd ASEAN Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS)**, along with co-located events **The Décor Show** and **furniPRO Asia**, drew to an end after a remarkable run at Singapore EXPO. Held from 10 – 13 March, the event offered industry professionals six halls of exquisite furniture pieces and inspiring collections put up by 423 exhibiting companies from 29 countries.

This year, IFFS attracted 20,343 unique visitors from 92 countries and welcomed an impressive total of 87 buying delegations. Organisers observed a good mix of retailers, importers/exporters, distributors/agents, contract specifiers, e-commerce retailers, and hospitality consultancy services at this edition, with a 8% increase in overall attendance.

Attributing part of the show's success to the effective rebranding efforts held a few months prior, Mr Ernie Koh, Chairman of IFFS Pte Ltd, expressed, "We've managed to 'marry' the design and trade aspects of the furniture business at this edition of IFFS. In addition to being an ideal platform for striking deals and penetrating new markets, IFFS is now also the place to spot new design trends or to gain inspiration!"

The Ever-Effective Sourcing Platform

Over the years, IFFS has carved for itself a solid reputation as Asia's premier sourcing platform and design-led exhibition. Many of its exhibitors return year after year because of the positive results that they yield from each participation.

Returning exhibitor Halo Creative & Design Limited (Hong Kong), Ms Wanda Rottstegge, Trade Marketing Manager, affirmed, "Based on what we've experienced, the visitorship is international and of high calibre. We've received a number of enquiries from new Asian, European, and Middle Eastern companies, so the team has been kept busy. IFFS 2016 was a great show for us – we're happy with our results."

A standout event in the Asian exhibition circuit, IFFS attracts a good number of visitors from the other side of the globe, many of whom choose to attend the show repeatedly. Ms Magdalena Montt, Representative of Dora Decora (Chile), shared, "This is my second time visiting the show. I came back because of the great quality of the exhibits. I find that there are higher-quality China exhibits here than at other regional shows. And I love that the show is so neat!"

The show is also a popular choice with the local furniture industry, not by default but because of the quality products that the comprehensive range of exhibitors offer. Ms Fanessa Liaw, Prestige Affairs (Singapore), said, "We're a retailer looking particularly for Malaysian manufacturers to partner with. IFFS is a lot more upmarket than other regional events, and we see more original designs here than elsewhere in the region."

Raising the Bar on the Design Quotient

Apart from the obvious trade benefits that IFFS offers the industry, the show has amplified its strength in the design department in recent years, becoming increasingly appealing to the creative industries here and beyond. Organisers pushed the design envelope further with the repositioning of **The Piazza Hall** and the inclusion of intriguing installations – such as the **Tree of Influence** and **Pyramid of Notion** – across the show floor.

Of special mention are the 20 up-and-coming designers who exhibited under the **Design STARS** collective, and the select groups of designers or design studios that participated in the **International Design Showcase**. For many of these individuals, IFFS was a priceless opportunity for them to gain greater exposure. Design STAR participant, Mr Kok Yih Ming, Design Principal of Kudzu Pte Ltd (Singapore), revealed, “I don’t usually engage in publicity activities for my business but being part of the showcase gave me added media exposure, which I appreciate a lot. I’ve received good response towards my designs, and I might come back as a paying exhibitor next year.”

Yet another noteworthy feature was the **Furniture Design Award (FDA) Showcase**, which consists of competition entries submitted by the 11 finalists of FDA 2016. Commenting on her decision to participate, Grand Winner, Ms Katarzyna Kempa (Poland), said, “I was first attracted to compete because I identified with what FDA stands for. The prize and the opportunity to visit Singapore were bonuses, and I’m glad I applied because being at IFFS is a significant milestone for me. It is far different than other European shows I’ve been to in terms of aesthetics, materials, and visitor interest. IFFS gave me the chance to gather new Asian contacts, and also to learn from others even as I present my pieces and my perspective. I’m expectant about future collaborations and opportunities that may arise from this.”

Looking ahead, the Organisers are confident of capturing more attention from the furniture and creative industries at large. Mr Phua Boon Huat, Chairman of the IFFS Show Advisory Panel, stated, “We had a very good run this year and we’re moving in the right direction. The team will focus on further enhancing the show experience for exhibitors and visitors alike, and we’ll share more as we firm up on our plans in the course of the year.”

The next edition of IFFS will take place from 9 – 12 March 2017 in Singapore EXPO.

For more information, please visit www.IFFS.com.sg.

###

About International Furniture Fair Singapore Pte Ltd (IFFS Pte Ltd)

International Furniture Fair Singapore Pte Ltd (IFFS Pte Ltd) is partly owned by the Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) and MP International Pte Ltd. IFFS Pte Ltd’s primary objectives are to organize and manage furniture and furniture-related fairs, exhibitions, shows, conferences and other events worldwide. This includes the annual International Furniture Fair Singapore/ASEAN Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS) and The Décor Show, a keynote event on the furniture trade exhibition calendar.

About International Furniture Fair Singapore/ASEAN Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS) and The Décor Show

The International Furniture Fair Singapore, held in conjunction with the ASEAN Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS) and The Décor Show, is regarded by industry experts as Asia’s premier sourcing platform and design-led exhibition. With three decades of experience since its inaugural event in 1981, the

IFFS/AFS remains the most distinctive channel for regional and international companies to penetrate the global market.

In the 2016 edition, the biennial furniPRO Asia, a woodworking and furniture and panel production exhibition in South East Asia will be held in conjunction with the IFFS/AFS. The exhibition aims to be a showcase and trading platform for the newest machinery and technologies in the market into its third edition.

Together, the trilogy of events - The IFFS/AFS, The Décor Show and furniPRO Asia - will feature a comprehensive range of furniture, furnishing, decorative accessories, interiors and fittings by a diverse portfolio of quality exhibitors, as well as offer an unparalleled outreach and access to the latest technological machinery development to the highly dynamic market, and attract a healthy and well-represented attendance of trade buyers and visitors from the entire furniture ecosystem and value chain.

To make it a holistic trade event, the various design initiatives (**SingaPlural, Furniture Design Platform and Furniture Design Award**) offer added depth and dimension to this Singapore-anchored trade event, raising its profile as a show not-to-be-missed in the industry calendar.

IFFS/AFS is supported by the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC), DesignSingapore Council, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, Singapore Exhibition and Convention Bureau and SPRING Singapore.

For more information:

IFFS 2016 www.iffs.com.sg/.

furniPRO Asia 2016 www.furniproasia.com.

For media enquiries on IFFS, please contact:

Asia Pacific, Americas & Rest of the World

Ms Alina TEE

Red Bug Communications

+65 6220 4787

alina@redbugpr.com

Europe and Middle East

Ms Marta BALLABIO

Marble Press

+39 0362 1781229

ballabio@marblepress.com

Organiser's Office – IFFS Pte Ltd

Ms Karen Chan

+65 65059180

karen@iffs.com.sg

Ms CHUA Siew Bee

+65 6505 9176

siewbee@iffs.com.sg