

INQAAHE Conference 2011 Proposal

Host Agency

Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) is a statutory body established under Ordinance which came into effect in October 2007, to succeed the roles of the previous Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) which has a history of almost 20 years, and is one of the founding members of INQAAHE.

Over the years, HKCAAVQ has been an active member of INQAAHE, and has had an almost continuous presence on the INQAAHE Board. Locally, it is one of the three agencies of quality assurance in Hong Kong, and is the oldest among them, with the broadest scope of service. Besides, it is the Accreditation Authority of the Qualifications Framework of Hong Kong, which was introduced in May 2008.

As a non-profit making body providing authoritative advice to the Government on the standards of academic programmes in higher education, continuing education programmes, vocational training programmes, professional development programmes and non-local academic and professional courses in higher education, HKCAAVQ is an evolving and growing body with nearly 70 full-time and part-time staff. Its operation is under the supervision and advice of a Council, which membership is appointed by the Chief Executive of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Currently, there are a total of 21 members, including six non-local members and a representation of the Permanent Secretary for Education of the HKSAR Government. Its composition reflects well-mixed expertise and experience in quality assurance, education and training as well as closer link with the industrial sectors and the Education Bureau.

INQAAHE was established in Hong Kong in 1991 at the initiative of the then Executive Director and members of HKCAA's first board. The year 2011 will mark the 20th anniversary of INQAAHE. Therefore, HKCAAVQ would like to invite the INQAAHE Board to bring the Conference back to Hong Kong, its place of establishment. Furthermore, the Conference has not been hosted in Asia since 1991.

The development in quality assurance in Hong Kong – with the long track record in academic accreditation of HKCAAVQ, the establishment of other agencies – the Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC) and the Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Committee (QAC), the introduction of the Qualifications Framework in 2008, as well as the study of the trans-national higher education qualifications, make Hong Kong an interesting hub for quality assurance.

HKCAAVQ's track record in the organisation of similar events includes:

1. INQAAHE Asia Pacific Regional Network Forum (17-18 January 2003)
2. APQN Meeting Workshop on Qualifications Framework (31 January - 1 February 2005)

Contact details of HKCAAVQ:

10/F & 23/F Cambridge House, Taikoo Place,
979 King's Road, Quarry Bay,
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 3658 0000
Fax: (852) 2869 4828
Email: info@hkcaavq.edu.hk
Website: www.hkcaavq.edu.hk
(Contact person: Ms Polly Wong)

Supporting Authority and Agency

The hosting of the Conference is fully supported by the local education authority, the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government, and the other two quality assurance agencies of Hong Kong, the Joint Quality Review Committee and the Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Committee. (Supporting letters from the two agencies are attached, and while that from the Bureau will be provided once it is available.)

This bidding exercise is also supported by the official tourism promotion body of Hong Kong – the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Its dedicated “Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong” office provides integrated one-stop support, including site selection, planning, pre-promotion and delegates’ experience enhancement.

Host City

Lying in the heart of Asia, Hong Kong is one of the world’s most fascinating, stimulating centres where cultures of the East and West co-exist in perfect harmony. It is not only the gateway to Mainland China, but also a transportation hub of the Asia Pacific Region. Highly accessible from around the world, with about 80 international airlines providing weekly scheduled flights connecting it with over 130 destinations worldwide, Hong Kong continues to grow as the destination of choice for both Hong Kong-based and international conference planners, as it provides a superior infrastructure for meetings, conferences and conventions.

Hong Kong is a visitor-friendly city where nationals of more than 170 countries can visit Hong Kong visa free. With both English and Chinese being its official languages, Hong Kong is a remarkably safe city by day or night, and is geographically compact, with an extensive network of public transportation for easy commutation.

Please refer to the Appendix 1 for more information on Hong Kong as a premier conference destination.

Conference Venue

We propose the INQAAHE Conference 2011 to be held in The Mira Hotel (Address: 118 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong), which is capable of holding the Plenary Session of 300 or more delegates, all the Parallel Sessions concurrently and the Pre-Conference Workshop, as well as serving as one of the main guest hotels of the delegates.

Located in the centre of the business, shopping and cultural district, with easy access and available public transportation to and from other parts of the city, the venue is approximately 45 minutes from the airport by car or 20 minutes by train. The venue is covered by an extensive network of public transport including buses, metro and ferry. The nearest metro station is about 2-minute walk from the venue.

