

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL






28 October 2011

ENGLISH ONLY

LATIN AMERICAN TRAINING COURSE
ON RISK ASSESSMENT OF LIVING
MODIFIED ORGANISMS
Havana, Cuba, 7-11 November 2011

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. Opening and registration

The Latin American Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms will be held in Havana, Cuba from Monday, 7 to Friday, 11 November 2011.

The training course will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 7 November 2011 and registration will take place at the venue of the training course at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The training course will be held at:

The TRYP Hotel Habana Libre

23 Calle L E/ 23 Y 25, Vedado

Havana, Cuba

Tel: +537-834-6100

Fax: +537-834-6365

E-mail: tryp.habana.libre@meliacuba.com; ventas1.thl@meliacuba.com

Web site: www.tryp-habanalibre.com

3. Working language

The training course will be held in Spanish.

4. Documents

Training manuals will be distributed during the course. Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own notebooks and stationary for the training course as these will not be available during the course. Pre-session documents will be available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSRAT-LA-01>

5. General information on access to Havana, Cuba



Havana is serviced by the Jose Marti International Airport. The hotel is located approximately 25 km from the airport.

If you receive a visa ticket upon entry into Cuba, you must keep it as it will be presented upon exiting the country. An exit tax of 25 cuc is required for visitors and must be paid at the airport.

6. Visa information



Participants from countries listed in below require an entry visa for Cuba and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Cuban diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. Information can be found at the following link: <http://www.cubaminrex.cu/DirectorioDiplomatico/Articulos/Exterior/A.html>

Please note that a proof of health insurance is required to enter the country.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

Participants who need assistance in obtaining their visas may contact:

Dra. Leticia Pastor Chirino
Jefa departamento de autorizaciones.
Centro Nacional de Seguridad Biológica
Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología y Medio Ambiente
Calle 28 No. 502 entre 5ta y 7ma Avenida
Miramar, Playa, La Habana, Cuba
Tels: +(537) 202 32 81 / +(537) 202 32 55
E-mails: leticiach@orasen.co.cu; leticiapastor@infomed.sld.cu

7. Hotel information

A block booking has been made on behalf of all participants at the **TRYP Hotel Habana Libre** at a special negotiated rate of 70 cuc for a single room without internet and 95 cuc for a single room including internet. Cards for internet service will be available at the hotel for the cost of 10 cuc per hour.

Participants are encouraged to take advantage of the block booking and to make their reservations by **telephone or e-mail directly with:** (Please note that if you book online, the special will not be available).

1. Ubaldo Llanes
Director Comercial / Sales Manager
Hotel Tryp Habana Libre
Calle L entre 23 y 25, Vedado, La Habana, Cuba
Tel.: +(537) 834 6287
Fax: +(537) 834 6366
E-mail: director.comercial.thl@meliacuba.com
2. Msc. Didier Vasallo Aguila
Jefe de Eventos y Banquetes
Hotel Habana Libre Tryp
Sol Meliá CUBA
Teléfono: +(537) 834 6244
Fax: +(537) 834 6366
E-mail: Promotor.eventos1.thl@solmeliacuba.com

Alternatively, the Hotel Nacional de Cuba (www.hotelnacionaldecuba.com) is in the vicinity of the venue and offers a rate of 120 cuc for a single room.

More information on hotels and tourism in Havana can be found at the following links: http://www.tripadvisor.ca/Hotels-g147271-Havana_Cuba-Hotels.html, and <http://www.cubatravel.cu/otroe/>

8. Payment of the daily subsistence allowances (DSA)

The DSA will be paid to sponsored participants on the first day of the training course.

9. Official language

The official language in Cuba is Spanish. English is spoken in hotels and restaurants.

10. Weather and time zone information



In November temperatures in Havana usually range between a maximum of +28°C in the daytime and a minimum of +21°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/131/c00280.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT/UTC -5 hours.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents are 110 / 220 volts, 60 Hertz a (two-pin flat and vertical with a ground connection).



12. Currency



The currency in Cuba is the Cuban convertible peso (CUC\$) which is equivalent to the US dollar. It is not recommended to bring US currency. The current exchange rate as at 26 October 2011 is €1 = CUC \$1.39.

13. Disclaimer

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