

METROPOLIS MELBOURNE 2007

**12th International Metropolis Conference:
Migration, Economic Growth and Social Cohesion**



8-12 October 2007, Melbourne, Australia
For more information: www.metropolis2007.org

The International Metropolis Project

The International Metropolis Project (www.international-metropolis.net) is a forum that bridges research, policy and practice on migration and diversity. The project aims to enhance academic research capacity, encourage policy-relevant research on migration and diversity issues, and facilitate the use of that research by governments and non-government organisations.

In the decade since its inception, the project has grown to include researchers, policy-makers, international organisations and non-government organisations from North America, most of Europe and much of the Asia-Pacific region. The project is perhaps best known for its international conferences, which are the largest annual gatherings of experts in the fields of migration and diversity.

Each conference attracts upwards of 700 delegates for high-level plenary sessions, a comprehensive study tour program and more than 60 concurrent workshops. The conferences are an opportunity for delegates – both expert and novice – to discuss critical issues, identify research and policy gaps, compare international experiences and build the Metropolis network.

Who should attend?

The 12th International Metropolis Conference will be of interest to policy-makers, representatives from non-government organisations (NGOs), academic researchers, graduate students and interested private sector stakeholders. Metropolis wishes to reach all those with a professional interest in international migration, diversity and urban management issues. A special registration fee has been made available for students and NGO representatives. The early-bird closing date for registration is 27 August 2007.

Conference Theme:

Migration, Economic Growth and Social Cohesion

The 12th International Metropolis Conference is an internationally significant research-based conference that focuses on immigration and settlement issues.

It will be an event of major importance for Australia and places Melbourne in good company, with previous host cities including Milan, Copenhagen, Zichron Yaacov (Israel), Washington, Vancouver, Rotterdam, Oslo, Vienna, Geneva and Toronto.

The 12th International Metropolis Conference in Melbourne will concentrate on Migration, Economic Growth and Social Cohesion, and will feature Australian and global leaders and officials, renowned academics and key stakeholders in the migration debate.

In addition, a major set of studies on social cohesion in Australian and international societies will be launched at the Conference. They have been commissioned by the organisers of the 12th International Metropolis Conference and generously funded by the Scanlon Research Foundation. The four interrelated areas of research are:

1. components of social cohesion
2. measuring the components of social cohesion
3. constructively attaining social cohesion in Australia
4. minorities in Australian and international society

Other research-based themes will include international comparisons of policies to encourage migrant settlement in regional areas, new migration patterns and issues relating to the ethics of skilled migration.

About Melbourne

Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria, is considered one of the most enlightened and liveable cities in the world. It is home to a diverse, multicultural society comprising more than 200 different communities, in which 100 different religious faiths are practised and more than 180 different languages spoken.

Melbourne is a place of great presence and beauty, enjoying a striking cityscape of fine 19th-century buildings, gardens and boulevards, and state-of-the-art architecture. Recognised as the cultural hub of Australia, Melbourne offers a sophisticated arts scene, the country's best shopping, a lively passion for eating and drinking, and international sporting events. It is also ideally placed for sightseeing, being just a few hours drive from the coast, alpine regions and rural Victoria.

During October, the city will also be celebrating Australia's leading cultural festival, the Melbourne International Arts Festival. There will be a range of other international conferences staged during the 12th International Metropolis Conference to tie in with the themes of the Conference, on legal, business, government and policing issues.

For more information on Melbourne and the sights of Victoria, please visit www.visitmelbourne.com

Local organisers

The 12th International Metropolis Conference 2007 is being organised by the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements at Monash University and the Australian Multicultural Foundation, in collaboration with the Metropolis Project.

The Conference is made possible thanks to generous financial support from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, other State Governments, the City of Melbourne and in-kind support from the private sector.



Australian Multicultural Foundation

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

Please take note of 8 - 12 October 2007 on your calendar today and visit the conference website (www.metropolis2007.org) regularly to stay informed of all news and updates.

