

Bragg Gratings, Poling & Photosensitivity/ 30th Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology (BGPP/ACOFT)2005

4-8 July 2005

Star City, Sydney, Australia

Incorporating Topical Meeting on Bragg Gratings, Poling & Photosensitivity (**BGPP**)

30th Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology (**ACOFT**)

Photonic Crystals: Fundamentals to Devices

14th International Workshop on Optical Waveguide Theory and Numerical Modelling
(**OWTNM**)

Student Grants



ACoRN will be awarding a limited number of travel grants for ACoRN members to attend ACOFT. For details please visit our [website](#)

Invitation

The Organising Committee invite you to attend BGPP/ACOFT 2005 in Sydney, Australia. BGPP/ACOFT 2005 is continuing the tradition of the OSA Topical Meeting on Bragg Gratings, Poling & Photosensitivity (BGPP) and combining with the 30th Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology (ACOFT).

Host City - Sydney

Sydney is one of the world's great cities. Built around one of the world's most beautiful and famous harbours, Sydney is the capital of New South Wales and is Australia's largest and oldest city. Founded in 1788 it now has a population of four million and covers almost 1120 square kilometers. Sydney's marvelous combination of modern city life and relaxed lifestyle, basking in a superb climate makes this great city simply irresistible. With its sparkling beaches, beautiful national parks, great shopping, restaurants and exciting life of a cosmopolitan city, Sydney offers a wide range of interesting and exciting activities for Sydneysiders and visitors alike.

Postdeadline Session

Postdeadline Papers BGPP Postdeadline Paper Information Submission

Deadline: Midday (12 -noon) at the conference desk, Monday, July 4th,2005

Authors are encouraged to submit postdeadline papers. The purpose of postdeadline papers is to give participants the opportunity to hear new and significant results in rapidly advancing areas. Only those papers judged to be truly excellent and compelling in their timeliness will be accepted.

The Programme Committee will accept a limited number of postdeadline papers for presentation at the meeting. Papers must reach the conference by Midday (12-noon), Monday, July 4th 2005 (Sydney, Australia time). Only hard-copies will be considered. **NO FAXES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Submit 6 copies of the paper, including a cover letter indicating the significance of the contribution.

Absolutely no papers received after this deadline will be considered by the Programme Committee. Authors will be advised of acceptance or rejection by Monday evening. Postdeadline papers will be presented at an evening session on Tuesday, July 5th.

Sponsors

The Organising Committee would like to thank the following organisations for their support of BGPP/ACOFT 2005.

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Address for Communications

BGPP/ACOFT 2005 Conference Managers
GPO Box 128
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AUSTRALIA

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Email: bgppacoft2005@tourhosts.com

Related Links

[Optical Society of America](#)

[Photonic Crystals: Fundamentals to Devices](#)

[14th International Workshop on Optical Waveguide Theory and Numerical Modelling](#)

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*Fudan University, Chinese Academy of Sciences,
Shanghai, China*

*University of Electronic Science & Technology of
China*

Social Program

The following events are included in the registration fee for delegates and accompanying persons. If you require additional tickets please indicate this on your online Registration Form.



Monday 4 July 2005
Welcome Reception
Time 1800-1930

Venue: Star City
Dress: Smart Casual

An invitation is extended to all delegates and registered accompanying persons to attend the Welcome Reception. Renew old friendships and make new acquaintances as we welcome you to Sydney.

Additional tickets: A\$55.00 per person

Option Social Program



Tuesday 5 July 2005
Conference Dinner
Time 1900-2200

Venue: Captain Cook Cruise
Dress: Smart Casual

A memorable highlight of the Conference is the Conference Dinner aboard a chartered Captain Cook Cruise sailing around Sydney Harbour. Enjoy a two course dinner and selection of Australian wines. An ideal opportunity to mingle and meet fellow delegates.

Tickets: A\$105.00 per person

Thursday 7 July 2005
Time 1930-2200
Workshop Dinner

Venue: Captain Cook Cruise

Space has been reserved on Captain Cook's daily dinner cruise. Price includes dinner only.

Tickets: A\$79 per person

Disclaimer

The services specified in the social program are available at the time of writing. However, in the event that any service(s) become unavailable or minimum numbers are not met. Tour Hosts Corporate Special Events reserves the right the alter or cancel the event .

