

Evaluation of the 27th Session of the Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage

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Abstract

To evaluate the 27th Session of the CIE, we conducted an online survey of attendees. Ninety-five valid responses were received, from 23 identifiable countries. Overall ratings of the event were high, and in general it was rated as having provided good value for cost. Open-ended comments revealed specific issues that future Session planners could resolve, which would improve satisfaction further.

Introduction

All organizations that run conferences strive to strike the right balance between many factors including the quality and cost of the venue, the length and composition of the conference sessions, and the social elements of the program. CIE is no different from others in facing stiff competition for participants' time and money. With the availability of online tools for surveying widely, it is comparatively easy to obtain systematic information concerning participants' opinions of CIE events after they have occurred. Such information then permits planning committees to adjust arrangements for future events and to address areas of weakness.

Method

Participants

Invitations to participate were sent by e-mail to all registrants at the Sun City session for whom e-mail addresses were available. The message included a link to the survey form, which was accessible for one month following the mailing. One hundred people responded to the invitation. Five indicated they had not attended the CIE Session in Sun City, South Africa, at which point their survey participation ended (this was programmed into the online survey). Of the 95 people who reported having attended the session, 17 did not report their sex, 22 were female and 56 were male. Table 1 shows the distribution of survey respondents' reported ages. The median response falls in the 40-49 age band. There are no data against which to compare this age and sex distribution against the population of Session delegates.

Table 1. Frequency table of survey respondents' ages.

18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	>=60	<i>Missing</i>	Total
11	16	19	19	17	13	95

Table 2 shows the distribution of self-reported identities among the respondents. Note that respondents were permitted only one response, but might play roles in more than one category; for example, some consultants are also educators, and some scientists work for manufacturers. Nonetheless, it is striking that only one respondent to this survey was a student and that the modal category is "Scientist".

Table 2. Frequency table of survey respondents' occupations.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Designer / Consultant / Engineer	11	11.6	14.1
Educator	12	12.6	15.4
Government	3	3.2	3.8
Manufacturer	6	6.3	7.7
Other	1	1.1	1.3
R&D	11	11.6	14.1
Scientist	33	34.7	42.3
Student	1	1.1	1.3
<i>Missing</i>	17	17.9	
Total	95	100	100

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents by country, of which at least 22 are represented in this sample. As 27 people did not report their country, it is difficult to ascertain whether or not the sample is representative of the population of people who attended the Sun City Session.

Table 3. Frequency table of survey respondents' home countries.

Country	
Australia	2
Austria	1
Belgium	3
Brazil	1
Canada	2
China	2
Denmark	2
France	3
Germany	6
Hungary	1
Italy	2
Japan	5
Netherlands	1
Norway	1
South Africa	8
Spain	2
Sweden	6
Switzerland	1
Taiwan	3
Turkey	4
UK	6
USA	6
<i>Unknown</i>	27
Total	95

Survey

The questionnaire was based on the first author's prior experiences as an evaluator of other conferences, adapted of course to CIE needs. The detailed questionnaire appears in an Appendix as one whole, and is shown piecemeal in the Results section. The questions primarily concerned the quality of each part of the Session program and its overall quality, both in itself and (for those who had attended other CIE events) in comparison to other CIE sessions. We also asked for an indication of whether the Session as a whole gave value for money.

The survey did not include any questions concerning the abstract submissions, review, acceptance, scheduling, or proceedings preparation processes. These aspects of the 27th Session were managed by the South African hosts and would not be duplicated in future. Moreover, at the time of the survey CIE had already contracted for a new process for handling these elements, to be managed by the Central Bureau using an established commercial provider. (Future surveys should add questions about these elements, to evaluate this new way of managing abstracts, papers, and scheduling.)

Results

Previous CIE Attendance

This sample was split, with slightly more than half of the respondents reporting that the 2011 Session was their first CIE Session (Table 4). Of those that had attended at least one previous session, the one most frequently reported was the 2007 meeting. If this pattern is representative of the whole attendance (which cannot be tested because no other data are available), it suggests that there is substantial turnover in attendance – those at the Session are not primarily the same faces every time.

