16th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery
13-16 March 2008
Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore

www.ascvs2008.com

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST IN AN ERA OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY
The Organising Committee warmly invites you to Singapore for the 16th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery (ASCVS) in March 2008.

The 21st century brings in an exciting time for the healthcare field as we make quantum leaps in new discoveries. As much as our quality of life has improved remarkably, we also see the emergence of greater challenges and new issues. Thus our theme, Putting Patients first in the Era of Modern Technology, suits best as we comb new grounds and face unexpected challenges.

Drawing perspectives and insights from leading representatives of the Asia Pacific region, the congress will bring together prolific results for greater advancement in cardiovascular surgery. An intensive range of topics has been lined up to enhance the practical value of the programme. Key highlights will include hands-on workshops and review course for surgeons in training in preparation for their examinations. Sufficient time will be given to the investigators to present their original work.

You may wish to take the opportunity to renew contacts; exchange ideas and results of the latest development in cardiovascular and its related field; and more importantly, collaborate in clinical work, research and clinical trials.

There will also be a trade exhibition displaying the latest pharmaceutical products and medical equipment in the field of cardiothoracic surgery.

For the regional and international colleagues, we invite you to have a good time in the beautiful city of Singapore. Exciting activities are lined up for your discovery- experience a unique fusion of multi-cultural lifestyles; feel the peace and tranquility of the Singapore island resort, Sentosa; pub-hop at the bustling Clarke Quay; close encounter of the third kind with the animals of our Night Safari.

More information will be made available on our website at www.ascvs2008.com or email our Congress Secretariat at mice@themetinglab.com to be put on our mailing list.

Professor Chuen-Neng LEE
Chairman
16th ASCVS 2008

THE ASIAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY is set up to promote the study of the art, science and practice of cardiovascular surgery. It facilitates the exchange of ideas in the field of cardiovascular surgery and provides a platform for personal contacts between cardiovascular specialists. Scientific meetings are organised annually to achieve this purpose. You may register as a member at www.ascvs.org.
Please read the guidelines carefully before writing your abstract. Only Abstracts that conform to the given guidelines will be accepted.

**Guidelines for Abstracts Submission**

1. The presenting author must be registered.
2. Abstracts should contain no more than 250 words.
3. Use MS Word and Times New Roman font type 10 points size.
4. The abstract title should fit in two lines; use left alignment in the abstract title; the title has to be written in capital letters, followed by a blank line.
5. Type the main author’s family name first and then the initials of his/her first name(s), followed by the rest of the co-authors’ names; do not use professional or academic titles.
6. Underline the presenting author.
7. Follow the authors’ names with the name of the institution, department, city and country.
8. Leave one blank line after the author(s) and institution(s).

9. The body of the text follows, using the usual criteria: introduction, material and method, results, conclusions (phrasing like “results will be presented” are to be avoided).
10. All abbreviations have to be defined at their first mentioning in the text; charts or graphs can not be inserted within the abstract form.
11. Direct reproduction from your electronically submitted abstract text means that any errors in spelling, grammar or scientific data will be reproduced as submitted.

If you have not received a confirmation of your abstract submission by email within seven working days of your submission please contact the Congress Secretariat by email to check receipt of your abstract. All abstracts must be submitted by **1 SEPTEMBER 2007**.

**Abstracts Acceptance**

Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Authors will receive a notification of acceptance from the Congress Secretariat by email.

Papers will be accepted with payment of registration fees for the main meeting.

**CATEGORY OF ABSTRACTS**

| 1. Aorta                          |
| 2. Basic Sciences                |
| 3. Cardiac Imaging               |
| 4. Congenital                    |
| 5. Coronary                      |
| 6. Evolving Technology           |
| 7. Heart Failure                 |
| 8. Minimally Invasive Cardiac    |
| 9. Myocardial Restoration        |
| 10. Thoracic                     |
| 11. Valve                        |

**YOUNG INVESTIGATOR’S AWARD**

Applications are invited from young doctors for the Young Investigator’s Award. The Award is in recognition of outstanding original work. The winner will receive an honorarium of $1,000.00.

The award is open to doctors below 35 years old and working in Asia. Only original work of related field carried out in the region and not previously published will be considered.

Finalists will present their papers at the Congress to the Panel of Judges appointed by the Organising Committee.

In the event that no entry of sufficient merit is received, the Panel of Judges may recommend to the Organising Committee that no award be made. The decision of the Judges shall be final.

