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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DMAI's Destinations Showcase Underscores Importance of Face-to-Face Meetings within Events Industry

**FREE Conference & Expo Pass and Hosted Buyer Opportunities
Available for Qualified Meeting Professionals**

Rosemont, Ill. (June 1, 2010) – Professional meeting planners seeking locations for their upcoming events are invited to meet face-to-face with representatives of nearly 60 meeting destinations—in a single afternoon—during Destination Marketing Association International's annual Destinations Showcase Chicago. The popular Conference & Expo, taking place at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center on Wednesday, June 23, is the Midwest's largest one-day event exclusively bringing association, corporate, government, and independent/third-party meeting professionals together with exhibiting destination marketing organizations (DMOs) from across North America and beyond.

The exhibiting destinations are featured in a geographically arranged exhibit hall during the afternoon expo. Attendees may also participate in morning education sessions, a keynote luncheon featuring Bill Kurtis, and the opportunity to earn up to 4.5 CMP credits; along with great prize drawings and unlimited networking throughout the day.

Meeting professionals may qualify for a complimentary Conference & Expo pass by pre-registering at www.DestinationsShowcase.com.

What's more, those interested in attending from outside of the Chicagoland area may be eligible to participate in the Hosted Buyer Program. In addition to show admission, Hosted Buyers will receive two nights of hotel accommodations at the headquarters hotel, two VIP receptions, scheduled appointments with sponsoring destinations, and up to \$300 in reimbursement for airfare. Apply and get program details at <http://www.destinationsshowcase.com/hosted-buyer/index.html>.

(more)

Participating destinations as of May 28, 2010:

Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau
Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association
Amelia Island Tourism Development Council
Aruba Convention Bureau
Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel
Beaches of South Walton
Bloomington, Minn. Convention & Visitors Bureau
Branson/Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Canadian Tourism Commission
Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
Chicago's North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau
Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Destination DC
Dominican Republic Tourist Office
Emerald Coast CVB - Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Okaloosa Island
Evansville Convention & Visitors Bureau
Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau
Galena/Jo Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau
Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau
Hot Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lake County, Ill. Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lake George Area in New York's Adirondacks
Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Long Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Meet Minneapolis
Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau
Mexico Tourism Board
Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau
New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau
Newport, R.I. Convention & Visitors Bureau
Osceola County Kissimmee Convention & Visitors Bureau
Palm Beach County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rosemont Convention & Visitors Bureau
San Diego North
San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau
San Mateo County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Santa Fe Convention & Visitors Bureau
Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau
Snowmass Tourism Office
Sonoma County Tourism Bureau
Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau
Springfield, Mo. Convention & Visitors Bureau
St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & the Beaches Visitors & Convention Bureau
Tourism Quebec
Travel Alberta
Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau
Valley Forge Convention & Visitors Bureau
Visit Charlotte
Visit Cheyenne
Visit Denver
Visit Jacksonville
Visit St. Petersburg / Clearwater
Woodfield Chicago Northwest Convention Bureau

About Destination Marketing Association International

Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI) is the world's largest and most reliable resource for official destination marketing organizations (DMOs). Dedicated to improving the effectiveness of professionals from over 600 DMOs worldwide, DMAI's membership represents more than 3000 DMO professionals, students, educators, and industry partners in over 30 countries. Meeting professionals will benefit from DMAI's empowerMINT.com program, a new online tool for meeting and event planners. Connecting planners and their events to destinations and their experts, empowerMINT.com simplifies the researching, distribution, and selection of DMOs and partnering hotels and meeting venues. empowerMINT.com leverages and integrates the existing MINT historical database and thousands of existing customer relationships to create the DMO industry's first lead generation and sales network.

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