



TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE



10 September 2008

Dear Committee Members and Guests:

On behalf of our Group EFACEC, we would like to invite you to attend the Fall 2008 Meeting of the IEEE/PES Transformers Committee during 5-9 October, and to know the pleasure and wonders of Portugal. Your hosts, Group EFACEC and my wife Gabriele and I, look forward to your visit.

Our meeting will take place at the newly renovated Porto Palácio Hotel, located in the City of Porto (1269 Avenida Boavista), and is a convenient location within easy reach of shops, restaurants and entertainment. Although the Palácio Hotel is likely sold-out at this time, there are several other hotels within easy walking distance. More details are available at the Transformers Committee website (www.transformerscommittee.org).

Porto is the second largest city in Portugal and is served by Aeroporto Francisco Sá Carneiro (airport code "OPO"). The Palácio Hotel is 20-25 minutes from the airport and is best served by public taxi. The taxi fare between the airport and hotel is approx. €20. Although the Porto Airport has many direct flights from other locations in Europe and the United States (generally from the Newark Airport), some people find it convenient to fly directly into Lisbon ("LIS") and then connect to Porto. Porto is located about 320 kilometers (200 miles) from Lisbon, and is connected by a modern highway. Driving time from Lisbon to Porto is 3 hours. There is also train transportation available from Lisbon to Porto, with a traveling time of 2-1/2 hours (www.cp.pt). As a service to you, EFACEC will have people available at the Palácio Hotel to assist with local issues, suggest restaurants, etc.: in the hotel lobby on Saturday afternoon (Oct 4), and in the meeting area Sunday afternoon (Oct 5) and all day Monday (Oct 6).

Portugal is a member of the European Community; therefore no visa is necessary for U.S. citizens. The official currency is the Euro, and the power supply is 240 VAC and 50 Hz. You will need an adaptor to plug your devices into power outlets as the plug has a different physical configuration.

The weather in early October is pleasant. Being near the seashore, we might experience some occasional rain that should clear away in hours. Temperatures range from an average high of 22°C (71°F), to an average low of 12°C (54°F). At night it might get a bit cool, so a sweater or a light jacket are a good idea. The dress at the meeting is business casual as usual, but dress at the Sunday Reception and the Wednesday Dinner Social is slightly more formal. A jacket or nice sweater would be appropriate at those events.

For the companions we have selected different tours that will be surely enjoyable -- such as visiting beautiful cities like Guimarães & Braga, which are north of Porto, and Aveiro, which is south of Porto. We also suggest you consider some time to explore the City of Porto, especially the old city center and the banks of the Douro river, which are full with nice restaurants and cafes. Especially interesting is an evening walk "at the other side of the river", in the Cais da Gaia area where all of the Porto Wine cellars and warehouses are located. The view across the river, with the old facades of historical buildings is certainly an old European city spectacle.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Use the on-line registration system to register for all tours and events. The on-line registration system can be accessed at www.transformerscommittee.org. Register on-line with a credit card by Friday, 19 September to receive the US\$50 early registration discount. The on-line registration system will be disabled on Tuesday, 30 September to print name badges and to finalize counts. Our goal for this meeting is to get EVERYONE registered in advance for the meeting. Note that the cost for walk-up registration for the meetings at the hotel is substantially higher than registering on-line in advance.

www.transformerscommittee.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, 5 October. For those who wish to get a look at our wonderful city of Porto, we will take a tour of the highlights of the town. Note the time of departure and return on the Meeting Schedule. Later on Sunday there will be a gala Welcome Reception in the ballroom of the Palácio Hotel. This will be your first chance to sample some of the unique tastes of Portugal, while reacquainting with friends.
NOTE THE GOLF EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Companion Tours. There are two day-tours planned for the spouses/companions. On Monday, 6 October, we will visit the City of Guimarães, considered the "Birthplace of Portugal", and also the cosmopolitan City of Braga. On Tuesday, 7 October, we will take a one-hour excursion to the town of Aveiro, often called the "Venice of Portugal". Each of the cities is a MUST SEE of Northern Portugal.
NOTE THE EXCHANGE OF DATES OF THESE TOURS.

Luncheons at the Palacio Hotel. On Monday, 6 October, there will be a special luncheon sponsored by the Standards Subcommittee. There will be an interesting comparison of the IEEE/ANSI and IEC transformer standards. For lunch on Tuesday, 7 October, Mr. António Sá da Costa, a professor at the Technical University of Lisbon, and President of the Portuguese Renewable Energy Association, will entertain us with an interesting presentation on wind power and other renewables.

Wednesday, 8 October. We at EFACEC are very excited about this event. We promise you a great time at the social reception with a variety of Port wine tastings followed by a Portuguese dinner. At the Taylor's Restaurant, located at their cellar and warehouse, you will experience a breathtaking view of the Douro River and the old city facades. Transportation will be provided from the Palacio Hotel.

Thursday, 9 October. After the General Session meeting, there will be a tour of our EFACEC Transformer Facility, located in Arroiteia, about 30 minutes away from the Palacio Hotel. Transportation will be provided. **NOTE THE REN SUBSTATION TOUR HAS BEEN CANCELED.**

Friday, 10 October. For those who wish to stay longer in Portugal, we will have a unique tour of the heartland of Portugal, the "Rio Douro Valley Region". This is a once in a lifetime scenic tour of this region and World Heritage Landscape, which reveals the secrets of the port wine producers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Along with this Invitation Letter, the following information comprises Meeting Invitation Package.

Meeting Registration Form. This document is primarily used for those who do not have access to the Internet or need to pay by paper check or money order. It also makes a good guide to review the fees before you begin the on-line registration process. On-line registration is encouraged.

Detailed Meeting Schedule. Note that to suit our local environment, the schedule each day has been "shifted" by one hour. Meetings and tours will start and end one hour later than usual. An updated schedule will be posted on the committee's website approximately one week before the meeting.

Information Flyers:

- Sunday Porto City Tour
- Monday & Tuesday Companion Tours
- Wednesday Dinner Social at Taylor's
- Friday Tour of Rio Douro Valley Area
- Tours of EFACEC and REN Substation
- Technical Presentations

Once again, we would like to invite you to Portugal and sincerely hope you enjoy your time with us, making this trip a very memorable one. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Tânia Fernandes at +351 22 9562366 or <tan.fernandes@efacec.pt>.

Artur Fuchs

Host, Fall 2008 Meeting
EFACEC Group