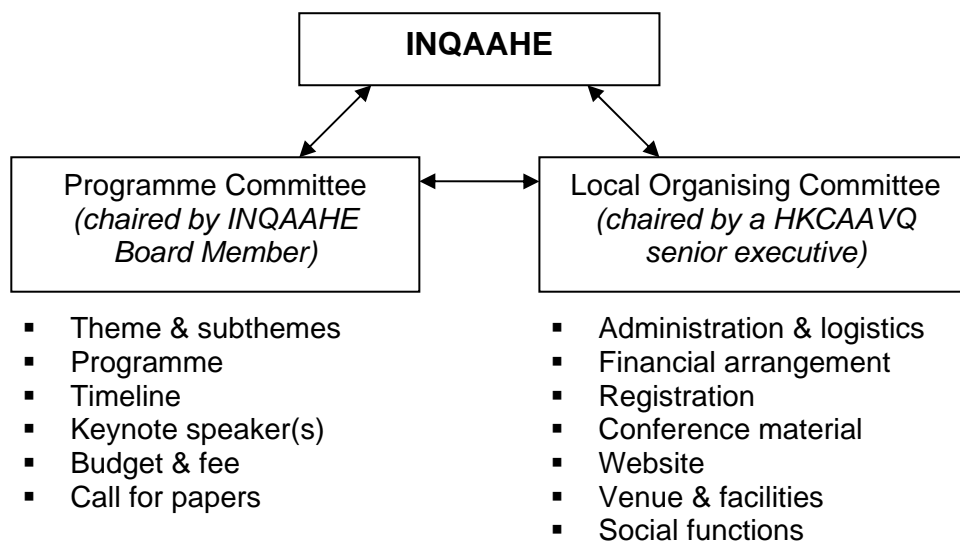
Hotel Accommodation & Access

The Mira Hotel, the conference venue, is a contemporary style first-class hotel with nearly 500 guest rooms and suites. Recently undergoing renovation, all guest rooms of the hotel are equipped with high-tech features, such as broadband internet access, desktop computer, local mobile phone and audio-visual entertainment, which are all available for complimentary use by guests staying in the hotel. Being identified as the Conference Venue, the hotel is ready to delegate its full support, and has offered a special rate of HK\$1,850 (approximately US\$237) per night for a single/double guest room (plus 10% tax).

HKCAAVQ will arrange keynote speakers to be accommodated in the conference hotel. Nevertheless, delegates would have a wide range of hotel choices in the proximity. About 20 hotels of low- to high- end are within 10 minutes' walk from the conference venue, ranging from a room rate of approximately HK\$600 (US\$77) to HK\$2,400 (US\$307). Guesthouses of a room rate of approximately HK\$300 (US\$38) are also available within walking distance from the Conference Venue.

Organisation & Management

Apart from the Programme Committee to be appointed by the INQAAHE Board, HKCAAVQ will form and chair a Local Organising Committee (LOC), which will consist of representatives from the two other quality assurance agencies in Hong Kong, JQRC and QAC, while the local authority, the Education Bureau will be represented via its representation in the Council of HKCAAVQ.

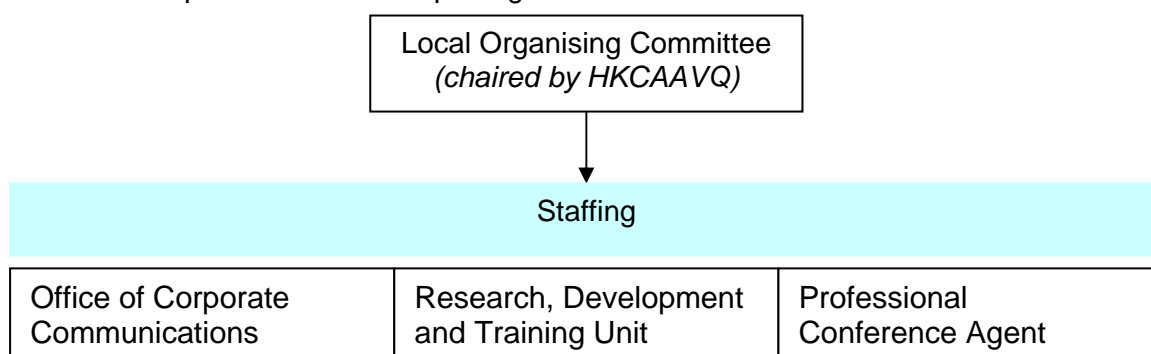


Administrative Support

HKCAAVQ will set up an internal working group consisting of the staff from its Office of Corporate Communications and Research, Development and Training Unit to organise and coordinate the Conference. While the former will mainly oversee the logistics, liaison, communications and publicity, the latter will provide the necessary technical and professional support.

A professional conference agent will also be commissioned to provide the registration, website, accommodation, transportation and sightseeing tour services.

