



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL






28 September 2011

ENGLISH ONLY

**EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE CITY
BIODIVERSITY INDEX (SINGAPORE INDEX)
Third Meeting
Singapore City, Singapore, 11-13 October 2011**

Information Note for Participants

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1. Opening and registration

The Third Expert Workshop on the City Biodiversity Index (Singapore Index) will be held in Singapore City, Singapore from Tuesday, 11 October to Thursday, 13 October 2011.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 11 October 2011, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting from 8:30 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

Fort Canning Centre

Fort Canning Park

Cox Terrace

Singapore 179618

Web-site: <http://www.nparks.gov.sg/fortcanning>

The contact person in Singapore is as follows:

Ms. Wendy Yap

Assistant Director (International Relations)

National Biodiversity Centre

National Parks Board

Telephone: +65-6465-1688 (Office), +65-9633-8562 (Mobile)

Fax: +65-6465-5196

E-mail: wendy_yap@nparks.gov.sg; wypahm@gmail.com

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the workshop as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop. Pre-session documents will be available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-03>

5. General information on access to Singapore



Singapore is serviced by Changi International Airport (about 20 km from the city centre) and the journey takes about 30 minutes. Taxis are available at the designated points on the arrivals level. The following is information regarding transportation from the airport to the city centre.

Taxi

Taxis are available at the arrivals level of each terminal and the metered fares and charges are as follows:

- Approx. SGD \$18 – SGD \$38 excluding surcharges (about US \$14 – 30);
- Midnight surcharge: 50% of metered fare (midnight to 6:00 a.m.);
- Airport surcharge:
 - SGD \$5 Fri-Sun (5 pm to midnight) (about US \$4);
 - SGD \$3 all other times (about US \$2.50).

Shuttles

There is an Airport Shuttle Service that serves most hotels in Singapore. Please contact the Ground Transport Desk in the arrivals levels for more information and assistance. The fare is approximately SGD \$9.00 per person.

Limousine

Limousine taxis are also available at a flat rate to any destination in Singapore. The service uses premium 4-seater and 7-seater limousine-taxis. Please approach the limousine taxi counter at the arrival halls. You are required to pay at the respective counter. The charges for a limousine taxi are as follows:

- SGD \$45.00 - SGD \$50.00 per vehicle per trip (about US \$35 – 40);
- Surcharge per additional stop: SGD \$10.00 (about US \$8);

6. Visa information



Participants from countries listed in **annex A** below require an entry visa for Singapore and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Singapore diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. It should be noted that airline companies would not allow boarding in the absence of a valid entry visa.

Information on visa procedures, including a list of relevant Singapore diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available at the following web sites:

- Visa procedures: <http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=96&secid=94>
- Singapore diplomatic and consular missions abroad:
http://dipcon.mfa.gov.sg/sgportal/appmanager/web/dipcon?nfpb=true&nfxr=false&_pageLabel=pg_dipconOMLocator

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

7. Health information

For entry into Singapore, a valid Yellow Fever Certificate is required from travellers over one year of age who, within the preceding six days, have been in or have passed through any country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

The International travel, health and vaccination requirements for travel to Singapore can be obtained from the World Health Organization (WHO) web site: <http://apps.who.int/tools/geoserver/www/ith/index.html>.

For more information, please consult a medical professional with regard to the vaccination requirements for your travel.

8. Hotel information



Sponsored Participants

Accommodation has been reserved and prepaid for all sponsored participants at the Link Hotel. The information is as follows:

Link Hotel

50 Tiong Bahru Road

Singapore 168733

Tel: +65-6622-8585

Fax: +65-6622-8598

Web-site: <http://www.linkhotel.com.sg>

Non-sponsored participants

Non-sponsored participants who would like to stay at the Link Hotel and avail of the negotiated rates should inform Ms. Wendy Yap by **4 October 2011** who will make the hotel reservation on your behalf. Kindly furnish Ms. Yap with your travel itinerary.

The negotiated rate is SGD 181.50 + 7% Taxes for a Deluxe Single (about USD 139 before tax). Payment will be required upon check out from hotel. Check-out time is 12 noon.

For participants who would like to book elsewhere, the following web-site contains Singapore hotels and other relevant information, please visit: <http://www.singaporetouristguide.net/singapore-hotels.php>. However, separate bookings are strongly discouraged as you may need to find your own transportation to the workshop venue.

9. Official languages in Singapore

There are four official languages in Singapore: Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English. English is the language of business and administration, and is widely spoken and understood. Most Singaporeans are bilingual, and speak their mother tongue as well as English.

10. Weather and Time Zone information



Singapore is warm and humid all year round, with only slight variations between the average maximum of 31 degrees Celsius and minimum of 24 degrees Celsius. Rain falls throughout the year, with more consistent rain coming during the monsoon season from December to March. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/081/c00234.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT + 8 hours.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Singapore are 220-240 volts, 50 Hertz. The power plugs used in Singapore are of the three-pin, square-shaped type and are shown below.



12. Currency



The currency in Singapore is the Singapore Dollar (SGD \$). The current exchange rate as at 28 September 2011 is US \$1.00 = SGD \$1.28 and (Euro) €1 = SGD \$1.75.

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.

Annex A – Country listing

NATIONALS AND OTHERS HOLDING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES REQUIRE A VISA TO ENTER SINGAPORE

(According to Immigration and Checkpoint Authority of Singapore)

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Bangladesh (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Commonwealth of Independent States* (*Except Diplomatic/Official/Service passport holders for a stay of up to 30 days*)
 - Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Belarus
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Moldova
 - Russian Federation
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Uzbekistan
 - Ukraine (*Except Diplomatic/Official/Service passport holders for a stay of up to 90 days*)
- Egypt
- Georgia* (*Except Diplomatic/Official/Service passport holders for a stay of up to 30 days*)
- India (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Iraq
- Jordan (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco
- Myanmar (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Nigeria (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Palestinian authority
- People's Republic of China (*Except Diplomatic/Service/Public Affairs passport holders for a stay of up to 30 days*)
- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tunisia (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Yemen
- Refugee travel documents issued by Middle-East countries
- Temporary passports issued by the United Arab Emirates

In addition, visitors holding Hong Kong Document of Identity, Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Travel Permit, Palestinian Authority Passport, Refugee Travel Document issued by the Middle-East countries and Temporary Passport issued by United Arab Emirates will also require a visa to enter Singapore.

* Nationals of the Commonwealth Independent States may be granted entry into Singapore without visas if they are on transit to or from a third country. However, they are required to fulfill the following conditions:

- They are in transit to or from a third country;
- They hold a valid passport, a confirmed onward air-ticket, entry facilities (including visa) to the third country and have sufficient funds for the period of stay in Singapore;
- They continue their journey to the third country within the 96-hour visa free period granted; and
- They satisfy Singapore's entry requirements, as determined by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority officers at the Singapore Checkpoints.
