



June 2009

Newsletter Number 6

International Association for Educational Assessment Annual Conference 2009

Letters to presenters

We were extremely pleased to receive 180 submissions for presentations. We have now reviewed all the proposals and letters have been sent out accepting one workshop, five symposiums and 135 papers. As well, we have accepted 19 submissions as posters rather than papers. The program will include 10 sessions with five parallel presentations in each session. Posters will be displayed on the Thursday. It is a very full and diverse program, with plenty for everyone to find stimulating and engaging.

Due dates for presenters

- Registrations completed by Friday 31 July
- Papers submitted by Friday 31 July
- PowerPoint files submitted by Friday 14 August

Conference program and presentations

A draft timetable for the conference program is now available on the conference website. The final program showing details for each session is expected to be available in July, following executive committee approval. As soon as the program is settled, presenters will be advised of their session and provided with advice to assist them in making their presentation. Advice will also be sent to poster presenters.

Pre and post conference workshops

The IAEA Executive has arranged a pre-conference workshop for IAEA Primary Members only. This workshop will take place at the conference venue (Sofitel Brisbane) on Sunday 13 September 16:00–18:00 (before the Opening Reception). Details regarding the workshop topic and registration are currently being finalised and will be published through the next newsletter.

As well, there will be a post-conference workshop entitled *Media handling in the modern world* presented by Bene't Steinberg (Cambridge Assessment) and Peter Kent (Porter Novelli, Australia). The workshop will be held at the conference venue (Sofitel Brisbane) on Friday 18 September 14:00–16:00 (after lunch on the final day of the conference). This workshop is open and free to all conference registrants.

Registration

If you have not already registered please do so soon at www.iaea2009.com
Note that the due date for accommodation reservations is Friday 7 August.

Wednesday Tours

The Wednesday tours are a feature of IAEA conferences where delegates to the conference can engage with each other in more informal settings while also experiencing some of the local attractions. This year there are several wonderful offerings for the day. So far the most popular has been the educational visit to Canterbury College. It is likely that we will have to restrict the numbers for this tour so please register early if this is your preference.

Visas

We remind you that everyone coming to Australia is required to have a visa (except New Zealanders). We suggest that you apply for a visa well in advance of your travel. For some countries it is a relatively easy procedure through www.immi.gov.au. For others, it is more complex and may also involve health requirements. It is best to consult your travel agent about this.

Sponsors and exhibitors

Conference sponsorship and exhibitions are still open. We already have several sponsors but there is room for more. Being an exhibitor is an excellent way of getting your products noticed in the international assessment arena. There will be at least 37 countries represented at the conference. Exhibitions will have prime space to attract passing conference delegates from Sunday to Tuesday of the conference. Please email 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.

Queensland as a destination

Brisbane is the capital of the state of Queensland. An excellent overview of Queensland is <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queensland>. Brisbane is in the southeast corner of the state and the northern-most point of the state is over 2500km away. If you intend to travel before or after the conference, there is much you could see and do. Some good reference points for Queensland travel are www.destinationqueensland.com and www.queenslandholidays.com.au.

You might especially want to consider visiting the Gold Coast (just south of Brisbane), famous for its sandy surfing beaches, hinterland and theme parks (such as Dreamworld, Movie World, and Sea World as well as Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and David Fleay Wildlife Park), or the Sunshine Coast (just north of Brisbane), famous for its sandy surfing beaches, hinterland and special attractions such as Underwater World and Australia Zoo.

There are various events this year in celebration of Queensland's 150th birthday as a state. See www.qldevents.com.au/events/. A few notable events around the time of the conference are: Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Special Exhibition *American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*: to 20 September: see www.qag.qld.gov.au/the_met; 2009 ITU Triathlon World Championships, Gold Coast, 9–13 September: see www.worldtriathlongoldcoast.com; and Toowoomba Festival of Flowers 18–27 September: see www.toowoombacarnivalofflowers.com.au/.

Other places in Queensland you might consider visiting include Hervey Bay (for whale watching) and Fraser Island (the biggest sand island in the world). Further north there is the Great Barrier Reef for

which there are many stopping off points on the mainland and many tropical islands off-shore. See www.destinationqueensland.com for both of these. For something completely different you could try the Australian Outback Spectacular show at the Gold Coast: see www.outbackspectacular.myfun.com.au/.

Perhaps this is enough to get you thinking about some possibilities to enrich your visit beyond the conference.

Everything is proceeding well towards a fine conference in September. We hope your plans to attend are well in hand.

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

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