The involved parties will all be reporting to the LOC on matters of the Conference:



Financial Arrangement

HKCAAVQ will manage the expenses in such a way as to maintaining a reasonable registration fee, so that member agencies will not be precluded from the Conference solely due to financial shortfall. While €50 per head will be allocated to INQAAHE, an amount which is equal to the sum of 50% of the surplus (if any) from the Conference will be devoted to the Network too.

Currently, the budget is in deficit. HKCAAVQ will mobilise its internal resources and seek appropriate external funding, for example, financial support from the local authorities, to bear any expenses which cannot be fully covered by the registration fee of the delegates.

For all the internal resources being allocated to the organisation of the Conference (such as staff time), HKCAAVQ will bear the cost of the operational expenses. Prospective members of the LOC are also acceded to a free service for their time and advice to be dedicated to the committee.

It is proposed that the registration fee for the INQAAHE Conference 2011 be set as below:

Early-bird discounted fee: US\$500 or HK\$3,900

Full registration fee: US\$550 or HK\$4,290

The said fee will include full Conference attendance (3 days), the Conference Kit, lunches and morning and afternoon coffee breaks during the 3-day Conference, Conference Dinner and Informal Dinner.

Delegates have to arrange their own transportation to and from Hong Kong, daily transportation between their place of abode and the Conference Venue, and hotel accommodation at their own expenses. Guest room reservation with The Mira Hotel via the Conference Website can enjoy the special room rate of HK\$1,850 (US\$237) + 10% tax.

Please find the draft budget provided in the budget scheme attached.

INQAAHE Board Meeting

A board room fully equipped to facilitate the holding of the Board Meetings of INQAAHE will be made available on all the three days of the Conference and the day preceding the Conference, at The Mira Hotel. All the costs incurred herewith will be absorbed in the total expenditure of the Conference, and any shortfall thereto will be borne by HKCAAVQ.

Pre-Conference Workshop

Function rooms equipped with full meeting facilities will be made available at the Conference Venue for the Pre-Conference Workshop, which is scheduled for the day preceding the Conference. While a detailed programme of the Workshops will be determined by the Programme Committee, the facilities are capable of accommodating multiple workshops to take place concurrently, and coffee breaks to be served during the day. A separate fee for the Pre-Conference Workshop will be agreed with the INQAAHE Board and be determined upon the general agreement of the day's programme by the Programme Committee.

Conference Website

A tailor-made website will be developed to disseminate information and materials of the Conference and the Pre-Conference Workshop at all times. It will also contain information of hotel accommodation, sightseeing spots and other relevant tourist information such as weather and public transportation of Hong Kong via connection to the Hong Kong Tourism Board's website.

Online registration for the Conference and any social programmes will be available at the website too.

In short, HKCAAVQ aims at providing a one-stop service for all delegates and interested parties via the Conference Website, which will be developed and managed with the assistance of a professional conference agent.

Advertising and Conference Material

Advertising and pre-conference information of both the Conference and the Pre-Conference Workshop will be disseminated by HKCAAVQ by electronic means. While conference programme and materials will be made available at a dedicated conference website, HKCAAVQ will prepare a Conference CD-Rom to carry all conference papers obtainable prior to the commencement of the Conference for distribution to all delegates. As it is anticipated that it would not be desirable for delegates to carry hard copies, no hard copies will be produced during the Conference, but all conference papers will be uploaded to the Website for delegates' downloading.

Besides, there will be a Conference Kit, which will contain:

- the Conference Programme
- CD-Rom with conference papers
- the social programme
- a visitor map
- tourist literature
- shopping, dining and leisure activity privileges

Conference Programme & the Programme Committee

It is understood that a Programme Committee (PC) will be appointed by the INQAAHE Board. The PC will determine the timeline, the theme and subthemes, and the keynote speaker(s) of the Conference. HKCAAVQ will nominate the chair of its LOC to be represented in the PC. It will also recommend its Chairman, the President of INQAAHE, and the Secretary for Education of the HKSAR or his delegate to be the speakers at the Official Opening. Depending on the theme of the Conference, one more speaker from the local higher education sector may be proposed to speak at the Official Opening. If this can be accepted, this may facilitate the sourcing of external funds.

HKCAAVQ, with its LOC, will make every endeavour to ensure the venue and the conference facilities are capable of accommodating all the requirements of the ultimate programme, and delegates can enjoy seamless conference services. Under the current arrangement, the Conference Venue is already capable of accommodating at least one day of Pre-Conference Workshops and three days of Conference with plenary session and five parallel sessions to be held concurrently.

