



Image Courtesy Singapore Tourism Board

## The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Work Values and Behavior June 22-25, 2008 Singapore

Hosted by Nanyang Business School

### **“The little red dot” welcomes ISSWOV in 2008!**

Singapore is affectionately called the “little red dot” because that’s how it appears on many maps – a small island at the southern tip of Malaysia, in South East Asia. Singapore is an island, an independent country, and a thriving city of some 4 million people. It is an ideal place to attend a conference, having won various accolades including Top Convention city in Asia and the Third Top Convention City in the World by International Congress and Convention Association in May 2005.

Singapore boasts a harmonious mix of Chinese, Malays, Indians and other ethnicities, which leads to diverse culture, cuisine, arts and architecture. It also boasts a first world economy and a rapidly changing cityscape. If you have been to Singapore before then you will know to expect many changes this time around. (See: <http://www.visitsingapore.com/> )

There are so many things to see and do in Singapore that we strongly suggest you stay for a few days after the conference. (See [http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/what\\_to\\_do/20\\_unique\\_things\\_to.html](http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/what_to_do/20_unique_things_to.html))

In the conference, itself, you will get a taste of Singapore through:

1. The conference venue (Carlton Hotel) is located in the heart of Singapore’s vibrant city centre, so you will be able to experience some of Singapore’s fast pace and cultural diversity simply by walking in the area around the conference hotel!
2. The conference venue is an elegant, contemporary hotel that will showcase Singapore’s world class hospitality industry with respect to facilities, food and beverages, and service.
3. The conference social program offers bus and walking tours in areas of cultural and historical significance in Singapore.

As the shopping centres in Singapore (including many along the famous Orchard Road) are open from 10am to 10pm *every day*, and a range of cafes and restaurants are open 24 hours a day, you should also find time to indulge in Singapore’s two favourite pastimes – eating and shopping!

*Warning: “The Great Singapore Sale” – held in June-July each year - might stimulate “shopaholism” and jeopardize the bank balance of some delegates!*

### **Some practical information about Singapore.**

(See also: <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g294265-Singapore-Vacations.html>)

#### Travel information

- Tourists from most countries can enter on a social visit pass, granted on arrival at the airport.
- Changi airport won the title of “World’s Best Airport 2006” for its safety, efficiency and passenger-friendly environs (For example, internet access at several locations is free!).
- The currency is Singapore Dollar (S\$). 1 USD is ~ S\$1.40; 1 Euro ~ S\$ 2.1. Money can be exchanged easily at the airport, shopping centres, and hotels. All major credit cards are accepted at most establishments.

The official language in Singapore is English and is widely spoken, although many locals also speak various Chinese dialects. You should have no trouble being understood, except for occasional difficulties with accents!

#### Weather conditions

Singapore is not prone to natural disasters. The weather in Singapore will be warm and humid in June/July [min 25, max 32 ° Celsius (= 77-90 ° Fahrenheit)] and challenging for outdoor sports that do not involve water immersion! The good news is that most public buildings, shopping centres, restaurants, public transport, taxis, and public walkways are air-conditioned. It is even advisable to have a light sweater/jacket in case the air-conditioning is too cool! When you venture outside, you should take a fold-up umbrella in case of unexpected tropical rain (which can be a treat to witness).

#### Local customs

- Tipping is not expected, as there are service charges and goods and service taxes added to bills/checks.
- Smoking is banned in trains, buses, taxis, government offices, cinemas, theatres, air-conditioned restaurants, shopping centres and covered areas.
- Tap water is clean and safe to drink.

### **Stay a little longer after the conference...**

*(Please note: We advise you against coming to Singapore early because there is a large international conference in Singapore (“CommunicAsia”) from 17- 20 June 2008 and accommodation costs during this period will be very high throughout Singapore)*

There are so many things to see and do in Singapore that we strongly suggest you stay for at least a few days after the conference (see [http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/about\\_singapore/uniquely\\_singapore.html](http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/about_singapore/uniquely_singapore.html)) Highlights include:

- Walk, shop and dine at your own speed in Chinatown, Little India, or Arab Street. (It is possible to eat good meals for as little as 3 USD in local food courts!)
- Shop-til-you-drop along Orchard Road with its high-tech shopping centres and mind-boggling range of branded goods - or go to the 24 hour Mustafa Centre for bargains.
- Singapore night safari – is a unique concept in wildlife parks and the first in the world. (See [http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/what\\_to\\_do/nightlife\\_in\\_singapore/night\\_safari.html](http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/what_to_do/nightlife_in_singapore/night_safari.html))
- Sentosa Island – Singapore’s island playground is only 10 minutes by bus from the CBD and features historical sites, Asia’s largest tropical oceanarium, and artificial beaches complete with swaying palm trees, volleyball courts and thatched-roof bars!
- Singapore flyer – A giant observation wheel that will provide breathtaking panoramic views of Singapore (see <http://www.singaporeflyer.com.sg/>)

And then there are many lesser known “unique” things to do (that are free) – see [http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/what\\_to\\_do/20\\_unique\\_things.html](http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/what_to_do/20_unique_things.html)

### **Special tours**

Tradewinds Tours and Travel\* is the recommended travel agency for the conference. They are putting together some special half-day tours of Singapore for accompanying persons, while the conference is on, and tours for delegates and accompanying person after the conference ends.

\*Tradewinds is the wholly owned subsidiary and tour operating-arm of Singapore Airlines and is the largest inbound tour operator in Singapore. For more information, see: <http://www.tradewindstours.com/>

### **See more of Asia...**

Singapore is an ideal gateway to the rest of Asia. Therefore, to make the trip to Singapore even more worthwhile, we would strongly encourage you to travel in the Asian region before, or after, the ISSWOV conference. It is possible to tour quite cheaply by bus, rail, cruises, and cut-price flights.

(see: [http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/getting\\_around/touring\\_the\\_region.html](http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/getting_around/touring_the_region.html) )

Tradewinds Tours and Travel have developed special tour packages for ISSWOV delegates and accompanying persons. These include:

- ISSWOV 2008 3D/2N Bangkok EZ Pack
- ISSWOV 2008 3D/2N Ho Chi Minh City EZ Pack

For more information, please contact [tradewinds\\_mice@singaporeair.com.sg](mailto:tradewinds_mice@singaporeair.com.sg).

### **Getting to the ISSWOV conference 2008**

Tradewinds Tour and Travel can provide the best air fares on the world-renowned Singapore Airlines.

Indicative airfares:

One way airfare

- Guangzhou to Singapore - SGD665 + SGD90 (taxes)

This will suit those coming directly from the IAMCR conference in Guangzhou (see:

[http://www.iacmr.org/iacmr2008/2008\\_iacmr\\_conference.htm](http://www.iacmr.org/iacmr2008/2008_iacmr_conference.htm)) to Singapore for ISSWOV.

Return Airfares

- New York (JFK) to Singapore - SGD2700 + SGD488 (taxes)
- London (Heathrow) to Singapore - SGD1840 + SGD440 (taxes)

To enquire and book flights through Tradewinds, please contact [tradewinds\\_mice@singaporeair.com.sg](mailto:tradewinds_mice@singaporeair.com.sg).

For other airfare deals, please bookmark the following website and check to see what travel offers come up. [http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/getting\\_here/offers\\_from\\_your\\_country.html](http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home/getting_here/offers_from_your_country.html)

*Have safe and pleasant travels!*