The decision of the Judges shall be final.

Applicants must submit their abstracts (together with Call for Abstract Form) and payment before **1 September 2007**.

APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED WITH PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES.

All abstracts must be submitted with payment by **1 SEPTEMBER 2007**.
1. **AATS/ASCVS Postgraduate Course**
   
   American Association for Thoracic Surgery Postgraduate Programme  
   (see opposite page for details)

   - **Date:** Thursday, 13 March 2008
   - **Venue:** Raffles City Convention Centre
   - **Registration Fee:** SGD200 (Delegates who register for this course must register for the Main Meeting)

2. **Hemodynamic Workshop**

   - **Venue:** National University Hospital
   - **Invited Teaching Faculty:**
     - Michael PINSKY, USA
     - Pat TAN, Malaysia
   - **Target Audience:** Cardiac Surgeons, Intensivists and Nurses
   - **Registration Fee:** SGD150

3. **Nursing Symposium**

   A nursing symposium will be organised at the National University Hospital.

4. **ASCVS General Assembly**

   - **Date:** Friday, 14 March 2008
   - **Time:** 1600-1700
   - **Venue:** Raffles City Convention Centre
   - **Attendance:** ASCVS Members only

5. **Congress Banquet**

   - **Date:** Saturday, 15 March 2008
   - **Time:** 1900-2100
   - **Venue:** Raffles City Convention Centre
   - **Registration Fee:** SGD150
### AORTIC SURGERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0800-0825</td>
<td>Current status of valve sparing operations for annuloaortic ectasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0825-0850</td>
<td>Neuroprotection for aortic arch procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0850-0915</td>
<td>Role of endovascular stent grafts for thoracic aortic disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0915-0940</td>
<td>Management of aortopathy in patients with bicuspid aortic valve disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0940-1000</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VALVE SURGERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-1025</td>
<td>Mitral valve repair – current techniques and indications for operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1025-1050</td>
<td>Changing landscape of cardiac valve replacement-percutaneous and transapical approaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1050-1115</td>
<td>Selection of valves in 2007 – Has the paradigm shifted?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1115-1140</td>
<td>Surgical ablation for AF – when to proceed and how to do it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1140-1200</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lunch

Panel Discussion: Controversies in Perioperative Management
- Hemostatic agents
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Atrial fibrillation
- Anticoagulation
- Hyperglycemia

### CONGENITAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1330-1355</td>
<td>Advances in cardiopulmonary bypass for neonates and infants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1355-1420</td>
<td>A comparison of traditional and innovative techniques for repair of Ebstein’s anomaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1420-1445</td>
<td>Update on techniques and results of surgery for TAPVC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1445-1500</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CORONARY SURGERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1520-1545</td>
<td>OPCAB techniques and outcomes- comparison to revascularization with CPB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1545-1610</td>
<td>Surgical management of ischemic cardiomyopathy: revascularization, mitral valve repair,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and ventricular remodeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1610-1635</td>
<td>Neurocognitive deficits and coronary artery surgery-fact or fiction?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1635-1650</td>
<td>Revascularization early after acute myocardial infarction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650-1700</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Programme at a Glance

**DAY 1 — Friday • 14 March 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 0800-0830| Plenary Lecture 1: Hartzell SCHAFF, Mayo Clinic, Rochester  
New Indications and New Methods for Surgical Management of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy |
| 0830-0900| Plenary Lecture 2: John WOLFE, St Mary’s Hospital, London  
Changing Strategies in the Management of Thoraco-Abdominal Aneurysm Repair         |
| 0930-1000| Opening Ceremony                                                                           |
| 1000-1030| COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions)                                               |
| 1030-1200| Late-Breaking News and Novel Techniques                                                      |
| 1200-1300| LUNCH SYMPOSIUM                                                                            |
| 1300-1430| Minimal Invasive Cardiac Surgery                                                          |
| 1430-1600| Cardiac Imaging and Bioimaging                                                            |
| 1600-1630| ASCVS GENERAL ASSEMBLY                                                                     |
| 1630-1800| Basic Science  
Valve I  
Carotid Intervention  
Free Paper Session 4  
Mesothelioma        |