A tentative conference structure is suggested below:

Pre-Conference Day	09:00-17:00	Pre-Conference Workshop
Day 1	09:00-09:30	Official Opening
	09:30-17:00	Conference (with plenary session and parallel sessions)
Day 2	18:30-20:30	Conference Dinner
	09:00-17:00	Conference (with plenary session and parallel sessions)
Day 3	18:30-20:30	Informal Dinner
	09:00-17:00	Conference (with plenary session and parallel sessions)

Social Programme

It is proposed that the Conference Dinner be held in the first night of the Conference, and an Informal Dinner be arranged at a venue of scenic or cultural specialty on the second day.

Please refer to the Appendix 2 for ideas of social evenings.

Pre- and Post- Conference Tours and Events

Hong Kong is a multi-ethnic society with well-developed public transportation network and visitor-friendly facilities (such as English street signs). The Conference Kit will contain tourist attraction sites and a visitor map for delegates.

Please refer to Appendix 3 for ideas on attractions, sightseeing tours, and pre/post tours to Mainland China.

Timing of the Conference

It is proposed that the Conference, including the Pre-Conference Workshop, be held on either 15-18 March 2011 or 17-20 May 2011. Taken into consideration the reasons laid down in the following paragraph, the former dates are the preferred option:

Hong Kong belongs to the sub-tropical region, and the weather can be very hot and humid in summer. March is the transitional month of winter and spring, less subject to sudden wind chill of winter and high humidity of spring. Average temperature of the month ranges from 17°C to 22°C. Besides, it is a time avoiding major conferences and events in Hong Kong, hence allowing more flexibility in hotel room availability and rates.

The proposed timing of a March Conference can be:

15 March	Pre-Conference Workshop
16-18 March	Conference

Exhibitors

A trade exhibition is not proposed for the Conference.

Delegates

Delegates will be from member agencies of INQAAHE. While there are a total of three members of INQAAHE in Hong Kong, including HKCAAVQ, holding the Conference in Hong Kong may attract participation from Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) member agencies, also those who are not members of INQAAHE, apart from representatives from local universities, officials from the Education Bureau and members of the higher education sector. Nevertheless, the number of representatives from local agencies and institutions will be capped so as to maintain a balance in local and non-local participations in the Conference.

Due to the proximity to Mainland China, the Conference is expected to draw a considerable amount of interest from Chinese quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.

Guests

When planning for the Conference, HKCAAVQ has taken into account the waiving of the registration fees for guests to be invited by INQAAHE, and the accommodation and all expenses relating to the Conference of the keynote speakers.

Accompanying Persons Programme

HKCAAVQ will arrange its conference agent to provide optional tours to local attractions for Accompanying Persons at their own expenses. The Conference Venue is located in the major business, shopping and cultural district, with many tourist spots, cultural centres and museums, and large shopping malls in the neighbourhood. Accompanying Persons would be able to identify a lot of attractions or interesting spots that they would like to visit.

Arrangements for Delegates from Less Developed Countries

The conference fee is set under the prudent principle of covering all necessary expenses by the registration fee. Nevertheless, to further ensure member agencies will not be precluded from attending the Conference solely due to financial shortfall, HKCAAVQ would try to secure external funding locally should we be appointed as the Host Agency of the Conference by the INQAAHE Board.

Hong Kong is situated in the heart of Asia, and hence is a place of easy access in geographical terms for most countries. More than 50% of the world's population is within 5 hours' flying time of Hong Kong.

List of guesthouses in the lower end of room rates (approximately HK\$300 or US\$38) and in the proximity of the Conference Venue will also be provided for delegates.

Promotion and Publicity

HKCAAVQ would promote the Conference in its website and through the issuance of press announcement. To generate publicity, the event will also be shown in the convention & exhibition calendar of the website of the official body Hong Kong Tourism Board.

Work with regional networks of other major quality assurance stakeholders in promoting the Conference will also be facilitated through our involvement in APQN.

Contributions of the Conference to Enhancing Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Hong Kong

HKCAAVQ is the founding member of INQAAHE and Hong Kong is the founding place of the Network. It not only carries special meaning to have the Conference at the 20th year of the Network to be held in its founding place, it can also reiterate to the higher education sector, and also to the vocational training sector of Hong Kong the values of quality assurance in academic and vocational training.

The Qualifications Framework and the launching of a new quality assurance mechanism underpinning the accreditation of academic and vocational qualifications will be approaching its fourth year at the time of the Conference. It will, therefore, be a good timing to reflect the effectiveness and impact of the Framework and the accreditation exercise. With expertise and experiences from around the world being gathered and exchanged in Hong Kong would be of great help and serve as a rich source of insights for the Agency.

A conference of this calibre would generate a healthy and hopefully exciting debate in Hong Kong. Furthermore the Conference would help place Hong Kong on the international quality assurance agenda.