Table 4. Total number of previous CIE Sessions, 1991-2007

#	Frequency	Percent
0	52	54.7
1	17	17.9
2	9	9.5
3	3	3.2
4	5	5.3
5	9	9.5

Table 5. Previous CIE Sessions attended.

Year	Location	# Respondents who attended
1991	Melbourne, Australia	12
1995	New Delhi, India	13
1999	Warsaw, Poland	21
2003	San Diego, USA	24
2007	Beijing, China	39

Table 6. Other CIE Events previously attended

	Frequency	Percent
None	32	33.7
1 - 5	45	47.4
6 - 10	18	18.9

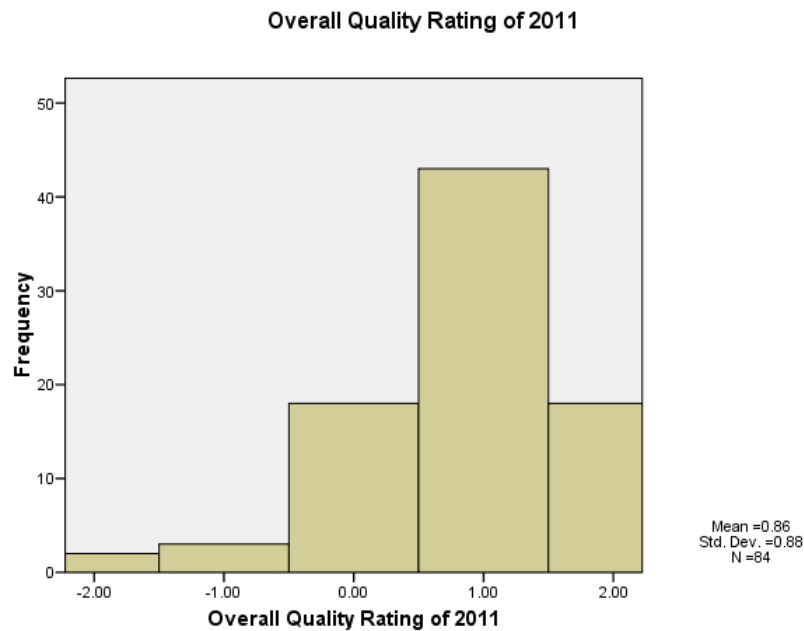
Overall Ratings of 2011

The respondents gave a strong endorsement to the overall quality of the 2011 CIE session, with 64.2% rating it as “good” or “excellent” (Table 7 and Figure 1) – although this must be tempered by the unknown evaluations of the 11 who did not answer the question.

Table 7. Overall quality rating for 2011 Session

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Awful	2	2.13	2.4
Bad	3	3.2	3.6
Okay	18	18.9	21.4
Good	43	45.3	51.2
Excellent	18	18.9	21.4
Missing	11	11.6	
Total	95	100	

Figure 1. Histogram of overall quality rating.



Overall, respondents seemed to be content with the value of the session (Table 8), taking into account the cost of registration as well as the accommodations. A small number felt

that it was very poor value, but a larger number felt it was good value for money – although none rated it as “very good value for money”. Approximately 32% felt that the value in 2011 was not as good as in previous Sessions (Table 9). Oddly, somewhat more people answered this question than had indicated having attended previous sessions.

Table 8. Value-for-cost of 2011.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very poor value	5	5.3	8.3
Poor value	0	0	0
Just about right	38	40.0	63.3
Good value	17	17.9	28.3
Very good value	0	0	0
Missing	35	36.8	
Total	95	100	

Table 9. Comparative value to previous Sessions.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Much worse	3	3.2	5.7
Worse	14	14.7	26.4
Same	23	24.2	43.4
Better	11	11.6	20.8
Much better	2	2.1	3.8
Missing	42	44.2	
Total	95	100	

Table 10 shows that the respondents have a high likelihood of attending future sessions, which is encouraging, with over 80% indicating that they are likely to attend again.