Monday 8 October	Sofitel Hotel, Melbourne Community visits to various sites throughout Melbourne Conference check-in at registration tables in foyer of Sofitel					Welcome Reception
Tuesday 9 October	9:00 -10:05 Opening address					
	10:05 – 11:25 Plenary Session 1: Keynote and Panel Migration and the Global Economy		11:55 – 1:15 Plenary Session 2: Panel Skilled Migration and Its Effects on Developing Countries: The Healthcare Professions		2:15 - 3:45 Workshops	4:00 - 5:30 Workshops Conference Dinner
Wednesday 10 October	9:00 -10:30 Plenary Session 3: Panel Social Cohesion, Identity and Belonging					
	10:30 -10:45 Special Address on Social Cohesion					
	10:45 -11:15 Launch of Scanlon Foundation Social Cohesion Project	coffee break	11:45 -1:15 Concurrent Plenary Session 4: Panel (i) Return Migration: New Developments, New Responses (ii) Mayors' Roundtable on Social Cohesion in Diverse Societies	lunch	2:15 - 3:45 Workshops	4:00 - 5:30 Workshops Reception
Thursday 11 October	9:00 - 9.45 Plenary Session 5: Panel Migration and Diversity Directions in Australia, Canada and New Zealand: Special Policy Address					
	9:45 -11.15 Concurrent Plenary Session 6: Panel (i) The Diversity Advantage: Experts Roundtable (ii) Minorities and Security		11:45 -1:15 Concurrent Plenary Session 7: Panel (i) Immigration and Settlement Outside Major Urban Centres: An Examination of Comparative Approaches (ii) Faith and Social Cohesion		2:15 - 3:45 Workshops	4:00 - 5:30 Workshops Free Night
Friday 12 October	9:00 -10.30 Plenary Session 8 The Asia-Pacific Region		11:00 -12.30 Plenary Session 9 The Migration of the Unskilled 12:30 -1.15 Closing and Invitation to Next International Metropolis Conference			

PLENARY SESSIONS

Tuesday 9 October

9:00 – 10:05 Conference Welcome

10:05 – 11:25 Migration and the Global Economy

Globalisation and the global economy are known to have an impact on migration flows. However, to fully capture and understand these effects, additional research and policy are needed. In this opening session we will look at the effects of globalisation on migration patterns and migrants. What changes can we expect in these flows and patterns? Have the relative preferences for skilled and unskilled labour been altered? Is the profile of immigrants changing, and is migration becoming increasingly feminised? What should we expect in the future? And how will these changes affect the world's cities? Discussions on globalisation tend to emphasise the high-skilled entrepreneur who moves relatively freely between economies, often ignoring the impact of globalisation on poor or lower-skilled migrants. Our aim is to move beyond discussions that look solely at the migration of poorer migrants to richer countries; we will thus also consider South-South movements of poorer migrants.

11:55 – 1:15 Skilled Migration and Its Effects on Developing Countries: The Healthcare Professions

Countries with skilled migration programs have been under much pressure to take seriously the impact of the outflow of skilled migrants from the world's poorer nations to its richer nations. Many question the ethics of wealthy countries admitting those whose skills are in short supply in their countries of origin and many skilled migrants arrive in the country of destination only to find that their skills and qualifications are not recognised by employers or licensing bodies. In this session we will concentrate on the movement of healthcare professionals. Panellists will look at the facts and policy implications of healthcare professionals lost not only to migration but to retirement, death and other forms of leaving the profession, to the capacity of universities in the sending countries to replace those lost to these multiple causes, to the opportunities for and conditions of employment in the homeland and destination countries.

