

THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH'S INVITATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION
TO HOLD THE 64TH CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA

The Executive Committee of the Australian Branch of the International Law Association ("the ILA") invites the ILA to hold the 64th Conference in Queensland, Australia in 1990. Through its Executive Committee, the Australian Branch of the ILA urges members of the Executive Council to decide in favour of Queensland, Australia as the venue for the 1990 ILA Conference at the meeting of the Executive Council to be held on 7th May 1988.

Conference Venue

The 64th ILA Conference will be known as the Queensland Conference.

The Conference will be located at the Pavilion Convention Centre of the Conrad International Hotel at Broadbeach, a suburb of the Gold Coast, which is a region of Queensland situated between Brisbane and the border with New South Wales. Broadbeach is approximately 40 minutes' drive from Brisbane.

The Pavilion Convention Centre has 9 rooms specifically designed for convention purposes. These range from the largest with a capacity of 2,300 seated participants or 2,500 for receptions or 1,300 for banquets down to the

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smallest with a capacity of 50 seated participants, 40 for receptions and 32 for banquets.

The Conrad International Hotel has 622 bedrooms (including suites), 4 restaurants and 4 bars and is set in 15 acres of landscaped gardens and park land. It is managed by Conrad International Hotels Corporation, which is a subsidiary of Hilton Hotels, USA.

The Australian Branch has tentative bookings and accommodation as follows:

Overnight Saturday, 18th August, 1990 (50 rooms).

In on Sunday, 19th August, 1990 and leaving on Saturday, 25th August, 1990 (300 rooms).

Overnight Saturday, 25th August, 1990 (150 rooms).

The Pavilion Convention Centre has been reserved by the Australian Branch from Sunday, 19th August, 1990 until Saturday, 25th August, 1990 (all dates inclusive).

Because the Convention Centre is located reasonably close to Brisbane, it will be possible for delegates to enjoy the Brisbane Cultural Centre and the other cultural activities available there, which are now extensive. The High Court of Australia is expected to be sitting in Brisbane around the

time of the Conference and the Australian Branch will endeavour to arrange for the delegates to meet with the Judges.

There will also be the opportunity for delegates to meet politicians and eminent persons because, in Australian terms, the proposed venue for the Conference is not that far away from Canberra (the national capital), Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. Indeed, the locale is a very popular part of Australia and one to which many persons seem keen to travel at the slightest excuse! There is little doubt that the presence of the ILA Conference will attract the attention of politicians, judges and academics in Australia and that the Conference venue will not be a handicap to delegates meeting eminent Australians.

A seminar is planned in Sydney after the ILA Conference and it will be possible to arrange seminars in other capital cities if there is sufficient interest shown by delegates in attending. (See later Pre and Post-Conference Tours, page 15).

Registration Fees

The Australian Branch proposes to retain the Queensland Tourist & Travel Corporation ("the QTTC"), which is an instrumentality of the Queensland Government, as its Professional Convention Manager and official travel agent.

The QTTC has considerable experience in organising conventions. For example, the QTTC organised the convention at Broadbeach in 1986 for the Association of British Travel Agents, which was attended by 4,500 delegates.

The QTTC, in conjunction with the Australian Branch, has calculated that a delegate registration fee of US\$450 (A\$625) is estimated as the delegate registration fee applicable to the ILA Conference to be held in Australia in 1990. The fee is based on the QTTC's estimates of price increases between now and 1990 and is calculated on the basis that a minimum of 500 delegates will attend the ILA Conference.

The registration fee provides for the following:-

- (i) a Conference Report for each delegate;
- (ii) 3 formal receptions at which finger food, canapes, wine, beer and soft drinks will be provided;
- (iii) a banquet at which cocktails, all liquor, wine, a three-course meal, coffee and a floor show will be provided;
- (iv) a day tour, proposed to be held on the Thursday during the week of the Conference, which may involve a trip around Brisbane, a sheep shearing demonstration, a

visit to the Brisbane Cultural Centre, a trip around the mountains surrounding the Gold Coast or a trip to Frazer Island;

- (v) 4 lunches which will be served to delegates during the sessions and which would comprise a smorgasbord, cheese, soup, beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee and tea;
- (vi) 8 teas, which would comprise croissants, cake, fruit juices, tea and coffee;
- (vii) paying for the travel, accommodation and meal expenses of a party of 10 persons from Headquarters; and
- (viii) QTTC Management Fee.

Each delegate will be responsible for paying for his or her air fare, accommodation, food and drink (other than included in the registration fee).

The expected registration fee for accompanying persons would be approximately A\$250.

The registration fee may be too expensive for members of the ILA from certain countries. In the past, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Attorney-General's Department have sponsored a number of delegates from poorer countries so that they been able to attend a conference in

Australia. The Australian Branch intends to apply for a number of sponsored places in order to assist delegates from poorer countries.

Conference Report

Because of the enormous cost involved, the Australian Branch cannot provide a copy of the Conference Report to every member of the ILA world-wide.