Table 10. Likelihood of attending future Sessions.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very unlikely	2	2.1	2.4
Unlikely	0	0	0
Don't know	12	12.6	14.3
Quite likely	43	45.3	51.2
Very likely	27	28.4	32.1
Missing	11	11.6	
Total	95	100	

We examined the crosstabulations of the quality ratings by age, sex, professional identity, and number of previously-attended CIE Sessions and CIE events. Of these, only one approached statistical significance. The Spearman (rank) correlation between the number of previously-attended CIE sessions and the overall quality rating was -0.21 ($p=.05$). This, although the overall rating was high, those with more experience of CIE sessions rated the 2011

session as being of lower quality than those who had attended fewer previous sessions. None of the other crosstabulations was statistically significant.

Presentation Quality

The ratings for the quality of the presentations are generally high (Table 11), although the posters (particularly those presented at the stand only, with no presentation) tended to have slightly lower ratings.

Table 11. Frequencies of quality ratings of presentations by type.

	Invited Speaker	Oral Paper	Presented Poster	Poster	Workshop
Very Poor	0	0	0	0	0
Poor	1	5	7	11	3
Okay	13	14	20	25	16
Good	33	32	33	34	27
Very good	31	27	13	2	28
Missing	17	17	22	23	21
Total	95	95	95	95	95
Did not attend this type of presentation	2	0	6	6	7

Social Events

The social events, both formal and informal, were well regarded by all but a small number of respondents who either rated them as “poor” or did not attend them (Table 12). Furthermore, it appears that the strong majority thinks that the number of social events in Sun City was the right number (Table 13).

Table 12. Frequencies of quality ratings of social times.

	Formal Social Events	Informal Social Time
Very Poor	0	0
Poor	3	6
Okay	14	21
Good	19	27
Very Good	37	23
Missing	22	18
Total	95	95
Did not attend	8	0

Table 13. Ratings of the number of formal social events.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Too many	0	0	0
Slightly too many	8	8.4	10.1
Just right	70	73.7	88.6
Slightly too few	1	1.1	1.3
Too few	0	0	0
Missing	16	16.8	
Total	95	100.0	

Schedule Format

The 2011 CIE Session brought in a novel format in which the conference sessions occurred each morning and the technical committee and division meetings occupied the afternoons, with the whole session occupying 5 days for most attendees save those involved in CIE business (Board of Administration, General Assembly, etc.). Overall the new format was quite well received, with 52% of valid cases rating it in a positive way and a further 32% choosing the neutral category (Table 14).

Table 14. Ratings of the new format.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Awful	1	1.1	1.3
Bad	11	11.6	13.8
Okay	26	27.4	32.5
Good	34	35.8	42.5
Excellent	8	8.4	10.0
Missing	15	15.8	
Total	95	100.0	

Most respondents rated the total length as “just right”, although 25% wished it were shorter and 11% wished it were longer (Table 15). The conference length (17.5 hours spread over 5 days) shows a slight tendency to be rated as too short (Table 16), whereas the time allocated for TC and Division business is not. The larger number of missing cases for the TC and Division business meetings likely reflects individuals who did not attend them.

Table 15. Ratings of the 5-day duration.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Too long	4	4.2	5.0
Slightly too long	16	16.8	20.0
Just right	51	53.7	63.8
Slightly too short	7	7.4	8.8
Too short	2	2.1	2.5
Missing	15	15.8	
Total	95	100.0	

Table 16. Frequencies of ratings of the conference and TC/Division business meeting duration.

	Conference Hours			TC & Division Business Hours		
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Too long	0	0.0	0.0	1	1.1	1.4
Slightly too long	8	8.4	10.0	13	13.7	17.8
Just right	43	45.3	53.8	43	45.3	58.9
Slightly too short	23	24.2	28.8	11	11.6	15.1
Too short	6	6.3	7.5	5	5.3	6.8
Missing	15	15.8		22	23.2	
Total	95	100.0		95	100.0	

Concerning the number of parallel sessions, most respondents considered that three is the right number, although a substantial minority feels that it would be better to have fewer (Table 17).