Wednesday 10 October

9:00 – 10:30 Social Cohesion, Identity and Belonging

It is widely accepted that for societies to be successful, some degree of internal cohesion is necessary. Nonetheless, many question the extent to which social cohesion is compatible with the principles of liberal democratic societies including, most notably, protection for individual rights and for minorities, tolerance of pluralism and respect for the rule of law. These questions are not new, and liberal democracies have been structured to permit the debate and negotiations that allow for evolution in the face of social and demographic change. This was evident, for example, in demands among women for broader inclusion in the structures of liberal states. More recently, ethnic, racial, religious, linguistic and cultural groups have put forward similar challenges. Can a liberal democratic society legitimately limit behaviour or practices in order to achieve social cohesion and a sense of belonging? How can societies maintain social cohesion and a sense of belonging as diversity increases and members' identities become more diffuse?

10:45 – 11:15 Launch of Scanlon Foundation Social Cohesion Project

This session will launch an important new project on social cohesion, generously funded by the Scanlon Foundation, on constructively attaining social cohesion in Australia. In addition, a senior Australian Minister will discuss a new program designed to build social cohesion by bringing communities together. Particular focus will be placed on building a positive understanding of the contribution that Australians of Muslim faith have made to Australian society.

11:45 – 1:15 Concurrent Sessions

(i) Return Migration: New Developments, New Responses

Since its inception, Metropolis has paid considerable attention to transnational communities whose members reside or have ties to more than one country at the same time. This duality, which extends far beyond the holding of more than one

citizenship, has allowed people to maintain exceptionally strong social, family, business and other links to their homeland, something made possible by advances in transportation and communications. Although Italy, Spain and Portugal, among other countries, have also witnessed such duality, immigrants from Hong Kong have often been viewed as the prime example of this transnationalism. More recently, a strong return movement has emerged, not only to Hong Kong, but also to China, India and other source countries. Research suggests that such returns are the result of economic opportunities in the homeland, but also dissatisfaction with their experiences in their destination countries. This session will explore these developments, try to assess their causes and impacts on the destination country and the country of origin, and suggest what might be the longer-term implications for those countries that seek immigrants.

(ii) Mayors' Roundtable on Social Cohesion in Diverse Societies

As with most migration-related issues, it is cities that are on the front lines of the social cohesion debate. Indeed, social cohesion problems are nearly always local problems requiring local solutions, and although national policies and global conditions affect what takes place in our cities, it is often local remedies that are most effective. This session will bring together mayors from a number of cities to discuss the challenges to social cohesion that they now face and to look at how cities can most effectively encourage social cohesion. Do cities have the capacity and powers to address these complex issues? Are there incentives for residents, both new and longstanding, to make contributions to the wellbeing of their communities? What role can civil society play?

Thursday 11 October

9:00 – 9:45 Migration and Diversity Directions in Australia, Canada and New Zealand: Special Policy Address

This session will focus on the future directions for Australian, Canadian and New Zealand immigration and multicultural policies and the key issues confronting each country in these policy areas.

9:45 – 11:15 Concurrent Sessions

(i) The Diversity Advantage: Experts Roundtable

Since the publication of Richard Florida's *The Rise of the Creative Class*, those in the business of thinking about the integration of immigrants in multicultural societies have been exploring how to make diversity an advantage for a society. Businesses and governments, in particular, have integrated this thinking into their operations. Many are directing their attention to the "business case" for diversity, to the issue of supplier diversity, and to including principles of diversity management in their human resource plans. Some question, however, whether there is a clear link between diversity and economic advantage. This session will explore the question of whether diversity and economic advantage are linked, and look at the factors that may encourage or hamper the ability of cities and businesses to tap into the benefits that diversity may bring.

(ii) Minorities and Security

In the current climate, much has been made of the real, potential, or presumed link between immigration and security. As attention to "homegrown terrorism" has increased, the security aspects of immigrant integration have broadened to include all minorities, immigrant or not. Many now believe that the protection of national security requires effective co-operation between security agencies, communities and members of minority groups. However, some suggest that such co-operation is undermined by racial profiling or certain foreign policies. This session will look at how these forms of co-operation can be developed and nurtured to manage the risks posed by radicalisation and terrorism, whether international or domestic. Importantly, panellists will consider how to engage communities in questions related to terrorism and security, and will also look at the role of the larger society, with a focus on how

public attitudes, disparate economic and social outcomes, and intolerance may contribute to feelings of marginalisation or the turn to radicalisation. What national and local policies are needed to assist us in navigating this complex array of issues?

11:45 – 1:15 Concurrent Sessions

(i) Immigration and Settlement Outside Major Urban Centres: An Examination of Comparative Approaches

In most countries, migrants settle in larger urban areas, rather than in small cities and rural communities. At the same time, labour market needs, declining populations and a desire for regional economic development have prompted governments, employers and citizens to look at how to attract and retain immigrants outside major metropolitan areas. Many refer to this as "regionalisation", whereby various programs or policies are put into place to encourage immigrants to settle and remain in cities outside a country's major metropolitan areas. This plenary will showcase the results of a recent comparative study of approaches to regionalisation. Speakers will consider initiatives designed to encourage regional migration, including their success in directing immigrants to smaller centres, the impact of these initiatives on regional economies and demographics, and the effectiveness of retention strategies.

(ii) Faith and Social Cohesion

Religion has always played a role in organising and structuring societies, but as these societies have become more multi-faith, the place of faith has been a source of debate. For many, the solution is to clearly separate a public realm from a private realm and assign religion to the private; for others, this is untenable, given that religion plays a key role in organising and structuring societies, whether secular or not. Is secularism an appropriate integration strategy that builds social cohesion? Does the attainment of social cohesion in multi-faith societies require the quarantine of religious life? Indeed, governments can, and often do, turn to faith institutions and religious leaders to communicate with religious and minority communities. How far should this relationship extend, and are there limits to the connection between governments, religion and faith-based institutions? In treating this challenge, speakers will seek to understand and offer solutions to some of the better-known points of tension, namely, religious symbols, religious holidays and the treatment of women.

Friday 12 October

9:00 – 10:30 The Asia-Pacific Region

The 12th International Metropolis Conference is the first to take place in a country of the Asia-Pacific region. This provides an opportunity to become more familiar with migration issues in the region, including managed flows, refugee movements, economic migration and migration for family reunification. What trends are we seeing with respect to migration to, from and between the countries of the Asia-Pacific? What impact has this had on national economies, populations and social and cultural conditions? What have been the policy responses? Equally importantly, we will look at what migration within this region means for the rest of the world, particularly as the economic fortunes of the Asia-Pacific continue to brighten.

11:00 – 12:30 The Migration of the Unskilled

Although less-skilled and unskilled migrants can benefit significantly from migration, they can place the greatest pressures on the countries to which they migrate and, thus, are sometimes less welcomed and less sought. Low-skilled and unskilled migration also raises serious questions about integration and management. How are we to understand the situation of unskilled migrants, the choices available to them and the means they have to take advantage of these choices? In this final session, we will attempt to better understand the situation of unskilled migrants and the response of countries of origin and destination. To what extent do unskilled workers turn to migration as an option to improve their economic fortunes? How do they find the avenues and means to migrate when they may lack the resources or skills of migrants who are more highly sought by destination countries? And are the ways in which countries are attempting to manage or limit the migration and permanent residence of unskilled migrants appropriate and effective?

12:30 – 1:15 Closing and Invitation to Next International Metropolis Conference

For a list of latest conference speakers, please visit www.metropolis2007.org

WORKSHOPS

The workshop program has become a hallmark of International Metropolis Conferences. This year's conference will feature more than 80 workshop sessions on some of the most pressing migration topics. The workshops are an opportunity to discuss research findings, debate policy implications and strengthen comparative links on key issues.

Workshops will take place on the afternoons of Tuesday 9 October, Wednesday 10 October and Thursday 11 October. Some workshops are 90 minutes in length while others are 180 minutes. All have been selected from an open call for workshop proposals and include international comparisons and perspectives drawn from research, policy and the non-government sector.

