



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

22 May 2023






ENGLISH ONLY

THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR EAST, SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 5 – 8 September 2023

Information Note for Participants

QUICK LINKS (Control + click on icons for web page to directly access text in document)

 <p>Visa Information (page 8)</p>
 <p>Meeting Documents (page 2)</p>
 <p>Hotel Information (page 12)</p>
 <p>Weather Information (page 9)</p>
 <p>Currency Information (page 9)</p>

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING.....	2
2. VENUE.....	2
ANNEX A - MAP OF THE AREA	11
3. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON.....	2
5. DOCUMENTS.....	2
6. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO SEOUL CITY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO THE HOTEL FROM THE MAIN AIRPORTS`	2
7. VISA INFORMATION	8
8. HOTEL INFORMATION	8
ANNEX B - ACCOMMODATION RESERVATION FORM	12
9. PAYMENT OF DSA	8
10. GENERAL INFORMATION.....	9
ANNEX C - ATTRACTIONS	13

1. Opening

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia will be held from **5 to 8 September 2023 at the Seoul Olympic Parktel, Seoul, Republic of Korea**. The registration of participants will start at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will be opened at **9:00 a.m.** on Monday, 5 September 2023. All participants are expected to be seated at the meeting venue by 8:50 a.m. for the start of the opening ceremony.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

The Seoul Olympic Parktel

(05540) 448 Olympic-ro, Songpa-gu, Seoul (Bangi-dong)

Phone Number: +82-2-410-2114

Website: <https://www.parktel.co.kr/main/main.do?language=en#none>

A map of the area is available in Annex A.

3. Local Contact Person

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is organizing the logistics for this meeting in partnership with a local organizer, the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK).

For any urgent matters upon your arrival in Seoul, kindly contact: Dr. Youngik Yang,
E-mail: yiy@mabik.re.kr Tel: +82-10-6826-0225 Fax: +82-41-950-0751.

4. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be conducted in English.

5. Documents

Participants are reminded to bring their own copies of the documents for the meeting as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. Meeting documents will be available on the Secretariat's website: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2023-03>

6. General information on access to Seoul city, Republic of Korea and to the hotel from the main airports

There are two airports servicing Seoul: Incheon International Airport (ICN/RKSI) (about 49 km from the city centre) and Gimpo International Airport (SEL/RKSS) (about 17 km from the city centre).

Please note that the local organizer will **not** provide airport pick-up services, and therefore all participants must arrange their own transfer to hotels. The information provided below is for the participants who will stay at the **Olympic Parktel** as recommended by the local organizer, which is also the meeting venue.

From Incheon Airport to the Olympic Parktel:

Taxi

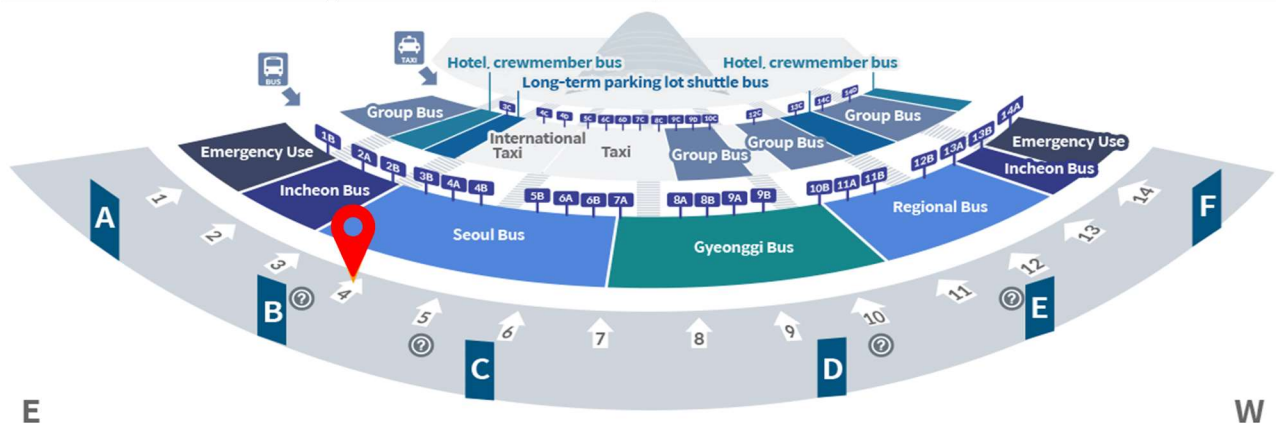
Taxis for international visitors are available 365 days per year. The fare is approximately 75,000 KRW with additional charges depending on traffic conditions. The journey to the hotel takes approximately 100 minutes.