Keynote Speakers

BGPP 2005 will feature Plenary Addresses by the following:

- **Yuri Kivshar, Australia National University, Australia** and
Optically-Induced Lattices as Nonlinear Photonic Crystals
- **Byoung Yoon Kim, KAIST, Korea,**
Acousto-Optic Long Period Fiber Gratings: Science, Engineering, and Business

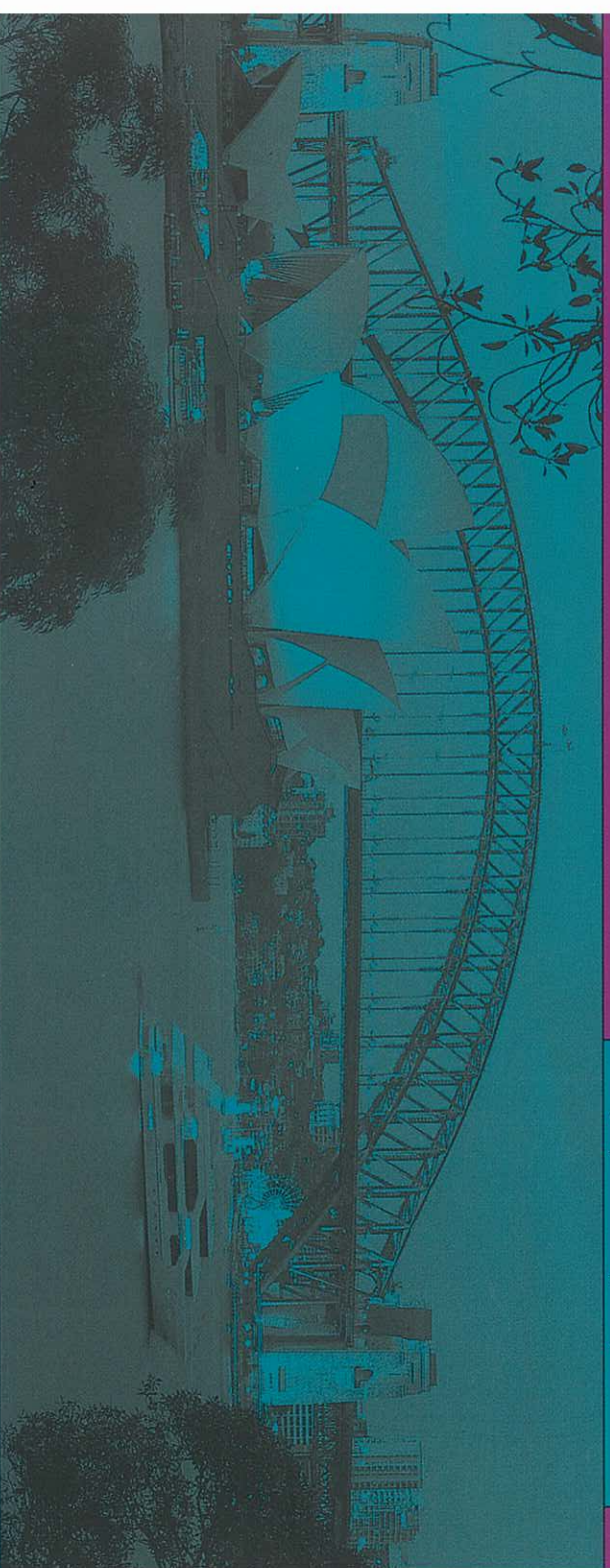
The following leading international experts are invited speakers at the Conference:

- Walter Margulis, ACREO, Sweden.
The Achievements of the GLAMOROUS Project on Poling
- Martin Fejer, Stanford University, USA.
Microstructured Ferroelectrics and Semiconductors for Quasi-Phasematched Nonlinear Optics
- Robert Minasian, University of Sydney, Australia.
Fibre Bragg Grating Microwave Photonic Signal Processors
- Ian Bennion, Aston University, United Kingdom.
Advanced In-fibre Grating Optical Sensors and Applications
- Alan Willner, University of Southern California, USA
FBG-based Optical Correlators for Networking Functions
- Stephen J. Mihailov, Communications Research Centre, Canada.
Ultrafast Laser Fabrication of Bragg Grating Devices
- Johannes Skaar, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway.
Inverse Scattering For One-Dimensional Periodic Optical Structures And Application To Design And Characterization
- Gianfranco Pacchioni, University Milano Bicocca, Italy.
Ground and Excited State Properties of Intrinsic and Extrinsic Point Defects in Silica from Ab Initio Calculations
- Junji Nishii, PRI, AIST, Japan.
Self-Alignment of Ge Nano-Particles in Thermally Stabilized Grating In Waveguide