To view workshop descriptions and contact details of session organisers, visit the "Workshops & Organisers" page on the Metropolis website at <http://www.metropolis2007.org/workshop.php>

Please note that this is a preliminary list of sessions and is subject to change. A complete workshop list and schedule will be posted on the conference website in August 2007.

- An empirical comparison of cross-national integration paths
- Immigration and community relations in Japan, Canada, Cyprus and Australia
- Fear, human security, migrant integration and social cohesion: issues, responses and policies
- Role of education in social cohesion
- Migration and development home and away: what counts as development?
- The contribution of cross-cultural training to social cohesion
- Engaging with diaspora: strategies for leveraging 'identity' and 'connectedness' in transnational populations
- Migration and development in transnational societies: Pacific perspectives
- Return to China and India? Subsequent mobility of immigrants to Australasia and North America
- Religion and migration: pathways of integration
- The lure of smaller places: experiences from Australia, Canada and Germany
- Cultural and organisational diversity: the role of key players
- How migration enhances social cohesion and builds social capital
- Social cohesion and cultural canons: examples from a changing Europe
- Settlement planning and social inclusion of the 'visibly different': social science and international policy perspectives
- Ethnic diversity and social cohesion
- Ethnic diversity and entrepreneurship: Australasian, North American and European perspectives
- Recognising foreign credentials in federated systems: challenges, approaches, best practices
- Temporary foreign workers: comparing policy approaches, responses and impacts
- Measuring social cohesion: selected findings from longitudinal data on immigrants
- Pioneering pathways to inclusion: recognising prior learning in three countries
- The second generation in Europe, Australia and North America: integration and social cohesion
- Narratives of inclusion: multiculturalism versus plural monoculturalism in liberal democracies
- The emigration of immigrants: a liability or an asset?
- Strategic and targeted measures to increase employment among immigrant groups
- International perspectives on Sudanese (re)settlement: Canada to Finland and down under
- Doing the hard yards: developing contextual models of urban cohesion
- Immigration policy and practice in a globalising world: country perspectives
- The difficulty of measuring progress on anti-racism initiatives
- Policies and practices affecting teacher mobility across national boundaries
- Historical memory and social cohesion: Armenian and Turkish migrant communities
- Social cohesion and security in times of calm and crisis
- Immigrant integration in two continents: a case of East Indians in Canada and Australia
- Border control and trade or migration policies
- Occupational health and safety issues affecting immigrant workers
- Gaining economic advantage through migration: policy, research and practice perspectives

- Migrant women and the labour force: census, administrative and survey data-based findings
- Civic integration training for religious leaders: a multifaith approach
- Exploring the potential for a Metropolis Wikipedia
- Resettlement from protracted refugee situations: implications for integration
- The settlement of refugees and asylum seekers: an international comparison of outcomes
- Protection elsewhere: the challenges and opportunities for international refugee protection
- Community engagement and national security: government and police perspectives
- Transnationalism and integration: the paradoxical relationship
- Communicating hope and fear: media, cultural discourses and the alien presence
- Identity, social cohesion and national values: a youth perspective
- Impacts of early overseas English education for Asian families
- Immigrant integration and community cohesion
- National and regional responses to trafficking: lessons for a global response
- Immigration, diversity and social cohesion: comparisons of approaches to multicultural diversity
- What happened to the migrant middle class? Analysis of international foreign credential recognition
- 'Ten-point commitment' towards an inclusive urban society
- Missing minors: defining a serious problem
- Neighbourhood houses and community centres: valuing diversity, strengthening civil society
- Enabling immigrant integration: onsite overseas, online and on arrival
- Public policy responses to affirmations of religious identity: Australia and Canada
- Making foreign competences visible: portfolio and individual approaches
- Multiple migration and hyper-transnationalism
- From migration to inclusion: promoting urban indigenous youth engagement
- Glimpses from Norway, Australia and Canada: strategies for social cohesion in a multicultural world
- Involuntary population displacement and the evolving policy response
- New citizens, new identities
- Framing knowledge mobilisation strategies for policy development and civic engagement: transatlantic comparison
- Local governance and social inclusion: comparing governance approaches
- Nature and impacts of contemporary temporary migration
- Benefiting through skills: comparative management challenges
- Challenges in maternity care provision for immigrant and refugee women
- Ethnic communities in social architecture: constructing cohesion in multicultural societies
- From multiculturalism to social cohesion: what works?
- Management of irregular asylum/migration flows in the Asia-Pacific region
- Intra-European workforce flows
- Social cohesion, networks and women's struggles for equality post-migration
- Efficacy in racism policy: a comparative analysis of practice
- What happens in the family doesn't necessarily stay in the family
- Accommodating diversity: do current critiques of multiculturalism miss the point?
- International perspectives on policies for regional settlement of immigrants
- Promoting ethnic entrepreneurship: some international comparisons
- Linking migration, development co-operation and integration: possibilities and lessons learned
- Healthcare interventions
- Without borders: the labour mobility of health professionals
- Reducing discrimination and promoting diversity: perspectives from Quebec and Victoria
- Immigrants shaping the new economy
- Regional migration experiences: perspectives from Australia, Canada and New Zealand
- Labour market regulation and protection of migrant workers



