

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

SPONSORED BY



ORGANISED BY



WITH THE
PARTICIPATION OF



A MAXIMUM OF 12
CME POINTS WILL BE
ACCREDITED FOR THIS
CONGRESS, SUBJECT
TO APPROVAL BY SMC



16th Annual Meeting *of the Asian Society for* **Cardiovascular Surgery** 13-16 March 2008 *Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore*

www.ascvs2008.com

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST IN AN ERA OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Welcome

The Organising Committee warmly invites you to Singapore for the 16th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery (ASCVS) in March 2008.

The 21st century brings in an exciting time for the healthcare field as we make quantum leaps in new discoveries. As much as our quality of life has improved remarkably, we also see the emergence of greater challenges and new issues. Thus our theme, Putting Patients first in the Era of Modern Technology, suits best as we comb new grounds and face unexpected challenges.

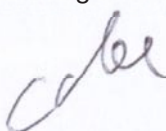
Drawing perspectives and insights from leading representatives of the Asia Pacific region, the congress will bring together prolific results for greater advancement in cardiovascular surgery. An intensive range of topics has been lined up to enhance the practical value of the programme. Key highlights will include hands-on workshops and review course for surgeons in training in preparation for their examinations. Sufficient time will be given to the investigators to present their original work.

You may wish to take the opportunity to renew contacts; exchange ideas and results of the latest development in cardiovascular and its related field; and more importantly, collaborate in clinical work, research and clinical trials.

There will also be a trade exhibition displaying the latest pharmaceutical products and medical equipment in the field of cardiothoracic surgery.

For the regional and international colleagues, we invite you to have a good time in the beautiful city of Singapore. Exciting activities are lined up for your discovery- experience a unique fusion of multi-cultural lifestyles; feel the peace and tranquility of the Singapore island resort, Sentosa; pub-hop at the bustling Clarke Quay; close encounter of the third kind with the animals of our Night Safari.

More information will be made available on our website at www.ascvs2008.com or email our Congress Secretariat at mice@themeetinglab.com to be put on our mailing list.



Professor Chuen-Neng LEE
Chairman
16th ASCVS 2008

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

HONORARY ADVISORS

Joseph SHEARES
Huat-Seong SAW
King-Twok TAN
Ngho-Chuan TAN
Ming-Chuan TONG

CHAIRMAN

Chuen-Neng LEE

SECRETARY-GENERAL

James WONG

ASST SECRETARY-GENERAL

Kenny SIN

SCIENTIFIC AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Poo-Sing WONG (Chairman)
Uwe KLIMA (Co-Chairman)
Peter ROBLESS (Co-Chairman)
John TAM (Co-Chairman)
Michael CALEB
Theo KOFIDIS
Yeong-Phang LIM
Eugene SIM
Shankar SRIRAM

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dar-Ching WU (Treasurer)
Yong-Seng TAN

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

Yeow-Leng CHUA (Chairman)
Kenny SIN (Co-Chairman)
Aneez D B AHMED
See-Lim LIM
Oon-Cheong OOI
Shankar SRIRAM
Aye, Maung-Maung WINN

PUBLICATION, PUBLICITY, REGISTRATION & WEBSITE COMMITTEE

C SIVATHASAN (Chairman)
Teing-Ee TAN (Co-Chairman)
Victor CHAO
Yeong-Phang LIM

SOCIAL / HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Christie Tiong-Tee TAN (Chairman)
Chong-Hee LIM (Co-Chairman)
Eliana MARTINEZ
Jai-Lin SOON

ASCVS BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Akira FURUSE
PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS	Qing-Yu WU
PRESIDENT ELECT OF CONGRESS	Chuen-Neng LEE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS	Soichiro KITAMURA
SECRETARY GENERAL	Shinichi TAKAMOTO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL	Noboru MOTOMURA
TREASURER	Yuichi UEDA
COUNCILLORS	David LC CHEUNG
	Bum-Koo CHO
	Yasuyuki HOSODA
	Omer ISIK
	Teruhisa KAZUI
	Yong-Jin KIM
	Masashi KOMEDA
	Sampath KUMAR
	Prinya SAKIYALAK
	M Azhari YAKUB
	Tarng-Jenn YU

THE ASIAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

is set up to promote the study of the art, science and practice of cardiovascular surgery. It facilitates the exchange of ideas in the field of cardiovascular surgery and provides a platform for personal contacts between cardiovascular specialists. Scientific meetings are organised annually to achieve this purpose. You may register as a member at www.ascvs.org.