BGPP/ACOFT 2005

4-8 July 2005 Sydney Australia



REGISTRATION AND PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**OSA Topical Meeting on
Bragg Gratings, Poling
& Photosensitivity
(BGPP)**

**Australian Conference on
Optical Fibre Technology
(ACOFT)**

Incorporating
**Photonic Crystals:
Fundamentals to Devices
Workshop**

**International Workshop on
Optical Waveguide Theory
and Numerical Modelling
(OWTMM)**

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TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES	
Early Registration	27 May 2005
Accommodation	1 June 2005
Social Program	1 June 2005
Conference Opens	4 July 2005
Conference Closes	6 July 2005
Workshops Begin	7 July 2005
Workshops Conclude	8 July 2005

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATIONS
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- A/Prof. Peter Farrell,
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- Dr Terry Polkinghton,
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VENUE

Star City Casino, Sydney

Star City is perfectly located at Sydney Harbour within a moments walk to Darling Harbour, King Street Wharf and Cockle Bay and only 10 minutes walk to the Central Business District and Chinatown. Star City Hotel & Apartments offers panoramic views of the City and Sydney Harbour and is one of Sydney's premier dining and entertainment venues. Star City is only 7km from Sydney Airport and is easily accessible.



INVITATION

We invite you to attend the OSA Topical Meeting on Bragg Gratings, Poling and Photosensitivity (BGPP) and Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology (ACOFT) in Sydney on the dates of 4-8 July 2005.

This meeting will mark the 10th anniversary of the BGPP meetings and the first time this meeting will be held in the southern hemisphere. The BGPP meeting deals with fundamentals and applications of Bragg gratings, photosensitivity and poling effects in optical waveguides. This meeting has a strong focus on applications in telecommunications, sensing and optical technologies. Invited speakers from many of the world's leading research groups both in Universities and industry will present invited papers on leading edge topics. Come and learn about new photosensitive materials, fabrication techniques, new fields of applications and the most recent poling experiments; or submit your own most recent results to share and discuss with an international audience of your peers.

The ACOFT series of conferences started as a 24-person Workshop in 1976, the same year the first ECOC was held in Paris, and has since evolved to become the pre-eminent national Australian conference covering all aspects of guided wave photonics. In recent years ACOFT has been aligned with a number of international conferences, including IOOC, OECC, APCC and COIN, as well as other national conferences including AOS and AIPC. This year we are pleased that ACOFT is being co-located with the OSA Topical Conference BGPP to continue this trend. While the BGPP conference will focus principally on aspects of Bragg gratings, photosensitivity and poling, ACOFT will continue to play host to delegates with broader interests in guided wave photonics. ACOFT strives to reflect contemporary trends and changes in photonics through the list of Plenary and invited speakers and their talks. This year marks a new anniversary for ACOFT, being the 30th in the series.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

REGISTRATION

BGPP/ACOF 2005 will have a strong and diverse program covering a wide range of topics pertinent to fibre optics and photonics industries, academia and research areas. While the BGPP conference will focus principally on aspects of Bragg gratings, photosensitivity and poling, ACOFT will continue to play host to delegates with broader interests in guided wave photonics. BGPP/ACOF 2005 will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to share ideas, review current industry trends and discuss the future of photonics and fibre optics.

The BGPP Program has been finalised, details are right.

The ACOFT Program is currently being constructed and details will be available on the Conference website once finalised. ACOFT Session Topics include:

- Lasers Amplifiers And Nonlinear Devices
- Optical Networks
- Microstructured Fibres
- Novel Photonic Devices
- RF Photonics
- Planar Waveguide Devices

WORKSHOPS

The Workshop on Photonic Crystals: Fundamentals to Devices, and the International Workshop on Optical Waveguide Theory and Numerical Modelling (OWNTM) will be running immediately after the conference. Attendance is optional and is open to all delegates of BGPP/ACOF 2005.

