

## INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONVENTION, 2011 SINGAPORE and MALAYSIA

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011

With the kind cooperation and support of Singapore Land Transport Authority, Singapore Mass Rapid Transit, SBS Transit and KTM (Malaysian Railways), and generous sponsorship by a number of International, Singaporean and Malaysian railway engineering companies, the 2011 International Technical Convention will be the first two-country Convention, starting in Singapore, then travelling by train to Malaysia for the conclusion. The programme will commence on the evening of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October and terminate with the Convention Dinner on the evening of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Singapore is a world leader in mass transit railway systems with advanced Communications Based Train Control systems both planned and in service. A long-term major investment programme in additional mass rapid transit (MRT) lines is underway. Malaysia provides a unique mixture of mass transit and mainline operations. Several major double tracking projects are currently underway with more planned and metro expansions also being planned.

The Republic of Singapore is an island country off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, 137 kms (85 mi) north of the equator, in Southeast Asia. It is separated from Malaysia by the Straits of Johor to its north. Singapore is the world's fourth leading financial centre and a cosmopolitan world city, playing a key role in international trade and finance. The port of Singapore is one of the five busiest ports in the world. Since 1987, the heavy rail passenger MRT metro system has been in operation. The MRT system has been further augmented by several Light Rail Transit (LRT) light rail systems, and increases accessibility to housing estates.

Singapore has the challenge of supporting a growing population of over 5 Million within a very limited land area of 43Km by 23Km. The Land Transport Authority MasterPlan, published in 2008, set out a vision for 2020 that included investments of over \$20Billion and doubling the rapid transit system from 138Km to 278Km. These plans are now well underway and we will have the opportunity to visit many of the new developments during the convention.

Kuala Lumpur (often abbreviated as KL) is the capital and the largest city of Malaysia in terms of population. The city proper, making up an area of 243 km<sup>2</sup> (94 sq mi), has a population of 1.6 million as of 2010. Greater Kuala Lumpur, also known as the Klang Valley, is an urban agglomeration of 7.2 million. It is the fastest growing metropolitan region in the country, in terms of population and economy.

Kuala Lumpur is the seat of the Parliament of Malaysia. The official residence of the Malaysian King, the Istana Negara, is also situated in Kuala Lumpur. Rated as an alpha world city, Kuala Lumpur is the cultural, financial and economic centre of Malaysia due to its position as the capital as well as being a prime city. Kuala Lumpur is an enclave within the state of Selangor, on the central west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Rail transport in Kuala Lumpur encompasses light rail, rapid transit, monorail and commuter rail. Kuala Lumpur is served by four separate rail systems which meet in the city and extend towards other parts of the Klang Valley, namely RapidKL Light Rail Transit, KL Monorail, Express Rail Link (to the international airport) and KTM Komuter. These lines have underground, elevated or ground level stations around the city. The main rapid transit hub is KL Sentral which facilitates as an interchange station for the rail systems. KL Sentral is also a hub for the national railway operated by KTM Intercity. It provides rail services to as far as Singapore in the south, and Hat Yai, Thailand, in the north.

## PROGRAMME

An interesting wide ranging technical programme for members and an attractive programme of tourist visits for the guests are being arranged, and a brief outline of the likely content is given below:

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Registration, evening reception and speeches of welcome at Swissôtel Merchant Court, Singapore, finishing at about 20.00, following which members and guests will be free to make their own arrangements.

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Technical Conference in the morning for members at the Swissôtel Merchant Court. Following lunch, members will visit the Kim Chuan Circle Line depot.

Guests will be taken on a city tour of Singapore including cultural sites and shopping opportunities.

Members and Guests will meet up in the evening for an informal supper at a Clarke Quay restaurant.

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Members: morning visits to LRT. Afternoon visits to Jurong East.

Guests: Visit to Sentosa Island.

The evening will be free of organised activity.

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Depart by special train from Woodlands Train Checkpoint, which by the time of the Convention will be the southern terminus of the KTM line from Malaysia to Singapore. The train will travel to Kuala Lumpur, calling for a lunch stop, technical visits and touristic opportunities en route at Melaka. Direct transit on arrival at Kuala Lumpur to Convention hotels. Evening free.

