



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL






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ENGLISH ONLY

SUB-REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP
ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Singapore, 2-5 September 2009

Information Note for Participants

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1. Opening and registration

The Sub-regional Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held in Singapore from Wednesday, 2nd to Saturday, 5th September 2009.

The workshop will start at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 2nd September 2009, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting at 9:00 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

Function Hall, Botany Centre

Singapore Botanic Gardens

1 Cluny Road

Singapore 259569

Web-site: <http://www.sbg.org.sg/tanglincore/botanycentre.asp>

Transport from the Hotel Miramar to the workshop venue will be provided each morning, and return transport each evening.

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. Documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCB-FBDCC-01>

5. General information on access to Singapore City

Singapore is serviced by Changi International Airport (about 20 kms from the city centre) and transfer to the city 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 respective pick-up points. All charges for a taxi are metered and are approximately as follows:

- Approx. SGD \$18 – SGD \$32 excluding surcharges (about US \$12 - 22);
- Midnight surcharge: 50% of metered fare (midnight to 6 a.m.);
- Airport surcharge:
 - SGD \$5 Fri-Sun (5 pm to midnight) (about US \$3);
 - SGD \$3 all other times (about US \$2).

Limousine

Limousine taxis are also available at a flat rate to any destination in Singapore. The service uses premium 5-seater and 7-seater taxis. Please contact 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 per vehicle per trip (about US \$31);
- Midnight surcharge: SGD \$10.00 (midnight to 6:00 a.m.) (about US \$7);
- SGD \$50.00 for per way charter of a 7-seater taxi (about US \$35).

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. For more information on visa procedures and diplomatic and consular missions of Singapore, please visit the following web sites:

- a) Visa procedures: <http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=96&secid=94>
- b) Singapore diplomatic and consular missions abroad:
<http://shinedom1.internet.gov.sg/mfa/dipCon/dipCon.nsf/SMagent>

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 endemic for yellow fever.

The International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever is considered valid 10 days after vaccination. The certificate is valid for a period of 10 years. Countries endemic to yellow fever can be found on the following web-site:

<http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=95&secid=94#yellowfever>.

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

8. Hotel information



Sponsored participants

The accommodation for the sponsored participants of the workshop has been pre-booked at the Hotel Miramar. The coordinates are as follows:

Hotel Miramar
401 Havelock Road
Singapore 169631
Tel: +65-6733-0222
Fax: +65-6733-4027
Web-site: www.miramar.com.sg

Check-In Time: 2.00 p.m.
Check-Out Time: 12.00 noon

Please forward your arrival and departure information to Mr. Hassan Ibrahim in order to confirm your hotel booking and transportation to and from the meeting venue. Mr. Ibrahim's coordinates are as follows:

Mr. Hassan Ibrahim
Senior Biodiversity Officer
National Biodiversity Centre
National Parks Board
1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569
Tel: +65-6465-1675
Fax: +65-6465-5196
E-mail: Hassan_Ibrahim@nparks.gov.sg

Non-sponsored participants

The non-sponsored participants may also obtain accommodation at the Hotel Miramar, which has set aside a number of rooms for all participants. Please confirm your reservation before **10th August 2009** by contacting Mr. Hassan Ibrahim (above) with your arrival and departure information. The discount rate per day of the accommodation including breakfast is as follows: Deluxe single/double SGD \$130 (approximately US \$90). Payment will be required upon check out from hotel.

For participants who find it essential to book elsewhere, the following web-site contains Singapore hotel and other relevant information, please visit: <http://www.singapore.travel/?flashinstalled=2>. However, separate bookings are strongly discouraged as this may lead to complications in providing transport and caring for participants.

9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

For sponsored participants, the National Parks Board will provide accommodation which includes breakfast. Sponsored participants will receive a portion of the official DSA, paid in local currency, to cover incidentals and other travel expenses such as visa, taxi fares and terminal expenses.

10. 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.

11. 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 is GMT + 8 hours

12. Electricity

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



13. Currency



The currency in Singapore is the Singapore Dollar (SGD \$). The current exchange rate as at 28 July 2009 is US \$1.00 = SGD \$1.44 and (Euro) € 1 = SGD \$2.04.

14. 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

NATIONALS 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
 - Georgia
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Moldova
 - Russia
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Ukraine
 - Uzbekistan
- Egypt
- India (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Iraq
- Jordan (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Lebanon
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Morocco
- Myanmar (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Nigeria (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- People's Republic of China (*Except Diplomatic/Service/Public Affairs passport holders for a stay of up to 30 days*)
- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tunisia (*Except Diplomatic/Official passport holders*)
- Yemen

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.