The Australian Branch has been advised that it would cost A\$40 to produce a hard-back copy of a Report along the lines of the Report of previous Conferences.

As mentioned in the document entitled "Basis of an Invitation to the International Law Association to Hold the 1990 Conference in Australia", which was submitted to the meeting of the Executive Council in October 1987, Professor David Johnson, Editor of the Report of the Seoul Conference, recommends that the Report be replaced by a Bulletin, which would be approximately 40 pages. The Bulletin would describe the 1990 Conference, give details of delegates who attended, set out the resolutions passed at the Conference and give a brief description of the various functions held during the Conference.

It may be that the Executive Council is not prepared to approve the proposal for the Bulletin at this stage, and if

that is the case, the Australian Branch makes 2 alternative proposals:

(1) First Proposal

that A\$40 out of each delegate registration fee be set aside and remitted to Headquarters for Headquarters to publish and distribute the Report of the 1990 Conference;

OR

(2) Second Proposal

that the Australian Branch be responsible for producing the Conference Report in 1990 under the overall supervision of Professor Johnson if Professor Johnson then so agrees. If Professor Johnson is unable to supervise producing the Conference Report, the Australian Branch will appoint one of its members to supervise producing the Report.

If this Second Proposal is adopted, the following conditions would apply:

- (a) the Conference Report may be bound in hard-covers or soft-covers at the discretion of the Australian Branch. (The Executive Council

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is reminded that the Report of the # Conference was bound in soft-covers, which were more than adequate). The Australian Branch's decision will take account of the costs involved and the funds available in 1990. The amount of funds will depend on the level of attendance at the Conference.

- (b) the Australian Branch will exercise editorial control over speakers' interventions. Interventions which do not make a worthwhile contribution to the discussion will not be published at the discretion of the Australian Branch.
- (c) speakers' interventions will be limited to a maximum of 500 words and will be considered for publication only if a type-written draft is lodged with the Conference secretariat at the start of the Conference.
- (d) Branches of the ILA should notify the Secretary of the Australian Branch of the numbers of Conference Reports required by members of each Branch and send to the Secretary of the Australian Branch payment for those Reports required by the start of the Conference.

- (e) the Australian Branch will meet the cost of printing the Conference Report. The cost of printing Committee Reports should remain a cost for Headquarters Branch.

Headquarters Party

The Australian Branch will meet the cost of travel, hotel accommodation and meals for a Headquarters party of 10 persons for the duration of the Conference.

Hotel Accommodation at the Gold Coast

A wide range of hotel accommodation is available at the Gold Coast. This ranges from accommodation in 5-star hotels such as the Conrad International Hotel to bed and breakfast style accommodation. The QTTC has advised that a double-room (including breakfast) in a 4-star hotel will be available for less than US\$100 per night. As suggested above, considerably cheaper hotel accommodation is available.

Air fares

The Australian Branch is not able to arrange a reduction in air fares with Qantas (or any other airline) let alone an impressive reduction in the cost of air fares. Australia is experiencing a tourism boom and Queensland, in particular, is especially attractive to visitors from all

over the world. At present, Qantas (and the other airlines) are able to sell more seats than there are available.

There seems little chance that the popularity of Australia as a destination for tourists will decline by 1990. A forecast prepared by Peat Marwick Hungerfords, Accountants, estimates that the number of overseas visitors to Australia will increase from two million in 1988 to five million in 1990 (see The Australian Financial Review, Tuesday, February 23, 1988, page 28, cols 2-3).

Qantas is owned by the Australian Federal Government. There is no other Australian Government airline which the Australian Branch could request to provide discounts on international air fares.

British Airways and other international airlines have been approached both in Australia and in other countries and have not offered any significant discount.

The Australian Branch plans in its promotional brochures to advise prospective delegates to contact particular travel agents in various countries. That travel agent will then be in a position to estimate the number of delegates travelling from a particular country to Australia and may be able to arrange for reductions in air fares for groups.

The Australian Branch is advised by the QTTC that airfares on Qantas for the routes set out below are presently as follows:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Economy</u>	<u>Business</u>
London/Brisbane/London	AUD\$2,647.00	AUD\$5,717.00
New York/Brisbane/New York	\$2,590.00	\$5,520.00
San Francisco/Brisbane/ San Francisco	\$2,119.00	\$4,866.00
Bombay/Brisbane/Bombay	\$1,089.00	\$1,720.00
Tokyo/Brisbane/Tokyo	\$1,690.00	\$5,080.00
Amsterdam/Brisbane/ Amsterdam	\$2,494.00	\$5,750.00

(Note: as at 23 February, 1988 AUD\$1.00 = Pound Sterling 0.40).

The Executive Council is reminded that the real cost for a delegate of travelling to Australia for the ILA Conference in 1990 will be the cost of the airfare after taking account of any tax deduction permitted by the taxation authorities in the country in which the delegate is resident. Therefore the real cost of the airfare may be very much lower for a delegate and bear no comparison to the airfare quoted by Qantas (or any other airline).