Airport Limousine Bus from Incheon International Airport

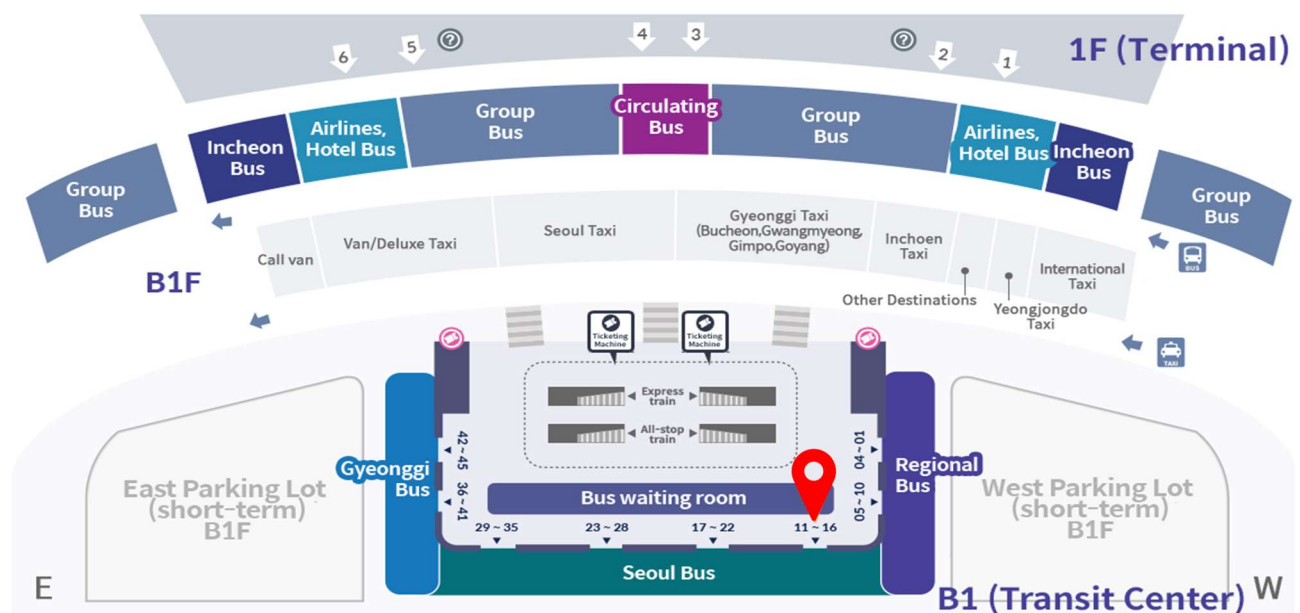
From Incheon International Airport, you may take a bus No. 6006. The bus stop is located at section 4A from the Incheon International Airport Terminal 1, and section 14 from the Incheon International Airport Terminal 2. You may get off at the Mongchontoseong station. Upon exiting the station, kindly consult the map and follow the signage towards Olympic Parktel, which is approximately 700 meters away.

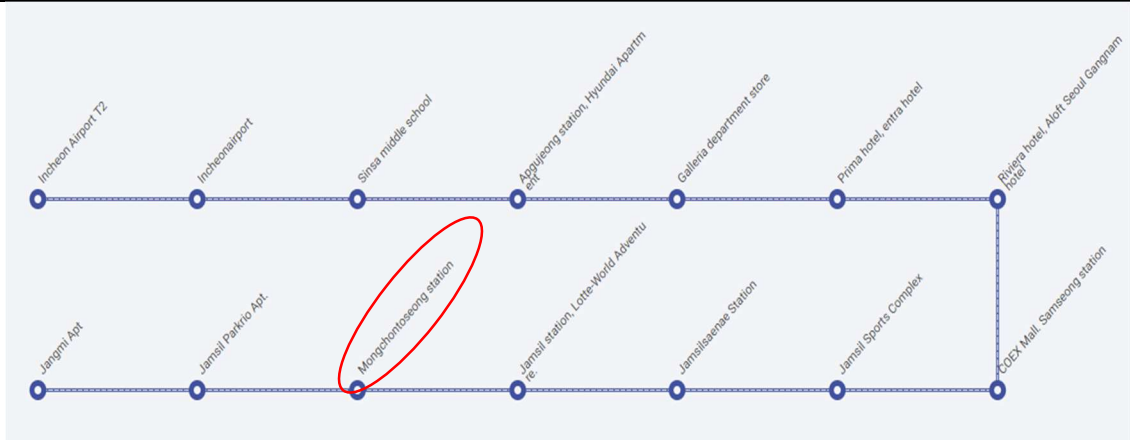
The journey from the airport to the venue will take about 120~140 minutes depending on traffic condition. The fare is 17,000 KRW.