Call for Abstracts

Please read the guidelines carefully before writing your abstract. Only Abstracts that conform to the given guidelines will be accepted.

Guidelines for Abstracts Submission

1. The presenting author must be registered.
2. Abstracts should contain no more than 250 words.
3. Use MS Word and Times New Roman font type 10 points size.
4. The abstract title should fit in two lines; use left alignment in the abstract title; the title has to be written in capital letters, followed by a blank line.
5. Type the main author's family name first and then the initials of his/her first name(s), followed by the rest of the co-authors' names; do not use professional or academic titles.
6. Underline the presenting author.
7. Follow the authors' names with the name of the institution, department, city and country.
8. Leave one blank line after the author(s) and institution(s).

9. The body of the text follows, using the usual criteria: introduction, material and method, results, conclusions (phrasing like "results will be presented" are to be avoided).
10. All abbreviations have to be defined at their first mentioning in the text; charts or graphs can not be inserted within the abstract form.
11. Direct reproduction from your electronically submitted abstract text means that any errors in spelling, grammar or scientific data will be reproduced as submitted.

If you have not received a confirmation of your abstract submission by email within seven working days of your submission please contact the Congress Secretariat by email to check receipt of your abstract. All abstracts must be submitted by **1 SEPTEMBER 2007**.

Abstracts Acceptance

Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Authors will receive a notification of acceptance from the Congress Secretariat by email.

Papers will be accepted with payment of registration fees for the main meeting.

CATEGORY OF ABSTRACTS

1. Aorta
2. Basic Sciences
3. Cardiac Imaging
4. Congenital
5. Coronary
6. Evolving Technology
7. Heart Failure
8. Minimally Invasive Cardiac
9. Myocardial Restoration
10. Thoracic
11. Valve

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARD

Applications are invited from young doctors for the Young Investigator's Award. The Award is in recognition of outstanding original work. The winner will receive an honorarium of S\$1,000.00.

The award is open to doctors below 35 years old and working in Asia. Only original work of related field carried out in the region and not previously published will be considered.

Finalists will present their papers at the Congress to the Panel of Judges appointed by the Organising Committee.

In the event that no entry of sufficient merit is received, the Panel of Judges may recommend to the Organising Committee that no award be made. The decision of the Judges shall be final.

The decision of the Judges shall be final.

Applicants must submit their abstracts (together with Call for Abstract Form) and payment before **1 September 2007**.

**APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED
WITH PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES.**

All abstracts must be submitted with payment by 1 SEPTEMBER 2007.

H Highlights

**FIRST TIME
OUTSIDE
NORTH
AMERICA**

1. AATS/ASCVS Postgraduate Course

American Association for Thoracic Surgery Postgraduate Programme
(see opposite page for details)

Date: Thursday, 13 March 2008

Venue: Raffles City Convention Centre

Registration Fee: SGD200 (Delegates who register for this course must register for the Main Meeting)

2. Hemodynamic Workshop

Venue: National University Hospital

Invited Teaching Faculty: Michael PINSKY, USA

Pat TAN, Malaysia

Target Audience: Cardiac Surgeons, Intensivists and Nurses

Registration Fee: SGD150

3. Nursing Symposium

A nursing symposium will be organised at the National University Hospital.

4. ASCVS General Assembly

Date: Friday, 14 March 2008

Time: 1600-1700

Venue: Raffles City Convention Centre

Attendance: ASCVS Members only

5. Congress Banquet

Date: Saturday, 15 March 2008

Time: 1900-2100

Venue: Raffles City Convention Centre

Registration Fee: SGD150

P AATS/ASCVS Postgraduate Course

**FIRST
TIME
OUTSIDE
NORTH
AMERICA**

Date: Thursday, 13 March 2008
Venue: Raffles City Convention Centre
Registration Fee: SGD200 (Delegates who register for this course must register for the Main Meeting)