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Members of the Australian Branch have supported ILA Conferences for many years and paid the cost of airfares from Australia to conference venues in Europe and North and South America even though airfares to and from Australia may be more expensive than the cost of airfares in other parts of the world. The ILA has never held its Conference in Australia and it may be reasonably argued that the ILA Conference in 1990 should be held in Australia to allow the Australian Branch to repay hospitality given in many places over many years.

Further, membership of the Australian Branch has been one of the largest of all Branches of the ILA. The Australian Branch needs to host the Conference in order to develop its activities and maintain and increase the number of its members. The Pacific region is perhaps the fastest growing region of the world today and the ILA is not well represented there. A successful conference in Australia may be the catalyst needed so that the membership and influence of the ILA in the Pacific region may grow and reach its potential.

The Australian Branch does not have, and will not be seeking, Government sponsorship for the 1990 Conference.

Proposed date of Conference

The Australian Branch expects the Executive Council to decide precisely the dates when the 1990 Conference will be held. However, the Australian Branch is anticipating, and has made tentative booking for, the third week in August, 1990 as indicated above.

Travel Documents

All visitors to Australia require passports and visas to enter Australia (except for holders of Australian and New Zealand passports).

Visas to enter Australia may be obtained at Australian Diplomatic and Consular Posts in foreign countries.

The only health certificates required for entry into Australia are yellow fever vaccinations for people over 1 year of age who have been in a yellow fever affected area in the 6 days prior to arriving in Australia.

Nearest Airport to Conference Venue

Brisbane International Airport is served by many international airlines including Qantas. It is the nearest international airport to the venue proposed for the 1990 Conference.

Coolangatta Airport is the airport nearest to Broadbeach and is not presently served by international flights.

Coolangatta is approximately 25 minutes drive from Broadbeach. It is served by the major domestic air carriers in Australia. From Coolangatta, there are regular flights to all other major cities in Australia. Sydney and Canberra are each around 90 minutes flying time away.

Organisation of the Queensland Conference

The Australian Branch proposes that the procedure at the 1990 Conference would follow the procedure which has become usual at ILA Conferences.

The Australian Branch will deal with administrative aspects of the Conference with the assistance of the QTTC and academic aspects of the Conference in conjunction with the Executive Council of the ILA in general and the Director of Studies of the ILA in particular.

Working sessions may be allocated to international committees which, in the view of the ILA's Director of Studies, are ready to present reports.

Facilities will be provided for all international committees including committees to which working sessions have not been allocated. Facilities will also be provided for workshops to be arranged by the Director of Studies.

The Australian Branch reserves the right to request the Director of Studies to include any workshop on a subject of particular interest to Australian participants.

The Australian Branch in conjunction with the QTTC will organise social aspects of the Conference. Precise arrangements will be made later. There is an extensive range of excursions and activities that may be enjoyed in Australia. The QTTC will maintain a desk at the Conference so that delegates and accompanying persons may make whatever arrangements that they wish.

Pre and Post-Conference Tours

The Australian Branch is arranging pre-Conference and post-Conference tours. A pre-Conference tour based on Cairns and the Barrier Reef is planned and an outline of the tour program will be available by the Executive Council meeting on 7th May 1988. A post-Conference tour is planned in Sydney and would take 3 or 4 days. Precise details will be supplied by the Australian Branch by the Executive Council meeting on 7th May 1988.

The variety of pre-Conference and post-Conference tours is unlimited and depends only on the level of interest shown by delegates. The Australian Branch plans to canvass members of the ILA before the Conference to find out what tours members are interested in and the places that they wish to visit

while in Australia. The Australian Branch has active groups in Western Australia (Perth), the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra), Victoria (Melbourne) and New South Wales (Sydney). There are members in South Australia (Adelaide), Tasmania (Hobart) and New Zealand. It should be possible for functions and hospitality to be arranged at any of these destinations.

The Australian Branch and the QTTC expect that Queensland will be an especially attractive venue for the Japanese Branch and the United States of America Branch because Queensland in particular and Australia generally attract increasing numbers of Japanese and American visitors.

Miscellaneous

Although August is during the winter in Australia, the average temperature on the Gold Coast in winter is between a maximum of 21 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9 degrees Celsius.

The Gold Coast is relatively close to the Great Barrier Reef, which is the largest and most complex expanse of coral reefs in the world and extends along the coast of Queensland for more than 2,000 kilometres. The Great Barrier Reef is, of course, an enormous tourist attraction. There are a wide number of resorts.

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The most commonly accepted credit cards in Australia are American Express, Bankcard, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, Mastercard and Visa.

The main language in Australia is English. Multilingual personnel are usually available at major hotels and international airports.

Summary

The Australian Branch requests each member of the Executive Council to support the proposal that the 64th ILA Conference be held in Queensland, Australia in 1990.

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Honorary Secretary

Australian Branch

International Law Association