

ITB Asia 2018
17 – 19 October 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Disruption and innovation set to be the focus of ITB Asia 2018 keynote sessions with a stellar line up of speakers

- *Global leaders from Facebook, Microsoft, Trip.com to provide insights on the major trends driving change and transformation within the travel industry*
- *Keynote panel session on the future of travel distribution with insights from leading OTA's and intermediaries on how they are innovating to stay ahead*
- *Dedicated session on winning over today's Chinese travellers and connecting with Chinese millennials*

Singapore, 17 July 2018 - ITB Asia, 'Asia's Leading Travel Trade Show', has announced this year's impressive line-up of keynote speakers. Under the overarching conference theme of "Travel Reimagined", key industry leaders will be providing insights on the major trends provoking disruption across the travel industry and how they are innovating in order to stay ahead. Hosted at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Marina Bay Sands, the conference will take place from 17 - 19 October 2018.

The opening keynote session on 17 October will be led by global leaders from Facebook, Microsoft and Trip.com, focusing on today's complex travel industry issues including the major technological changes driving disruption in the travel sector, such as the rise in global smartphone ownership, how organisations are evolving their business models to remain competitive and their vision for the future of the travel industry.

The keynote addresses will be delivered by Nikhilesh Ponde, Global Head of Travel Strategy from Facebook, Shane O'Flaherty, Global Director of Travel and Transportation from Microsoft and Xing Xiong, CEO from Trip.com, one of the world's leading online travel agencies.

Shane O'Flaherty will elaborate on travel disruption and how this will change the way we travel and do business. He will also share his thoughts on how to create a seamless customer journey and empower employees for greater efficiency and creativity. Shane commented that "Shifting traveller profiles and expectations for more connected experiences is raising the bar throughout the travel journey. Advances in technology are opening up tremendous opportunity to drive revenue, lower operating cost and create new business models in ways we only talked about in the past. The future is already here."

Day two's keynote on 18 October will be a new intermediaries panel session with a focus on the future of travel distribution. OTAs, metasearch engines and new intermediaries are disrupting distribution, with a 360-degree view of customers in a way that other travel industry players cannot — at least today. With deep customer data and analytics, they are targeting the management of customer relationships, working as facilitators of mobility.

The second keynote panel session will be led by industry players including Amy Wei, Vice President, APAC from KAYAK, Andrew Hughes, Regional Director of Sourcing from Hotelbeds, Filip Filipov, Vice President of Product from Skyscanner and Charlie Osmond, Founder & Chief Tease from Triptease, who will share their insights on how they plan to succeed as the industry continues to move forward.

The keynote panel session on 19 October, day three, will focus on 'winning over today's Chinese travellers', looking at China's outbound travellers, one of the country's largest

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exports, and how their spending power is reshaping the world today. Top travel industry leaders including Alessandro Dassi, CEO & General Manager, Greater China & Far East from Thomas Cook, Troy Liu, Founder & CEO from Mileslife and Changle Yang, COO from Tujia, will provide their unique insights on connecting travel brands with Chinese millennials, new trends and driving forces and how to market destinations to the tech-savvy Chinese travellers.

"We are seeing unprecedented disruption in the travel industry as new technological advances compel travel brands to adapt and transform their business strategies. We are delighted to welcome global leaders from Facebook, Microsoft and Trip.com for our opening panel session. They will no doubt provide fascinating insights on how travel brands can embrace the changes that are shaking up the industry. We look forward to a truly exciting start to this year's show," said Katrina Leung, Managing Director of Messe Berlin (Singapore), organiser of ITB Asia.

ITB Asia keynote sessions allow attendees to get to the heart of today's complex travel issues with the shared expertise and vision of major industry leaders. By attending exclusive interviews and panel discussions, participants will gain insight into the major trends and innovations they need to embrace to remain competitive.

For more information on ITB Asia 2018, visit www.itb-asia.com

About ITB Asia 2018

ITB Asia 2018 will take place at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, from 17 - 19 October 2018. It is organised by Messe Berlin (Singapore) Pte Ltd and supported by the Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau. The annual three-day B2B trade show and convention will feature hundreds of exhibiting companies from the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, covering not only the leisure market, but also corporate and MICE travel. Exhibitors from every sector of the industry, including destinations, airlines and airports, hotels and resorts, theme parks and attractions, inbound tour operators, inbound DMCs, cruise lines, spas, venues, other meeting facilities and travel technology companies are all expected to attend.

Now in its eleventh year, ITB Asia is the premier meeting place for the travel trade industry for forging new partnerships and strengthening existing business relationships with the most important players in the region. Whilst celebrating a decade of ITB Asia, last year, its huge success saw 940 exhibitors, 951 quality buyers, 6,140 minutes of conference, more than 11,000 attendees and 22,000 business appointments.

Information About the Data Protection Law

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