0800-1000

AORTIC SURGERY

0800-0825
0825-0850
0850-0915
0915-0940
0940-1000

Current status of valve sparing operations for annuloaortic ectasia
Neuroprotection for aortic arch procedures
Role of endovascular stent grafts for thoracic aortic disease
Management of aortopathy in patients with bicuspid aortic valve disease
Panel Discussion

Tirone E DAVID
Shinichi TAKAMOTO
TO BE ANNOUNCED
Irving L KRON

1000-1200

VALVE SURGERY

1000-1025
1025-1050
1050-1115
1115-1140
1140-1200

Mitral valve repair – current techniques and indications for operations
Changing landscape of cardiac valve replacement-percutaneous and transapical approaches
Selection of valves in 2007 – Has the paradigm shifted?
Surgical ablation for AF – when to proceed and how to do it
Panel Discussion

Hartzell V SCHAFF
Craig R SMITH
Tirone E DAVID
Hartzell V SCHAFF

1200-1300

Lunch

Panel Discussion: Controversies in Perioperative Management
HIT
Hemostatic agents
Pulmonary hypertension
Atrial fibrillation
Anticoagulation
Hyperglycemia

Tirone E DAVID
Richard A JONAS
Irving L KRON
Hartzell V SCHAFF
Craig R SMITH

1330-1500

CONGENITAL

1330-1355
1355-1420
1420-1445
1445-1500

Advances in cardiopulmonary bypass for neonates and infants
A comparison of traditional and innovative techniques for repair of Ebstein's anomaly
Update on techniques and results of surgery for TAPVC
Panel Discussion

Richard A JONAS
Qing-Yu WU
Irving L KRON

1520-1700

CORONARY SURGERY

1520-1545
1545-1610
1610-1635
1635-1650
1650-1700

OPCAB techniques and outcomes- comparison to revascularization with CPB
Surgical management of ischemic cardiomyopathy: revacularization, mitral valve repair, and ventricular remodeling
Neurocognitive deficits and coronary artery surgery-fact or fiction?
Revascularization early after acute myocardial infarction
Panel Discussion

Craig R SMITH
Irving L KRON
Hartzell V SCHAFF
TO BE ANNOUNCED

P rogramme at a Glance

DAY 1 — Friday • 14 March 2008

0800-0830	Plenary Lecture 1: Hartzell SCHAFF, Mayo Clinic, Rochester New Indications and New Methods for Surgical Management of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy				
0830-0900	Plenary Lecture 2: John WOLFE, St Mary's Hospital, London Changing Strategies in the Management of Thoraco-Abdominal Aneurysm Repair				
0930-1000	Opening Ceremony				
1000-1030	COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions)				
1030-1200	Late-Breaking News and Novel Techniques		Critical Questions Regarding Thoracic Endografting	Free Paper Session 1	Novel Techniques
1200-1300	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM				
1300-1430	Coronary I	Minimal Invasive Cardiac Surgery	Factors Predicting Endograft Failure	Free Paper Session 2	Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery
1430-1600	Pediatric Cardiac	Cardiac Imaging and Bioimaging	New Frontiers in Endovascular Surgery	Free Paper Session 3	Mediastinal Tumours
1600-1630	ASCVS GENERAL ASSEMBLY				
1630-1800	Basic Science	Valve I	Carotid Intervention	Free Paper Session 4	Mesothelioma

I nvited Teaching Faculty

Balram AIRAN
Zohair AL HALEES
Naveed ALAM
Bahaaldin ALSOUFI
John ANDERSON
Amano ATSUSHI
Ali BAGIROV
John BENFIELD
Stephen CHENG
Jochen CREMER
Frank CRIADO
Michael D'AMBRA
Umer DARR
Tirone E DAVID
Kim Que DO
John A ELEFThERIADES
Fadi FARHAT
Roy GREENBERG

Ned HC HWANG
Ahn HYUK
Vivek JAWALI
Richard A JONAS
Craig JURISEVIC
Ruslan KALYSHEV
Kushagra KATARIYA
Teruhisa KAZUI
Soichiro KITAMURA
Masashi KOMEDA
Irving L KRON
Sampath Kumar KUMAR
Michael LAWRENCE-BROWN
Andreas LIEBOLD
Daniel LOISANCE
Alan LUMSDEN
Hikaru MATSUDA
Carlos MESTRES

