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### Web Site

For latest information about IRSE events, news and how to become a member, visit [www.irse.org](http://www.irse.org). We welcome all those who are interested or involved in the fields of railway control systems, communications, data management or systems engineering.

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This month we open for bookings for the IRSE's annual Convention, taking place this year in the Dallas/Fort Worth area of the USA. Information about the event featured in the November 2016 edition of IRSE NEWS, and you can find out more on the Convention page of the IRSE website (under the **Events** tab).

Regular delegates to our Conventions will need no persuading of the incredible value that they offer but if you have not attended one before (or have not done so for several years), may I encourage you to seriously consider participating this year. Conventions offer an unrivalled combination of technical papers and visits to see other countries' systems, access to world-leading experts and companies, and above all, the opportunity to network with professionals from around the world.

Each year we offer a number of bursaries to younger members of the IRSE, to enable them to attend when otherwise they might not be able to. Twelve of them participated in last year's Convention, and each came back enthused about what they had seen and experienced. We received many powerful testimonies from them as to the value they derived.

One of them, Emylia from Malaysia, wrote "My attendance at this Convention has improved my technical skills and knowledge of railway signalling. I have learned many new things and made many new friends. I have been able to exchange experiences, ideas and information with IRSE members from other countries. I was inspired by their experiences in railway engineering, and I am looking forward to meeting them again at next year's Convention. This has been a great opportunity for me to learn and spread knowledge with other colleagues in Malaysia."

I encourage you to make 2017 the year that you attend the IRSE Convention. And if your employer needs convincing of the benefits of sending you, get him or her to take a look at the articles in the December 2016 edition of IRSE NEWS and why not put the case for attending in writing as well (see <http://bit.ly/2j3b7X9>).

**Francis How, Chief Executive**



Front Cover: International freight train entering the north portal of the Lötschberg Base Tunnel. The renewal of control systems in the tunnel is the subject of our article on p8.  
*Photo BLS Railway.*

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