

# Singapore delivers for the international marketplace

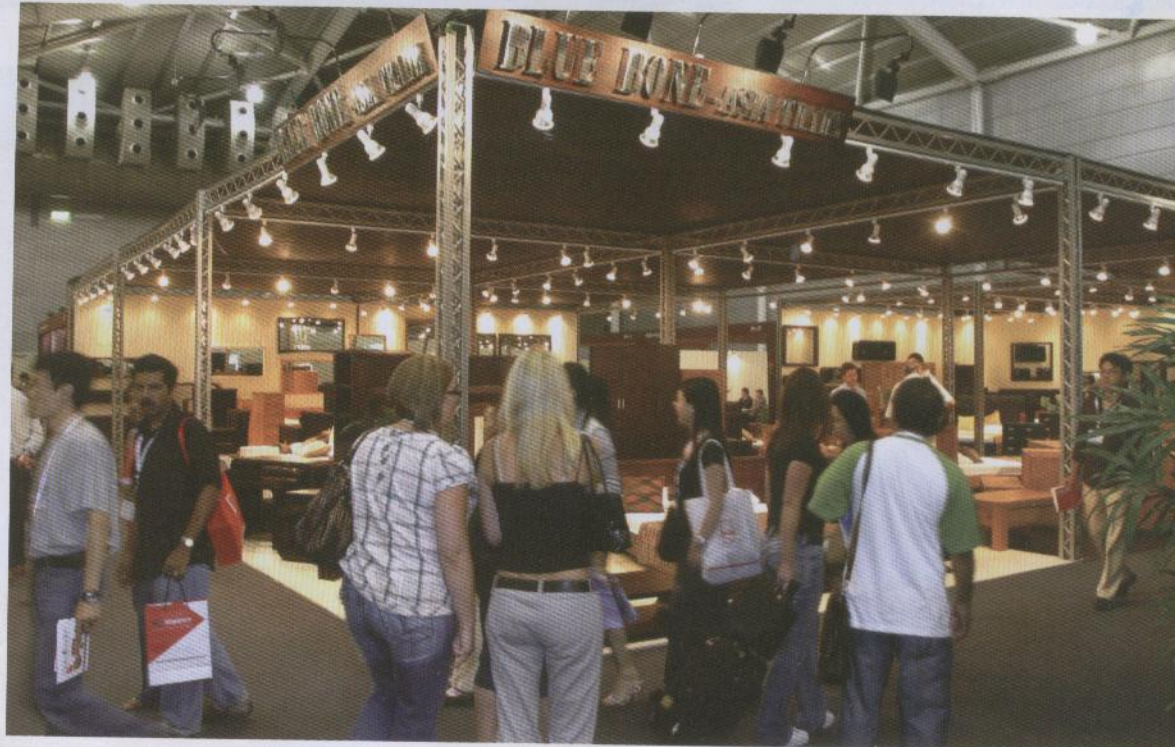
THE INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE Fair Singapore 2007 and 24th ASEAN Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS 2007) boasted more than 500 exhibitors from 28 countries showcasing the latest offerings in furniture and furnishing products. Some 17,322 trade visitors made the journey from 117 countries in all spending an estimated USD 240 million of spot orders.

Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, opened the five-day exhibition which has become a much-anticipated event on the international furniture trade show circuit.

Importantly, at Singapore visitors will see the largest collection of Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Taiwanese and Vietnamese furniture products, outside of these respective countries making it a truly one-stop source for the international furniture buyer.

The effectiveness of IFFS/AFS as a commercial platform is also reaffirmed by a strong return of repeat exhibitors – about three-quarters of the space at this year's show was taken up by regular supporters who return year after year.

In addition, IFFS/AFS 2007 provided a breath of fresh air when



it came to match-making between designers and manufacturers with a total of 92 first-to-market furniture prototypes by young designers from the region who took part in various design initiatives including the annual Furniture Design Award, FLIP Challenge and the inaugural PLATFORM.

Mr James Koh, Chairman of International Furniture Fair Singapore Pte Ltd, said: "We are very encouraged by the enthusiastic response which we have received from both local and international furniture trade players."

Mr Tony Pang, Chairman, IFFS/AFS Show Advisory Panel, said: "We are heartened that IFFS/AFS has once again proved valuable to the global furniture trade players. The efficiencies of Singapore such as our business-

oriented facilities and services, effective transport and logistics system as well as safe and cosmopolitan environment have continued to help boost our leadership position as a trendsetter in furniture designs as well as in reaffirming and catalysing businesses in the region. I'm certain expectations for next year's fair will be raised and I am confident we will gear up to meet the challenges ahead."

Indeed, the size and scope of the fair will be expanded when the IFFS/AFS returns from 1 to 5 March next year. IFFS/AFS 2008 will occupy seven halls at the Singapore Expo, allowing an additional 10,000 square metres of floor space for exhibition. To date, more than 12,000 square metres of exhibition space for the 2008 fair have already been booked by more than 50 companies.

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■ IFFS/AFS 2009 will be held from 8 to 12 March.



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