

For Immediate Release

ACTE to report on strategies to combat the SARS effect on business travel

Singapore, May 20, 2003 – The *Association of Corporate Travel Executives* held its first Asia-Pacific *PowerTalk* session in Singapore to construct a framework of considerations and recovery strategies applicable for adoption by members of the business travel sector. Top and senior executives from American Express, Abacus International, Alliente Inc., Apple Computer, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Credit Suisse First Boston, General Electric, International SOS, Raffles International Hotels & Resorts, Reed Business Information and Singapore Airlines, focused on four issues deemed necessary as part of a proactive approach among client organisations and suppliers of business travel products & services to deal with the “sting” that SARS has had on the business travel.

1. Understanding the current mindset of business travellers & travel specialists
2. Exploring controllable variables available to travel suppliers in managing the risk for their clients
3. Ascertaining probability of new business travel patterns emerging
4. Examining strategies that may be adopted in a recovery phase (ie. post SARS crisis)

This initiative is part of ACTE's drive to respond to a crisis that has caused unprecedented damage to business travel in the region. Mark Williams, ACTE's President called for the corporate travel industry to collaborate to arrest a situation made worse by confusion, uncertainty and contradictory reactions surrounding the SARS outbreak.

Kenneth Phua of ACTE added, "ACTE's ability to harness the collective expertise of key industry constituents offers the prospect of finding a way forward, hence our call for this dialogue. The nature of the situation also calls for close collaboration between business travel managers and their partners."

ACTE will be publishing a report on the group's findings and recommendations in May. Results of a survey conducted among travel managers in the ASPAC region to measure the effects of the SARS outbreak on business travel activity will also be available.

ACTE is proud to present these events as part of its mission to advance the industry with the support of its regional sponsors **Abacus International**, **Business Travel International** and **Raffles International Hotels & Resorts**. The official venue for this executive forum is the Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore. For more information and to register for this event, please visit www.acte.org

Founded in 1988, the **Association of Corporate Travel Executives** is the only organization wholly dedicated to the science of business travel management with an international constituency. ACTE membership totals more than 2,500, including entities in Asia, Europe, Canada and the United States. The organization is headquartered in Alexandria, Va., and its web site is www.acte.org