



Logistics Association of Australia Ltd

POSTCARD FROM CHICAGO – SNAPSHOT OF THE CLM

By LMA International Study Award Winner Glenn Baird

Chicago temperatures in October are typically close to Melbourne winters.

Fortunately for me, and the 6199 other delegates at the Council of Management (CLM) Conference trekking between conference sessions and hotels, October this year was unseasonably warm, with clear skies.

Queues for the CLM Conference formed well before the registration desk opened on Sunday morning. The greatest challenges were:

- Getting good seats for the opening session on Sunday evening with Colonel Colin Powell (ret.) as keynote speaker. This was solved by the live video hook-up between the two hotel ballrooms required to house the 6200 attendees
- Deciding which of the 40-50 available sessions every 1.5 hours to attend

The quality of the speakers and available topics was outstanding. It is hard to explain the diversity of topics and focal points available - I guess it is why the conference program and session abstracts runs to about 100 pages. The most direct route from the hotels was not a common pedestrian path for the local Chicagoans.

Amusingly, though, every 1.5 hours during the conference it went from empty to having between - 1000 and 3000 people cutting a furious pace to swap hotels.

Information gained during the conference sessions can only be topped by the ability to make contact with and discuss common invaluable logistics issues with international as well as Amercian (sic) logisticians.

The overseas representation at the conference was significantly larger than expected and I, with National LMA President **David Doherty**, met with several Asian logistics professionals over lunch during the conference.

The CLM conference was a fantastic experience. CLM staff and other delegates gave me a warm welcome and helped to maximise the benefit of my time in Chicago.

I look forward to sharing some of the learnings and insights gained at the conference and the subsequent visits to companies such as Sears Roebuck, McCain Foods, Nestle and Black & Decker.

My thanks to *LMA International Study Award* sponsors Qantas and CHEP, as well as the LMA, for the opportunity to attend the conference and complete a study tour.

I cannot encourage each of enough to submit a paper for the 1998 award. It is an incredible opportunity to develop professional logistics skills and build relationships with overseas colleagues.

- *The LMA International Study Award*, sponsored by Qantas and CHEP Australia, is open to members of the LMA each year.

Valued at \$10,000, the winner receives an airline flight to the United States for attendance at the the (sic) Council of Logistics Management Conference and the opportunity to conduct a personal study tour while overseas. Anyone interested in entering the award can contact the LMA secretariat, tel: (02) 9649 1757, fax: (02) 9649 3794.