

Dear Sir / Madam,

I'm writing to apply for the 2018 New Zealand Study Tour Award. My name is Tabitha Yeoh and I am a 22-year-old, Malaysian-Chinese young professional who was raised in Auckland, before moving to Melbourne to attend university and begin my professional career. I'm currently a second-year Graduate Transport Planner at Jacobs in their Melbourne office.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to attend this year's IPENZ Transportation Group Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand. In the sections below, I provide my response to each of the three selection criteria.

1. Outline the knowledge that you will focus on acquiring from attending the conference

This year's conference topic is "Then.Now.Tomorrow". While I'm interested in learning about 'the past', and also what other transport professionals are doing in 'the present', I'm especially keen to discover and learn from current industry experts presenting at the IPENZ conference on how they visualise 'the future', as well as any advice they can provide to young transport planners like myself on ensuring that we shape cities into becoming more efficient, environmentally responsible and happy places to live. If chosen to attend the conference, I'll focus on four areas of knowledge:

- ***Transport planning and urbanism***

Since completing a Melbourne University Bachelor of Environments Degree, majoring in Urban Planning and Design, I've developed passions in both transport and urbanism. Transport is often referred to as the 'bones' of a city, and therefore directly influences land use type, the way a city looks, and the way we experience and move through a city. I strongly believe that we need to improve the integration of transport planning and urban planning so that we can transform transport systems so that they provide access to areas where we have urban activity, i.e. from residential areas to economic or recreational centres, and also support this activity; creating lively, human-scale streets.

The four presentations which I'd like to attend are "Movement and Place: the ANZ experience", "Street hierarchy & power of design", "Tactical urbanism and Hobart's main streets" and "Transport challenges in a linear city" [plenary session]. I'm interested in these presentations because I believe

they will help me to understand where we are at and where we want to be in terms of fostering a closer relationship between transport planning and urban planning from a philosophical (framework) perspective, as well as a practical (design) perspective.

- ***Public transport***

Another key area of knowledge I'd like to focus on at the IPENZ conference is public transport. In my role so far, I've been fortunate to provide assistance on public transport focused projects including: pedestrian modelling at major inner city railway stations in Melbourne, assessing the merit of new tram routes proposed in the draft Fishermans Bend Framework, and developing a transport strategy for Melbourne's south-east region (which includes determining how and which future transport projects should be prioritised for funding and delivery).

My idea of the ultimate public transport system is one that is smart, efficient and can be used by every person, regardless of their gender, age, disability, income, place of residence or place of work. In Victoria's case, more action is required in making public transport use and investment more attractive than private transport. There are two key presentations, which I'm keen on attending. The first is "Going multi-modal" – I'd like to learn more about the NZTA's plan to change the 'status quo' by shifting towards creating a 'one-connected transport system' and 'people-centred services'. The second presentation is a "Right to the city: An ex-ante justice test for public transport investment" – I want to gain insight into the fairness of how we are currently assessing transport investment, and how we can restructure the economics assessment to highlight more of the benefits of public transport.

- ***Cycling***

I want to help build tomorrow's transport network into one that prioritises improving the well-being of our society and natural environment. I'm already seeing Melbourne and other cities world-wide aspiring towards Copenhagen and Portland's widespread, well-connected cycling infrastructure and bicycle-friendly cultures. At the conference, I'm especially eager to learn from the "Auckland's Cycling Revolution – Evolution Lessons Learnt" and "The Quarryman's Trail Cycleway Story" presentations. I'm most interested to hear about New Zealand's cycling success stories involving: planning and building under the Auckland Urban Cycleways Programme as a way to encourage mode shift away from cars, dealing with generally hilly landscapes (compared to Melbourne), and earthquake prone environments.

- ***Smart transport, smart travel***

The fourth area of knowledge which I'd like to learn more about is what the future holds and what the implications will be on planning future transport infrastructure and travel behaviour. As a young transport planner, I want to be in a position where I'm aware, knowledgeable and prepared to plan for future, major disruptors that are expected to or are already part of the transport system in cities, for instance automation (AVs), transport app development and big data. There are three presentations which I'd like to go to in order to have a greater understanding of smart transport and smart travel. "Get the smarts on Smart Travel", "Alligators, jazz, shared mobility and TDM" will both discuss transport from the commuter's perspective and provide innovative case studies on personalised travel information, ride-sharing and changing travel behaviour. And finally, "Transport Planning in a Technology Ecosystem" will cover topics on how we can embrace technological development, enable change in transport, and engage citizens during this transformation.

2. Outline the potential application of this knowledge to your current role

In my role as a Graduate Transport Planner at Jacobs, I support my team in helping to deliver feasibility, business case and transport strategy development type of projects encompassing road, public transport and active transport. I've gained skills in both transport planning and modelling. I've also had some exposure to traffic engineering concepts.

The four topics that I want to focus on if chosen to attend the IPENZ conference will be conceptually and practically useful to my current role. At the conference, I'm expecting to hear and speak to some very experienced, knowledgeable and inspiring people who will have a variety of opinions on transport. I believe that the knowledge I'll gain from this conference will help to form more sound opinions and insight on my role and values as a transport planner, and the responsibilities this role should take on into the future. From a practical perspective, I want to improve the integration of transport and land use across more projects that my team are commissioned to undertake, and relaying the importance of this relationship to clients. Acquiring more knowledge based on leading case studies relating to implementing good public transport, cycling infrastructure and smarter transport, will assist me in helping to produce more considered project deliverables that contribute to shaping a balanced, efficient, environmentally sustainable, user-oriented transport network.

Furthermore, I'd also like to impart the knowledge I'll take away from this conference on my team. I really value philosophical transport discussions, and would like to have more of these at the

workplace in my day-to-day role, i.e. 'start the conversation', in addition to discussing project related tasks.

3. Outline how you will enhance the AITPM / IPENZ relationship while at the conference

I believe that I'll be able to enhance the relationship between AITPM and IPENZ if selected to attend the conference through:

- **Writing an article for the AITPM newsletter** within two months of attending the conference. I'll also take lots of photos and videos and incorporate them into my article;
- **Networking** with fellow AITPM members, and IPENZ members who are also attending the conference. Last year, I was very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to meet so many other professionals working in the transport industry, particularly young women similar to myself, at the 2017 AITPM conference (I was awarded a Women in Transport subsidised ticket). I found that being able to discuss ideas with people I met after presentations, plenary sessions, at meals, social drinks, and 'connecting' via social media after the conference, to be extremely rewarding and beneficial for my career development. I'll be delighted, as a representative of AITPM to help **promote the July 2018 AITPM Conference** that will be held in Perth, through having conversations with IPENZ members that I'll meet at this conference and by sharing my personal experiences; and
- **Posting on social media** about my conference experience (live at the conference and post conference). I'll use avenues such as LinkedIn (as an AITPM Group member), Facebook and Twitter, and use hashtags such as #IPENZ18 to raise more awareness about the AITPM / IPENZ relationship online.

I hope that the above responses demonstrate my keen interest in broadening my professional knowledge and experience within the traffic and transport industry, as well as others', through attending the 2018 IPENZ Transportation Group Conference, and commitment to enhancing AITPM's relationship with IPENZ.

I would be most grateful to be given this opportunity. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Tabitha Yeoh