

IAAPA Board Update: Key Outcomes from Our March 2026 Virtual Meeting

In late March the IAAPA Board of Directors convened virtually to discuss several time-sensitive matters that required immediate attention.

Key outcomes include:

IAAPA MENA

Dr. Neil Dwyer (Six Flags Qiddiya) has been confirmed as the inaugural Chairman of IAAPA MENA, effective July 1. Following a thorough process, the Governance Committee recommended Dr. Dwyer, who currently serves on the Board, for this important leadership role.

Governance Taskforce

As agreed during the previous Board Meeting, a taskforce has been established to review and modernize IAAPA's bylaws and policies. This initiative will be led by Board Member Denise Beckson (Morey's Piers), who provided an update on timeline and composition.

IAAPA Expo Latin America

Given the postponement of IAAPA Expo Middle East to 2027, we reviewed the overall global event calendar. Considering the operational demands of launching new Expos in close succession, the Board supported a recommendation to shift the launch of IAAPA Expo Latin America to 2028. At the same time, the Board emphasized that both regions should be developed independently ensuring that Latin America proceeds without further delay even if Middle East timelines change.

IAAPA Expo Expansion

Christy Spahn as our VP for Expo Sales and Operations presented the results of the 2026 Space Allocation Process. As expected, the pavilion strategy generated significant feedback, mostly from ride manufacturers, and we appreciate the efforts of our sales and operations teams in managing these discussions. The Board reaffirmed support for the 2026 direction while approving the formation of a dedicated taskforce. This group, composed equally of exhibitors and attendees, will review the 2026 Expo and provide recommendations ahead of the next space allocation cycle.