

PICA 2001 Preview

The twenty-second International Conference on Power Industry Computer Applications (PICA 2001) will be held 20-24 May 2001 at the Masonic Conference Center in Sydney, Australia. The theme of the conference is "Innovative Computing for Power: Electric Energy Meets the Market." It is the mission of PICA 2001 to:

- Present the full spectrum of twenty-first century information technology solutions for the business of energy trading and energy management systems of the emerging GenCo, TransCo, and DisCo industries as well as vertically integrated electric utilities and the ISO/RTO/power-pool entities
- Provide technical sessions that will help industry participants learn the latest technology and trends
- Attract a full spectrum of exhibitors from the energy industry to allow participants to find a total solution for their operational and business needs on the show floor.

W. Lachs is chair of the PICA 2001.

Technical Program

The PICA Technical Committee selected the following tutorials and decided on some of the panel sessions, with more to be considered for the conference:

Tutorials

- Component technology
- Emerging technologies in intelligent systems
- Transmission congestion and financial risk management
- Fundamentals of electric power markets.

Panel Sessions

- Differences in market rules between countries
- Lessons learned from different countries that have implemented deregulated markets
- Component technology
- E-commerce at utilities
- Experiences in the Australian market
- Formation issues for RTOs as per instructions from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

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You are cordially invited to participate in the twenty-second IEEE PES International Conference on Power Industry Computer Applications (PICA), which will be held 20-24 May 2001 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Visiting Sydney

Sydney has over 300 sunny days per year, but there is no predictable rainfall pattern. The friendliness and helpfulness of Sydney-siders was amply demonstrated during Sydney's Olympics and para-Olympics.

The Sydney setting is on three large waterways: Broken Bay 20 km to the north, Botany Bay 15 km to the south, and Sydney Harbor through its center.

Numerous tours are available to interesting spots by coach and ferry, and some of these will be listed by the PICA Conference.

The jewel of Sydney is the harbor, and its delights can be savored with any of a number of ferry rides. Every day there is a 1.5 hour harbor cruise, lunchtime and dinner cruises, as well as ferries for city commuters. Just as spectacular are views of the harbor from vantage points within comfortable walking distance of the central business district (CBD), such as the Rocks, the Opera House, Botanical Gardens, and Mrs. Macquarie's Chair. In fact, if you enjoy walking, Sydney offers many delights with its multitude of green areas, as even within the CBD there is Hyde Park, the Domain, and the Botanical Garden. A particular delight is a stroll along the harbor foreshore from Circular Quay (the main ferry terminal) to the Opera House and then the Botanical Garden. At night, the harbor turns into a fairyland of lights, and, should you attend a performance at one of the theaters in the Opera House, a gentle stroll after the show will embellish your evening. The CBD offers a bonanza of stores, with bargains galore as the Australian dollar is only half the U.S. dollar.

The following is based on an article in the Sydney newspaper: A poll by the influential *Conde Nast Traveller*, conducted before the Olympics, put Sydney at the top of the best foreign city list. Sydney has achieved this top rating for the past 6 years. The poll is based on a survey of 27,000 subscribers and examined the city's ambience, friendliness, culture, entertainment, and restaurants. The magazine also rated Tasmania as the world's top "temperate" island, while Queensland's Fraser Island was third in the tropical island category. (Fraser Island is about 300 km away from the Great Barrier Reef.)

Suggestions on Post-Conference Tours

Tropical North

In Australia, winter starts on 1 June, and from mid-May the holiday season to tropical North Australia commences. The 1,500 km Great Barrier Reef, which straddles the North Queensland coast to its northern extremity, offers numerous places from which it can be visited. Cruises (from half-day to a week) visiting its many tropical islands are available from Cairns, Airlie Harbor, and Mackay. In the tropical winter, it is always warm enough for swimming, and one avoids the excessive heat and tropical storms of summer. On land, there is a multitude of animals and birds, unique to the tropics, as well as rain forests, sugar cane, tropical fruit and plants, and parks to visit. (In winter 1998, my wife and I spent 3 months in a campervan touring North Queensland, and we now have a treasure trove of memories of the unique and interesting things we saw and experienced.)

The tropical north of Australia also includes the Northern Territory (Jabiluka National Park, Arnhem Land, and Ayer's Rock) and Western Australia (Derby, Broome, Port Hedland, and the Kimberleys). There are regular flights to all these locations.

Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme in the Australian Alps

This hydro-electric scheme has been listed as one of the seven modern engineering wonders of the world. It is 400 km south (west) of Sydney and can be visited either by a 3-day coach tour or by hiring a car to drive through New South Wales and later south to Victoria and Melbourne. Following an Act in Federal Parliament, the Snowy Scheme commenced in 1949. It was slated to produce 2,600 MW at a cost of \$880 million over a 25-year construction period. When completed in 1973, it had a capacity of 3,660 MW and cost \$810 million. That comes to 1949 dollars of \$330 million because of the high inflation in the 1950s. It is entirely paid for by electricity sales, but the water diverted to the dry Australian inland produces irrigation crops presently valued at \$8 billion per year.

2001 Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition

28 October - 2 November
Atlanta, Georgia

The 2001 IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition (T&D 2001) will be held 28 October through 2 November 2001 at the Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia. It will be one of the largest gatherings of international experts in the field of overhead and underground power transmission and distribution systems and equipment. The conference theme, "Developing New Perspectives," focuses on the changing landscape of companies, market drivers, products, and technology. Some of the new players include energy service companies and distributed resources. The technical presentations at this conference will play a significant role in the development and spawning of new technology.

Come share your expertise and feel the satisfaction of shaping the future. Sessions will focus new developments in power delivery and operations, for example, equipment innovations pertaining to transmission and distribution lines, insulated cables, cable accessories, substations, switchgear, transformers, surge protective devices, system protection, and automation, as well as power systems analysis, communications, instrumentation, and measurement.

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