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## **Sydney to be investigated by journalist world's best**

In times of crisis top quality journalism comes into its own as people search for a trusted source of information on the issues shaping our world.

As Australia attracts the eyes of the world for its relative successes in navigating its own strong path through this latest global crisis, a local organisation dedicated to the advancement of the local investigative journalism profession has secured hosting rights for the pinnacle meeting of their peers, the 12th Global Investigative Journalism Conference (GIJC21), to be held in Sydney from 3-7 November 2021.

Speaking of the win, Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas Executive Director Mark Ryan said GIJC21 would be an unparalleled opportunity for journalists from Australia and the Asia Pacific to learn techniques and skills from the best journalists in the world.

"It will also showcase the work of journalists from Australia and the Asia Pacific and share their lessons and experiences with the global journalism community," Mr Ryan added.

"We deeply appreciate the Judith Neilson Institute's support during these uncertain times," said Brant Houston, chair of the Global Investigative Journalist Network (GIJN) board. "This presents GIJN with a great opportunity to hold its first global conference in the (APAC) region."

NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres MP commended the Judith Neilson Institute on the win for Sydney, an APAC first, and said, "Excellence in journalism is fuelled by quality networks, and the GNIJ will provide this for Australian journalists on an industrial scale".

"With 60 per cent of the world's population now based in the APAC region, and a strong performance in navigating a path through the social and economic challenges created by COVID-19, we welcome the world's journalists to hear more about our region, and take those learnings back to their audiences at home."

BESydney CEO Lyn Lewis-Smith said global meetings were a proven contributor to Australia's knowledge economy, enabling participants to share knowledge, exchange approaches and build networks to fast-track industry development and social change.

Ms Lewis added, "We have long advocated that the work we do assisting Australian subject matter experts like the Judith Neilson Institute to tell the stories of Australian smarts and capability on the global stage, creates long-term social and economic impact. With the combined global audience of the GNIJ delegates reaching every corner of the globe, this is a tremendous opportunity for the Australian story to be told."

Australia's Minister for Tourism Simon Birmingham said that securing international events and conferences such as this would play an important role in the rebuilding of Australia's tourism industry.

“This is a great win for Sydney and will provide the city with an opportunity to showcase its enviable tourism offerings and inspire some of the world’s top journalists,” Minister Birmingham said.

“Business events are a significant economic driver, providing a boost to businesses around Australia by helping to fill hotels, bars and restaurants. It is critical that we continue to attract conferences such as this one to maintain our reputation for being a world-class events destination and to ensure the long-term recovery of our tourism industry.”

The biennial Global Investigative Journalism Conferences are significant training events, featuring practical panels and workshops on the latest investigative techniques, data analysis, online research and cross-border collaboration by the best journalists in the field. The conferences have trained over 8000 journalists and resulted in the founding of investigative teams, non-profit newsrooms, and headline-making stories around the world. The last conference, GIJC19, was held in Hamburg, Germany, in September 2019.

GIJC 2021 was won for Sydney by the Judith Neilson Institute in partnership with global bidding services specialist BESydney with the support of the New South Wales Government and the Tourism Australia Business Events Bid Fund Program. It will be held at the state-of-the-art ICC Sydney from 3-7 November 2021.

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### **About BESydney**

Since 1969 BESydney has been Sydney’s strategic bidding organisation responsible for attracting global meetings to the city: local experts with remarkable connections, growing Australia’s international reputation as one of the world’s most business and tech-friendly hosts. Financially supported and backed by the NSW State Government and the private sector, it is a not-for-profit company with a focus on value creation. BESydney was recently named an ABA100 Winner for business innovation in The Australian Business Awards 2019.

### **About the Judith Neilson Institute**

The Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas supports and celebrates quality journalism and storytelling around the world. Its grants and education programs equip journalists with the resources they need to produce outstanding work. Its events are forums to discuss the issues shaping the world.

### **About the Global Investigative Journalism Network**

The Global Investigative Journalism Network, founded in 2003, is an association of 184 non-profit organisations in 77 countries, working to strengthen and expand investigative reporting worldwide.