Australian Multicultural Foundation

COMMUNITY TOURS

Study tours have been organised for conference participants on Monday 8 October. These are designed to provide practical and cultural experiences for delegates, and include sites that show a broad range of social cohesion and migration programs on offer in Victoria. The tours are free to all delegates. Please state your preferred tour when registering online. The number of participants on each tour is limited and the places will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Tour A1 Migrant Resource Centre

Visit Dandenong, one of Australia's most culturally diverse districts. Visit the Migrant Resource Centre and Adult Multicultural Education Services and enjoy lunch at Dandenong Market.

Tour A2 Language, Employment and Settlement

Visit a community organisation, the Arabic Social Services, lunch at a Turkish cultural precinct, visit a multicultural workforce at Ford Australia.

Tour B1 Culture and Community

Visit SBS Studios, broadcasting in over 60 languages, and the Immigration Museum. Lunch in vibrant Chinatown and visit the City of Darebin, to experience one of Victoria's most culturally diverse local councils.

Tour B2 Culture and Community

Visit Multicultural Arts Victoria, Victoria's leading multicultural arts organisation. Visit a school's "Living in Harmony" program. Lunch with the students from Isik College and visit Broadmeadows police station to meet with multicultural liaison officers.

Tour B3 Indigenous and Community

Meet with the local Koori community and experience local business interests. Enjoy cultural tours and heritage walks, and along the way meet with local artisans.

Tour C1 Faith and Community

Visit interfaith networks and places of worship, lunch in the Vietnamese cultural precinct and visit a Russian aged care centre.

Tour C2 Faith and Community

Visit a Migrant Information Centre to see community understanding projects on youth and media in progress. Lunch in the Vietnamese cultural precinct.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

How to Register

All participants, including invited speakers, delegates and presenters, must be registered in order to attend the Conference. Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible to guarantee their choice of accommodation.

Register online at:

<http://www.metropolis2007.org/reg.php>

Registration Fees

A reduced early-bird rate applies for registrations made before 27 August 2007 (refer to the chart on the right).

Registration Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat: oce@adm.monash.edu.au

Cancellation before Monday 17 September 2007 will incur an A\$100 cancellation fee. Cancellations after this date cannot be accepted, although it is possible to transfer registration to another person. All refunds will be paid at the conclusion of the Conference. Conference fees are quoted in Australian dollars.

Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand

Following the 12th International Metropolis Conference, Metropolis, the New Zealand Department of Labour and the Office of Ethnic Affairs will host an international one-day forum at Te Papa in Wellington, New Zealand. **Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand** will take place on 15 October 2007. Registration for participants of the Metropolis Conference is free of charge.