Table 17. Ratings of the number of parallel sessions (3).

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Too many	3	3.2	3.9
Slightly too many	24	25.3	31.6
Just right	46	48.4	60.5
Slightly too few	3	3.2	3.9
Too few	0	0.0	0.0
Missing	19	20.0	
Total	95	100.0	

Open-ended Responses

Three questions probed for more detail concerning respondents' opinions:

- How could the Session format be improved?
- What are three things CIE can do to improve your experience at a quadrennial session?
- If you would like to explain any of your responses or if you have any comments to make at this time, please do so in the box below.

Forty-one unique individuals provided answers to one or more of these questions. All of the open-ended comments are shown in the appendices (Appendices C, D, E), with minor editing for spelling and punctuation. The responses overlapped, and have been taken as a whole for interpretation.

These comments add considerably to the understanding of experiences in Sun City. Whereas the ratings suggest a high degree of satisfaction, the comments (coming from close to half of the valid respondents in the data set) reveal specific problems that could be addressed in future Sessions. Five themes were evident:

1. Time-keeping. Several respondents were critical of the poor time-keeping within sessions, which had several results: inadequate time for discussion; missed social opportunities, and problems with the running of subsequent sessions. Mechanical means to control time within sessions were recommended,

as were more realistic time limits for planning (e.g., space between events to allow for transitions).

2. Costs. Although the overall value for money was seen as good (see above), the total cost was high. The absence of low-cost alternative accommodation was particularly seen as problematic, as it made attendance by students much less likely. This problem was exacerbated by the remote location of Sun City, which reduced options.

3. Posters. There were problems for both the presented posters and the regular posters. Presented posters were problematic both because of the time limits and because their location sometimes resulted in there being no time for the audience to view them. Regular posters seemed not to have a dedicated time to meet the authors.

4. TC and Division Meetings. There were several competing complaints about these, and resolution is not clear. Some felt that there were too many parallel TC meetings so that they could not attend all that they had wanted to. Others felt that spreading the business meetings over the five days reduced the amount of conference time, and wanted to compress the business meetings into less time or on fewer days.

5. Social Events. Those who commented on the social events emphasized that for attendees the important thing is to have times and places to chat. Not having seating areas for lunch and tea times reduced this possibility, as did the loud entertainment at the gala dinner. Future planners should take the networking and visiting aspect of socializing into account in arranging both venues and events.

Twenty-nine individuals provided contact information indicating that they would be willing to participate in a follow-up interview. Time has not yet permitted this to be done.

Conclusion

Overall the 27th Session of the CIE, the first to be held in Africa, was successful in bringing together the worldwide lighting community. Attendees who completed this evaluation generally rated it as being of good quality and having provided good value for money. The majority intend to attend future CIE Sessions. These are all good outcomes. The open-ended comments provide specific guidance for improvements that future organizing committees should consider.

However, we cannot receive evaluations from those who did not or could not attend. Improving attendance and participation at CIE Sessions through attracting new attendees requires information that this evaluation cannot provide: an understanding of the reasons why some individuals choose not to attend. Such information could be used to support planning decisions that would open future CIE Sessions (or indeed, conferences) to larger audiences, thereby widening the circle of potential contributors to CIE volunteer-driven activities.

Acknowledgements

We thank Leena Doppel for her programming and data-handling expertise, and all the respondents for their participation.

Appendix A: Invitation E-mail

Re: Evaluation of the 27th Session of the CIE

You are invited to participate in an evaluation of the recent 27th Session of the CIE in Sun City, South Africa because your e-mail address is on the delegates' list.

The CIE Session is an important quadrennial vent in the life of the CIE, the principal opportunity to bring members of all Divisions together to share their knowledge, conduct technical committee meetings and Division business, and get to know one another. The results of this survey will help the Board of Administration and Central Bureau to tailor future Sessions to attendees' needs and desires.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and responses will be anonymous. Individual data will be kept private and held securely by the CIE. Aggregate results will be reported through the CIE web site. This online survey will close at **xxh00 on date**. To complete the survey, please click on this link:

<http://ciequestionnaire.xxxx.eu/forms/evaluation/>

Thank you for your consideration and your help.