Peter MOSSOP
Noboru MOTOMURA
Bart E MUHS
Weerachai NAWARAWONG
Van Phan NGUYEN
Ian NIXON
Georg NOLLERT
Takao OKHI
Yutaka OKITA
Alfieri OTTAVIO
Michael PINSKY
S PRAPAS
Zheng QU
Hartzell V SCHAFF
Craig R SMITH
Shinichi TAKAMOTO
Lenny TAN
Pat TAN

Taweesak TAWEESAK
Yuichi UEDA
Helmut UNRUH
Eric VERHOEVEN
Manny VILLAFANA
Gus J VLAHAKES
Song WAN
G H WHITE
John WOLFE
Konertz WOLFGANG
Ernst WOLLNER
Douglas WOOD
Qing-Yu WU
Toshikatsu YAGIHARA
Mohamed Azhari YAKUB
John YEE
Tarnng-Jenn YU
Wei ZHOU

P

rogramme at a Glance

DAY 2 — Saturday • 15 March 2008

0800-0830	Plenary Lecture 3: Manny VILLAFANA, Minneapolis Entrepreneurship in Cardiac Surgery				
0830-0900	Plenary Lecture 4: Douglas Wood, University of Seattle Randomised Clinical Trials for New Technology: LVRS and the NETT				
0900-1030	Future of Cardiac Surgery: New Frontiers	Transplantation and Heart Failure Therapies	Young Investigators Award	Free Paper Session 5	Advances in Lung Cancer Treatment
1030-1100	COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions)				
1100-1230	Ascending Aorta and Arch	Arrhythmia Surgery	Free Paper Session 6	Free Paper Session 7	Surgical Management of COPD
1230-1330	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM				
1330-1500	Coronary II	New Horizons, Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering	Fenestrated and Branched Endografting	Basic Science II	Surgery of the Airway
1500-1530	COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions)				
1530-1700	Video Cardiac	Valve II	Hybrid Endovascular Surgery for Complex Aortic Disease	Free Paper Session 8	Thoracic Imaging
1900-2100	CONGRESS BANQUET				

DAY 3 — Sunday • 16 March 2008

0800-0900	Debate – Cardiac Cardiac CT vs Coronary Angiography				
0900-1000	Debate – Valve Implantations Open vs percutaneous				
1000-1030	COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions)				
1030-1130	Debate – Thoracic VATS vs Open Lobectomy				
1130-1230	Debate – Vascular Open Vascular vs Stenting				
1230-1300	Closing Remarks				

Congress Information

Meeting Language

The official language is English.

Trade Exhibition

A trade exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Congress from 14 to 16 March 2008. Leading pharmaceutical companies and equipment manufacturers will be present to display and demonstrate their latest range of products and technology. The exhibition will be opened to all delegates and trade visitors. For bookings and more information, please contact the Congress Secretariat.

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance will be issued upon registration and collection of the conference kit at the registration desk.

Liability

The Organising Committee is not liable for personal accidents or loss/damage of private properties of registered participants during the Congress. Participants should make their own arrangements with respect to personal insurance.

Disclaimer: While every attempt would be made to ensure that all aspects of the Congress mentioned in this announcement will take place as scheduled, the Organizing Committee reserves the prerogative to make last minute changes should the need arise.

Congress Secretariat

c/o The Meeting Lab Pte Ltd

695E East Coast Road

Singapore 459059

Tel: (65) 6346 4402

Fax: (65) 6346 4403

Email: mice@themeetinglab.com

Website: www.ascvs2008.com

Congress Venue

Raffles City Convention Centre

2 Stamford Road, Level 4

Singapore 178882

Tel: (65) 6338 8585

Fax: (65) 6338 2863

Email: ask-us.Singapore-stamford@swissotel.com

Website: www.singapore-stamford.swissotel.com

Hotel Booking

NO.	CODE	HOTEL	CATEGORY	WEBSITE
1	HT01	Swissotel The Stamford (Congress Venue)	*****	www.singapore-stamford.swissotel.com
2	HT02	Carlton Hotel Singapore (adjacent to Congress Venue)	*****	www.carlton.com.sg
3	HT03	Peninsular.Excelsior Hotel (adjacent to Congress Venue)	****	www.ytchotels.com.sg/sp-ytcexcel
4	HT04	Oxford Hotel (10-minute walk away)	***	www.oxfordhotel.com.sg
5	HT05	YWCA Fort Canning Lodge (10-minute walk away)	**	www.ywcafcclodge.org.sg

Special rates are contracted for delegates attending the Congress. You may book the accommodation online at www.ascvs2008.com.