Monday 4 July 2005	
0930 - 1030	Plenary Session
	Introductory Remarks, General Chairs
	Plenary Address
1030 - 1100	<i>Morning Tea</i>
1100 - 1230	Plenary Session
	Plenary Address - Byoung Yoon Kim (BGPP)
	Plenary Address - Yujin Kivshar (BGPP)
1230 - 1400	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1400 - 1530	Grating Devices (Applications)
	ACOF Session
1530 - 1600	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
1600 - 1730	Poling (Nonlinear)
	ACOF Session
1730 - 2030	BGPP Poster Session
	ACOF Poster Session
1730 - 2030	Welcome Reception
Tuesday 5 July 2005	
0830 - 1000	Grating Based Sensors (Applications)
	ACOF Session
1000 - 1030	<i>Morning Tea</i>
1030 - 1200	Grating Characterisation and Design (Properties)
	ACOF Session
1200 - 1330	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1330 - 1500	Physical and Chemical Properties of UV - induced effects (Photosensitivity)
	ACOF Session
1500 - 1530	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
1530 - 1700	Microstructured Devices and Large Nonlinear Effects (nonlinear)
	ACOF Session
1700 - 2030	Post Deadline Session
Wednesday 6 July 2005	
0830 - 1030	Grating Devices 2 (Applications)
	ACOF Session
1030 - 1100	<i>Morning Tea</i>
1100 - 1215	Novel Fibre and Grating Properties (Properties)
	ACOF Session
1215 - 1400	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1400 - 1530	Methods to Enhance Light-Induced Effects (Photosensitivity)
	ACOF Session
1530 - 1600	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
1600 - 1700	Ultrafast Grating Fabrication (Properties)
	ACOF Session

Participation is open to all persons interested in Fibre Optics and Photonics. The preferred method of registration is electronic. Please visit the Conference website at www.bgppacof2005.com. Those who wish to attend the Conference should fill in the Registration Form and submit it to the Conference Managers. Each registrant must fill in a separate form. For fax or mail registration a clean photocopy of the form will be accepted, or additional forms can be obtained from the Conference Managers.

Please note that all persons intending to attend the Conference must register, including invited Paper Givers and Chairpersons. Please read through this booklet carefully before you complete your form. Remember to send your completed registration form and the payment of your fees by AIRMAIL.

ENTITLEMENTS

BGPP/ACOF

DELEGATES AND STUDENTS

The registration fee entitles delegates to the following:

- All Sessions for BGPP and ACOFT
- All official documentation including Conference Week Program booklet with Abstracts and List of Participants
- CD Rom of Proceedings
- Welcome Reception
- Morning and Afternoon Teas
- Conference Satchel

Please Note: A copy of your student identification card is required when you submit your registration form. Without this copy, the full registration fee will be charged.

WORKSHOPS

DELEGATES

- The registration fee entitles workshop attendees to the following:
- All session of chosen workshop
- Official documentation
- Morning and Afternoon Tea



REGISTRATION FEE (per delegate)

To view the current foreign exchange rates, please visit www.x-rates.com

Category	Early Registration Before 27 May 2005	Late Registration After 27 May 2005
BGPP/ACOFI		
Delegate	A\$600.00	A\$700.00
Full Time Student	A\$300.00	A\$350.00
Photonic Crystals: Fundamentals to Devices Workshop and International Workshop on OMTMM	A\$150.00	A\$200.00
Combined Fee for BGPP/ACOFI and both Workshops	A\$700.00	A\$800.00

PAYMENT OF FEES

NOTE: Registrations will not be processed or confirmed until payment in full is received.

Within Australia

Payment may be made by personal cheque until the commencement of the conference or credit card. Bankcard, Mastercard and Visa are the only credit cards accepted at the conference. Please note all transactions by credit card will appear on your statement as payment to Conference by THPL. Cheques should be made payable to the BGPP/ACOFI 2005 Conference.

International

Payments from overseas must be made by credit card or bank cheque in Australian Dollars only, drawn on an Australian Bank. Your name and full address should be typed or printed clearly on the back of the cheque. You may not pay your fees by direct transfer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your registration and payment will be acknowledged in writing with confirmation of your requirements according to your registration form. Your registration will not be processed or confirmed if payment does not accompany your form. You will not receive any further publications before the conference. Your letter of acknowledgment will include any further advice necessary prior to your arrival at the conference. At the conference you will receive the final program and a list of delegates.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Registration Fees

Before 8 June 2005 will incur a A\$150.00 cancellation fee.