Conference Theme

Due to the special nature of Hong Kong's higher education system, HKCAAVQ would like to suggest for INQAAHE's consideration the Conference theme and sub-themes to centre on the following topics:

- Qualifications Framework and quality assurance
- The impact of learning outcomes on quality assurance
- The parallel developments of private and public higher education
- Accreditation of foreign provisions

- End -

APPENDIX 1

HONG KONG – A PREMIER CONFERENCE DESTINATION

With a population of more than 6.9 million people and a land area of more than 1,100 square kilometers, Hong Kong, a world-class city, is a small place that lives large. Combining 150 years of colonial influence and 5,000 years of Chinese tradition, Hong Kong has its own special brand of magic and mystique. In 2007, we welcomed over 28 million visitors to our city – a solid proof of the magnetic attraction of this remarkable destination.

As a meeting destination, Hong Kong not only has superb convention facilities but also excellent supporting infrastructure and many attractions for delegates to enjoy all within such convenient reach.



Superior Meeting Infrastructure

Hong Kong provides a superior infrastructure for meetings, conferences, and conventions. There is a full spectrum of purpose-built convention centres such as AsiaWorld-Expo and Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) providing function space with exhibition halls and meeting space of various sizes. Other than convention centres, there are more than 60 civic centres and hotels with function space for between 10 and 46,000 people.

Exceptional Hotel Facilities

Hong Kong has an extensive network of hotels ranging from superior deluxe to modest tourist class. Currently, there are over 53,000 rooms in 146 hotels. Given Hong Kong reputation for exceptional standards in hospitality, the accommodation promises to be more than “just a room for the night”.

Easily Accessible

Hong Kong is a transportation hub located at the heart of Asia. There are over 60 international airlines providing about 2,268 (584,838 total seat capacity) incoming scheduled passenger flights per week to Hong Kong from over 130 destinations worldwide. More than 50% of the world’s population is within 5 hours’ flying time of Hong Kong.

The state-of-the-art Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok operates 24 hours a day, allowing more flights to fly into Hong Kong.

Mainland China is accessible by air, rail, coaches/buses and ferries. There are over 480 flights per week from Hong Kong to major Mainland cities.

Liberal Visa Regulations

Hong Kong has a liberal visa policy whereby nationals of more than 170 countries can visit Hong Kong visa free. Bona fide congress delegates who do require visas will find that their applications are processed quickly.

Safety & Security Assurance

Hong Kong is a remarkably safe city by day or night. With a history of political and economic stability, Hong Kong assures visitors a high degree of safety.

Stable Currency

There is no foreign exchange control in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong dollar is freely convertible. Visitors can exchange foreign currency at any bank or exchange shop or at the cashier counters of hotels. Daily exchange rates are available through any bank. The Hong Kong dollar is linked to the US dollar, trading in a narrow range around HK\$7.8 to US\$1.

The stability of the Hong Kong dollar makes budgeting easy for both conference organizers and delegates.

No Language Barrier

English and Chinese are the two official languages in Hong Kong. English is the language widely used on business, while Cantonese (a Chinese dialect) is the territory's most widely spoken language.

Hong Kong is very visitor-friendly, as all street signs, tourist and government publications are bilingual. Shopkeepers and restaurant attendants in most establishments in tourist area can speak English.

Well-developed Public Transportation Network

Hong Kong is geographically compact, with plentiful taxis and excellent public transportation. There are taxi, bus, tram and ferry services, complemented by highly efficient subway system. It takes only 23 minutes from airport to city centre by the Airport Express Line (AEL) train.

The extensive network of public transport makes commuting in Hong Kong one of the world's most convenient, comprehensive and inexpensive place.

An Ever-Exciting City

Hong Kong has a myriad of attractions that captivates visitors. The city offers a diversity of travel experiences, from shopping to gourmet dining, countryside pursuits and unique cultural heritage.

Excellent Track Record

Hong Kong has great track record in organizing world-class meetings. More than 850,000 overseas visitors came to Hong Kong for conventions in 2007. Below are some of the major conferences held in Hong Kong:

- World Trade organization (WTO) 6th Ministerial Meeting in 2005 (11,000 pax)
- Lions Clubs International (LCI) Convention in 2005 (20,000 pax)
- 6th World Congress for Drama/Theatre and Education in 2007 (1,000 pax)
- World Ophthalmology Congress in 2008 (10,200 pax)

To date, more than 70 world conventions have confirmed to stage in Hong Kong between now until year 2016.

APPENDIX 2

IDEAS OF SOCIAL PROGRAMME

No conference is complete without experiencing some of the more spectacular entertainment programmes, diverse dining facilities and great food in Hong Kong. Here are some ideas on possible venues for social evenings:

Cafe Deco Bar and Grill - A Night at the Peak

Cafe Deco is located in the Peak Galleria complex and offers spectacular views of Hong Kong. The interior has unique 1930s art deco setting with 2-storied seamless glass that extends the entire length of the restaurant. The restaurant specializes in delicious Indian Tandoori, home-made pasta and pizzas, Thai, Chinese and Mexican cuisine. Both levels offer 15,000 square feet in total area and cater for cocktail receptions up to 1,500 people or gala luncheons and dinner for up to 600 people.



