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First Announcement

iThemba LABS is proud to have been selected as the official hosts for the third Accelerator Reliability Workshop. The aim of this workshop is to provide a constructive platform for the effective sharing of specialist and expert information for the purpose of improving the reliability of particle accelerators and associated systems.

The first workshop was hosted by ESRF in Grenoble in 2002, while the second workshop was hosted by TRIUMF in Vancouver in 2009.

Reliability remains a complex concept to define and measure since it is usually influenced by many factors. High levels of availability are the prerequisites for any successful particle accelerator operation. While technical achievements in terms of attaining stated design parameters such as beam energies might have been sufficient in the past, the demands placed on the accelerator fraternity by current user requirements has emphasized the vital importance of achieving higher levels of reliability.

This will be the first time that such a workshop is held on the African Continent and its relative accessibility will be an ideal opportunity for developing nations both in Africa and elsewhere to attend, but also first world countries in Europe and North America and elsewhere will benefit from the favourable rate of exchange providing an affordable experience. In addition, this may satisfy the educational component which iThemba LABS has championed over recent years, affording Accelerator Physics students the opportunity to gain insight from the world's foremost experts in the field, on the importance of defining and incorporating this crucial aspect of 'accelerator' functionality at the design stage.

Program

The workshop program is expected to cover aspects of Reliability Modelling and Methodologies, reporting on experiences, achievements, refurbishments and upgrades, Quality Assurance, Engineering and Designing for Reliability, Hardware and Software Reliability, Failure Analysis, Human Factors, Operations Management and Maintenance, and how Radiation affects Reliability.

Location

Cape Town was historically regarded as the 'halfway house' between the Western and Eastern hemispheres serving the old spice route sailing ships and is internationally renowned for its bountiful natural splendour. More recently it also served as the gateway through which Nelson Mandela finally gained his freedom after 26 years incarceration, mostly on Robben Island, just a few kilometres off Cape Town harbour.

Few countries rival South Africa's scenic beauty, ranging from snow white beaches, rocky coves and charming fishing villages - to majestic mountains, green forests, rolling farmlands and semi-desert plains. South Africa has much to offer visitors with its modern infrastructure and economy, pulsating cities, incomparable game reserves, varied recreational amenities, cultural diversity and pleasant climate. Along with its hospitable people, South Africa lives up to the name 'Rainbow Nation'.

Cape Town has a population of 3.5 million people and is the second largest city in South Africa. It is a spectacular, fascinating and cosmopolitan metropolis with a rich and varied heritage. Its natural splendour is dominated by the awesome crags of Table Mountain and encircled by the azure waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the emerald green vineyards of the Cape Winelands. The city is an eclectic conglomeration of striking architecture, incorporating both historical and modern sophistication, frenetic street markets, exciting entertainment venues, elegant restaurants, and splendid shopping precincts. The blend of African, Asian and European cultures contributes to Cape Town's unique, magnetic appeal.

April is usually a very pleasant time of the year in Cape Town with average maximum and minimum temperatures of 22.25 °C and 12 °C respectively. On average it rains 8 days during the month of April with an average precipitation of 5.5 cm and virtually no wind.

Information on South Africa and Cape Town is widely available on the internet. Helpful websites are: www.southafrica.net, www.passportsa.co.za, www.gardenroute.co.za, www.cape-town.net, www.capeinfo.com, www.worldexecutive.com/cityguides/cape_town/index.html

Travel

Cape Town is easily reached from all major cities using South African Airways (SAA) and other international carriers. International flights terminate in either Cape Town or Johannesburg (the main airport), from which there is a two hour flight to Cape Town. Several carriers, including SAA, British Airways, 1-Time, Mango and Kulula operate on domestic routes. There are direct flights to Cape Town and flights with intermediate stops from Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Kuala Lumpur, London, Munich, New York and Singapore.

All the main airports in South Africa are currently undergoing major upgrading in preparation for the FIFA World Cup being held here during June and July of 2010.

Transfers by taxi or shuttle minibuses from Cape Town International Airport to the hotels can be arranged in the international and domestic arrivals terminals. Alternatively transfers will be arranged on request for hotel guests.

Visas will be required for many delegates, who should contact the nearest South African consulate.

Accommodation

A block booking at discounted rates has been made at the 'Breakwater Lodge' (http://www.breakwaterlodge.co.za/).

Located in one of the most popular South African destinations, the V&A Waterfront, it is favourably positioned in close proximity to most of Cape Town's main tourist attractions and offers excellent value for money.

Suitable accommodation is available elsewhere both in the vicinity of the V&A Waterfront and in surrounding areas for delegates choosing to make alternative arrangements.

Official transport would be offered to and from the Breakwater Lodge only.

iTHEMBA LABS

iThemba LABS is a national research and development laboratory operated by the National Research Foundation (NRF). The main activities are associated with medical radiation, radionuclide production for medical and industrial use, nuclear physics and materials science as well as advanced education and training.

The main laboratory is located about 35 km from downtown Cape Town and has full-time staff complement of about 300. There are typically more than 100 post-graduate and other students undergoing training. The core facility is a separated-sector cyclotron capable of accelerating protons to energies of 200 MeV and heavier ions to much higher energies. It is the largest accelerator in the Southern Hemisphere. Two classical cyclotrons are used to inject light ions or heavy and polarized ions respectively into the main accelerator. Other accelerators on this site are a 6 MV medical linear accelerator and a 6 MV CN Van der Graaff accelerator. iThemba LABS has the only fast neutron (66 MeV p + Be) and proton (200 MeV) therapy units in the Southern Hemisphere and is the only facility at which both modalities are available. IThemba LABS also operates iThemba LABS (Gauteng) in Johannesburg, where the main facility is a 6 MV tandem Van der Graaff accelerator.

CONTACT DETAILS

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