Appendix B: Survey Instrument

Evaluation of the 27th Session of the CIE

You are invited to participate in an evaluation of the recent 27th Session of the CIE in Sun City, South Africa because your e-mail is on the delegates' list.

The CIE Session is an important quadrennial vent in the life of the CIE, the principal opportunity to bring members of all Divisions together to share their knowledge, conduct technical committee meetings and Division business, and get to know one another. The results of this survey will help the Board of Administration and Central Bureau to tailor future Sessions to attendees' needs and desires.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and responses will be anonymous unless you choose to identify yourself to us. Individual data will be kept private and held securely by the CIE. Aggregate results will be reported through the CIE web site.

This online survey will close at **xxh00 on date**.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the CIE Central Bureau at: cb@cie.co.at.

Q3 Which parts of the CIE 27th Session did you attend? (check as many as apply)

Conference sessions

TC meetings

Division meetings

Social events

Did not attend the Sun City 27th Session (if yes, survey ended)

Q1 Which of the following CIE Sessions have you attended? (check as many as apply)

None

1991, Melbourne, Australia

1995, New Delhi, India

1999, Warsaw, Poland

2003, San Diego, USA

2007, Beijing, China

2011, Sun City, South Africa

Q2. Approximately how many other CIE events (conferences, mid-session meetings, expert symposia) have you attended?

None

1 - 5

6 - 10

11 - 15

More than 15

Q3. Overall, how would you rate the Sun City Session? (Please circle one)

Awful Bad Okay Good Excellent

Q4. In terms of value for overall cost, how would you rate the Sun City Session (when you take into account the cost of registering for the convention, accommodations, and meals.)?

Very poor Poor value for Just about right Good value for Very good
value for cost the cost cost value for cost

Q5. *If you have attended previous CIE Sessions*, how would you compare this one to previous ones?

Much worse Worse Same Better Much Better

Q6. How likely is it that you will attend future CIE Sessions?

Very unlikely Somewhat Don't know Quite likely Very likely
unlikely

Q7 If unlikely, can you tell us why?

Q8. How would you rate the quality of the events you attended?

	Very poor	Poor	Okay	Good	Very good	Haven't attended
Invited Speakers						
Oral paper sessions						
Presented Posters						
Posters						
Workshops						
Social Events						
Informal social time (coffee/tea breaks, lunch)						

Q9 What is your overall impression of the new Session format?

Awful Bad Okay Good Excellent

Q10. How would you rate the overall length of the Session (5 working days)?

Too long slightly too Just right slightly too Too short
long short

Q12 How would you rate the amount of time allocated to conference sessions (5 half days, 17.5 hours total)?

Appendix C: Suggestions for Format Improvement

These are all the responses to Q16, "How could the Session format be improved?".
Typographical errors and some syntax have been edited for clarity.