Aberdeen Harbour Floating Restaurant



The landmark Jumbo Floating Restaurant in Aberdeen is probably one of the world's most photographed restaurants. It can hold a total of 1,500-1,600 persons for Chinese banquets. Its counterpart is the Treasure Floating Restaurant in Sha Tin, which also offers a wide range of seafood and can seat up to 2,000 people.

Seafood Dinner in Lamma Island

One of the must-do activities when visiting Hong Kong is to have a seafood dinner. Lamma Island, famed for its seafood restaurants and spectacular seaside scenery, is the perfect place for a causal evening. Participants will be able to experience a harbour cruise, followed by a delicious seafood dinner in this famous fishing village.



Chinese Theme Party

The venue can be decorated with traditional Chinese settings. There will be stalls in the venue with live demonstrations of traditional handicrafts, such as fortune telling, Chinese Calligraphy and silhouette cutting. A Chinese dinner will be served while live entertainment is provided by a Chinese Quartet.

Dine Around

For a more casual evening, delegates can multiply their gastronomic pleasure by touring a variety of dining spots or an entire dining district. Choose from a variety of cosmopolitan restaurant in Lan Kwai Fong in Central, dozens of chic restaurants, café and bars in Hong Kong's own SOHO district or cosy, intimate eateries in Stanley.

Hotel Venues

Many other venues in large restaurant, hotels, and club facilities are available for welcome reception, conference dinner and other group dining activities.



APPENDIX 3

IDEAS FOR SIGHTSEEING TOURS / ATTRACTIONS

A wide selection of interesting and creative activities can also be arranged for delegates as well as accompanying persons. Here are some suggestions:-

Morning Tea and Tai Chi Tour



Tai Chi is a form of exercise that places emphasis on slow movement and co-ordination. It dates back to the time of Confucius and is inspired by Buddhist meditation forms. This tour begins with a visit to either the Hong Kong Park or Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens. Delegates can learn how to perform traditional tai chi exercises followed by a visit to the Flagstaff House (Museum of Tea Ware), where they can savour a fragrant morning tea and delicious dim sum brunch at a local restaurant.

Hong Kong Island Tour

Tours are an excellent way to experience the many wonders of Hong Kong. It can begin with a ride on the Peak Tram to Victoria Peak, followed by a sampan ride in Aberdeen fishing fleet's typhoon shelter, a visit to jewellery factories and bargain-hunting in the market lanes of clothing boutiques and souvenir shops in the old south Hong Kong Island village of Stanley.



Back Streets of Kowloon Tour



The tour will take you to the famous 'Jade Market', an open-air market where tradesmen buy and sell rare stones and finished ornaments. Then you will walk through a traditional outdoor fresh food market. Continue to visit the unique 'Bird Garden', a fascinating and noisy street jammed with stalls selling a wide variety of exotic birds, cages and other accessories. The final stop on the tour is Wong Tai Sin Temple where you can pay homage to the blessed 'God of Immigrants' and have your fortune told by the wise ones.

Star Ferry's Harbour Tour

Step aboard the fabulous double-decker "Shining Star" ferry, a beautiful recreation of the ferries that plied Victoria Harbour in the 1920s. Relax and enjoy the magnificent view while sipping a cup of fine coffee in an air-conditioned, on-board cafe or enjoy the cooling sea breezes on an open deck.

This tour is a great opportunity to take in the awe-inspiring splendour of the Hong Kong skyline, the green mountains of Hong Kong Island, and the fascinating shipping activity in the world's busiest port.

Pearl By Night

Enjoy a Western-style buffet dinner and live dance music aboard a cruising restaurant as it sails around Victoria Harbour. Then take a tour bus to the Mid-Levels on Hong Kong Island and enjoy the spectacular night view of the Victoria Harbour skyline. The night ends at the Temple Street Night Market where you can do some shopping amongst the stalls and watch street theatre performers. It makes for a memorable experience.

Guided Market Visit and Cooking Class Tour

This journey of discovery begins with a visit to a traditional dried food market, where delegates can learn about the many ingredients that make Chinese cooking so delicious. Delegates will see a cooking demonstration at a cooking school where the chef will explain the recipe and the many secrets of Chinese cookery.



