

51st IMIA Conference 1st to 5th September 2018



Singapore



COUNTRY INFORMATION



51st IMIA Conference

Singapore

Welcome to Singapore

Singapore, a bustling city, is a popular destination with a myriad of attractions to explore and discover. This highly regarded island offers a multiplicity of culture, language, arts and architecture.

Discover old world charm amidst modern skyscrapers and nature's bests alongside man-made attractions as you explore this once fishing village turned cosmopolitan city.

The other thing you will quickly realise about Singapore is its multifarious offering of food – all day and all night. Whatever the hour, even in the wee hours of the morning, you will find eateries around Singapore open and ready to serve meals. With a range of dining options from Peranakan to Chinese, Indian to Malay, European to Asian cuisines, you will certainly be spoilt for choice.

If you have time to traverse the island of Singapore, there are many attractions awaiting you.

To read more about the rich history of Singapore, here are some links :

<https://www.guidemesingapore.com/business-guides/immigration/get-to-know-singapore/a-brief-history-of-singapore>

<http://www.visitsingapore.com/travel-guide-tips/about-singapore/>

<https://www.singaporeexpats.com/about-singapore/brief-history.htm>

Helpful Tips

CURRENCY

The currency used in Singapore is the Singapore Dollar (SGD). Only in very large establishments, mostly hotels, would you be able to pay in other main International currencies so have SGD handy.

There is also the option for you to pay using various major Credit Cards at many establishments. However, there will be some shops and eateries that only accept SGD cash.

If you can, avoid changing currencies at the airport as the exchange rate and commissions charged tend to be less favourable.



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There are money changers in the Shopping Mall attached to the Hotel where the Conference is being held.

There are also cash machines everywhere in Singapore but you may wish to check if there are also commissions payable using these machines as this differs from Bank to Bank.

ELECTRICITY

In Singapore the power sockets are of type G (3 prong). The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

The Hotel room does however have an International socket for your use.

WEATHER

Singapore does not have 4 seasons. It is generally hot and humid with the chance of rain all year round. The weather forecast for the duration of our Conference is 25°C to 31°C.

When walking around Singapore, it is best to be lightly dressed with an umbrella handy for the sudden rains or the scorching sun.

Do note however that the air-conditioning in Singapore buildings can be very cold so you may find the Conference Ballroom more reminiscent of winter.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Almost all Singaporeans speak English and a second language being Chinese, Malay and Tamil.

RELIGION

The major religions in Singapore are Christianity, Buddhism, Taoism, Islam and Hinduism. There are many Worship places of these religions and other religions that can be found all over the Island.

HOW TO GET AROUND SINGAPORE

Singapore has a world class public transportation system that reaches every far flung end of the island.



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Taxis

There are taxis you can hail off the street or pre-book. Here are some phone numbers you can use to book a taxi :

<https://www.taxisingapore.com/taxi-booking/>

When you arrive at the Airport, there are designated Taxi pick up points at all 4 Terminals of Changi Airport. The queues are almost always moving quickly. You do not need to book a Taxi in advance. Typically, flagging a taxi at the Airport to get to the Hotel would cost anything between SGD15 and SGD25 depending on peak hours and traffic conditions.

Taxi fares in Singapore are charged by the Meter. There are surcharges for hailing a taxi at the airport and also for peak hour travel.

The flag down starting fee is around SGD3.40. Receipts for the full fare are available at the end of the journey.

Some taxis will accept credit card payments but generally, it is a SGD cash transaction.

MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) Train

From the Hotel, you have direct access to the train/interchange station sitting below the Hotel complex. This train/interchange station is called "City Hall"

From the Airport, you can also opt to take the Train (East West line) directly to the Hotel via Tanah Merah interchange.

For your reference, here is the MRT Map of Singapore :

<https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltaweb/en/public-transport/mrt-and-lrt-trains/train-system-map.html>

Bus

There is an extensive network of buses in Singapore with bus stops in every part of the island. Here are the bus routes for your consideration :

<https://busrouter.sg/>

Bicycles

A recent favourite trend in Singapore, there are bicycles for hire all over Singapore.

Here are the details :

<https://www.citynomads.com/bike-sharing-singapore-review/>



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FOOD TO TRY

Singapore boasts of restaurants with cuisines from every part of the world - from Turkish to Filipino, Vietnamese to French, Mexican to Portuguese and too many other cuisines to name.

Meals in restaurants can range from SGD20 to SGD100 per person.

If you would like to try local dishes, some 'must try' dishes are Chilli Crabs, Satay (meat barbecued on a stick), Laksa (a noodle dish cooked in a fragrant coconut soup), Nasi Lemak (aromatic rice with dishes), Hokkien Mee, Mee Rebus, Prawn Noodles and Char Kway Teow (all noodle dishes), Rojak (local fruit salad with a prawn paste sauce), Kaya Bread (toast slathered with butter and a coconut jam), Bak Kut Teh (pork stewed with herbs) and Roti Prata (flat bread with curry) – just to name a few!

The best place to try local cuisines is at a hawker centre. There are the Newton Hawker Centre and the Amoy Street Market not too far from the Hotel. There are also many other Hawker Centres all over the island. Typically, a one dish meal at a hawker centre would cost not more than SGD5 per person.

Most restaurants, food courts and hawker centres do not close during the day. They remain open from the morning to the late evening and are ready to feed hungry people all day. Some eateries open 24 hours too.

There are many Halal and Vegetarian restaurants in Singapore. A Halal establishment will carry the Halal logo of Singapore.

For Vegetarian food, there is the option of the Chinese Vegetarian food which is generally 'mock' food and the traditional Indian Vegetarian cuisine.

ENTERTAINMENT

There is no shortage of entertainment in Singapore whether you are looking for sports bars, pubs with live music, an evening at the theatre to watch a play, the symphony orchestra or a ballet (depending on theatre schedules).

Across the road from our Hotel is the world famous Raffles Hotel. Be sure to enjoy a Singapore Sling in this historic building.

On the other side of our Hotel is CHIJmes where you can enjoy dinner and/or drinks amidst a beautiful and historic setting.



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There are also many museums to visit and all the popular tourist attractions like the Zoo, the Night and River Safari, the Bird Park, the Botanical Gardens, Gardens by the Bay, Universal Studios at Sentosa Island and all the other many activities that can be found on Sentosa.

Here are some suggestions : <http://www.visitsingapore.com/en/>

SHOPPING

Singapore is a shopping haven with most of the International Brands represented. These can be found in upmarket shopping centres like Marina Bay Sands and ION Orchard.

For a more local shopping experience, try heartland malls like Parkway Parade and Nex.

And of course, there is the Raffles City Shopping Mall which is connected to our Hotel.

There is no bargaining the price in shopping malls. The prices are fixed but there is generally a sale ongoing the whole year through so you could get some good buys.

Shops open 7 days a week, even on Public Holidays.

SOUVENIRS

Good places to pick up souvenirs would be in Chinatown, Bugis Village, at the Airport and at Mustafa Centre. Mustafa Centre is the only 24 hour shopping centre in Singapore.

EMERGENCIES

At the Hotel, the Hotel staff will assist.

Outside the Hotel, here are the Emergency numbers (only use in an actual Emergency) :

- ✘ Emergency Ambulance 995
- ✘ Police 999
- ✘ Police Hotline 1800 255 0000
- ✘ Traffic Police 6547 1818
- ✘ Non-Emergency Ambulance 1777

Private Hospitals with Accident & Emergency Service

- East Shore Hospital 6344 7588
- Gleneagles Hospital 6470 5688 / 6470 5700
- Mount Alvernia Hospital 6347 6210
- Mount Elizabeth Hospital 6731 2218/19/59
- Raffles Hospital 6311 1555
- Thomson Medical Center 6350 8812



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Government Hospitals with Accident & Emergency Service

- National University Hospital 6772 5000 → KK Women's & Children's Hospital 6293 4044
→ Singapore General Hospital 6321 4103 → Tan Tock Seng Hospital 6357 8777

Conference and Accommodation Location

Conference Venue

Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore

Accommodation Venue

Swissotel the Stamford, Singapore

ADDRESS

2 Stamford Road, City Hall, Singapore 178882
Telephone : +65 6338 8585

Conference Venue Information

Strategically located in the heart of the financial, cultural, shopping and entertainment locations in Singapore, the Raffles City Convention Centre is a conglomeration of 27 meeting rooms accommodating events from 10 to 3,200 people.

The Raffles City Convention Centre combines the best of Asian hospitality with an award-winning event management, backed by over 30 years of expertise to provide a consistently unparalleled service experience.

The Convention Centre is located just footsteps away from the Esplanade Theatres, War Memorials and numerous large malls.

This self-contained events venue boasts of the following located within the same building complex so there will be no need to brave weather to get to :

- a. Swissotel the Stamford Hotel (where our guests will stay)
- b. Raffles City Shopping Mall which has over 200 shops including the large Robinsons Department Store. There are money changers, supermarkets and pharmacies/amenities shops at your convenience. For the full list of tenants at the Shopping Mall : <https://www.capitaland.com/sg/malls/rafflescity/en/stores.html>



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- c. There are over 30 eateries in this complex comprising every conceivable cuisine from around the world
- d. The opening hours of the Mall and Restaurants are generally from 10am to 10pm
- e. This complex sits above the City Hall MRT (Mass Rapid Transit train) Interchange. The rest of the island of Singapore is just a train ride away.

The IMIA Conference will be held in the 8,712 ft Stamford Ballroom.

Accommodation Venue Information

Our guests from beyond Singapore will stay at the newly renovated Premier Rooms in the 73 Storey five-star Swissotel the Stamford hotel. The hotel is located 20 minutes away from the Singapore Changi Airport (barring any peak hour traffic).

In this hotel, there are 1,261 guest rooms, 15 bars and restaurants and private balconies in each room that provide breath-taking panoramic views of the country's bustling landscape as well as scenic views of nearby islands of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Hotel Facilities & Services :

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| √ Business Centre | √ 24 hour medical service |
| √ 24 hour in-room dining | √ Postal and parcel service |
| √ Bank/Foreign Exchange | √ Same day laundry and valet services |
| √ Satellite TV (selected channels) | √ Spa and Fitness Centre |

The amenities in each room are :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Universal Wall Plug | • Electronic Safe |
| • Large work desk | • Iron and Ironing Board |
| • Hairdryer | • Toiletries |
| • Coffee/Tea making facilities | • Minibar (chargeable) |

There is a 24 hour minimart (7 Eleven) 5 minutes away from the hotel via an underpass at the Esplanade Link.



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Singapore Entry Requirements

You must present yourself for immigration clearance at your point of entry into Singapore. You must satisfy the following basic requirements before you can be considered for entry:

- A passport that is valid for at least six months
- Sufficient funds for the length of your intended stay
- A completed Disembarkation/Embarkation Card (D/E Card)
- A valid Singapore visa (to check whether you need a visa, see Visa Requirements)
- A confirmed onward or return ticket (where applicable)
- Evidence that you can enter your next destination (for example, a visa)
- A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate, if applicable

Singapore Visa Requirements

Foreigners holding valid travel documents or passports issued by the following countries will require a visa to enter Singapore. There are different processes for Assessment Level 1 and 2 Countries.

Assessment Level 1 Countries

- Armenia*
- Belarus*
- Guinea
- Kazakhstan
- Moldova
- Holders of Hong Kong Document of Identity
- Holders of Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Travel Permit
- Russia*
- Tajikistan*
- Ukraine
- Azerbaijan*
- Georgia
- India
- Liberia
- People's Republic of China
- Sierra Leone
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan*

*Commonwealth of Independent States

Assessment Level 2 Countries

- Afghanistan
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Libya
- Nigeria
- Somalia
- Algeria
- Iran
- Kosovo
- Mali
- Pakistan
- Sudan
- Bangladesh
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria



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- Tunisia
- Yemen
- Holders of Palestinian Authority Passport, Temporary Passport issued by the United Arab Emirates and Refugee Document issued by Middle-East countries

More information can be found at :

https://www.mfa.gov.sg/content/mfa/overseasmission/newyork-consul/visa_information/visaothers.html and
https://www.ica.gov.sg/visitor/visitor_entryvisa

Liability and Insurance

By registering for the IMIA Conference 2018, participants accept that IMIA and their organisers do not assume any liability whatsoever.

Participants are advised to make their own arrangements with regards their Health and Travel Insurances.

Imia Contact

For IMIA Enquiries, you may contact :

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