Before 20 June 2005 will receive a 50% refund of fees paid.

After 20 June 2005 there will be no refund.

Accommodation

Deposit is non-refundable at 1 June 2005

Social
Non-refundable at 20 June 2005

ENTRANCE TO CONFERENCE

Each member of the conference will receive a name badge on arrival at the Registration Desk. The badge will be your official pass and must be worn to obtain entry to all sessions and to social functions.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

The Registration Desk will be located in the Star City Ballroom Foyer and will be operating as follows:

Monday 4 July 2005
0800 - 1730

Tuesday 5 July 2005
0800 - 1730

Wednesday 6 July 2005
0800 - 1700

Thursday 7 July 2005
0830 - 1700

Friday 8 July 2005
0830 - 1600

The Conference Managers will be on-site for enquiries at other times.

INSURANCE

Registration fees do not include insurance of any kind. It is strongly recommended that at the time you register for the conference and book your travel you take out an insurance policy of your choice. The policy should include every and any eventuality. The Conference Managers cannot take any responsibility for any participant failing to arrange their own insurance. This insurance is to be purchased in your country of origin.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Be part of the leading edge in your field. The Conference will provide the perfect forum for companies actively involved in the industry to promote their organisations through the various forms of investment opportunities. Through sponsoring the BGPP/ACOFI Conference 2005 there exists a number of opportunities designed to provide excellent marketing exposure to valuable target markets, prior, during and long after BGPP/ACOFI 2005. These unique sponsorship opportunities will enable your organisation to not only access key industry contacts but also demonstrate your support and commitment to continued business excellence in the optical fibre technology markets.

A copy of the Sponsorship Document is available from the Conference Managers or go to the Conference website.

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ACCOMMODATION

Two categories of accommodation have been reserved for Conference delegates:

Hotel

Single (SGL): A single occupancy room with one bed

Double (DBL): A double occupancy room with one bed

Twin (TWN): A double occupancy room with two beds

ACCOMMODATION RATES

Star Rating	Walking Distance to Star City	Hotel	Room Type	Rate per room per night	Reward Program
5	Conference Venue	Star City Hotel and Casino	Deluxe Room SGL/DBL/TWN	A\$210.00	Qantas Frequent Flyer
3.5	20 minute walk or 3 minute walk to monorail station then 10 minute ride to Darling Harbour.	Metro Hotel Sydney	Superior Room SGL/DBL/TWN Monorail pass provided	A\$165.00	Qantas Frequent Flyer

Please Note:

Visit the Conference website www.bgppacoft2005.com to view hotel photos, fact sheets and budget accommodation options.

The above rates include the Australian Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Rates may increase without notice due to changes in government charges, taxes or levies.

Rates do not include breakfast.

Delegates who book via the Conference Managers at the Metro Hotel Sydney will receive a monorail pass valid for 4-9 July 2005 inclusive

Apartment Options

Please contact the Conference Managers if you are interested in booking apartment style accommodation at the Conference Venue for this event.

Group Bookings / Non-listed Hotels

If your organisation would like to make a Group Bookings or place accommodation at hotels not listed in this brochure, the Conference Managers can secure rooms and negotiate group rates on your behalf with the hotel of your choice. With a large network of hotel contacts our experienced staff are able to ensure all your needs are met and your booking is managed efficiently.

Ph: 61 2 9265 0700
Fax: 61 2 9267 5443

E-mail:
bgppacoft2005@ourhosts.com.au

Rates and Reward Programs

Accommodation held by the Conference Managers has been secured at highly competitive rates for Conference delegates. In addition, delegates who are members of the listed reward programs can earn points by staying at the corresponding hotel. Members should provide their membership card to Reception when checking into the hotel.

Budget Accommodation

Information on budget accommodation options can be obtained through the BGPP/ACOFI 2005 Conference Managers via email at bgppacoft2005@ourhosts.com.au or on telephone +61 2 9265 0700 or Fax +61 2 9267 5443.

