

2020 Duty Free & Travel Retail SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

BUSINESS » EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE » CONNECT AND NETWORK



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IAADFS and ASUTIL Announce Cancellation of the 2020 Summit of the Americas

Washington, DC and Montevideo, Uruguay, March 3, 2020 – After careful consideration, IAADFS and ASUTIL have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Duty Free & Travel Retail Summit of the Americas, scheduled for March 30 – April 2 in Orlando, Florida.

The organizations have been monitoring developments regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and have been following the information about this outbreak from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among others. The associations have also been in contact with a number of exhibitors, attendees, and other stakeholders.

The duty free and travel retail industry is a vibrant and close-knit community that is dependent on international travel, and the associations' priority is to always act in the best interests of all of their partners. The ongoing spread of COVID-19 has resulted in mounting concern over health safety, along with increased travel advisories and government health warnings – including the State of Florida's March 1 declaration of a public health emergency. It has become clear that the most responsible path forward is to cancel the 2020 Summit of the Americas.

IAADFS and ASUTIL regret that they have had to come to this decision, and they appreciate the understanding and the ongoing support that their members, exhibitors, and attendees have shown for the 2020 Summit of the Americas. They will be issuing full refunds of all exhibit space rental fees and registration fees and expect to have this refund process completed by Friday, March 13 for refunds of payments that were received by credit card, with refunds via check or electronic transfer to take up to an additional two weeks. They encourage anyone who has booked room reservations for the 2020 Summit of the Americas to submit their cancellation of these reservations as soon as possible to minimize any cancellation penalties that may apply.

Press inquiries should be directed to IAADFS President and CEO Michael Payne at +1-202-367-1184 or ASUTIL Secretary-General José Luis Donagaray at +598-2-623-1842.

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About ASUTIL

ASUTIL was constituted in 1995 by Mercosur operators in defense of the interests of the industry facing the creation of this free trade area. It has participated in different activities in the countries of the member operators, carried out the first study together with IAADFS of the industry in the South American continent and carried out the first harmonized study of customs rules for Mercosur and Chile. In 1997 the first ASUTIL conference was developed in Rio de Janeiro, and unlike others in the industry the focus was on networking time between operators and suppliers and conferences of specialists in different areas. The active participation of operators sharing data and plans is what has led to ASUTIL being a reference in the industry for suppliers and operators. Visit www.asutil.org for more information.

About IAADFS

The International Association of Airport and Duty Free Stores (IAADFS) is a duty free and travel retail association representing the Americas and Caribbean with more than 350 member companies. These store operators and suppliers came together for the first time in 1968 to promote the airport duty free industry as an important segment of international business. Visit www.iaadfs.org for more information on activities where operators of airport and duty free stores and their suppliers can exchange information on products. The leadership of IAADFS also serves as a collective voice in advocating for the airport and duty free industry on common issues affecting the membership.