



Newsletter Number 5: May 2009

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## International Association for Educational Assessment Annual Conference 2009

### ***Proposals for presentations***

Acceptance of proposals for presentations has now closed. We received almost 180 proposals for papers, symposiums and workshops. We are pleased with the high level of interest in the conference that this indicates.

The proposals came from 35 countries across the globe. Topics range across all strands and topics, with a balanced representation of the four strands. A wide spectrum of assessment issues is covered, from teacher-directed assessment to large-scale testing, from assessment for learning to assessment for certification and selection, from primary education to graduate education, and including assessment in vocational training.

The large number of proposals exceeded our wildest expectations and ensures a varied and interesting program. It offers plenty of interest for everyone and we anticipate spirited discussion and debate at the conference.

### ***Timetable for further advice***

The conference organising committee is now completing the review of proposals. We aim to accommodate as many proposals and preferences as possible and ensure comprehensive coverage of assessment issues. The large number of proposals means that we have to make some difficult decisions. One consequence is that we will have to invoke IAEA's general rule that each person present only once (but allowing multiple authorships). Unfortunately, some proposals will be declined and we will negotiate changes to some others (especially to designated presenters).

We are well on track to advise on acceptance of proposals before the end of May. Subsequent due dates are: full papers due by Friday 31 July (this includes a 100 word biography of each author for advice to session chairs); presenters must also register by this date (at earlybird rates); powerpoint slides are due by Friday 14 August. Advice to presenters will be provided in June to assist in preparing presentations.

### ***Registration***

Earlybird registration closes on 30 April (except for presenters). After that

undiscounted rates apply - see the conference website [www.iaea2009.com.au](http://www.iaea2009.com.au). Note also that the due date for accommodation reservations is Friday 7 August (through the on-line registration process).

The large number of proposals for presentations may be indicative of high attendance numbers at the conference. We suggest that you register as soon as possible in case the number of registrations needs to be limited.

### ***Sponsors and exhibitors***

Conference sponsorship and exhibitions are still open. If you are interested in either of these, please contact the conference organisers ICMS: email [iaea2009@icms.com.au](mailto:iaea2009@icms.com.au) or telephone Emily Yiannakis on +617 3844 1138. The following organisations are confirmed sponsors of IAEA 2009: DRS Data Service Ltd (Silver Sponsor); SALMAT Businessforce (Silver Sponsor); RM Assessment (Bronze Sponsor); Stephen Austin and Sons Ltd (Bronze Sponsor); Griffith University (Silver Sponsor); and Queensland Studies Authority (Silver Sponsor). See further details on the conference website.

### ***Australia as a destination***

Australia is a large country. Its geographical size (7.6m sq.km. or 3m sq.mi.) is about the same as mainland USA and almost as large as Europe (10m sq.km. or 4m sq.mi.). See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia> for a brief overview. There are many attractions that you may wish to visit, but be aware the distances are vast and you need to allow sufficient travel time if you wish to visit places as diverse as Sydney (1000 km from Brisbane), Uluru (3000 km from Brisbane), Fraser Island (about 300 km from Brisbane) and the Great Barrier Reef (many places along the coast of Queensland; Cairns is 1700 km from Brisbane). Visit [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com) for lots of information and ideas. For some it is a long way to come, so you may want to make the most of it by planning some pre-conference and post-conference trips.

The conference is going to be a great one. Please register soon.

Peter Luxton and Joy Cumming  
Co-chairs IAEA 2009 Conference Organising Committee

### **For more information**

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