Registration

Deadline for early registration: **31 December 2007**

CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD (before 31 Dec 2007)	FEE (from 1 Jan 2008)
Main Meeting		
• Doctor	SGD650	SGD800
• Resident	SGD400	SGD500
• Paramedical/Nurse	SGD250	SGD350
Pre-Congress Workshop		
• AATS Postgraduate Course	SGD200	SGD200
• Hemodynamic Workshop	SGD150	SGD150
Congress Banquet	SGD150	SGD150

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE:

Admission to meeting sessions, exhibition, welcome reception and meeting programme, as well as coffee breaks and lunch.

** Delegate's fees do not include participation in pre/post-congress workshops. Residents and paramedical colleagues must produce proof of their status from their respective institutions.*

PARTICIPANT FEES FOR WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Material for workshop and coffee breaks/lunch

** Participants will gain admission only to workshop for which the ticket is valid. Only delegates of the main meeting may register for the workshops.*

HOW TO REGISTER

You can register using one of the following methods:

1. E-registration: www.ascvs2008.com

2. By sending the completed Registration Form

by fax: +65 6346 4403

by email: mice@themeetinglab.com

by postal mail:
ASCVS 2008 Congress Secretariat
The Meeting Lab Pte Ltd
695E East Coast Road
Singapore 459059

PAYMENT

Payment (in Singapore Dollars) can be made as follows:

1. E-Payment via Credit Card: (from 1 September 2007)
Visa and Mastercard only.

2. Cheques/Bank Drafts:

- Please make cheque, or bank draft drawn on a Singapore bank, payable to "The Singapore Cardiac Society (16th ASCVS)" and mail it to the Secretariat. Cheque must be accompanied by the completed registration form available online.
- Registration will be valid only upon receipt of the full payment by the registration department. An email confirming registration will be sent only after receipt of the required fees.
- Outstanding payments will be collected on site. A copy of the bank transfer (or other proof of payment) will be required in the event that registration fees were not credited to the meeting account on time.

REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY

Should you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you may reassign your registration to another person. Please notify the secretariat in writing of the replacement delegate's name and contact details.

If there is no replacement, a refund (the full conference fee less an administration charge of SGD200) will be made for notification received in writing before 1 January 2008. After this date, no refunds will be made.

Sightseeing

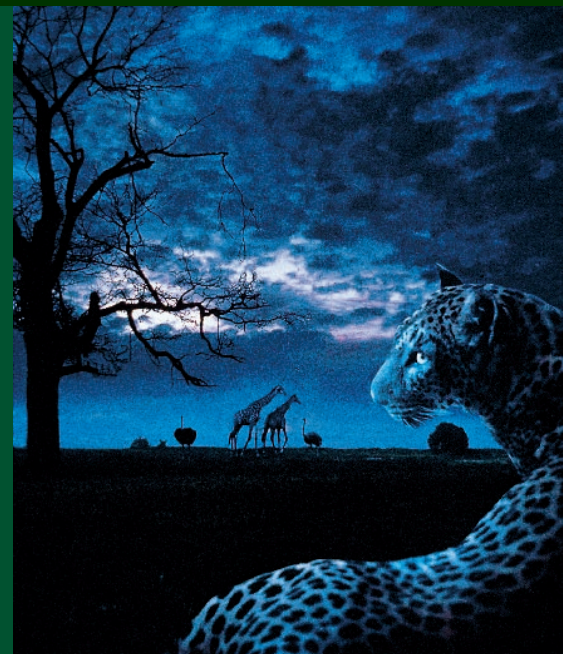
LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

1. HERITAGE TOUR (HALF DAY)

TOUR begins with a visit to one of the oldest Chinese Temples in Singapore; the Thien Hock Keng Temple which is more than 160 years old. The unique wooden structures and carvings were built and assembled without using any nails.

