

*Access:* Kyoto is located in the center of Japan. The closest international airport is Kansai International Airport (KIX), just over one hour away from Kyoto. By the JR “Haruka” Express train it takes 75 minutes (¥2,980) to reach the JR Kyoto Station, by Limousine Bus 95 minutes (¥2,300), and by Shuttle Taxi 95 minutes (¥3,000). From Tokyo it takes 2 hours 15 minutes by Shinkansen (¥13,220).

*Points of Interest:* Kyoto was the capital of Japan for 1200 years, and its history and heritage live on in the modern city, where 17 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites are situated with more than 2000 beautiful temples, shrines, and historical sites. It is a living museum of Japanese culture and tradition. Conference attendees may experience the riches of Kyoto culture through the Way of Tea (Tea Ceremony), kimono wearing, and more. Kyoto traditional crafts are also renowned as the products of a fine tradition. The best artisans and craftsmen of the City developed the schools of Kiyomizu ware ceramics, Yuzen dyeing and Nishijin weaving of kimono fabrics, woodblock prints, hand made paper, bamboo crafts, cloisonné, Damascene, dolls, folding fans, sake and other handiworks. Kyoto is also the home of electronics companies such as Omron, Kyocera and Nintedo. Many electronics and souvenir shops sell products tax free to travelers bearing a passport from outside Japan. Eating places range from cheap noodle bars and *kissaten* (coffee shops) where a satisfying meal costs just a few hundred yen, to more extravagant restaurants serving the most formal cuisine. Hot summers make *yuka* terraces over the Kamo River a refreshing way to enjoy the evening. Japan is famous for its safety, and conference-goers can stroll in the compact city during their free time. Subway stations are not only numbered in order, but also have signs in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean. Stops are announced in Japanese and English on the train. The Raku Buses painted in distinct designs operate on the three most popular tourist routes. They have clear signage in English, Korean, Chinese and Japanese and feature enhanced onboard announcements in English. Day trips to Nara and Otsu, older ancient capitals, also depart from Kyoto. For further information, see the following sites:

Kyoto Visitor’s Guide: <http://www.kyotoguide.com>

Kyoto City Transport Department:

<http://www.city.kyoto.jp/koho/eng/access/index.html>

Downloadable maps and guides of Kyoto: <http://hellokcb.or.jp/eng/>