Deposit

Rooms are being held by the Conference Managers on behalf of delegates until 1 June 2005. All hotel accommodation bookings must be accompanied by a minimum one night's rate in order to secure a reservation. The Conference Managers will accept accommodation deposits up until 1 June 2005 and will settle the deposit with the hotel; Delegates must settle the balance of their account with the hotel concerned upon check out.

Late bookings can be made through the Conference Managers after 1 June 2005 but are subject to availability and credit card details are required to secure the reservation. One night's room rate will be deducted from the supplied card, by the hotel, if the reservation is cancelled or the delegate fails to arrive on the specified date.

How To Book Accommodation

To book, complete either the Online Registration Form or the Registration Form attached to this brochure. The Conference Managers will forward your reservation and deposit or credit card details to the hotel of your choice.

Change of Booking

Any change to a reservation must be notified to the Conference Managers and not directly to the hotel. Please note, any changes should be made to the Conference Managers by 16 June 2005. Cancellations must be made in writing.

Late Arrivals

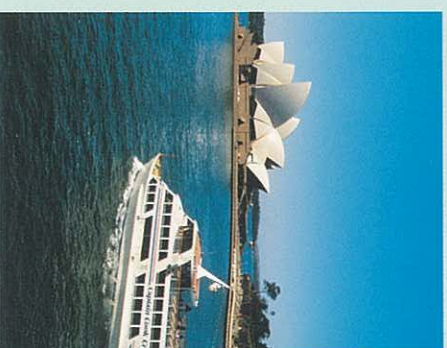
Please indicate on your registration form or notify the Conference Managers in writing if you will arrive at your hotel after 1800 hours, failure to do so may mean that your room will be released.

Arrival Time

Hotel check-in time is usually 1500 hours. If you are to arrive before this time it is probable that you will not be able to gain access to your room. To guarantee a room to be available for an early arrival you will need to pre-register and pay for your room for the previous night. If required please indicate on your registration form.

Accommodation Refunds

The deposit is non-refundable at 1 June 2005 and will be forfeited if you do not arrive on the date for which you have booked.



SOCIAL PROGRAM

The following event is **included** in the registration fee for delegates. If you require additional tickets please complete Section D of your Registration Form.

Monday 4 July 2005

IS1 Welcome Reception

Time 1800-1930

Venue: Star City

Dress: Smart Casual

An invitation is extended to all delegates to attend the Welcome Reception. Renew old friendships and make new acquaintances as we welcome you to Sydney.

Additional tickets: A\$55.00 per person

OPTIONAL SOCIAL PROGRAM

The following events are not included for delegates. Please complete Section E of the registration form if you wish to attend

Tuesday 5 July 2005

OS1 Conference Dinner

Time 1900-2200

Venue: Captain Cook Cruise

Dress: Smart Casual

A memorable highlight of the Conference is the Conference Dinner aboard a chartered Captain Cook Cruise sailing around Sydney Harbour. Enjoy a two course dinner and selection of Australian wines. An ideal opportunity to mingle and meet fellow delegates.

Tickets: A\$105.00 per person

Thursday 7 July 2005

OS2 Workshop Dinner

Time 1930-2200

Venue: Captain Cook Cruise

Space has been reserved on Captain Cook's daily dinner cruise. Price includes dinner only.

Tickets: A\$79.00 per person

Disclaimer

The services specified in the social program are available at the time of writing. However, in the event that any service(s) become unavailable or minimum numbers are not met, Tour Hosts Corporate Special Events reserves the right to alter or cancel the event.