Next stop is the Chinatown Heritage Centre. Trace journeys, beliefs and myths of early Chinese migrants who made their way to Singapore. Gain an insight into their lives and experience for yourself the hardship of living in the dark and cramped quarters that were built in Chinatown.

Last stop is Kampong Glam – old Arab Quarters. Learn about the practice of Islam in this part of the world at the Sultan Mosque. Along Arab Street, see the last remaining shops in Singapore still selling sarongs, rattan baskets, brass works and unique leather products used by the Muslim community.



2. A NIGHT IN THE WILD

MOST animals are nocturnal. At dusk they begin to stir for the hunt. At the Night Safari these activities are captured to best effect using subtle lighting which permits us to watch up-close whilst not disturbing the animals. The Singapore Zoo Night Safari houses over 1200 animals from 110 exotic species. Tigers, striped hyena, golden jackal, cape buffalo, blue sheep and the rare greater one horned rhinoceros are but some of the animals you will see. The Night Safari covers an area of 40 hectares of secondary jungle with the Seletar Reservoir providing a beautiful backdrop. A tram ride, upon arrival at the Zoo, is the easiest way to familiarise yourself with the large grounds. At the end of the ride, feel free to stroll and take a closer look at the animals. The sound of crickets and owls and the chance to see the tigers or hyenas feasting make for a truly memorable experience.

3. SENTOSA, UNDERWATER WORLD

ESCAPE to Sentosa - A leisurely drive takes you to Mount Faber for a cable ride to Sentosa Island and a panoramic view of the world's busiest harbour. We then proceed to the Under Water World, one of the largest oceanarium that has a 83m long acrylic tunnel for a spectacular view of marine life. We next head for the Dolphin Lagoon where you get the opportunity to marvel of the performance of intelligent pink dolphins. Hop onto the island's shuttle and head for the Merlion, standing on a 23m high hillock over looking Sentosa. It offers a 360 degree view of Sentosa as well as a panoramic view of Singapore's southern shore. Return back to the mainland Singapore by coach via Causeway Link



4. CULINARY SENSATION

- Spice Garden Walk, Tea Reception and Spice Paste Demonstration
- Cooking Demonstration & Tasting, Hands on Cooking Class & Lunch

Enjoy a morning stroll through the tranquil garden, learning from one of the guides about the intricacies of spice and herb use in Asian cooking. Identify different species of plants, observe where seeds grow and learn how to look for the best leaf. Inhale the aromas, crush the leaves between your fingers and roll the seeds in the palm of your hands. Observe the pounding, grinding, stirring, slicing and stir-frying that will produce a fabulous and versatile spice paste. Follow this insightful and enjoyable experience with a delicious morning tea reception.

BEYOND SINGAPORE

1. BINTAN, INDONESIA

Situated just less than an hour away via comfortable catamarans from the modern and culturally vibrant city of Singapore. Bintan is located on the largest of the enchanting Riau islands in the South China Sea. Experience endless beaches, a wide variety of international-class resorts, and a refreshing host of tropical holiday activities.

2. BALI, INDONESIA

One of the over 14,000 islands of the Indonesian archipelago, the island of Bali sits exactly 12 time zones away from New York City, halfway between Singapore on the tip of the Southeast Asian peninsula and Darwin on the northwestern part of Australia. As one of the world's prime tourist destinations, Bali virtually ensures a great holiday for backpackers and VIPs alike! Come and experience Bali's one-of-a-kind culture and the natural hospitality of her people.



3. LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA

Langkawi is a cluster of 104 islands in the Andaman Sea, off the northwestern coast of Peninsula Malaysia. Blessed with white sands and crystal clear waters, the Pulau Langkawi is the largest. The islands are richly blessed with a heritage of fabulous myths and legends. As a natural paradise, the islands are perhaps unmatched anywhere else in Southeast Asia.



4. HUA-HIN, THAILAND

Hua Hin the in-beach town for Bangkok's elite is on the west coast of the Gulf Thailand. It is the oldest and most traditional Thai resort combines the attractions of a modern holiday destination with the charm and fascination of a still active fishing port. Besides its great five-mile long beach Hua Hin provides the highest density of world class golf courses anywhere in Thailand and it is virtually undiscovered as an international golf destination. Green-fees and other costs are currently among the lowest in the world while course maintenance and services are superb.