The event will engage North American, European and Pacific experts in a dialogue about immigration with New Zealand as the key frame of reference and its profile as an innovative player in the field of international immigration policy. For more information visit www.metropolis2007.org/plus.php

Category	Early Bird (paid before 27 August 2007)	Standard (paid after 27 August 2007)
Full Delegate Five-day conference (all sessions, community tours, materials, lunches, morning/afternoon teas, welcome receptions, conference dinner and conference satchel)	\$800	\$920
Student Registration* Five-day conference (all sessions, community tours, materials, lunches, morning/afternoon teas, welcome receptions, conference dinner and conference satchel)	\$300	\$350
NGO Employee* Five-day conference (all sessions, community tours, materials, lunches, morning/afternoon teas, welcome receptions, conference dinner and conference satchel)	\$300	\$350
Day Registration Admission to one day (sessions for one day, materials, lunch, morning/afternoon tea and conference satchel)	\$300	\$350

* In our continuing effort to assist students and NGOs, we are pleased to offer a special conference rate. NGOs are considered non-profit organisations. Students must present valid identification to obtain the student rate and NGO representatives must provide an official confirmation of their status of affiliation when submitting registrations. Please send this proof to the Conference Secretariat, via email: oce@adm.monash.edu.au or fax +61 3 9905 1343

GENERAL INFORMATION

Languages

The official language of the Conference is English. Please note there will be no interpretation facilities for Metropolis participants.

Promotional Opportunities

Trestle tables are available for displaying your promotional material. For more information please contact:

Irene Thavarajah
Conference Secretariat
12th International Metropolis Conference
Events Management Office
Monash University, Building 65
Clayton, Victoria 3800, AUSTRALIA

Transportation

The Conference venue and suggested hotel accommodation are in the heart of the city, 30 minutes away from Melbourne's airport. The plenary sessions, workshops, meals and coffee breaks will be held at the Sofitel, and other workshops will be held nearby, within walking distance.

During the Conference, transportation will be provided on Monday 8 October 2007 for the various community tours and the welcome reception at Government House.

Melbourne City has an easy-to-navigate, gridlike city map and is well known for its excellent tram, train and taxi services. The city circle tram is available free of charge, providing the opportunity for conference participants to explore the vibrant City of Melbourne. The train service is also in close proximity should participants wish to explore beyond the city.

Travel and Visa Requirements

With the exception of New Zealand citizens, international visitors to Australia require a visa or an electronic travel authority. It is the responsibility of individual delegates to ensure documentation is correct and complete before their journey is commenced. Information on obtaining visas or electronic travel authorities can be found on the website www.immi.gov.au/eta/index.htm

Should you require a letter of invitation to the Conference to either obtain a visa or to secure funding, please contact the Conference Secretariat via email at: oce@adm.monash.edu.au

Money Matters

The Australian dollar is the currency in use in Australia. Bank services are available at the airport and throughout the city. Melbourne's banking hours are generally 9am – 4pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 5pm on Fridays. Banks do not close for lunch. The city is well supplied with ATMs. Major international credit cards are accepted in ATMs, hotels, restaurants and most shops, as well as car rental agencies.

Climate

Melbourne enjoys a temperate climate. Metropolis will take place in Spring, when the temperatures range from 10 to 20°C, so we recommend bringing warm attire, especially for the evenings.

Delegate Funding Support

Unfortunately, the organisers of the 12th International Metropolis Conference are unable to fund the participation of Conference delegates. Travel, accommodation and registration costs are the responsibility of delegates.

We do offer a reduced registration rate for students and NGOs, and we would encourage you to seek support from external institutions, acknowledging that this can be a challenge. We also post presentations from the Conference online, so that those who cannot participate are able to derive some benefit from our Conference.

Tourism Information

For more information on Melbourne and the sights of Victoria, please visit www.visitmelbourne.com

A private company, Link Tours, has been appointed to manage the holiday tours program for the 12th International Metropolis Conference. Link Tours is a Melbourne-based business which has been established for more than 20 years. The tours are not included in the 12th International Metropolis Conference registration fee and are to be paid for separately. Information is provided here simply as a convenience. For details, visit www.metropolis2007.org