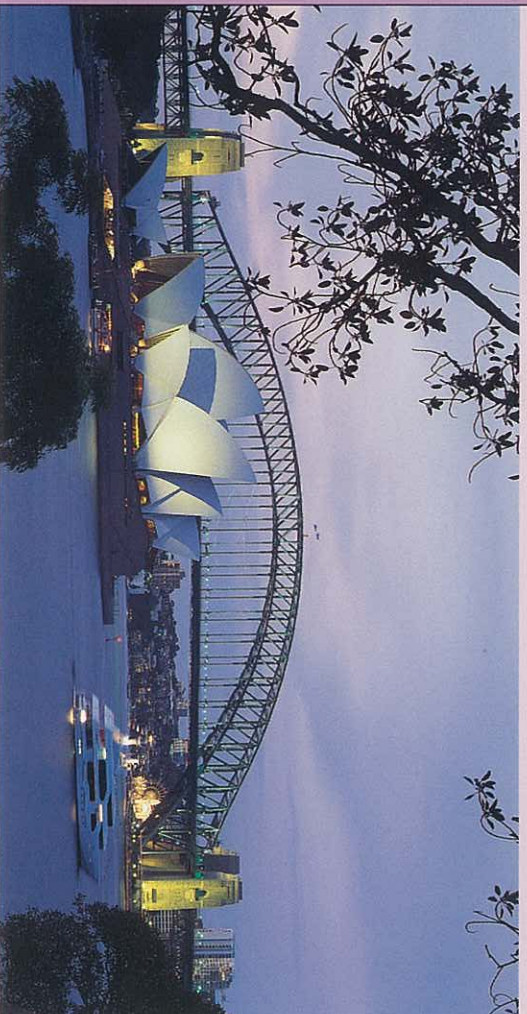
SYDNEY

Sydney is the gateway to Australia and her historic sandstone buildings bear testimony to both the hardships of life for the convicts and the optimism and energy of the settlers who transformed the remote penal settlement into a major industrial, business and commercial centre with one of the world's most cosmopolitan lifestyles. Cosmopolitan and sun-drenched Sydney, Australia's largest city and foremost attraction, is visited by more than two million overseas tourists a year. Diverse attractions and easy living make Sydney a strong contender for the description 'lifestyle capital of the world'. Its climate is warm and

pleasing, seldom falling below 10oC in winter, with an average summer maximum of 25oC. Its coastline is inviting, its harbour sparkling, its citizens friendly and its shopping varied and worthwhile.

Dining in Sydney reflects the Asian, Italian, Middle Eastern and Greek influences of recent immigrations, enlivened by abundant seafood, fresh vegetables and culinary creativity. Urban attractions include the Opera House, trendy Paddington with its Victorian houses and wrought-iron balconies, Darling Harbour, Bondi Beach, Kings Cross, the historic Rocks and Chinatown.

The harbour, one of the world's finest, is Sydney's dazzling heart. It divides the city into north and south, with the Harbour Bridge spanning the divide. Sailing across the harbour is easy and inexpensive on Sydney's public ferry service. Land transport is hassle-free with an extensive bus and train service, and taxis are easy to find. On public transport or on foot, Sydney is one of the world's safer large cities. Sydney looks forward to welcoming you to its shores to experience the endless variety and beauty it has to offer.



AIRPORT AND TRANSPORT

Sydney: The central business district is 10km north of the International Airport and takes approximately 20 minutes to reach by car.

Bus: A regular airport to city bus service operates from approximately 0600 to 2100 hours (not recommended for those with large amounts of luggage). Any queries please see the Travelers Information Desk at the Airport.

Taxis: A taxi costs approximately A\$25 from the Airport to the City. Taxis in Sydney operate under 2 pricing structures. From 0600 - 2200 hours the standard fare applies. On the left hand side of the taxi meter, above the word 'rate' you should see the number 1. From 2200 - 0600 hours, a 20% night tariff applies, at these times the meter should be set on rate 2. Please check the meter is set correctly when you begin your journey.

Trains: There is a train station located at both the Domestic and International Terminals at Sydney Airport. Trains run on average every 10 minutes during the day on a weekday and every 15 minutes on weekends. From the Domestic Terminal, it takes 10 minutes to reach Central Station and 15 minutes to Circular Quay. From the International Terminal it takes a few minutes longer. Lifts are available at both the International and Domestic Terminals for the easy transfer of luggage. Fares from the Domestic Terminal to the City start at \$11 per adult for a single journey. For further information on the service that the Airport Link provides, please see the following website: www.airportlink.com.au

PRIVATE TOURING/HOSPITALITY ARRANGEMENTS

Should you have any specialised group requirements for private touring, transportation or hospitality services other than those organised for the official program, please contact the Conference Managers who would be pleased to assist with arrangements.

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

It is requested that you advise the Conference Managers of any private /corporate functions that might be planned outside of the official program. The Conference Managers would be pleased to assist with arrangements for any of these events.

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES



PASSPORT & VISA

All travellers to Australia, other than New Zealand, require a valid entry VISA prior to travel to Australia. For many nationalities (29 in total) an Electronic Visa or Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) can be obtained from your travel agent or airline when making your travel arrangements. Please see your travel agent or airline for further details.