### Invited Teaching Faculty

Balram AIRAN  
Zohair AL HALEES  
Naveed ALAM  
Bahaaldin ALSOUFI  
John ANDERSON  
Amano ATSUSHI  
Ali BAGIROV  
John BENFIELD  
Stephen CHENG  
Jochen CREMER  
Frank CRIADO  
Michael D’AMBRA  
Umer DARR  
Tirone E DAVID  
Kim Que DO  
John A ELEFTHERIADES  
Fadi FARHAT  
Roy GREENBERG  
Ned HC HWANG  
Ahn HYUK  
Vivek JAWALI  
Richard A JONAS  
Craig JURISEVIC  
Ruslan KALYSHEV  
Kushagra KATARIA  
Teruhisa KAZUI  
Soichiro KITAMURA  
Masashi KOMEDA  
Irving L KRON  
Sampath Kumar KUMAR  
Michael LAWRENCE-BROWN  
Andreas LIEBOLD  
Daniel LOISANCE  
Alan LUMSDEN  
Hikaru MATSUDA  
Carlos MESTRES  
Peter MOSSOP  
Noboru MOTOMURA  
Bart E MUHS  
Weerachai NAWARAWONG  
Van Phan NGUYEN  
Ian NIXON  
Georg NOLLERT  
Takao OKHI  
Yutaka OKITA  
Alfieri OTTAVIO  
Michael PINSKY  
S PRAPAS  
Zheng QU  
Hartzell V SCHAFF  
Craig R SMITH  
Shinichi TAKAMOTO  
Lenny TAN  
Pat TAN  
Taweesak TAWESAK  
Yuichi UEDA  
Helmut UNRUH  
Eric VERHOEVEN  
Manny VILLAFANA  
Gus J VLAHAKES  
Song WAN  
G H WHITE  
John WOLFE  
Konertz WOLFGANG  
Ernst WOLLNER  
Douglas WOOD  
Qing-Yu WU  
Toshikatsu YAGIHARA  
Mohamed Azhari YAKUB  
John YEE  
Tarng-Jenn YU  
Wei ZHOU
## Programme at a Glance

### DAY 2 — Saturday • 15 March 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0800-0830</td>
<td>Plenary Lecture 3: Manny VILLAFANA, Minneapolis&lt;br&gt;Entrepreneurship in Cardiac Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0830-0900</td>
<td>Plenary Lecture 4: Douglas Wood, University of Seattle&lt;br&gt;Randomised Clinical Trials for New Technology: LVRS and the NETT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0900-1030</td>
<td>Future of Cardiac Surgery: New Frontiers&lt;br&gt;Transplantation and Heart Failure Therapies&lt;br&gt;Young Investigators Award&lt;br&gt;Free Paper Session 5&lt;br&gt;Advances in Lung Cancer Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1030-1100</td>
<td>COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100-1230</td>
<td>Ascending Aorta and Arch&lt;br&gt;Arrhythmia Surgery&lt;br&gt;Free Paper Session 6&lt;br&gt;Free Paper Session 7&lt;br&gt;Surgical Management of COPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1230-1330</td>
<td>LUNCH SYMPOSIUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1330-1530</td>
<td>Coronary II&lt;br&gt;New Horizons, Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering&lt;br&gt;Fenestrated and Branched Endografting&lt;br&gt;Basic Science II&lt;br&gt;Surgery of the Airway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1530</td>
<td>COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1530-1700</td>
<td>Video Cardiac&lt;br&gt;Valve II&lt;br&gt;Hybrid Endovascular Surgery for Complex Aortic Disease&lt;br&gt;Free Paper Session 8&lt;br&gt;Thoracic Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-2100</td>
<td>CONGRESS BANQUET</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DAY 3 — Sunday • 16 March 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 0800-0900 | Debate – Cardiac  
Cardiac CT vs Coronary Angiography |
| 0900-1000 | Debate – Valve Implantations  
Open vs percutaneous |
| 1000-1030 | COFFEE BREAK (Visit exhibits/poster sessions) |
| 1030-1130 | Debate – Thoracic  
VATS vs Open Lobectomy |
| 1130-1230 | Debate – Vascular  
Open Vascular vs Stenting |
| 1230-1300 | Closing Remarks |
Meeting Language
The official language is English.

Trade Exhibition
A trade exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Congress from 14 to 16 March 2008. Leading pharmaceutical companies and equipment manufacturers will be present to display and demonstrate their latest range of products and technology. The exhibition will be opened to all delegates and trade visitors. For bookings and more information, please contact the Congress Secretariat.

Certificate of Attendance
A certificate of attendance will be issued upon registration and collection of the conference kit at the registration desk.

Liability
The Organising Committee is not liable for personal accidents or loss/damage of private properties of registered participants during the Congress. Participants should make their own arrangements with respect to personal insurance.