Incheon International Airport Terminal #1 Bus Stop



Incheon International Airport Terminal #2 Bus Stop



Bus Type	Korean Air Limousine Bus #6006 (Incheon Airport Station – Mongchontoseong station)																	
Bus Route																		
Departure time: Incheon international airport (1 Terminal) - (to Mongchontoseong station)																		
Hour	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Min.	15	00 30	10 50	20		30	15 50	30	05 45		40	30	15 55	35	10		15	10
Departure time: Incheon international airport (2 Terminal) – (to Mongchontoseong station)																		
Hour	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Min.	55	40	10 50	30	00		10 55	30	10 45	25		20	10 55	35	15 50		55	50
Departure time: Mongchontoseong station – to Incheon international airport (2 Terminal)																		
Hour	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Min.	33	03 33	03 33		20	05 35	15 50	15		15	00 40	15 55	35		45		23	

From Mongchontoseong Station to Olympic Parktel



Subway (The Airport Railroad)

From the airport, take the Airport Railroad in the direction of Gimpo International Airport. Transfer at Gimpo International Airport to Subway Line 9 in the direction of Olympic Park Station. Disembark at Hanseong Baekje Station. The Olympic Parktel is about a 15-minute walk from the station.

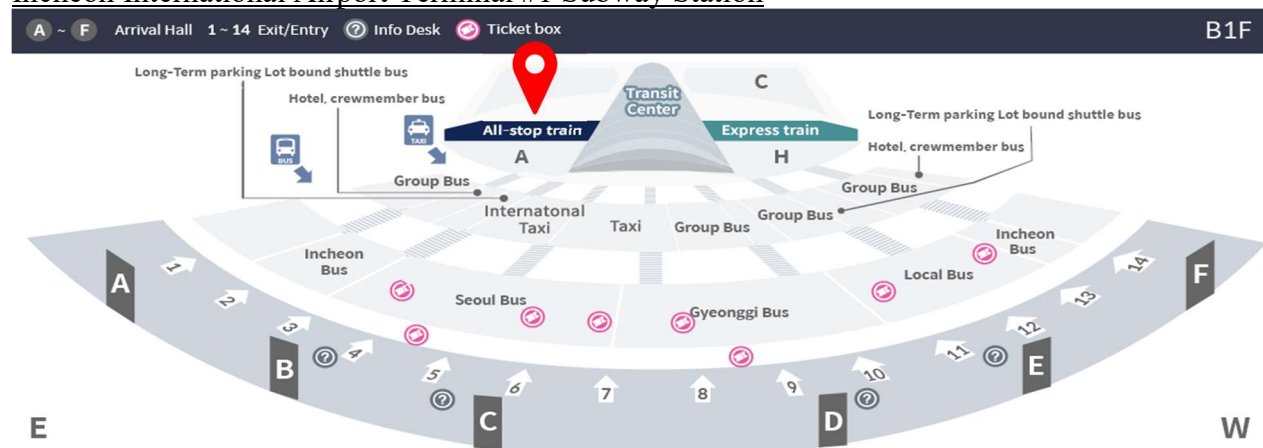
Please note that Subway Line 9 has two modes. One is an express train that selectively stops, and the other is a subway that stops at all stations. To reach Hanseong Baekje Station, you need to take the train that stops at all stations. As an alternative for a faster arrival, you can take the express subway and transfer to the all-stop train at Seokchon Station.

Seoul is a metropolitan city with a vast and complex transportation system, and navigating it can be challenging for some travelers, especially those who are unfamiliar with the city. While public transportation in Seoul is generally convenient and reliable, it can still be overwhelming for newcomers due to the extensive subway and bus networks. To navigate the city with ease, it is highly recommended to utilize a GPS app on your cell phone. Popular choices in Korea include Naver (a Google alternative in Korea) and Google Maps. These apps provide real-time directions, estimated travel times, and often suggest the most efficient routes using public transportation.