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Members will travel by train to Batu Gajah to visit the new KTM central workshops, housing repair facilities and a training centre, where technical papers on Malaysian railway signalling and telecomms will be presented. Following lunch, technical visits covering the signalling, telecomms and control systems in the depot will take place, followed by return to Kuala Lumpur.

Guests will be taken on a city tour of Kuala Lumpur, including cultural sites and shopping opportunities.

In the evening, Guest and Members will take cocktails and a buffet supper at one of Kuala Lumpur's roof top restaurants.

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning, Members and Guests will travel by train to Batu Caves, where the Guests will tour the caves, a Hindu cultural site, and Members will inspect the technical aspects of the 13 km line from Kuala Lumpur. The Guests will have a free afternoon in Kuala Lumpur, while the Members undertake a technical visit to the Kuala Lumpur Monorail depot.

In the evening, the Convention Dinner will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton Hotel.

## CONVENTION FEE

The Fee for IRSE members for the 2011 Convention in Singapore/Kuala Lumpur is £346 per person. All delegates should note that this fee is for the whole Convention at both venues, and NO reduction can be given for people who intend to attend only part.

The fee for non-members of the IRSE is £450 per person. Non-members are very welcome to attend the convention. In the event of being oversubscribed, precedence will be given to IRSE members.

## VISAS

Nationals of Great Britain, Australia, Canada, USA and other EU countries do not need a Visa to enter Malaysia for up to 3 months (1 month for Bulgarian, Greek, Latvian, Lithuanian and Portuguese nationals). The same arrangements apply for Singapore, though here the time limit is 1 month. Nationals of other countries should check the arrangements which may apply to them.

However, passports for British nationals must be valid for at least 6 months from departure date from both Singapore and Malaysia, and the same is expected to apply to other nationalities.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Travel from Singapore to KL will be by train and is arranged as part of the convention. Members should make their own travel arrangements should they need to travel back to Singapore to connect with international flights.

Singapore Changi Airport has a network of 80 airlines connecting Singapore to 200 cities in 68 countries. It has been rated as one of the best international airports by international travel magazines.

Kuala Lumpur is served by two airports. The main airport is Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at Sepang, Selangor, which is also the aviation hub of Malaysia, located about 50 kms (31 mi) south of city. The other airport was formerly known as Subang International Airport but is now used only by some charter operators. KLIA connects the city with direct flights to destinations in six continents around the world and is the main hub for the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines. KLIA can be reached using the KLIA Ekspres high-speed train service from KL Sentral which takes twenty-eight minutes, while travelling by car via highway will take about an hour. Air Asia flights do not fly out of KLIA main terminal but from the Low Cost Carrier terminal, which is served by buses from KL Sentral, and is a 20-30 minute taxi ride from the main terminal.

## TRAVEL to SINGAPORE & KUALA LUMPUR and PRE- and POST-CONVENTION TOURS

David Street will be pleased to arrange travel to and from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur for members and their guests. Pre- and Post-Convention Tours can be arranged, and in the event of sufficient demand, it would be possible for group tours to be organised. Details are given on the separate brochure from DS Travel Management Ltd enclosed with this Notice to Members.

## ACCOMMODATION

We have booked a number of rooms at 2 hotels in Singapore and 2 in Kuala Lumpur, ranging in price and standard. For those who wish to avail themselves of even cheaper options, there are many more hotels available for on line booking. The hotels we have booked are as follows:

### SINGAPORE

#### A Swissôtel Merchant Court

This is the main Convention hotel for Singapore where events will take place and where transport for visits will start from and finish. This is a 4 star hotel located by the banks of the Singapore River, close to entertainment and dining areas such as Clarke Quay, Boat Quay and Chinatown. The close proximity of the MRT gives easy access to Orchard Road, Raffles City and all the major tourist attractions. Facilities include a choice of two restaurants, a bar, a Spa Centre, swimming pool, 24 hour gym and 476 rooms.

All the rooms are Swiss Business Advantage class, air conditioned with LCD TV, direct-dial telephone, complimentary Internet access, tea & coffee making facilities, en suite bathroom with bathrobes, slippers and hairdryer, in-room safe, minibar, in-room ironing facility, and complimentary mineral water & newspaper.