Disclaimer: While every attempt would be made to ensure that all aspects of the Congress mentioned in this announcement will take place as scheduled, the Organizing Committee reserves the prerogative to make last minute changes should the need arise.

Congress Secretariat
C/o The Meeting Lab Pte Ltd
695E East Coast Road
Singapore 459059
Tel: (65) 6346 4402
Fax: (65) 6346 4403
Email: mice@themetinglab.com
Website: www.ascvs2008.com

Congress Venue
Raffles City Convention Centre
2 Stamford Road, Level 4
Singapore 178882
Tel: (65) 6338 8585
Fax: (65) 6338 2863
Email: ask-us.Singapore-stamford@swissotel.com
Website: www.singapore-stamford.swissotel.com

Hotel Booking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>HOTEL</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HT01</td>
<td>Swissotel The Stamford (Congress Venue)</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td><a href="http://www.singapore-stamford.swissotel.com">www.singapore-stamford.swissotel.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HT02</td>
<td>Carlton Hotel Singapore (adjacent to Congress Venue)</td>
<td>****</td>
<td><a href="http://www.carlton.com.sg">www.carlton.com.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HT03</td>
<td>Peninsular Excelsior Hotel (adjacent to Congress Venue)</td>
<td>****</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ytchotels.com.sg/sp-ytcexcel">www.ytchotels.com.sg/sp-ytcexcel</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>HT04</td>
<td>Oxford Hotel (10-minute walk away)</td>
<td>***</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oxfordhotel.com.sg">www.oxfordhotel.com.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>HT05</td>
<td>YWCA Fort Canning Lodge (10-minute walk away)</td>
<td>**</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ywcaflodge.org.sg">www.ywcaflodge.org.sg</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special rates are contracted for delegates attending the Congress. You may book the accommodation online at www.ascvs2008.com.
**DELEGATE REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE:**
Admission to meeting sessions, exhibition, welcome reception and meeting programme, as well as coffee breaks and lunch.
* Delegate’s fees do not include participation in pre/post-congress workshops. Residents and paramedical colleagues must produce proof of their status from their respective institutions.

**PARTICIPANT FEES FOR WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:**
Material for workshop and coffee breaks/lunch
* Participants will gain admission only to workshop for which the ticket is valid. Only delegates of the main meeting may register for the workshops.

**HOW TO REGISTER**
You can register using one of the following methods:

2. By sending the completed Registration Form
   - by fax: +65 6346 4403
   - by email: mice@themeetinglab.com
   - by postal mail:
     ASCVS 2008 Congress Secretariat
     The Meeting Lab Pte Ltd
     695E East Coast Road
     Singapore 459059

**PAYMENT**
Payment (in Singapore Dollars) can be made as follows:

1. **E-Payment via Credit Card:** (from 1 September 2007)
   - Visa and Mastercard only.

2. **Cheques/Bank Drafts:**
   - Please make cheque, or bank draft drawn on a Singapore bank, payable to “The Singapore Cardiac Society (16th ASCVS)” and mail it to the Secretariat. Cheque must be accompanied by the completed registration form available online.
   - Registration will be valid only upon receipt of the full payment by the registration department. An email confirming registration will be sent only after receipt of the required fees.
   - Outstanding payments will be collected on site. A copy of the bank transfer (or other proof of payment) will be required in the event that registration fees were not credited to the meeting account on time.

**REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY**
Should you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you may reassign your registration to another person. Please notify the secretariat in writing of the replacement delegate’s name and contact details.

If there is no replacement, a refund (the full conference fee less an administration charge of SGD200) will be made for notification received in writing before 1 January 2008. After this date, no refunds will be made.

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**CATEGORY**  
**EARLY BIRD** (before 31 Dec 2007)  
**FEE** (from 1 Jan 2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>EARLY BIRD (before 31 Dec 2007)</th>
<th>FEE (from 1 Jan 2008)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Meeting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Doctor</td>
<td>SGD650</td>
<td>SGD800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resident</td>
<td>SGD400</td>
<td>SGD500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paramedical/Nurse</td>
<td>SGD250</td>
<td>SGD350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Congress Workshop</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• AATS Postgraduate Course</td>
<td>SGD200</td>
<td>SGD200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hemodynamic Workshop</td>
<td>SGD150</td>
<td>SGD150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congress Banquet</strong></td>
<td>SGD150</td>
<td>SGD150</td>
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</tbody>
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**Registration Deadline:**  
31 December 2007

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1. HERITAGE TOUR (HALF DAY)
TOUR begins with a visit to one of the oldest Chinese Temples in Singapore; the Thien Hock Keng Temple which is more than 160 years old. The unique wooden structures and carvings were built and assembled without using any nails.

