

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE BRINGS BEST BRAINS TO BRISBANE

### About the congress

This biennial congress was originally held exclusively in the US but is now staged internationally. The Australian event was a merger of three different international computational intelligence conferences.

Everyday items such as washing machines, auto-focusing cameras and air-conditioners use computational intelligence. Leading Australian research has also applied this science to develop world-first air traffic control safety systems.

The event was attended by global leaders in this field including computer scientists, engineers, information technology professionals, educators and students. The programme incorporated tutorials, panel discussions, plenary presentations, technical talks and poster sessions.

**“It was an honour to bring so many international leaders in our field here to Brisbane. Holding the event in Brisbane increased the visibility of the good work we are doing here in Australia, really reinforcing our reputation globally.”**

General Chair  
Professor Hussein Abbass  
School of Engineering & IT  
University of New South Wales

### CONGRESS FACTS

**Name:**  
2012 IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence

**Attendance:**  
1300 delegates

**Venue:**  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)

**Dates:**  
10-15 June 2012

### Why Brisbane?

The bid to stage the congress was presented by the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC), in partnership with the Brisbane Marketing Convention Bureau. Organisers indicated Brisbane won due to being able to demonstrate the city's professionalism and commitment to deliver an outstanding event. They said the process from initial bid through to delivery was “exceptional”.

### The role played by the Brisbane Marketing Convention Bureau

The Brisbane City Conference and Accommodation Bid Fund, administered by the Convention Bureau, assisted with 14 delegate scholarships. These enabled international students, including a number from developing nations, to attend the congress. The Bid Fund receives contributions from the Convention Bureau, the BCEC, the hotel sector and key convention partners to enhance Brisbane's support for major international meetings.

In collaboration with a local university, the Convention Bureau also helped facilitate creative high-tech entertainment at the conference gala dinner. This provided the participating students and graduates with an invaluable world congress experience.

The Convention Bureau also provided Brisbane Visitor Guides for delegate satchels.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- \* World's largest technical event in computational intelligence
- \* 90% international attendance, with delegates from more than 75 countries
- \* First time Australia selected to host the event
- \* A world-first cognitive study undertaken at congress

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### Benefits for Brisbane

The local Brisbane community was a beneficiary of the congress being held in Australia. For the first time in the event's history, a plenary session was open to attendance by the general public, providing insights into the intriguing science of computational intelligence.

More than 30 students from local Brisbane universities including QUT, Griffith and The University of Queensland were given free access to attend sessions in exchange for volunteering their services to assist with congress coordination.

Brisbane Marketing Convention Bureau director Annabel Sullivan said: "This event was significant for Brisbane on so many levels. From an economic impact perspective, it was estimated at \$4.8 million. It also enabled the broader Brisbane community and our city's students to be exposed to the world's leading experts in this very dynamic field. We were delighted to play our part in assisting to make this very successful event happen in our city."

### Australian congress has a Go

Computer-based competitions were held during the congress, the most spectacular being live hosted competitions of Go, the global contest based on the ancient Asian board game. Some of the world's top professional Go players participated, including several from Taiwan whose travel expenses were sponsored by the Brisbane City Conference and Accommodation Bid Fund.

The Go competition also featured a world-first cognitive study that aimed to better understand differences of brain activities between the amateur and professional Go players.

### A showcase of Australian culture

The congress opened with an indigenous "Welcome to Country" presentation.

The gala banquet at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre included performances by staff, student and graduates from Griffith University, as well as professional entertainers. Performances included an electronic music ensemble from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, which was followed by the Jaran Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Company. A live coding audio-visual presentation and digital art show interacted with an opera singer. The Stringybark Bush Band then performed lively Australian folk music and had delegates up dancing the night away.



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