Hong Kong Disneyland

Opened in 2005, Hong Kong Disneyland will bring visitors to a fairytale kingdom that celebrates the spirit of fantasy, the world of tomorrow and a sense of adventure. Mickey and all his friends will be here along with original attraction designed just for Hong Kong. This 126-hectare theme park will also feature two Disney-themed hotels and shopping, dining and entertainment facilities. Hong Kong Disneyland will be within a short distance from downtown, accessible by various modes of transport including rail.

Heritage Tour

The Heritage Tour gives you an amazing insight into a unique past that is a vivid contrast to the city of today.

You'll discover the roots of ancient beliefs in the Man Mo Temple, dedicated to the gods of *Man* (literature) and *Mo* (martial arts). Another beautiful tradition stems from the enchanting Lam Tsuen Wishing Trees, where wishes are written on red paper, tied onto an orange and tossed into the air. Legend goes that wishes caught in the tree will come true.

Step back into the mid-1800s as you enter Tai Fu Tai, the opulent residence built by a scholar who was bestowed the title of Tai Fu (mandarin) by a Qing emperor. Lavish plaster mouldings and auspicious Chinese wood carvings adorn its regal interior. Architecture lovers can find similar exquisite décor inside the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall, built in honour of the Tang clan's founding ancestor. The nearby walled village of Lo Wai, offers fascinating sights of village life in the New Territories.

Lantau Island Tour

Explore Hong Kong's largest outlying island just an hour's ferry ride away from Hong Kong Island. The morning begins with a ferry trip from Central. Cruise through Victoria Harbour and past islands in the outer harbour to Mui Wo (Silver Mine Bay) on Lantau Island. From here, a tour bus takes you past the two-kilometre long, white sands of Cheung Sha Beach and over the Shek Pik Reservoir dam. Visit the Tanka boat people's stilt-house fishing village at Tai O, then ride up to a 520-metre plateau to visit the famous Po Lin Monastery and view the world's tallest seated, outdoor bronze Buddha. The tour includes a vegetarian lunch prepared by the monks at the monastery.



Island Hopping Cruise

Explore Hong Kong's many beautiful islands on a hop-on, hop-off cruise. The cruise takes you to several peaceful outlying islands, some of which are uninhabited. The tour will highlight temples and fish farms located in some of the most tranquil areas of Hong Kong.



Sai Kung is a popular beach area, where hiking, kite-flying, fishing, golfing and yachting can all be enjoyed.

Visitors can also opt for a day out to Cheung Chau or Lamma Island, just an hour ferry ride from the city, for sumptuous, fresh seafood.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

With more than 6,000 years of Chinese culture interwoven with 150 years of colonial rule, Hong Kong is a city rich with contrast. Blessed by its cultural connection with mainland China, Hong Kong's museums and galleries showcase splendid collections of Chinese antiquities dating back to the 1st Century. Visit one of the many museums in the territory and explore some of the wonders of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Museum occupies over 188,000 square feet, with 86,000 square feet being used for exhibitions. It has a permanent exhibition which outlines the 6,000 years of Hong Kong's history.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

Located within the Cultural Centre complex, the Museum's collection includes oil paintings, drawings and etchings, as well as lithographs of old Hong Kong. Seven exhibition galleries display Chinese antiquities, fine arts, historical pictures, contemporary Hong Kong arts, and special exhibitions.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Located in Sha Tin, the museum preserves and interprets the cultural identity of Hong Kong for the education, inspiration and enjoyment of residents and visitors. Its traditional Chinese courtyard design incorporates state-of-the-art architectural technology.



Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence



The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, located at Shau Kei Wan, is converted from the hundred years' old Lei Yue Mun Fort. As early as six hundred years ago, Hong Kong had already been a strategic coastal outpost guarding the southern gateway to China. The Museum features the history of coastal defence in Hong Kong.

Flagstaff House - Museum of Tea Ware

Located in the Hong Kong Park, this museum used to be the old home of the Commander-in Chief of the British Forces. The building is now used to house antique porcelain, earthenware, gold teapots, bowls, trays and water pots. There is also the K.S. Lo Gallery, which houses a collection of rare ceramics, and Chinese document seals.



GREEN TOURISM

Although Hong Kong is known for its cosmopolitan character, fabulous food and exciting nightlife, visitors can also enjoy all sorts of wildlife and nature parks most of which are within an hour's drive from the city centre. Over 60% of Hong Kong is countryside.

Country Parks

The 100-kilometre MacLehose Trail traverses eight of the New Territories' 15 country parks. Soaring through the highlands, from Sai Kung peninsula to the Tai Lam mountain range, it offers breathtaking panoramic views of Hong Kong' countryside.

Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail starts a few hundred metres within the Sai Kung Country Park, on a village bridge that crosses a creek flowing into Port Shelter. Sign posted markers on the 30-minute trail enable walkers to learn about ancient village lifestyle and crops.

