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In this edition of the International Journal of Business Events and Legacies, we embark on a comprehensive journey, traversing the evolving landscape of the events industry. With a diverse selection of articles, we aim to present a holistic view, touching upon various facets of the sector from academic perspectives to critical commentaries, and from stakeholder insights to the very core of legacy and impact.

Our journey begins with a trio of academic explorations, each delving deep into the intricacies of the events industry and its transformation in the wake of recent global phenomena:

EDITOR IN CHIEF'S MESSAGE

- Martin Fullard's annual "The Business of Events: Global Destination Report" by Davies Tanner presents a panoramic snapshot of the business events sector, indicating a positive shift in governmental support, and the strategic pivot from international to domestic events.
- The philosophical expedition undertaken by Bas Schot and colleagues into the concept of "legacy" questions prevalent notions, emphasizing the intrinsic role of associations in creating an enduring impact.
- Andreas H. Zins delineates the influential stature of convention bureaus in sculpting a sustainable event industry, underscoring their potential to champion sustainable change in an era where environmental consciousness is paramount.

Our narrative then takes a critical turn with Shawna McKinley's enlightening article reprinted from AMI Magazine. McKinley astutely examines the challenges of assessing environmental claims, cautioning against the pitfalls of greenwashing and emphasizing the need for scientifically backed frameworks. Pivoting from McKinley's critical perspective, we transition to a more optimistic outlook on positive impacts.

Next, our focus shifts to the vital stakeholders in the events industry:

- The comparative analysis of the UFI Global Exhibition Barometer by Kai Hattendorf and Christian Druart provides a bird's eye view of the exhibition sector, highlighting its resilience and adaptability in the face of changing global dynamics.
- Nikki Walker unveils the Association Engagement Index, a pivotal study that uncovers the dynamics between associations and their members, emphasizing the importance of innovation and adaptability.

As we progress, the theme of legacies is revisited:

- Dr. Aaron Tham offers a novel approach, weaving through an abstract perspective on business event legacies and proposing a process-driven approach to legacy considerations.

As we close this edition, we are pleased to present a review by Dr. Dušan Borovčanin of a recent book publication - The Routledge Handbook on Business Events edited by Charles Arcodia (2023). This compendium is a timely addition to the realm of event studies, offering 26 insightful chapters penned by 52 international authors. Organized cohesively into six parts, the book explores

foundational concepts, delves into event impact, sustainability, technology, and marketing, and concludes with a forward-looking perspective on future research avenues. With its 315 pages, the handbook stands as an invaluable resource for students, researchers, and professionals alike, providing a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the art in the area of business events.

Each article in this edition stands as a testament to the multifaceted world of business events and legacies. It is an invitation to delve deep, engage in dialogue, and contribute to the ever-evolving narrative of this dynamic sector. We hope this compilation provokes thought, encourages discussion, and inspires action. Happy reading!