QUARANTINE

Australia is free from many plant and animal diseases prevalent in other countries. Very strict quarantine rules apply to the import of animals and plants, which cannot be brought into the country without prior application. Animal and plant products are also restricted.

For more information see the 'Information for International Travelers' on the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) website, which you can access by visiting <http://www.aqis.gov.au>.

BANKING/CURRENCY

Decimal currency is used in Australia with the dollar as the basic unit (100 cents = \$1). Notes come in \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5. Coins come in 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 and \$2 denominations.

Currency exchange facilities are available in most banks, hotels and airports and operate normal business hours. Credit cards are accepted at most restaurants and shops, the most widely used being Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Diners Club.

BUSINESS HOURS

Banks generally open from 0930 - 1600 hours Monday - Friday. General office hours are 0900 - 1700 Monday - Friday. Post Offices operate these hours, however stamps are often available from hotels.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

July is winter and the temperature range is 8 to 17 Celsius. Generally Australians are informal dressers. We suggest you bring a jacket and tie with you for special occasions.

EATING OUT

Bistros, restaurants, cafes and coffee shops offer varied menus, prices and decor. Local specialties such as seafood and Australian wines are worth trying. At some restaurants you can keep the liquor bill down by taking your own wine or beer. These are called "BYO" restaurants, an abbreviation for "bring your own".

ELECTRICITY

Electrical current is 240/250V AC 50Hz. The Australian three-pin power outlet is different from that in many countries, so you will need an adaptor. If your appliances are 110V, check if there is a 110/240V switch. If not, you will need a voltage converter. Universal outlets for 240V or 110V shavers are usually found in leading hotels.

Goods & Services Tax (GST) / Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS)

Since 1 July 2000, Australia has adopted a new taxation system incorporating the Goods & Services Tax (GST). All prices quoted in this brochure are inclusive of GST, unless otherwise specified.

As part of this new taxation system, the Australian Government introduced the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS). The scheme is administered by the Australian Customs Department and took effect on 1 July 2000. The TRS enables travellers departing Australia to claim a refund of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) paid on goods bought in Australia. The refund applies to goods over the value of A\$300 when items are purchased in the same shop within 30 days prior to your departure from Australia. Should an item be too large to take onto the aircraft as hand luggage you will need to visit the TRS clearing office at the international airport with the item and receipt. The receipt will be stamped TRS stied and at that point you can check the large item in with your luggage. Once you have cleared customs you can collect your refund from the TRS desk by showing your receipt on items purchased. It does not apply to services or goods consumed or partly consumed in Australia, however the goods can be used before departing Australia.

LANGUAGE

The official language for the conference is English.

PARKING

Parking is available at the Conference venue at the rate of \$10 per 6 hour period.

PLANNING YOUR TRAVEL

Because of time change and jet lag the Organising Committee suggests you consider arriving in Australia by 2 July 2005. This will enable you to relax and familiarise yourself with your hotel and its surrounds before the start of the conference.

PRIVACY

Australia introduced the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 in 2001. The Conference Managers comply with such legislation which is designed to protect the right of the individual to privacy of their information.

Information collected in respect of proposed participation in any aspect of the Conference will be only used for the purposes of planning and conduct of the Conference and may also be provided to the organising body or to organisers of future events. It is also usual to produce a Delegate List of attendees at the Conference and to include the individual's details in such a list. Consent for publication of the individual's information may be withheld when completing the Registration Form for the Conference. Individuals are also entitled to access the information held by written application to the Conference Managers.

SHOPPING

Shops in Sydney open from 0900 to 1730 during the week with late night shopping on Thursday. On Saturday, most shops open from 0900 to 1600. On Sunday Darling Harbour shops are open from 1000 to 1900 and major department stores in the centre of the city are open from 1000 to 1600.

TIME

Sydney is 10 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

TIPPING

Tipping is not as widespread or regulated in Australia as it is in other parts of the world. Tipping is your prerogative, a reward for service. It is customary to tip hotel porters and a gratuity of about 10 per cent is usual in restaurants if good service is received. Tips for taxis are regarded as optional.

VACCINATIONS

A current valid international certificate of inoculation against yellow fever is required if passengers come from, or travel through, infested areas. Check this carefully with your airline or travel agent.