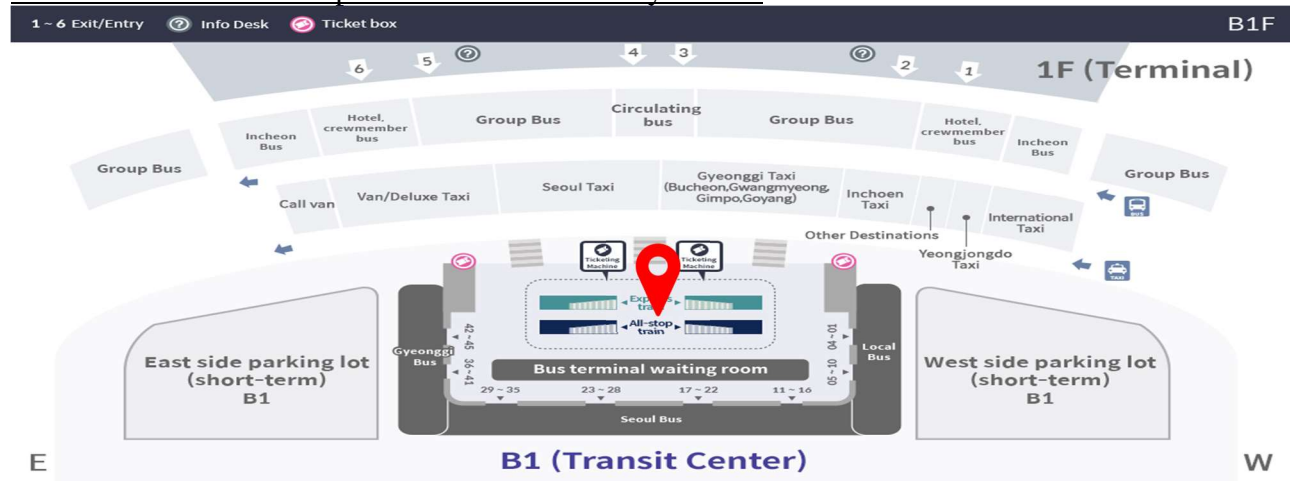
Subway Route



Incheon International Airport Terminal #1 Subway Station



Incheon International Airport Terminal #2 Subway Station



From Gimpo Airport to the Olympic Parktel:

Taxi

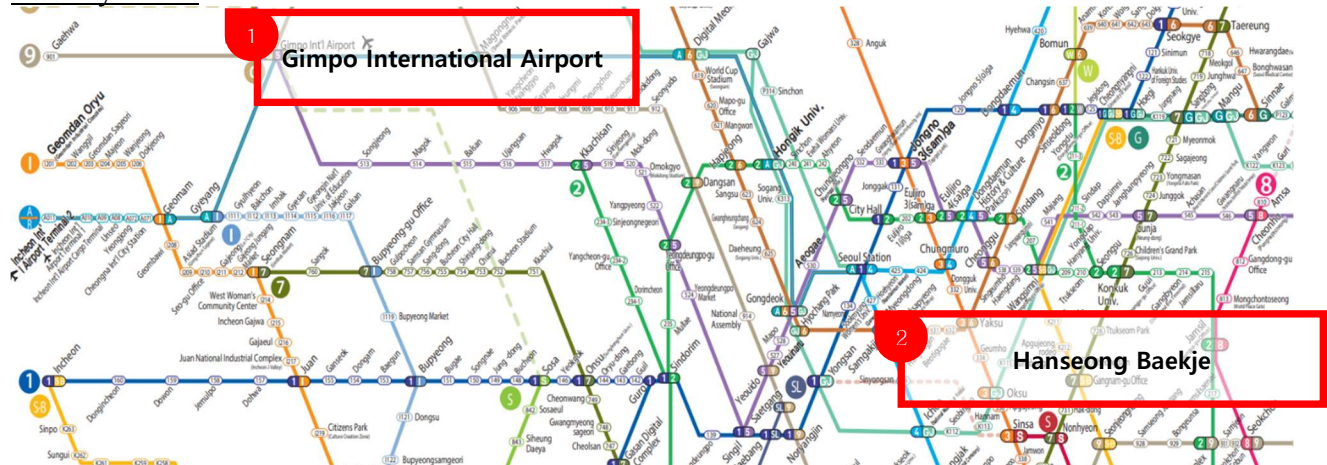
Taxis are available for a meter rate depending on vehicle selected (40,000-50,000 KRW depending on traffic). The journey to the hotel takes approximately 70minutes. Please refer to the Gimpo International Airport website:

https://www.airport.co.kr/gimpo/cms/frCon/index.do?MENU_ID=1290&CONTENTS_NO=5

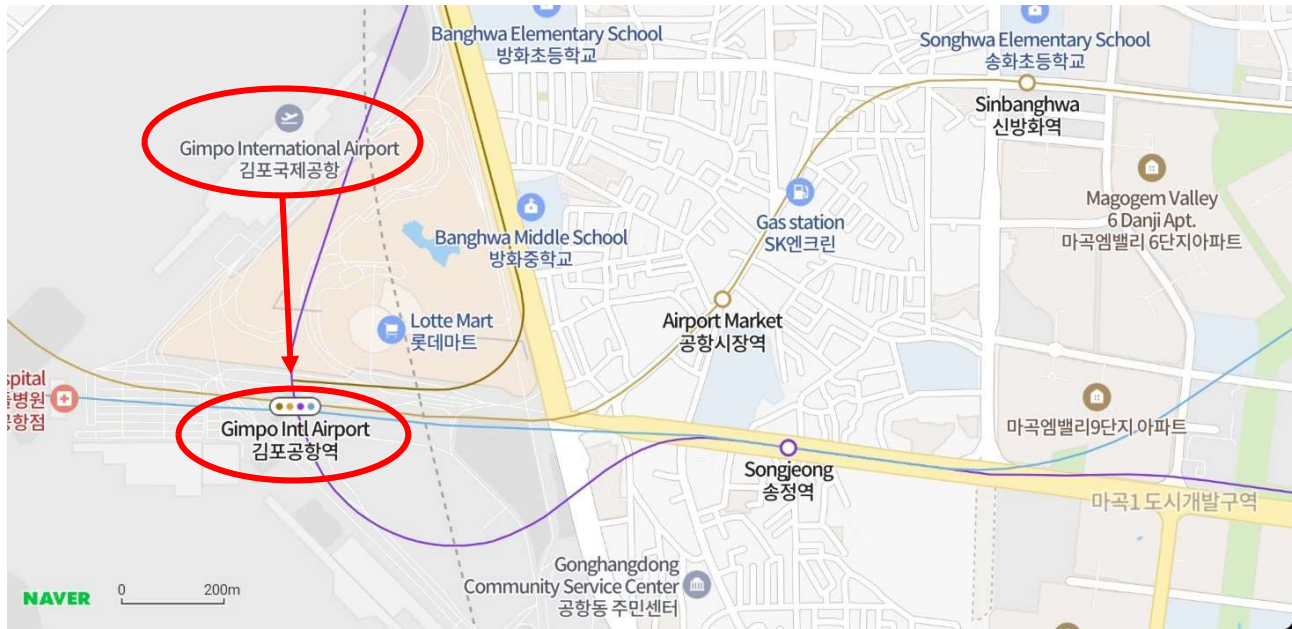
Subway (Subway Line 9)

