

Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand

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As New Zealand's contribution to the 12th annual International Metropolis Conference in Melbourne, the Department of Labour, the University of Waikato and the Office of Ethnic Affairs are hosting a one-day forum at Te Papa in Wellington on Monday, 15 October 2007.



The themes of the forum are

- **New Zealand's immigration policy in an international context**
- **Immigration: Identity and innovation**

The annual International Metropolis Conference is widely recognised in academic, government and NGO circles as an important forum for sharing innovative ideas and best practices relating to research, policy and service delivery with reference to immigration and the social transformation of cities in more diverse societies.

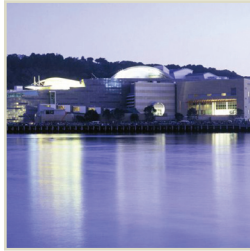
Between 8 and 12 October 2007, the 12th International Metropolis Conference will be held for the first time in the southern hemisphere. The host city is Melbourne, Australia, and the theme of the conference is "Migration, economic growth and social cohesion".

Opportunities for participants from the northern hemisphere, as well as the Asia-Pacific region, to experience the distinctive immigration contexts of countries that have a long history of policies to attract both settlers as well as temporary migrants are being provided before and after the main conference in Melbourne.

The organisers are encouraging participants in the Melbourne conference to come to the Wellington forum that will feature innovative aspects of immigration policy and settlement experience in a country that has the highest per capita rates of both immigration and emigration in the OECD.

Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand features several distinctive elements of society and culture in a very dynamic migration system. The indigenous Maori population, which comprises around 15 percent of the population, is quite ambivalent about large-scale immigration. They lost most of their lands and their sovereignty following the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi with the British Crown in 1840, and the subsequent massive influx of settlers from the United Kingdom and Europe. For some Maori, this raises concerns of further potential marginalisation as a result of new waves of settlers, especially settlers from very different cultural backgrounds.

Also, the neighbouring peoples from the eastern Pacific Islands have had very different access to New Zealand than to Australia, and their place in New Zealand's contemporary migration system is recognised in some distinctive immigration policy initiatives. These are



examined in the forum with reference to what are now well-developed transnational communities of Pasifika in New Zealand – communities that have a voice in New Zealand's parliament through a Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, and an associated policy Ministry.

The recent immigrants from countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East – increasingly important source countries of migrants for New Zealand following a major review of immigration policy in the mid-1980s – have different stories and experiences, and these are featured in voice, film and creative performance to demonstrate the diverse identities of contemporary New Zealand.

Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand is being held in Te Papa, the National Museum, home to a rich display of New Zealand's history as a 'country of immigration'.

There is no registration fee – this forum is being offered as a New Zealand contribution to the 12th International Metropolis Conference. However, we do need you to register for the event as entry is by registration only.

Please contact Raquel Achinelli at raquel.achinelli@dol.govt.nz to be put on the registration contact list or if you would like more information.

Nau mai, haere mai – we look forward to welcoming you on the Te Papa Marae on Monday, 15 October 2007.

For more information on the 12th International Metropolis Conference, please refer to www.metropolis2007.org

For more information on *Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand*, please refer to www.metropolis2007.org/plus.php.

Information on Te Papa and on accommodation in Wellington can be found at www.wellingtonnz.com



Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI

