

Congress Theme

The theme 'Science Centres: Inspiring a new generation' provides a timely reminder that science centres are facing immense challenges to maintain relevancy for people and communities in the midst of rapidly changing social and technological contexts.

Science centres are becoming increasingly recognised and valued as a key part of educational and recreational infrastructure. Now, almost 200 million visitors participate in the exhibitions and programs of over 1200 science centres around the world each year... and these numbers are growing! However, the future well-being of science centres will depend on the extent to which today's centres are willing to evolve and respond to key dynamics which are influencing people's decisions... including how and where they learn, and how and where they enjoy their leisure time.

It is no longer sufficient to consider current best practice alone; we need to analyse those trends and shifts which will be helpful in defining future science centre experiences and in sustaining a key role for science centres in tomorrow's communities. Congress sessions will help science centre professionals around the world – from small, medium and large institutions – to learn from each other and to plan our next steps together.

In a rich and diverse program, we will share lessons learnt from our current programs and operations and consider the challenge of developing a new generation of ideas to inspire a new generation of people. Sessions will address a wide range of topics such as:

- research and practice in learning and visitor behaviour
- information, communications and multimedia technologies: impact on science communication
- science centres and educational infrastructure: the informal learning interface
- marketing in an environment of increasing competition with other attractions
- role of science centres in community development
- leadership, strategic planning and staff development
- revenue generation and merchandising
- network activities and partnerships between centres and other sectors
- exhibit design and fabrication trends
- outreach and touring program strategies
- school support and teacher professional development programs
- facilities and spaces: buildings that learn



CONGRESS LANGUAGE

All sessions will be presented in English.

CHECK THE CONGRESS WEBSITE

www.questacon.edu.au/iiiscwc.html for updates on the Congress Program.