- More discussion time during the workshops
- Do not mix conference sessions and Division meetings during the same day. Have separate days for the conference session.
- I would prefer to have the session and TC meetings divided, it means 2 days for the conference and 2 days for the TC meetings/ Division meetings.
- Three days for a conference is enough. Some of TC meetings were much shorter than the allocated time. It should be possible to foresee this and to make a better schedule.
- The time keeping of the presentations must be improved and there must be a break in between the talks, all parallel sessions at the same time, so that it is possible to jump from one parallel session to the other.
- TC meetings need to be better organised. Presented posters were not handled well in Sun City, no allocated time to view them! The days started too late and ended too early. The leaving function on the Thursday evening was ridiculous! Division meetings were not finished for the day and hence no time to get the buses to attend.
- For me, research presentations are the most important. I felt that the emphasis was more on TCs and division meetings. Compared to Beijing the number of presentations was very much smaller.
- For most of oral and poster presentation, because of tight schedule, no time was dedicated for discussion and questions. Because others do not respect time for presentation, the following speakers (that respect it) did not have questions. The time of presentation and questions must be improved. Because of workshop, poster presentation was shorter and people cannot talk about their poster because the poster and the workshop was in the same room. Presented poster must be exposed during the all time of the conference with the other poster.
- Extend the TC meeting would be better for who involve in multiple TCs and Divs.
- Personally as a "First Timer" I thought everything was just right the various sessions I attend I thought the session lengths were just right and it did not allow me to stray, I was kept focused at all times.
- More oral presentations
- Make it possible to attend more conference presentations (less parallel sessions). Seating for lunch.
- 1. Organised by people who attend conferences, not by a travel agency. 2. Posters on permanent display in a bespoke room. The presented poster format at Sun City was terrible, we felt we had wasted time in creating the poster as it was almost impossible for people to be able to visit it and to ask questions. 3. A lot more time for questions following each presentation. This is the most important part of a conference. Sun City allowed 3 minutes for questions, pathetic to start with, and this was lost by needless reading of presenters CVs and the usual over running. 4. A web site that works and is useful and is not mainly trying to sell excursion trips.
- May give a little more time to intercourse. To have different food

- oral papers: invite authors of recently published papers in peer reviewed journals
- presented papers: excellent ! Please keep this
- posters: no time to speak the authors. This must change !! Authors have written a full paper and had no response and they can't even publish their paper elsewhere because already published.
- There was far too little time for discussion. It was nearly impossible to stay on time in the various sessions as there was no time allocated for moving from one room to the next for the various sessions. Plan at least 10 minutes between sessions to allow for shifting locations. There need to be either fewer papers per session or more parallel sessions with longer time slots to allow for questions. Presenters should have at least 20 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion. It is almost impossible to present reasonable content in less than 20 minutes which is understandable to the audience who are not familiar with the details of the paper. The time slots for presented poster were also far too short, especially since the posters were not available for viewing and discussion after the session because of other workshop sessions being held in the room or on other days than the presentation day. Select better lighting for poster display areas. Lighting for the posters in the great hall was a disaster far too dark and very poor yellow colour.
- Sessions that run long are a problem; time limits need to be enforced.
- Not to have TC 1 and TC 2 sessions in parallel. There were some TC sessions I planned to attend, but could not due to conflict
- Have poster sessions without parallel sessions!
- Keep the conference part together, in full days (3 full ones) so that those who only want to attend that may do so, and there is more time for it. Allow TCs to hold meetings on those days if they wish (i.e., have rooms available for booking for this purpose). Keep the Division and TC meetings to two days if you must, but consider adding back a third day for this if needed to avoid schedule conflicts for people involved in many things. Drop the "presented posters" category to save time, and instead have poster sessions where authors are instructed to be at their posters. Put these in a central place where they will be seen. In Sun City the presented posters got shafted because they did not stay up over the whole week, and some couldn't be viewed right after the presentation because the room was in use.
- Sessions and TC/Division meetings should not be held in the same day. That session format resulted in reducing the total amount of time allotted for TC and Division meetings.
- uniform structure of the workshops
- I prefer the previous format with the conference part separate to the divisional/TC work rather than the morning/afternoon format.
- More invited conferences
- By giving more time to TC sessions, and not in parallel with those of the same Div.
- giving more time to invited paper on unresolved problems, for better focusing the situation, if possible.
- TC and Division meetings need more time than was available on this occasion even allowing these to start earlier and finish later would have helped.
- The organisation of TC meetings on 2 hours was not productive at all. You need 1 hour to present everybody and 1 hour to make the point of the situation. No work is possible. Werner Osterhaus organized his TC on a full afternoon (3.5 hours). You can work on 3.5 hours. It is a nonsense to travel through all the World just to meet 2 hours. Please keep the 1/2 day conference but organize the TC meetings longer.

- First day (Monday) should be all Conference Last day (Friday) should have proper finish with farewell party that evening. Division and TC meetings planned for the Saturday

Appendix D : Suggestions for Improved Experience

These are all the responses to Q17, "What are three things CIE can do to improve your experience at a quadrennial session?". Typographical errors and some syntax have been edited for clarity.