From the airport, take Subway Line 9 in the direction of Olympic Park Station. For the rest of the route, please refer to the above description regarding the route from Incheon Airport to Olympic Park.

Subway Route



From Gimpo International Airport Terminal to Gimpo International Airport Station



From Hanseong Baekje Station to Olympic Parktel



7. Visa information



Participants requiring an entry visa to the Republic of Korea are strongly advised to contact the nearest Korean diplomatic or consular mission **as early as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. It should be noted that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.

Information on visa procedures can be found on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea at:

https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10105

The visa application form can be found at:

https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10205

A list of relevant Korean diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the same website at: https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/nation/m_4902/list.do

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat has issued visa assistance letters to be attached to the visa applications.

8. Hotel Information



All participants are requested to do their own hotel reservation as soon as possible. There are only a few guest rooms available during the workshop at the Olympic Parktel due to earlier reservations made by other groups.

The Seoul Olympic Parktel

(05540) 448 Olympic-ro, Songpa-gu, Seoul (Bangi-dong)

Voice: +82-2-410-2114

Website: <https://www.parktel.co.kr/main/main.do?language=en#none>

Alternatively, reservations may be made through your preferred hotel reservation website (e.g. Expedia, Hotels.com, Booking.com) or directly through the official website of the hotel you wish to stay in.

A full list of recommended hotels is in Annex B.

9. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be disbursed to sponsored participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card. For identification purposes, these participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes. These will be photocopied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA.

10. Official language in the Republic of Korea

The official language in the Republic of Korea is Korean. English is spoken in some hotels and restaurants.

11. General Information

Weather and time zone information



In September, temperatures in Seoul range between a maximum of +26°C in the daytime and a minimum of +17°C at night. There is a subtle variation in temperature between day and night. It is recommended to bring a lightweight layer for added comfort. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=231> The standard time zone in the Republic of Korea is GMT / UTC +9 hours.

Electricity

The electrical currents in the Republic of Korea are 220 volts, 60 Hertz as shown in the illustrations below.



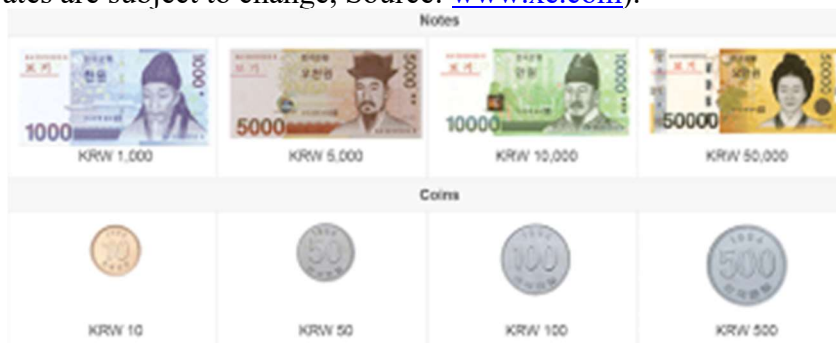
Currency



Korea is gradually moving towards a cashless society even though cash is still preferred in traditional markets and smaller local stores where cash transactions are common. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, some restaurants and stores have started to avoid handling physical cash and instead encourage contactless payment methods. To ensure smooth transactions in different situations, it is recommended for visitors in Korea to be prepared with a variety of payment methods, including both cash and credit cards.

Cash

The currency in the Republic of Korea is the South Korean Won (KRW). Specifically, various notes and coins are used: Notes include 1,000 won, 5,000 won, 10,000 won, and 50,000 won denominations, while coins include 10 won, 50 won, and 500 won denominations. Foreign bank notes and traveller's checks can be converted into Korean won at foreign exchange banks and other authorized money exchange outlets. The current exchange rate is US \$1 = 1,323.56 KRW and €1 = 1,324.26KRW (rates are subject to change, Source: www.xe.com).