Tai Mo Shan Country Park surrounds Hong Kong's highest peak - the 957-metre tall Tai Mo Shan. The view on the way and at the top of the peak is remarkable and on a clear day, a full overview of the New Territories' northeastern plains and the mainland Chinese coastline of Deep Bay can be seen.



Hong Kong Wetland Park

The Hong Kong Wetland Park is home to a stunning array of wildlife including birds, dragonflies, amphibians, mammals, reptiles, butterflies and fish! The park includes a 10,000m² Visitor's Centre, a Wetland Interactive World and a 60-hectare Wetland Reserve.

Inside the Wetland Interactive World visitors will find themed exhibition galleries, a theatre, a souvenir shop, an indoor play area (swamp adventure) and a resource centre. The themed exhibition galleries range in size from 250m² to 1,200m² and showcase the importance of wetlands on biodiversity, civilization and conservation.



The park's Wetland Reserve is a man-made wetland recreating habitats specially designed for waterfowls and other wildlife. Visitors can enjoy a hands-on experience at the wetland Discovery Centre within the Reserve. Other outside facilities include a Stream Walk, Mangrove Boardwalk and three Bird Hides that allow visitors to get up close to different habitats of various wildlife.

IDEAS FOR PRE/POST CONFERENCE TOURS

One of Hong Kong's great advantages is its position in the heart of Asia. Scheduled flights run several times daily to capital cities and resort destinations throughout Southeast Asia and beyond. Most destinations are within four hours' flying time from Hong Kong.

The following are some suggested destinations for pre/post congress tours:

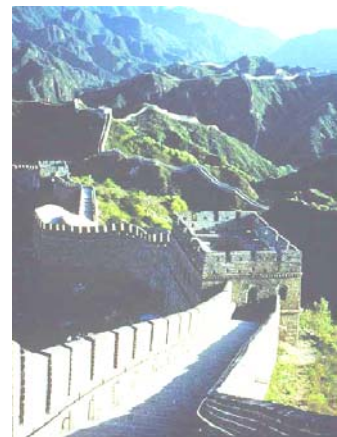
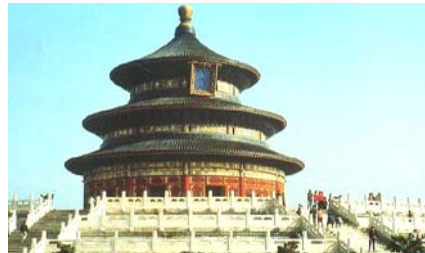
China

Lying at the southern tip of China, Hong Kong is the best place to start off a tour to China, a country with a brilliant recorded ancient civilization of 5,000 years. Delegates can experience the distinctive lifestyles and traditions, the diversity of cuisine between two strikingly different destinations.

For post conference holidays, join one of the many tours (usually ranging from four to eight days) and visit one or more of the following fabulous cities of China: -

Beijing

The Northern Capital of Kublai Khan, the Ming and Qing dynasty, the People's Republic of China, with magnificent attractions: the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, the Great Wall...



Shanghai

The Manhattan of China, the Paris of the East..... An established base for many international companies opening offices in China.

Xian



The starting point of the Silk Road and the capital of the country for 1,100 years. A remarkable amount of the heritage has been preserved, and rediscovered in this ancient city, including the vast army of terracotta warriors that were buried in imperial tombs 22 centuries ago, alongside bronze chariots and horses.

Guilin

Guilin's pure limestone hills have been eroded into strange formations over millions of years. Artistically they have inspired painters for centuries who often depict them as strong stone figures wreathed in mist and embossed with pine trees.



Guangzhou

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, is only short express railway trip from Hong Kong. Now one of China's most important industrial and trading centres, the city's attractions include the Dr Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, the Southern Yue King Tomb Museum, and the Five Rams Statue.



Shenzhen

A day trip to Shenzhen, the most successful of China's Special Economic Zones, is ideal for those who do not wish to embark on an extensive visit to China. Across the border from Hong Kong, Shenzhen can be reached by train or coach within two hours. Tours normally take in visits to a "free market" and the Splendid China theme park, a cultural village with its miniature representations of China's landmarks and history.

Macau

Macau, a city which is one-hour hydrofoil ferry from Hong Kong, is made up of a mainland promontory and two offshore islands. The city is renowned for its churches and Chinese temples, casinos, old forts, cobbled lanes, charming Mediterranean atmosphere and delicious cuisine.



Countries within the Region



Scheduled flights operate daily to Asia's capital and secondary cities and resorts. Use Hong Kong as a base and take the opportunity to visit the neighbouring countries in the region, such as Japan, Vietnam, Indochina, etc.