

## **Note of Accommodation & Local Transport for 19<sup>th</sup> Interspeech 2018:**

### **VENUE:**

*HICC is the first state-of-the-art convention centre of its kind in South Asia. It compares with the best in the world in infrastructure, technology and service. It has an internal hall measuring 6,480 square meters, which can be partitioned into six smaller halls. The pre-function foyer exceeds 6,400 square meters in area. HICC has been awarded the 'Best Convention Centre' National Tourism Award for three years in a row by Incredible India. HICC is a Green Globe certified convention centre.*

*The Novotel Convention Centre hotel adjacent to HICC is a 5-star hotel with 287 rooms, built to suit the requirements of the discerning business traveller.*

*A number of Hotels rooms across all categories are being blocked to guarantee accommodation for Interspeech participants. All official congress hotels will be within 5 km of the HICC. All Interspeech participants staying at the official congress hotels can avail free shuttle service at fixed timings from their hotels to the HICC and back. Due to the fact that the venue is located in the North Western end of Hyderabad, special care has been taken in selecting hotels with an easy reach of the venue by shuttles. The list of official Hotels will be available on the Interspeech website in the new year with a facility for Participants to avail of the specially negotiated rates by making their reservations online*

*While the Interspeech designated hotels are peppered within a 5 km radius around the conference venue with convenient shuttles at pre-designated hours for those who prefer the road not taken, there are several older, iconic hotels in the city centre. Transportation to HICC would have to be by taxi though, at one's own expense.*

### **AIRPORT TRANSFERS:**

***Help Desk at Airport:*** *Once participants land and collect their baggage at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, Hyderabad there will be a Congress Help Desk just before the International/Domestic exit gate of the Airport. The desk will have the Congress logo for easy identification. Staff will manage the desk round the clock and they will be wearing white T-shirts with Congress logo on the front. All participants can approach the desk and seek assistance for their transfers in any one of the below ways:*

***Pre-booked transfers by Hotels:*** *All hotels offer this facility at a charge. In the weeks preceding the Congress, there will be a facility for participants to opt for airport transfers and the official hotels will be informed of this. For those participants who prefer this mode, the staff at the Help desk will guide them to the Hotel staff outside the exit gate.*

### **Radio Taxis from the airport to the official hotels:**

*There are several Radio Taxis in the ground floor. The taxis are clean, air-conditioned, equipped with tamper-proof meters and GPS-monitored, making them safe for tourists. A taxi ride to the Congress hotels costs about Indian Rupees 900 – 1100, depending on the distance to the hotel. Additional night charges of 25% is applicable between 11 pm-5 am. Staff at the Help Desk will guide participants to the taxi stand.*

**Transport from Official Congress Hotels to HICC (Congress Venue):**

*Coach transportation is available on all Congress days (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 2018) from all official hotels to the Congress venue and back. The coach schedule with detailed timings for the complete duration of the congress will be distributed onsite along with the Congress kit.*

**Transportation within the City**

*Public transport comprises transport buses and metro railways to reach suburbs. Buses ply across the twin cities frequently. Buses are well connected to all parts of the city. The metro trains also connect most parts of the city and are fast. However for first time visitors, it is recommended to use the following modes, preferably in the below order.*

**Private Taxis:** *Hotel front desks will usually arrange reliable taxis but will require advance notice in order to do so. Taxis are willing to wait at intermediate stops for a nominal charge. It is best to elaborate on the places you wish to visit, the total time you wish to spend sight seeing and the total number of passengers. A taxi can then be booked for a fixed rate.*

**Radio Taxis:** *These services operate modern fleets with reliable drivers and government approved tariffs. Available on prior booking, they are clean, air-conditioned, equipped with tamper-proof meters and GPS-monitored, making them safe for tourists. If booking by mobile phone, you will receive an SMS with the driver's name, mobile number and car number 30 minutes before scheduled departure. Since charges vary with distance, the estimated fare can be clarified with a customer care executive prior to travel. 25% night surcharge on the total fare is applicable between 11 PM to 5 AM.*

- *Ola Cabs +91 40 3355 3355*
- *Easy Cabs +91 40 4343 4343*
- *Meru Cabs +91 40 4422 4422*
- *Uber Cabs +91 40 39563956*

*It is recommended to download the App for booking cabs.*

**Auto Rickshaws:** *Three-wheeled auto rickshaws or autos are a convenient way to travel within the city. They cost half the fare of a taxi, but are more expensive than taking a bus. Usually autos are metered, but it is good to fix the fare as they literally take you for a ride. The ubiquitous three-wheelers can be found clustered together at auto stands around the city. Hailing an auto is simply done by flagging down an empty one as it whizzes merrily past.*