

CATE Conference, China 2007

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I attended the CATE Conference that was held in China, in October 2007. The conference fee is very high (\$700). That's why as an international conference organized by an international organization, there were few attendees. If you lower the registration fee, more people will be interested in attending the conference and you will even make more profit. You should also give things to attendees so that they look forward to coming to the conference. Nowadays there are too many conferences to choose from and you should offer attendees something that other conferences do not. Since the conference is sponsored by all of those people, universities and organization, I wonder what conference sponsorship means and how it is reflected in the conference quality?!

For example, I attend the National Educational computing Conference (NECC) in the States and I do not pay more than \$140. NECC is attended by 13,000 - 14,000 attendees. It has an exhibit in which about 800 companies participate. I collect books, CD's tote bags, stationary and above all presentations by the exhibitors that are worth more than what I pay. In addition to more than 100 e-mail stations and 400 well-selected presentations. NECC gives free breakfast to all attendees every morning and a free conference dinner to all and a special dinner to international attendees.

Your conference is nothing compared to NECC. It seems to me that the purpose of your conference is to collect as much money as possible from participants. You sell the proceedings whether CD or book at a very high price, even for presenters who are the authors of the papers in the proceeding.

You did not take the time and effort to put signs outside to direct attendees to the location of the conference registration and lecture rooms knowing that the hotel staff do not know English and if you go to the main building they do not even know that there is a conference.

When I checked at the hotel and told them about the conference, they said: which conference?? We never heard of it. They did not have information about my hotel reservation and I did not receive any confirmation number from you to show the hotel that I booked through the conference.

I gave my presentation in Room 5 and the room was too small for people who were interested in attending our session. Dr Vladimir kept getting chairs from outside. It is not his job to do that. I think a hotel is not the right place for holding conferences.

When conferences book hotels for attendees, they usually give attendees special room rates, i.e. reduced room rates. I found out that you charged me an extra \$5 on top of the hotel's actual room rate. The hotel also gave a 50% discount off the room rate because of the Chinese National Day. This means that you have kept this 50% of the room rate as an additional profit from all of those naive attendees.

I also felt that handing me a paper file with the conference program and few papers inside was insulting to me as a presenter who covered half the globe to attend the conference. How much do tote bags in China cost? 10 Yuan?? Your file did not even have a pen or even a blank sheet of paper for us to use.

I wonder how much time preparing a CD with pre-formatted article would take and why the Proceedings CD was not ready although we

sent our article way before the conference. Why isn't the proceedings book ready?? Are we going to get them??

This is the first time I get a conference program without the paper abstracts. Conferences usually print the abstracts or at least post them online. A paper title is not enough to tell what a paper is about, especially when the speaker's English is so poor in terms of pronunciation and we do not understand anything.

Isn't it shameful for a technology conference to have one laptop for attendees to check their e-mail, placed at the edge of the registration table??