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- Choose a place which is more appropriate to the Congress (easier to attempt for most of participants , location to be more adapted to a Congress (sufficient meeting rooms, place to have lunch more adapted...))
 - tutorial talks increase of awareness of CIE better selling of CIE products/publication
 - Maintain specialized workshops Have posters and presented posters at the same place during all days of conference Ask posters authors to be next to their posters at special poster sessions
 - Location should be more central (not so long trips) accommodation costs should be less expensive
 - 1. Better schedule for TC and Division meetings 2. Two parallel sessions, not three with the same or even larger number of presented papers and posters. 3. Nicer venue
 - The place must not be miles from anywhere and like a green cage or prison. It should be near to a town an in an environment which is save enough to be able to go downtown by taxi, like in Beijing.
 - The Sun City website was appalling! There MUST be a range of accommodation to encourage students to attend. Do not locate the meeting in an isolated location.
 - More research presentations. The peer review should promote a more even standard on the content of the presentation. Higher demands not sales promotions as presentations.
 - presented poster organisation time for questions and presentation help new person to find a suitable TC and integrate TC meeting (according to their paper for example)
 - 1. extend the TC meeting would be better for who involve in multiple TCs and Divs. 2. mix the divs conference together 3. I would like to see Div. 4 and Div. 5 event mix together
 - Would prefer to have the sessions at a venue where all is not linked to a single venue. If it is at a venue with more options for accommodation and social events (on an individual basis) the overall experience may be enhanced.
 - I would not know because I am unable to attend these events.
 - As CB are aware this was generally considered an expensive meeting, so keeping the price down is priority number one. The venue lighting was poor, so considering CIE's expertise, this should be improved in future is possible (although evidently sometimes conference locations are limited). The food was somewhat limited. Of course it was buffet style, and had very limited or no seating perhaps providing seats, even informally, and lighter bites, such as sandwiches or salads, would be appreciated by delegates.
 - Better timekeeping, especially in the parallel sessions. Allow time to move between rooms between presentations. Strict timekeeping for presented posters.
 - More affordable. Publishing posters electronically, using scannable QR codes. Travel contractors responding to emails.
 - 1. A location that can be accessed by regular public transport from the airport. The Sun City

travel links were terrible and expensive. 2. After paying a full conference fee I would expect drinks at lunchtime to be free, not a payable extra. Water is fine. 3. A catering organiser who understands what vegetarian food is. It does not include ham, chicken or fish as these are not vegetables; it does include more than lettuce.

- I hope the free lunch time will be longer.
- Keep the cost down.
- poster sessions (see above) quality of conference (see above) TC: it is on voluntary basis. In practice: only the chair does all the work.
- Please select a conference venue where there is access to daylight in many of the conference rooms, or at least in those rooms where coffee and meals are served. No more caves, please. Please select a venue in an environment which allows attendees to experience the culture of the country in a natural way, not through artificial events in an artificial environment. Sun City was just awful in most respects.
- Not at a resort location include social events in registration fee
- Diminish the registration fee and going to less expensive locations
- Clarity in how to become a TC member. More interactive sessions Better clarity on past decisions
- More approachable (cost effective) location. More workshops.
- 1. Have fewer organized social events so that there is time to see people informally and to relax. This also will reduce the cost. 2. Return to opening each day with one, very good, 1 hour invited lecture from a really important speaker who can integrate and inspire. 3. Do not overbook the blocks. Allow 5 minutes at the transition for people to move about. Use a system to enforce this for all speakers don't rely on individual session chairs to do this on their own, as some lack the courage.
- Waive the attendance charges for members who chair TCs. Locate the session at a hotel or conference centre which provides a diverse range of local accommodation and dining facilities (unlike Sun City!) Run the main formal dinner/social event without the imposition of ear splitting 'musical entertainment' thereby allowing delegates to converse with each other..!
- 1) To allot more time and rooms for TC meetings 2) To allot more time for poster session 3) To introduce a new system to strictly review and select the papers for oral session
- 1. MORE SOCIAL EVENTS 2. MORE INVITED SPEAKERS 3. INTERESTING INVITED PAPER
- Choose locations that don't have a monopoly on accommodation so that there is more variety and availability. Make sure the social functions have sufficient budget to cover provision of alcohol for free for attendees for longer. Go back to the longer format this is the premier event for a global scientific organisation and shouldn't be shortened and rushed.
- Less presented posters
- Improve opening session. Improve award giving ceremony Improve introduction new new Board members (after Session I did not have all names of new Directors)
- 1 Clear indications of what is going on (subjects, persons, places) 2 A well readable program 3 Easier access to internet for participants
- The "experts" are almost ever the same. I would like to hear new ideas.