Next stop is the Chinatown Heritage Centre. Trace journeys, beliefs and myths of early Chinese migrants who made their way to Singapore. Gain an insight into their lives and experience for yourself the hardship of living in the dark and cramped quarters that were built in Chinatown.

Last stop is Kampong Glam – old Arab Quarters. Learn about the practice of Islam in this part of the world at the Sultan Mosque. Along Arab Street, see the last remaining shops in Singapore still selling sarongs, rattan baskets, brass works and unique leather products used by the Muslim community.

2. A NIGHT IN THE WILD
MOST animals are nocturnal. At dusk they begin to stir for the hunt. At the Night Safari these activities are captured to best effect using subtle lighting which permits us to watch up-close whilst not disturbing the animals. The Singapore Zoo Night Safari houses over 1200 animals from 110 exotic species. Tigers, striped hyena, golden jackal, cape buffalo, blue sheep and the rare greater one horned rhinoceros are but some of the animals you will see. The Night Safari covers an area of 40 hectares of secondary jungle with the Seletar Reservoir providing a beautiful backdrop. A tram ride, upon arrival at the Zoo, is the easiest way to familiarise yourself with the large grounds. At the end of the ride, feel free to stroll and take a closer look at the animals. The sound of crickets and owls and the chance to see the tigers or hyenas feasting make for a truly memorable experience.

3. SENTOSA, UNDERWATER WORLD
ESCAPE to Sentosa - A leisurely drive takes you to Mount Faber for a cable ride to Sentosa Island and a panoramic view of the world’s busiest harbour. We then proceed to the Under Water World, one of the largest oceanarium that has a 83m long acrylic tunnel for a spectacular view of marine life. We next head for the Dolphin Lagoon where you get the opportunity to marvel of the performance of intelligent pink dolphins. Hop onto the island’s shuttle and head for the Merlion, standing on a 23m high hillock over looking Sentosa. It offers a 360 degree view of Sentosa as well as a panoramic view of Singapore’s southern shore. Return back to the mainland Singapore by coach via Causeway Link.

4. CULINARY SENSATION
- Spice Garden Walk, Tea Reception and Spice Paste Demonstration
- Cooking Demonstration & Tasting, Hands on Cooking Class & Lunch
Enjoy a morning stroll through the tranquil garden, learning from one of the guides about the intricacies of spice and herb use in Asian cooking. Identify different species of plants, observe where seeds grow and learn how to look for the best leaf. Inhale the aromas, crush the leaves between your fingers and roll the seeds in the palm of your hands. Observe the pounding, grinding, stirring, slicing and stir-frying that will produce a fabulous and versatile spice paste. Follow this insightful and enjoyable experience with a delicious morning tea reception.
BEYOND SINGAPORE

1. BINTAN, INDONESIA
Situated just less than an hour away via comfortable catamarans from the modern and culturally vibrant city of Singapore. Bintan is located on the largest of the enchanting Riau islands in the South China Sea. Experience endless beaches, a wide variety of international-class resorts, and a refreshing host of tropical holiday activities.

2. BALI, INDONESIA
One of the over 14,000 islands of the Indonesian archipelago, the island of Bali sits exactly 12 time zones away from New York City, halfway between Singapore on the tip of the Southeast Asian peninsula and Darwin on the northwestern part of Australia. As one of the world’s prime tourist destinations, Bali virtually ensures a great holiday for backpackers and VIPs alike! Come and experience Bali’s one-of-a-kind culture and the natural hospitality of her people.

3. LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA
Langkawi is a cluster of 104 islands in the Andaman Sea, off the northwestern coast of Peninsula Malaysia. Blessed with white sands and crystal clear waters, the Pulau Langkawi is the largest. The islands are richly blessed with a heritage of fabulous myths and legends. As a natural paradise, the islands are perhaps unmatched anywhere else in Southeast Asia.

4. HUA-HIN, THAILAND
Hua Hin the in-beach town for Bangkok’s elite is on the west coast of the Gulf Thailand. It is the oldest and most traditional Thai resort combines the attractions of a modern holiday destination with the charm and fascination of a still active fishing port. Besides its great five-mile long beach Hua Hin provides the highest density of world class golf courses anywhere in Thailand and it is virtually undiscovered as an international golf destination. Green-fees and other costs are currently among the lowest in the world while course maintenance and services are superb.