5. KOH SAMUI, THAILAND

The Island of Koh Samui is a tropical gem located in the warm blue waters off the country's south-eastern seaboard. It is the Kingdom's second largest island after Phuket. Relatively unknown for years, this sun lover's paradise has now attained international standards of service and accommodation. Fortunately, it has also earned a reputation for retaining its friendly image as well as natural environment. Easy to reach from Bangkok, Phuket or overseas, Koh Samui is literally covered with coconut trees and bougainvillea, which in turn are surrounded by white sandy shores and stunning turquoise seas. Whether you're looking for remote beaches, great shopping, delicious dining or an exciting nightlife, you'll find it on Koh Samui!

Visit www.visitsingapore.com or contact the Congress Secretariat at mice@themeetinglab.com.

Useful Information

TRAVEL

• Passports and Visas

A current passport is required for entry into Singapore. Please check your visa requirements on the Singapore Immigration Service website: http://app.ica.gov.sg/travellers/entry/visa_requirements.asp

For information on duty free allowances, prohibited and restricted and controlled items, please visit <http://www.customs.gov.sg>.

• Departure Tax

A passenger service tax of SGD21 is chargeable upon departure. It is likely that it has been included in your ticket charge. Please check with your ticketing agent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

• Official Letters of Invitation

Official letters of invitation for visa applications can be sent to participants upon written request. These letters do not commit the Organising Committee to any financial obligation.

• Climate

Singapore has a warm and humid climate throughout the year with a daily average temperature range of 24 degrees Celsius to 31 degrees Celsius. Light and summer clothing made from natural fabrics like cotton is best for everyday wear.

• Banking

Major cards are widely accepted by establishments in Singapore. Most banks handle travellers' cheques and change foreign currencies. Passports are required when cashing in travellers' cheques. A nominal commission may be charged. Do note that some banks do not have foreign exchange dealings on Saturdays.

Banking hours are from 0900-1500hours, Mondays to Fridays and 0900-1200 hours on Saturdays. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are located islandwide and are readily available 24 hours.

• Time

Singapore is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time all year round.

• Dress

Scientific Sessions and Workshops: Business Attire
Congress Banquet: Jacket and Tie

• Currency

The Singapore Dollar (SGD). Notes: \$10,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2.

Coins: \$1, 50cents, 20cents, 10cents, 5cents.

Exchange rate (as of 12 April 2007)
USD1 = SGD1.51

Other than the Singapore Dollar, the US and Australian Dollars, Yen and British Pound are also accepted in most major shopping centres.

• Electricity

The standard voltage of power supply in Singapore is 220-240 volts AC, 50 cycles per second. On request, most hotels will provide transformers to visitors. When shopping for electrical appliances, do remember to check the voltage of the item against the acceptable voltage in your home country. The power plugs used in Singapore are of the three-pin, square-shaped type.

There will be wireless internet facility available at the Meeting Venue.

• Drinking Water

Water is safe to drink straight from the tap throughout Singapore. However, for those who prefer bottled mineral water, local supermarkets and grocers usually carry a sizeable selection.

• Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in public service vehicles, museums, libraries, lifts, air-conditioned restaurants, theatres, cinemas, supermarkets, department stores and government offices. Smoking is also banned at bus-stops/interchange, open air stadiums, public toilets, swimming pools and community clubs.

Smoking is only allowed at designated seats in open air hawker centres and coffeeshops. Offenders can be fined up to SGD1,000.

• Important Laws to Take Note

The death penalty is mandatory for those convicted of trafficking, manufacturing, importing or exporting more than 15g of heroin, 30g of morphine, 30g of cocaine, 500g of cannabis, 200g of cannabis resin and 1.2kg of opium. Possessing these quantities is deemed as prima facie evidence of drug trafficking. For unauthorised consumption of the above drugs, there is a maximum of 10 years' jail or fine of SGD20,000, or both. Chewing gum is banned in Singapore unless for medical or dental reasons. Littering commands a fine of SGD1,000 for first time offenders. Guns and firearms are also banned from Singapore.