#### B Furama City Centre Hotel

The 4 star Furama City Centre is centrally located in vibrant Chinatown and at the fringe of the Central Business District. The hotel is within easy access to Chinatown and Clarke Quay MRT stations, as well as shopping, food and entertainment. Members and guests staying at the Furama City Centre would be expected to make their own way to & from the Swissôtel Merchant Court, which is a 7 minute walk away.

We have booked deluxe class rooms which are air conditioned with cable TV, high speed internet access, direct dial telephone, in room safe, hair dryer, 24 hour-room service, minibar and tea & coffee making facilities.

### KUALA LUMPUR

#### A Kuala Lumpur Hilton Hotel

This 5 star hotel is right by the Sentral railway station, where the train from Singapore will arrive, and from which the Thursday visit departs. It has easy access to the monorail system for quick journeys to all the sights of Kuala Lumpur, and is to the usual high Hilton standard of luxury and service. It has 3 restaurants, a 120 metre swimming pool with views over the city, and a Spa and Fitness Centre. The deluxe rooms are air conditioned and facilities include a coffee maker, hairdryer, iron, DVD, cable TV and high speed internet access.

#### B Hotel Sentral

This is a 3 star hotel, also right by the Sentral railway station, adjacent to the monorail, and a 5 minute walk from the Hilton Hotel where the final dinner will be held on the Friday evening. The hotel is a newly built business hotel conveniently situated for the transportation hub, shopping, entertainment and financial districts and has 192 rooms. It has a coffee house restaurant on the 5th floor and a lounge bar.

The Superior class rooms are fitted with individually controlled air-conditioning and elegantly furnished with modern amenities such as LCD flat screen television, minibar, hairdryer, in-room safe, direct dial telephone, complimentary WiFi internet access, coffee & tea making facilities, complimentary drinking water and iron & board on request. A few Deluxe standard rooms are also available for a small supplement.

## HOTEL CHARGES

The charges shown below are the hotel room prices for three nights, and do not include the Convention Fee. They are inclusive of breakfast, taxes and service charges at the hotel. All other meals will be included in the Convention Fee, except dinner on the evenings of Sunday 9th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th October.

(Please note that the Convention is outside the scope of VAT and therefore VAT charges have not been added by the IRSE).

Hotel	Double/Twin room per room (3 nights)	Single Room (3 nights)	Extra nights Double/Twin room	Extra nights single room
Singapore Swissôtel Merchant Court	£576	£537	£192	£179
Singapore Furama	£480	£453	£160	£151
Kuala Lumpur Hilton	£456	£429	£152	£143
Kuala Lumpur Sentral	£126	£123	£42	£41

It is emphasised that to obtain the benefit of the preferential rates negotiated with the hotels, reservations must be made through the Institution.

The total cost of the Convention, including the Members Convention Fee is as follows:

Couple staying at A hotels in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur:	£1724
Couple staying at B hotels in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur:	£1298
Single person staying at A hotels in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur:	£1312
Single person staying at B hotels in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur:	£922

## REGISTRATION

Registrations are now invited for this event, and members wishing to attend are requested to complete and return the attached application form to the IRSE Office in London as quickly as possible, please. An electronic version of the application form is available on [www.irse.org/Conventions.html](http://www.irse.org/Conventions.html).

Any enquiries concerning the Convention programme or Hotel arrangements should be directed to Roger Penny by telephone +44 (0)1483-890531, fax +44 (0)1483-431969, or email [rwpenney@iee.org](mailto:rwpenney@iee.org).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 30th SEPTEMBER 2011, HOWEVER IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE FOR THE IRSE TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION IN THE CONVENTION HOTELS FOR BOOKINGS RECEIVED AFTER 31 AUGUST 2011.

Roger Penny  
Convention Coordinator  
March 2011

### Information for Younger Members

The Institution has established a number of travelling bursaries following a generous bequest from the estate of Frank Hewlett, a past member of the Institution, and from a memorial fund established in honour of Alan Fisher, our President in 2008/9 who died in February 2009. Council have decided that following the success of the bursaries in 2010 awarded to younger members attending the Convention in Delhi, these bursaries, of which there may be up to ten valued at up to £1000 each, will be used to support Younger Members from around the world to attend the International Technical Convention. Full details for Younger Members are enclosed.