Credit card

International credit cards, including VISA, MasterCard, American Express, JCB and Diners club are widely accepted at major hotels, department stores, restaurants and retail outlets. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available

Attractions in Seoul

Please refer to Annex C below and the following link:

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.kto>

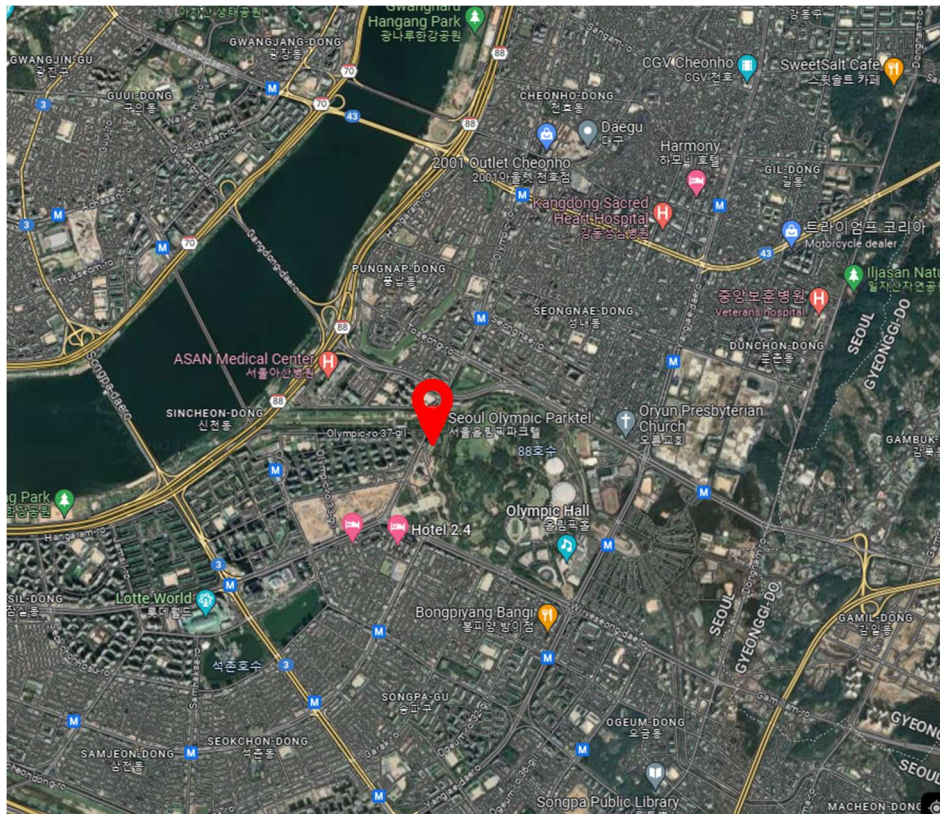
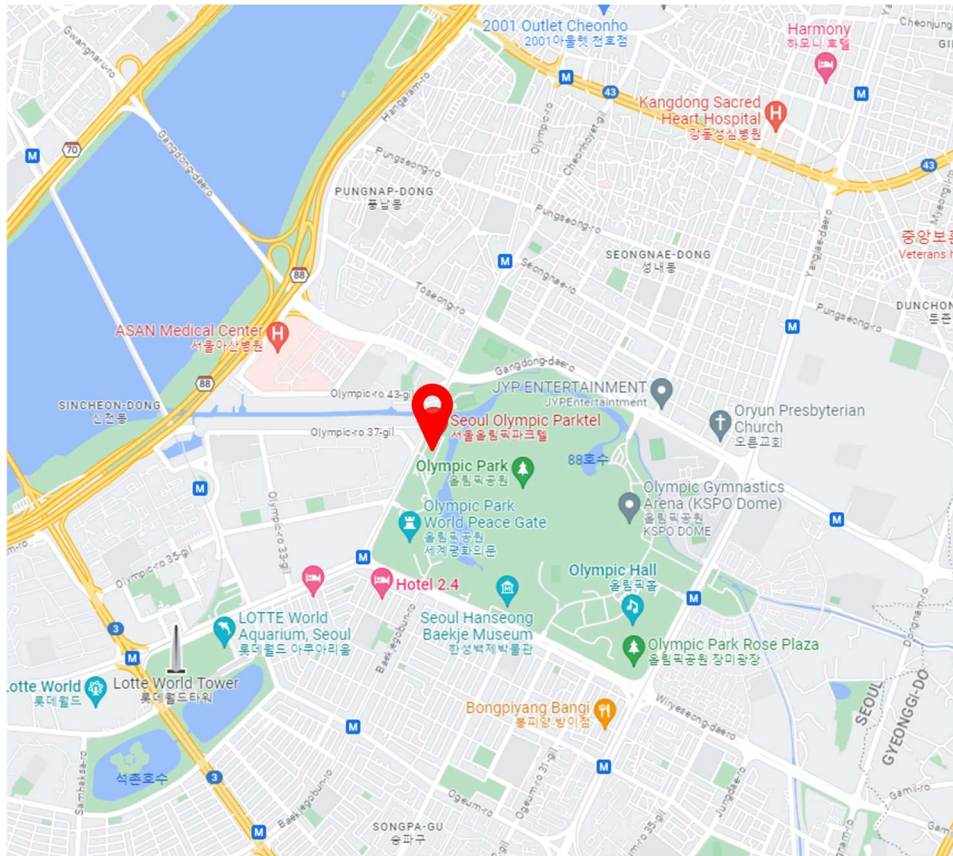
<https://english.visitseoul.net/index>

Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibilities for medical, accident and travel insurances, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other losses that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants will secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex A

Map of the Area surrounding the Seoul Olympic Parktel

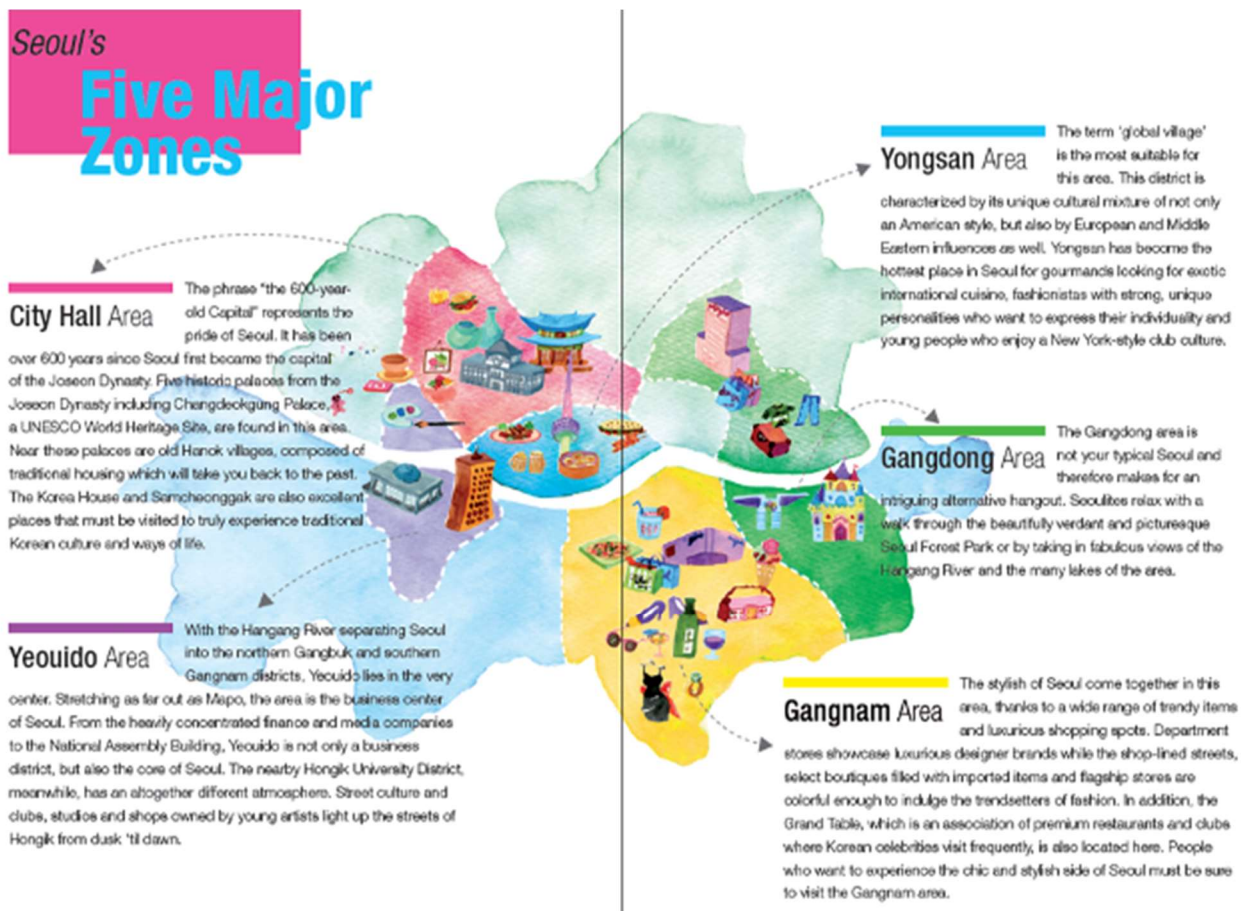


Annex B
List of recommended hotels

Meeting Venue: The Seoul Olympic Parktel (https://www.parktel.co.kr/main/main.do?language=en#none), Seoul, Republic of Korea						
Nearby hotels:						
Hotel	Room Type	Rate/USD	Breakfast included	distance from the venue	travel time by taxi	Taxi fare (KRW)
Seoul Olympic Parktel	Standard Twin Room	\$101	Included	0 km	0 minutes	-
Jamsil Delight Hotel	Standard Double Room	\$76.53	X	2.4 km	8 minutes	6,000
Hotel Lake	Double Room	\$91.89	X	3.5 km	11 minutes	7,400
Hotel Peyto Samseong	Deluxe Double Room	\$105.11	X	8.6 km	17 minutes	11,000
Hotel Uri&	Superior Double Room	\$123.50	X	8.6 km	17 minutes	11,000
Shilla Stay Samsung	Deluxe Double Room	\$152.74	X	8.4 km	14 minutes	10,000
HOTEL in 9 Gangnam	Standard Double Room	\$153.86	X	7.7 km	13 minutes	12,000
Lotte Hotel World	Deluxe Double Room	\$225.83	X	2.7 km	8 minutes	6,500

Annex C

Attractions in Seoul



N Seoul Tower



N Seoul Tower, a landmark of the metropolitan city of Seoul is to be introduced with its new name and look to provide more fun and excitement. From the highest point, Seoul Tower has been embracing the city for the last 25 years giving memories and stories to people. In 2005, Seoul Tower was reopened as N Seoul Tower. Many citizens and foreign tourists have visited the Tower and were taken by the scenic view of the city while also enjoying the nature of Namsan mountain. Seoul Tower is located on the peak of Namsan in Seoul, a city of 10 million people.

Cheonggyecheon



Once a stream that served as the domestic wastewater of Seoul, it has been transformed into one of the most beautiful leisure place in Seoul. The history of Cheonggyecheon begins even before the Joseon dynasty designated Seoul as its capital. Seoul is surrounded by mountains in nature and the stream developed naturally by its natural geographical reasons. Often the stream caused floods, therefore, it needed extensive construction work countless times.

Insa-dong



Insa-dong, located in the middle of the city, is an important place where old but precious and traditional goods are on display. There is one main road in Insa-dong with alleys on each side. Within these alleys are galleries, traditional restaurants, traditional teahouses, and cafes. The shops in Insa-dong are very popular among all age groups, because each one is unique. The galleries are the heartbeat of Insa-dong. There are about 100 galleries in the area and you can see every example of traditional Korean fine art from paintings to sculptures.

Shopping

Gimpo Airport Outlet(Lotte Mall)



