

General Information for conference delegates in Cairns

Currency

Decimal currency is used in Australia – units are dollars and cents. Current exchange rates can be obtained from your bank. All major credit cards are widely accepted in Australia.

Banks

Banks in Australia are open from 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 5pm on Fridays. Banks are closed all day Saturday and Sunday. Exchange facilities are available at the airport and most major hotels. Automatic teller (ATMs) facilities are available at a wide variety of outlets.

Conference Language

The working language of the Conference will be English.

Time

Local Cairns time during July is – Greenwich Mean Time plus 10 hours.

Electricity

The electrical supply is 240 volts, 50Hz. The connection for appliances is a flat 3-pin plug. Most hotels provide 110 volt outlets for shavers.

Climate

Cairns boasts a superb tropical climate all year round. In July you can expect temperatures to range between 16-26 degrees Celsius.

Shopping

General shopping hours in the region are evolving with those traders catering to visitors opening seven days a week. Regular shop opening hours are 9am – 5pm Monday – Saturday and usually 10am- 4pm on Sundays.

Travel and Health Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out insurance policies to cover medical and travel expenses. If necessary, consult your travel agent.

Disability Facilities

Facilities for the disabled – telephone, toilets and lifts available on every level of the Cairns Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Taxes

A Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10% applies to all consumer goods and services and is included in retail prices.

Tipping

Tipping is not the general custom in Australia and service charges are not added to accounts by hotels and restaurants. However, you may tip hotel porters and food and drink waiters in restaurants (up to 10% of the bill) for special service. At any time, tipping is your choice.

Mobile Phones

Analogue Mobile or Cell Phones cannot be used as Australia operates on a digital network.

Public Transport from Airport

Cairns has a public bus system servicing the city, suburbs and beaches. Timetables are available from depots and at hotels.

Transport

Taxis are also readily available from ranks and telephone bookings. As of November 2006 the cost of a taxi from the airport to Cairns city was AUD \$12.00.

The Appropriate Visa for Delegates

As a general rule, all visitors to Australia (other than citizens of New Zealand travelling on a New Zealand passport) require a visa to enter Australia. Overseas visitors seeking to attend or participate in a conference or event in Australia should, in most cases, apply for a short stay business visitor visa (subclass 456).

Please check prior to registration with your airline, travel agent or nearest Australian Consulate, as immigration laws are very strict. Information about this important requirement can also be found on the Australian Government website at www.immi.gov.au/visitors

Some participants will be able to obtain an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). You can apply for an ETA via the Internet www.eta.immi.gov.au or through a travel agent, an airline office or a specialist service provider to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

ETA eligible Countries

Andorra	Luxembourg
Austria	Malaysia
Belgium	Malta
Brunei	Monaco
Canada	The Netherlands
Chinese Taipei*	Norway
Denmark	Portugal
Finland	San Marino, Republic of
France	Singapore
Germany	Spain
Greece	Sweden
Hong Kong	Switzerland
Iceland	UK - British Citizen or
Ireland	UK - British National (Overseas)**
Italy	USA
Japan	Vatican City
Korea, Republic of	
Liechtenstein	

* Holders of passports of Chinese Taipei can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Chinese Taipei.

** Holders of UK passports, which indicate their nationality to be British National (Overseas) can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Hong Kong.

Non-ETA countries

Non-ETA country delegates need to lodge a subclass '456' visa application at the nearest Australian Mission overseas. The application form (also number 456) can be downloaded from the website www.immi.gov.au