**EXCURSIONS**

Cairns is an ideal location from which to explore the Great Barrier Reef and the Coastal Rainforest, both World Heritage listed natural sites. A range of pre- and post-conference excursions will be offered to participants and their families and partners. Late August is outside the high tourist season and the climate is superb. So why not take the opportunity to combine an important conference with a once in a lifetime trip to North Queensland?

**TOURS & ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAM**

During the conference there will be ample opportunities for swimming and snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, to experience ancient aboriginal culture, to take a skycar across the tops of the rainforest, hot air ballooning, fine dining, or to just relax on the esplanade and enjoy the tropical atmosphere of the town of Cairns.

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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

In order to assist us in preparing a database, prospective participants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest by email to:

cairns2005@unsw.edu.au

In your email please provide the following information:
- Name and affiliation
- Topic areas of interest
- Address, email and contact details

The Second Circular will be distributed from mid-2004.

Please also monitor the web sites for conference details:

http://www.iag-aig.org/
http://www.iugg.org/iapso/

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The Venue

is the Cairns Convention Centre, a modern, international standard, environmentally friendly, facility located just minutes walking distance from a wide range of three, four and five star hotels and budget accommodation:

Scientists from all countries are invited to participate in this unique conference - a joint assembly of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), International Association for Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO), and the International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO), to be held 22-26 August 2005, in Cairns, Australia.

Cairns has the very best of everything ... great restaurants, excellent accommodation, an abundance of cruises, tours and attractions, complemented by a lively cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Cairns is a vibrant tropical city, fringed by the world famous Great Barrier Reef and Coastal Rainforest - no other city in the world lies next to two World Heritage listed sites. Cairns offers the perfect opportunity for delegates and their partners to take in the vast natural beauty and attractions of the spectacular northern Queensland region. Cairns lies in the heart of the Asia Pacific region, and the international airport is only ten minutes from the city centre. During August, the weather in Cairns is balmy (18-20 °C), sunny, low humidity, little rain and fresh breezes:


The scientific programme, under the theme “Monitoring and Understanding a Dynamic Planet with Geodetic and Oceanographic Tools”, will emphasise the interaction of the earth and oceanographic sciences, as well as provide an opportunity to present the latest research in the disciplines of geodesy and oceanography. The programme will be enriched by a focus on the geodetic and oceanographic challenges in the tropics, the Asian region, the Pacific Ocean and its environs, and Antarctica, all regions where Australian scientists and their international collaborators play a significant role.

Details of the conference will be posted on the following web sites:

IAG http://www.iag-aig.org/
IAPSO http://www.iugg.org/iapso/

INVITATION

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chris Rizos (IAG)
The University of New South Wales  

John Middleton (IAPSO)
The University of New South Wales

Ian Poiner (IABO)
CSIRO Marine Research

The Reef & Rainforest come and see!!