5. KOH SAMUI, THAILAND
The Island of Koh Samui is a tropical gem located in the warm blue waters off the country’s south-eastern seaboard. It is the Kingdom’s second largest island after Phuket. Relatively unknown for years, this sun lover’s paradise has now attained international standards of service and accommodation. Fortunately, it has also earned a reputation for retaining its friendly image as well as natural environment. Easy to reach from Bangkok, Phuket or overseas, Koh Samui is literally covered with coconut trees and bougainvillea, which in turn are surrounded by white sandy shores and stunning turquoise seas. Whether you’re looking for remote beaches, great shopping, delicious dining or an exciting nightlife, you’ll find it on Koh Samui!

Visit www.visitsingapore.com or contact the Congress Secretariat at mice@themeetinglab.com.
TRAVEL

• **Passports and Visas**
  A current passport is required for entry into Singapore. Please check your visa requirements on the Singapore Immigration Service website: http://app.ica.gov.sg/travellers/entry/visa_requirements.asp

  For information on duty free allowances, prohibited and restricted and controlled items, please visit http://www.customs.gov.sg.

• **Departure Tax**
  A passenger service tax of SGD21 is chargeable upon departure. It is likely that it has been included in your ticket charge. Please check with your ticketing agent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

• **Official Letters of Invitation**
  Official letters of invitation for visa applications can be sent to participants upon written request. These letters do not commit the Organising Committee to any financial obligation.

• **Climate**
  Singapore has a warm and humid climate throughout the year with a daily average temperature range of 24 degrees Celsius to 31 degrees Celsius. Light and summer clothing made from natural fabrics like cotton is best for everyday wear.

• **Banking**
  Major cards are widely accepted by establishments in Singapore. Most banks handle travellers’ cheques and change foreign currencies. Passports are required when cashing in travellers’ cheques. A nominal commission may be charged. Do note that some banks do not have foreign exchange dealings on Saturdays.

  Banking hours are from 0900-1500hours, Mondays to Fridays and 0900-1200 hours on Saturdays. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are located islandwide and are readily available 24 hours.

• **Time**
  Singapore is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time all year round.

• **Dress**
  Scientific Sessions and Workshops: Business Attire
  Congress Banquet: Jacket and Tie

• **Currency**
  The Singapore Dollar (SGD). Notes: $10,000, $1,000, $500, $100, $50, $20, $10, $5, $2.
  Coins: $1, 50cents, 20cents, 10cents, 5cents.

  Exchange rate (as of 12 April 2007)
  USD1 = SGD1.51

  Other than the Singapore Dollar, the US and Australian Dollars, Yen and British Pound are also accepted in most major shopping centres.

• **Electricity**
  The standard voltage of power supply in Singapore is 220-240 volts AC, 50 cycles per second. On request, most hotels will provide transformers to visitors. When shopping for electrical appliances, do remember to check the voltage of the item against the acceptable voltage in your home country. The power plugs used in Singapore are of the three-pin, square-shaped type.

  There will be wireless internet facility available at the Meeting Venue.

• **Drinking Water**
  Water is safe to drink straight from the tap throughout Singapore. However, for those who prefer bottled mineral water, local supermarkets and grocers usually carry a sizeable selection.

• **Smoking**
  Smoking is not permitted in public service vehicles, museums, libraries, lifts, air-conditioned restaurants, theatres, cinemas, supermarkets, department stores and government offices. Smoking is also banned at bus-stops/interchange, open air stadiums, public toilets, swimming pools and community clubs.

  Smoking is only allowed at designated seats in open air hawker centres and coffeeshops. Offenders can be fined up to SGD1,000.

• **Important Laws to Take Note**
  The death penalty is mandatory for those convicted of trafficking, manufacturing, importing or exporting more than 15g of heroin, 30g of morphine, 30g of cocaine, 500g of cannabis, 200g of cannabis resin and 1.2kg of opium. Possessing these quantities is deemed as prima facie evidence of drug trafficking. For unauthorised consumption of the above drugs, there is a maximum of 10 years’ jail or fine of SGD20,000, or both. Chewing gum is banned in Singapore unless for medical or dental reasons. Littering commands a fine of SGD1,000 for first time offenders. Guns and firearms are also banned from Singapore.