

<u>池田リタさんからのメッセージ</u>

2012 年 IFTA シンガポール大会に向けて

Message from Ms. Rita Nazeer-Ikeda

Dear NTAA members,

My name is Rita and I am a Singaporean married to a Japanese. My family and I have made Japan our home for more than four years now but Singapore is always close to my heart. I am thus delighted to be informed that the 25th annual conference of International Federation of Technical Analysts will be held in Singapore from 11th to 13th October 2012.

Singapore is a vibrant city-state known its multi-ethnic population of mostly Chinese, Malays and Indians. Smaller populations of minorities also include the Eurasians and Arabs. Increasingly, however, it is becoming a globalized state with more and more immigrants coming from all over the world. Singapore is thus an interesting blend of Asian uniqueness with global perspectives. This heterogeneity, in my humble viewpoint, might interest our Japanese visitors who come from a country with a somewhat different cultural composition.

When you are in Singapore, it will be a huge pity not to savor the food of the different ethnic communities. Aside from the usual restaurants, you can find food centers in almost any corner of Singapore. These include the famous Newton Food Centre (http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/dining/restaurants/newton-food-centre.html) and Lau Pa Sat (http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/dining/restaurants/lau-pa-sat.html). If you have limited time to try the various dishes, these food centers are one-stop places with wide varieties of local food. Be sure, however, to check the prices of the dishes you are interested in prior to ordering. You would not want to be unpleasantly surprised by a huge bill at the end of your meal. If you would like something indoors and more comfortable, you might also opt for the buffet spreads at Grand Hyatt Hotel's Straits Kitchen (http://www.singapore.grand.hyattrestaurants.com/straitskitchen/) or Fairmont Hotel's Asian Market Café (http://www.asianmarketcafe.com.sg/outlet/home). These hotel restaurants are also known for their spread of Asian cuisine.



Apart from enjoying Singapore food, you might want to spend your time appreciating the various attractions of the city. Each of the ethnic groups has little districts as epicenters of their cultures. These include Chinatown (for the Chinese), Geylang Serai (for the Malays) and Little India (for the Indians). In these districts, just minutes away from the bustling city centre, you will be able to observe the cultural practices of the various ethnic groups at the heritage centers, places of worship or even just through the array of goods sold at the stretches of shops.

While the districts are manifestations of Singapore's Asian roots, the sprawling Marina Bay Sands (http://www.marinabaysands.com/) and Resorts World Sentosa (http://www.rwsentosa.com/) are the latest developments that boast the country's economic prosperity. From dining to shopping to entertainment (and even casinos), one will always find something to do here. For those of us who especially love shopping, then Orchard Road has more than enough for any shopaholic. With malls that stand side by side to each other, Orchard Road has a huge variety of both local and imported goods. If you have a day to spare, then you might want to start from one end of Orchard Road (for example from Forum the Shopping Mall) and make your way down towards the other end. However, if you only have a couple of hours, then the central of Orchard Road (which includes malls like Takashimaya and Paragon) might interest you.

There is just too much to do in Singapore that I have not been able to share in this short message. What I have done here, is just to highlight some of my favorite places and things to do that I miss while being away from home. I have not done justice to what Singapore has to offer and so I hope that you would be able to experience much of these on your own. It is my sincere wish that you would enjoy Singapore for its uniqueness and vibrancy. I also wish you success in your upcoming conference.

Warmest greetings,



Rita Nazeer-Ikeda ritazamzamah@rafflesian.com

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