

BLOG: RAY BLOOM: CHAIRMAN IMEX GROUP

- Ray Bloom is the chairman and founder of the IMEX Group which organises worldwide exhibitions for incentive travel, meetings and events in Europe and the USA. The award-winning IMEX exhibition takes place annually at Messe Frankfurt, Germany and IMEX 2011 will take place from 24 - 26 May. The newly launched, IMEX America, will take place for the first time from 11 – 13 October 2011 in Las Vegas.
- Ray Bloom has been a successful entrepreneur for many years. He commenced his career in the motor industry where his family's Volkswagen Audi dealership won the Diamond Pin Award (the highest Volkswagen Award given to dealerships worldwide).
- He subsequently entered the hotel industry and then the exhibition industry where he built up EIBTM (European and Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings Exhibition); which was sold to Reed Elsevier in 1997. In addition, Bloom built up the leading sales and promotion exhibition, Incentive World, in London, which was also sold to Reed Elsevier in 2000.
- Whilst founding and developing what have become the leading trade shows in the meetings and incentive travel sector, Bloom also became heavily involved in numerous industry associations and has been recognised in a variety of ways, including being inducted into the CIC (Convention Industry Council) Hall of Leaders (1991); being awarded UK Personality of the Year by Meetings & Incentive Travel Magazine (1993); recipient of the ICCA (International Congress and Conventions Association) Presidents Award (1997) and being inducted into the WATA (World Association of Travel Agencies) Hall of Fame in 2000. In addition, Bloom served on the Board of Trustees for the MPI (Meeting Professionals International) Foundation from 1996 – 2002 and MPI's Global Strategy Taskforce Committee from 2006 – 2008. He currently serves on the MPI European Foundation Board of Trustees.
- He also served on the Board of Trustees for the SITE (Society of Incentive & Travel Executives) Foundation between 1993 – 1999 and has recently been appointed Treasurer of the Site Foundation (March 2010).
- In October 2010, Bloom was also presented with the Corporate Order of Skal Merit.
- Bloom's views and opinions on the meetings and incentive travel industry are widely sought after and he is a regular speaker at industry events across the world.

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