- 1. Tea and coffee breaks were very rushed on this occasion, not helped by the fact that most sessions over ran, and refreshments were cleared away quickly after the scheduled time so if you were late, you missed it! 2. It would be helpful to have one or two small meeting rooms available for ad hoc meetings. 3. The TC timetable should be published in advance, and not be changed during the session.
- reduce the registration fee i presented my work as oral speaker so that the listener learned something the whole session cost our company approx. 3000€ absolutely too much
- It is a non sense to be in a place and to have a lunch a noon without a chair. In the US, the accommodation during noon was poor. The banquets were good.
- Not sure !

Appendix E Additional Comments or Explanations

These are all the responses to Q18, "If you would like to explain any of your responses or if you have any comments to make at this time, please do so". Typographical errors and some syntax have been edited for clarity.

- Quality of sessions for oral presentation seems to be getting lower. Papers for oral presentation should be selected carefully and enough time for discussion should be provided.
- This conference was expensive, with no possibility to reduce the expenses because of the full week conference program and because it was located where no reduced accommodation was possible.
- the social events and also the hotel were too costly!
- The formal dinner was bizarre! Black everywhere! The entertainment (Nadine) was excellent but entirely unsuitable for a formal conference dinner. Equally the speeches were inappropriate for such an event - even if you could hear them. I think you need to remember that people come to these meetings to network and to hear good science. For this they need opportunities to socialise, somewhere to sit and talk - but in the tea/coffee areas there were no chairs!
- Services were fair value for money, but overall budget (including travel) was too high. There was no cheap choice for participant with low budget. It was a pity that prices were so high that acting president could not afford to stay on the venue.
- It's unfortunate that the conference was in such an isolated location within South Africa. For many CIE attendees, the opportunity to visit South Africa was very interesting. It would have been far better if the meeting was in or around a city where regular South Africans lived and worked. There were no opportunities to really learn about the modern culture of the country.
- We would all benefit from holding the formalities of the changeover of officers and the giving of awards at a plenary session, preferably at the opening of the Session. The organization in Beijing did this very well. It was a shambles in Sun City. I would like to see this include a moment of silence for those whose deaths we recognize (right now this happens in the GA only).
- This was my first CIE session but the format of having technical papers in the morning and TC/Division activities in the afternoon and social events in the evening was perfect and balanced. Otherwise it would be too long as it used to be in the past.
- Total cost too high. Only expensive hotels available. Therefore probably considerably fewer participants. Ridiculous that two hotels (not the most expensive ones but still expensive) served breakfast outside at a morning temperature down to 6 degrees centigrade. They should have arranged for electric (IR) or gas heaters. Each year they have these temperatures for at least a month: a shame.
- I would like to leave the conference with new ideas, suggestions, enrichment. This does not happen to me at the conferences of the CIE. In San Diego (2003), it was important for me to meet with Boynton in his department, but this event was out of the meeting of the CIE. The words of MacLeod and Boynton were very important to me.
- A lot of Chinese oral speakers did talk a very bad English, so that it seems that the most people don't understand what they are talking about.

– On a personal way, I think that the wish of the review of the CIE documents (TR and Standards) Avery 5 years like the CEN standardization is not viable. The time for contribution of the members is too low. I found some of the explanations of the invited speakers low quality. I went in Vienna in 2010 and I had some identical presentations.