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SECC becomes world's first official "Healthy Venue"

The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) in Glasgow, Scotland, has become the first venue in the world to be accredited under the World Obesity Federation's Healthy Venue Awards programme, achieving silver status under its challenging criteria.

The Healthy Venues Award is part of World Obesity's Action Initiative which seeks to stimulate and support practical actions that will help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight and reverse the global obesity crisis. The award focuses on steps that venues can take to support healthy eating and to encourage more activity.

Welcoming the accreditation, the SECC's Director of Conference Sales Kathleen Warden said:

"We are all so enthusiastic about this initiative and I am thrilled to see the team's hard work recognised by becoming the first officially accredited Healthy Conference Venue in the world. We have very much enjoyed being a key partner to World Obesity in promoting healthy choices for delegates and other people in the meetings and events industry. It's all about looking holistically at the attendee experience, from healthy meals through to encouraging people to use the stairs rather than lifts. As a leading international venue, we believe we have a significant role to play in working with our clients to create healthy legacies which not only benefit conference participants and the local community, but an entire sector and generation."

Chris Trimmer, CEO of the World Obesity Federation said:

"The Healthy Venues Award was conceived to help combat the unhealthiness of meetings & conferences and the impact these can have on people's lives. It is broken down into three components – workplace health, healthy catering and promoting activity and is awarded at three levels – bronze, silver and gold.

For anything like this to succeed, it needs someone to take the first step and we are extremely pleased SECC took that challenge. They have worked tirelessly to meet the strict criteria of the accreditation and we congratulate them for achieving silver status.

The award promotes working in partnership and looking holistically at the attendee experience, both of which SECC have embraced to transform their conferences into healthy and enjoyable experiences. Having SECC as an ambassador for Healthy Venues will show other exhibition & conference providers that the healthy choice is the right choice."

Investments made by the SECC to support a healthier event experience for delegates include:

- The establishment of a healthy venue task force to implement new healthy practices
- A pioneering partnership with Nextbike to provide free bikes to conference delegates
- Digital signs encouraging delegates to use the stairs or stand to applause in sessions
- Access to route maps promoting walking, cycling, running and local health clubs
- A staff pedometer challenge



- Offering low fat, low sugar and low alcohol menu options through on-site caterers Levy Restaurants
- Free healthy packages of fresh fruit, juice and water for event organisers

-Ends-

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Notes to editors:

The SECC is situated in the heart of Glasgow, Scotland's cultural and commercial capital and is one of the UK's largest integrated venues, purpose-built to provide exhibition, conference and event space. Capable of delivering events from two to well over 10,000 delegates, the SECC has space with flexibility; from the iconic Clyde Auditorium to the Loch Suite of meeting rooms, all joined to 22,355m² of exhibition space. In this year's UK Event Magazine awards, the SECC won awards for both Event Space of the Year and Venue Team of the Year.

The World Obesity Federation is a not-for-profit organisation representing professional members of the scientific, medical and research communities in over 50 regional and national obesity associations. Through our membership we create a global network of organisations dedicated to solving the problems of obesity. For more information, visit www.worldobesity.org