Gimpo Airport Outlet located at the Gimpo International Passenger Terminal, boasts an impressive 200 domestic brand name stores totaling 40,000 square meters of shopping space. The mall is easily accessible via public transportation(Subway Lines 5&9 and the Incheon Airport Railway) and is a popular shopping place due to its variety and department store-like ambiance. Especially the Mayfield hotel shuttle bus operates to the Outlet for free.

Myeong-dong



Myeong-dong is a massive shopping district. Myeong-dong Street is around 1km long and extends from Myeong-dong Subway Station (Seoul Subway Line No. 4) to Lotte Department Store at Euljiro. All kinds of brand name shops and department stores are clustered along the streets and alleyways. You can purchase various products such as clothes, shoes, and accessories. Compared to Namdaemun or Dongdaemun, many good-quality brands are sold in Myeong-dong.

Dongdaemun (Dongdaemun Market)



Ever since its opening in 1905, Dongdaemun Market has been one of the major markets in Korea. Specializing in wholesale clothing, the market has grown large, having more than 20 shopping malls. A full range of fashion items that cover head to toe, are found in Dongdaemun Market at inexpensive prices. Just name it and you shall find it! No wonder the market is always crowded with retailers, foreigners, customers and tourists.

Streets

Seorae Village



This French town in Seoul formed around the school set up by the French Embassy in Korea. Since nearly 50% of all French people in Korea live here, this village is known as Korea's "Little France." The French-named streets, parks and restaurants such as Montmartre Street and Montmartre Park will remind you of France. The restaurants in particular have become especially famous.

Garosu-gil in Sinsa-dong



Lined with densely planted ginkgo trees, this 700m-long street is considered one of Seoul's most attractive streets to walk along. Here, you can find a variety of vintage items as well as unique places with a modern, yet distinctive character all their own. Luxurious stores and restaurants line both sides of the street. With so many designers' showrooms, antique stores and furniture and interior shops, this place has long been popular among trendsetters.

Itaewon



A place where different races and cultures exist in harmony, Itaewon is truly a global village in Seoul. Seasonal international parties from Christmas to Halloween are held annually, while shoppers can find a variety of unusual and fascinating items from all over the world. Most merchants manage to communicate well with foreigners, and exotic eye-catching shops line both sides of the road. 'Little Tokyo,' located close to Itaewon, is also popular.

Hongik University District



A center of indie culture, the Hongik University area is home to energetic young people. Amateur artists have decorated its main street, creating a new culture. The beautiful cafes and art shops are reminiscent of vibrant streets in Tokyo, while its club and bar culture can be compared to that found in New York. This area is a leading trendsetter of Korea, and is the capital of its indie and underground culture.