

COMPANY PROFILE

Where the world meets Africa

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The Durban ICC has been ever evolving since its inception in the early 90's. IndustrySA speaks to CEO Julie-May Ellingson about its recent developments and the impact the ICC has on the region.

The Durban International Convention Centre has been voted Africa's leading meeting and conference centre by the World Travel Awards 12 times in 13 years and is rated amongst the top 20 convention centres in the world by the AIPC. The Durban ICC was built as part of the community development project, Operation Jumpstart, and since its opening on the 8th August 1997 by President Nelson Mandela, the ICC has made astonishing progress.

In 2000, it took over management of the Durban Exhibition Centre that has become the home of Southern Africa's biggest tourism show, Indaba, almost every year since it began. In 2004, work began on expanding the Durban ICC to include the Durban ICC Arena. It opened March 2007, turning it into Africa's largest, column-free, flat floor exhibition centre and meeting space. The arena is a world class venue for sporting events and concerts with its retractable seating and capacity for up to 10,000 people. Marking the significance of this development, the Durban ICC, as well as the Durban Exhibition Centre and Durban

ICC Arena, were all named as part of the Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC Complex, after the former President of the African National Congress and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Albert Luthuli. The entire complex is 33,000m² of flexible exhibition and meeting space with operable walls that allow an unlimited number of venue configurations, state-of-the-art technical equipment and renowned high standards of service excellence.

2011 was yet another significant year as the Durban ICC hosted its largest and most complex event, the 17th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17/CMP7). With 2500 meetings held over the two week period in addition to the main plenary session, the conference drew 20,000 delegates to the city of Durban. "Full credit must go to the Durban ICC staff who were amazing. Nothing was ever too big or too small for them to handle. COP17/CMP7 showed that we have the necessary capabilities and experience to host the largest and most complex events in the world," says CEO, Julie-May Ellingson. That same year, the Durban ICC hosted the 123rd International Olympic Committee Session that