**Subject: CILT-Australia proposes to move the CILT-International Conference by 16 months to October 2022**

**Background:**

In early 2019 the city of Perth was awarded the CILT-International Conference planned for October 2020. This was the planned conference to follow the 100th anniversary 2019 Manchester conference.

Following the Global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic the October 2020 Conference proposal was moved to June 2021, still to be held in Perth at the HYATT venue.

As at the current time second wave pandemic infections are being observed on most continents and in many countries this second wave was worse than the first. Even by October 2021, in 12 months’ time, it is unlikely that international air travel will be back to late 2019 levels, and even low frequency flights may be quite expensive. The decision to cancel the conference for June 2021 at this time allows CILT-Australia to get 100% of its initial deposit back, which is a significant amount.

**The Updated Proposal**

The CILT-Australia organizing committee met in late September and unanimously agreed to propose to move the Australian hosted, re-planned CILT-International conference, to **October 2022**, with the same intended location and very possibly the same venue.

This decision was arrived at as both vaccines and international air travel will probably allow a far more normal ‘face to face’ conference that will attract both sponsors, and international and domestic delegates. This is the key to a successful conference financially.

**A Virtual conference for 2021?**

The Australian organizing committee also rejected the idea of hosting an international virtual conference for 2021. There were several reasons for this:

* Virtually no support from currently interested sponsors,
* Little to no opportunity for monetization,
* Varying global time zones making it somewhat prohibitive to have real-time access (i.e. time slots) for keynote speakers accessing remotely, and
* a virtual conference could only realistically charge enough to cover the costs of the 3-day e-platform hire fees. In most cases virtual conferences are actually free.

All of these arguments essentially defeat the possibility to run a financially successful conference denying sponsors exposure to international delegates.

However, if a smaller virtual conference was to be organized by a cluster of national branches, Australia could provide a speaker or two.

**Preferred time window in 2022 for the International conference**

The preferred month for the proposed rescheduled conference is **October 2022.** This month is spring in Perth and the weather is excellent. September is a lesser alternative, and November 2022 is a possibility but not at all preferred due to industry being very busy with the lead up to Christmas and the demands on logistic providers and there are significant sporting events occurring on Australia’s East coast for the month of November.

The proposed program and floorplan and rooms required have been kept relatively unchanged to the original proposal. (Refer to the draft website.)

<https://www.regodirect.com.au/cilt2020/home/>

**Recommended Proposa**l: That the proposed CILT-International Conference, scheduled in Perth Australia for June 2021, be moved to October 2022 again proposed for Perth, Western Australia.

For consideration,

***Kim Hassall
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