

SHOWS

Furnimax

One of the most ambitious furniture events to be held in Australia will take place 21 to 24 April, 2005. **Furnimax 2005** will be a premier showcase of Australia's leading furniture manufacturers and importers.

This prestigious show will be conducted at the spectacular Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre – Australia's newest exhibition venue.

Furnimax 2005 will give exhibitors an opportunity to launch their product range to Australia's leading retailers and buying groups.

Brett Oliver, executive director of Furnimax 2005, says more than 120 VIP buyers from the retail sector have committed to the event.

"Our primary goal is to provide the industry with an environment conducive to

trade. 21 and 22 April have been allocated for the VIP buyers, who will attend by invitation only.

"On the weekend of April 23 and 24, buyers from all over the country will be allowed access. No public will be admitted to the event."

The exhibition will feature a selected product mix of general furniture, bedding and accessories. Since its October release, over 75% of space has sold with limited space still available.

"One of the obvious benefits will be the showcasing of the Queensland furniture industry. Following many years absence of a major furniture show, the Queenslanders have a tremendous opportunity to promote their wares. ●

CIFF2005 splits into two phases

The 15th **China International Furniture Fair (CIFF)**, Guangzhou, is to be split into two phases in March 2005. The first phase will be from March 18-21 while the second is scheduled on March 26-29, 2005. CIFF is held bi-annually in March and August, but this new format will not be applied to the August event in 2005.

The first phase of March's show will showcase home furniture, both modern and classical; and the second phase, office and

commercial furniture. At the same time as the initial phase the **China International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Raw Materials Fair (Guangzhou) – interzum guangzhou**, will also be held.

The **Hometextile China** expo will run during the second phase.

The operation of two phases provides CIFF with a great opportunity to grow into one of the most professional exhibitions in the world with larger scale and upgraded service. ●

New Age chairs rule the day

The finalists of the **Singapore Furniture Design Award 2005**, Student and Young Designer categories, have been announced and, this year, **Seats of Tomorrow** takes centre stage.

The source of inspiration for these designer chairs has been very varied, ranging from the Chinese traditional symbol of grace and beauty, *qi pao*, and a mundane hairpin to lifestyle staples like ramen and instant noodles.

Each year, the Furniture Design Award (FDA) is organised in conjunction with the design-led furniture trade show, **International Furniture Fair Singapore/ASEAN Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS)**. This has been an exciting platform that unveils new furniture design trends in Asia.

This design led exhibition is opening an additional hall for bookings for 2005 giving it 55,000 m2 at the Singapore Expo.

Mr Jerry Tan, chairman of the IFFS/AFS 2005 organising committee said: "This is a mark of the global furniture trade fraternity's confidence in Singapore as an effective business gateway."

Furniture design innovation will again feature prominently at IFFS/AFS 2005. The Design Gallery will showcase a greater number of design-led companies displaying their designer showpieces. IFFS/AFS 2005 will also play host to the 3rd Furniture Design Forum on 2 March 2005.

IFFS/AFS 2005 will be held from 1-5 March 2005 at the Singapore Expo. ●

