

Dear Delegates,

We look forward to warmly welcoming you in New Zealand.

I am sure, its not only us but also the nice summer Auckland weather which is generally very pleasant, mild and calm with temperatures ranging from 18 to to 28 °C will lend a warm greeting to you.

As you come into Auckland airport, perhaps one of the first things you may notice would be the attention given to certain items that you may be carrying along with you. In addition to the general customs requirements here in New Zealand it must be noted that items such as food, dairy products (fruits and veges) etc., must be declared at customs. Do refer to custom declaration form carefully.

It could be convenient to exchange your money using the banks or/ currency converters located at Auckland airport. It takes about 30 minutes from air port to city buy road. There is a bus service that runs every 20 minutes. Bus stop is located at the left hand end as you step outside the doors of the airport. It costs about \$15 to take you to the City. It will also pass by all major hotels.

Shuttles and taxis are other means of transport to Hotel.

All major hotels are located in the Auckland city area and it would be a short walk (20 minute) from most of them to the Congress Venue, the Faculty of Engineering Auckland University which is located on Symonds Street. An absorbing Technical Programme and an enjoyable social functions programme awaits you. We will also select the overall best paper, and best student paper, the awards will be made at the closing ceremony.

We are planning a memorable Banquet which will include a harbour cruise and a pacific flavour too. All participants are requested to assemble at the Ferry Terminal pier a 5.15 PM.; you would be handed in 2 free drink coupons to have drinks of your choice from the ferry bar. After the harbour cruise, we will then take you by busses to the Marae for the Banquet. Once we have had our starters we plan to have a traditional Haka to be then followed by a dinner which will include a Maori Hangi meal as well, and thereafter you would be entertained by one of New Zealand's famous artists, namely Frankie Stevens. Please note that the Marae is an Alcohol free area. Please note that smoking is strictly prohibited in all areas in New Zealand except in designated areas.

Wishing you a safe flight and an eventful and enjoyable Congress.

Gregory De Costa,
Co- Chair LOC.