Statement from Amy Calvert, CEO
30 January 2020

Bringing people together for face-to-face events is never more affected or resilient than when tested by adversity, crisis or uncertainty. The Events Industry Council (EIC), our members and our CMP community know firsthand the critical importance of being aware, prepared and responsive to issues that potentially disrupt global travel and meetings.

While none of us can be certain of the impact of the current coronavirus outbreak, we know how deeply this type of challenge can alter lives and economies of the regions directly involved, as well as those that feel its ripple effect.

We also know there is strength in being part of a trillion-dollar industry whose organisers host more than 1.4 billion participants annually. We know that leveraging relationships and partners is key to finding answers and solutions. We want to offer our support and leadership during these challenging times, and ensure decisions regarding hosting events, travel and face-to-face interactions are made from a fully informed space.

In the short term, should your plans find you in a position which necessitates change, consider postponement of your event while finding opportunities to support at-risk communities. Acknowledge that the current situation is temporary and make a firm commitment to return. Continue to be what we have always been – advocates for transparent and ethical decisions based on facts and necessity. Use your internal and external resources to implement a communications strategy to your stakeholders, then share those learnings and outcomes to help your peers and colleagues.

To our friends and colleagues in China and other affected areas, we send our heartfelt concern and support. We are ready and available to coalesce information and communication channels to share what you need now, and what you will need for future recovery.

EIC, on behalf of our global members, has curated a repository of sites and sources we hope you find useful as you seek to stay current. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed.