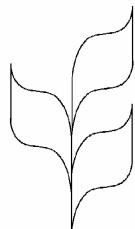




CBD



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY- BUILDING AND
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK
MANAGEMENT OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Addis Ababa, 23-25 August 2007

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Venue

The African Regional Workshop on Capacity-Building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from Thursday, 23 August to Saturday, 25 August 2007. It will be held back-to-back with the AU Experts Meeting on the Revised Model Law on Safety in Biotechnology (20-22 August 2007)

Both meetings will take place at the:

African Union Headquarters
Roosevelt Street
P.O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: (251) 11 551 77 00
Fax: (251) 11 551 78 44
Website: www.africa-union.org

2. Opening and registration

The workshop will be opened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 23 August 2007. Registration will take place at the venue of the workshop from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. the same day.

3. Working language of the workshop

The workshop will be held in English and French only.

4. Documents

The main pre-session documents for the workshop will be dispatched to the participants as soon as they are finalized. The documents will also be accessible at the Secretariat's web site at: www.cbd.int

In order to minimize the environmental impacts of the Secretariat's processes, and to contribute to the Secretary-General's initiative for a C-Neutral UN, this document is printed in limited numbers. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

5. Visas

Entry visa is required for all nationals from countries that are not exempted from visa requirements to enter into Ethiopia. Participants are advised to check with the nearest Ethiopian Diplomatic or Consular Mission regarding visa and vaccination requirements in order to secure an entry visa to Ethiopia prior to departure.

For participants coming from countries with no Ethiopian Embassy/Consular office, the visas will be issued at the airport upon the arrival. Those participants are advised to contact the persons below, **as early as possible**, to allow sufficient time for the visa process.

Visa requirements:

- Copy of valid passport (the part that shows Name, Passport No. Date of Expiry, Nationality,)
- The Invitation letter, which will be issued by the Host of the Meeting, to be attached with the visa application by the AUC.

For any assistance on visa-related issues, please contact the focal persons:

Meseret Eshetu
Administrative Assistant

or

Mahlet Teshome
Biosafety Expert (Environmental Law)
AUC, Biosafety Unit
P.O. Box 3243
Tel: 251 11 5519259
Fax: 251 11 5540300
E-mail: MesseretW@africa-union.org / MahletK@africa-union.org

6. Health requirements

Yellow Fever certificates are required by persons who travel from or through yellow fever areas as designated by the World Health Organization.

7. Access to Addis Ababa

The city of Addis Ababa is serviced by the Bole International Airport, which is located about 10km from downtown. AUC will arrange a shuttle bus from the airport to the hotel and the meeting venue. Taxis are also readily available for about US\$10 from the Airport to any hotel in the city.

8. Hotel information

A block hotel booking will be made on behalf of all directly sponsored participants at Hilton hotel based on the available reasonable price. A list of hotels close to the workshop venue, with indicative prices, is annexed for participants who wish to make their own booking. The month of August being a busy season in Addis Ababa it is recommended that participants make their hotel reservations as early as possible.

9. Currency and rate of exchange

Ethiopia's Currency is the Ethiopian Birr (ETB). The current exchange rate (As of July 2007) is 1US\$ = ETB 9.058 or 1 ETB = 0.11US\$.

10. Credit Cards

Only Visa credit card can be cashed in various branches of Dashen Bank, however, accepted in a few hotels, such as Sheraton and Ghion Hotels.

11. Official language

The official language in Ethiopia is Amharic. However, English is a working language at international conferences and is fairly well understood and spoken in hotels and restaurants.

12. Time Zone

Ethiopia standard time (UTC) is GMT +3:00.

13. Weather conditions

During the month of August the minimum temperature of Addis Ababa is 11.3 °C and can reach a maximum of 20.6 °C. This time of the year is the rainy season. More information on weather is available at the following web site: www.ethiomet.gov.et

14. Voltage

In Ethiopia the electricity standard is 220 volts and 50/60 Hertz.

15. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability, 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 prior to departure international medical insurance for the period of participation.

ANNEX
LIST OF HOTELS CLOSE TO THE VENUE WITH INDICATIVE PRICES

1. SHERATON ADDIS

Taitu Street
P.O. Box 6002, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 251 11 5171717
Fax: 251 11 5531596

Price: Club Room, Corporate rate USD 420 (for Single/double); Rack rate USD 310 (Single) and USD 365 (double)
Executive Room, Corporate rate USD 480 (Single) and USD 210 (Double); Rack rate USD 389 (single); USD 444 (double)
Classic Suite, Corporate rate USD 710+25%= 887 (single/double); Rack rate USD 657 (for single/double)
Junior Suite, Corporate rate USD 1,012 (single/double); Rack rate USD 741 (single/double)
Executive Suite, Corporate rate USD 4,000 (Single/Double);

Quoted per room and night, in USD and are subject to 10% service charge and 15% VAT
Inclusive buffet breakfast in the Summerfields restaurant, except for the Club room type

2. HILTON HOTEL

Tel: 251 115518400
Fax; 251 115529581
251 115510064
251 5511718(reservation)
E-mail: SALES_ADDIS-ABABA@HILTON.COM
Rm_addis-ababa@hilton.com

Standard Rooms Rate: USD95+10% (With supporting letters from AU)

Main Building and Garden Wing Rooms

Superior Rooms, USD 89 – USD 170
Executive Floor Rooms, USD 150 – USD 210
Duplex Suite, USD 160 – USD 265

Suites

Corner Suite, USD 160 - USD 265
Deluxe Suite, USD 250 – USD 415
State Suite, USD 400 – USD 615

All rates quoted are subject to 10% service charge and 15% VAT.
Estimated distance from the meeting venue is about 4kms

3. GHION HOTEL
Tel: 251 11 5513222
Fax: 251 11 5505150
E-mail: ghion@ethionet.et
Price: Single room, USD 71;
Prices include Breakfast and Service Charge
Distance from the meeting venue: about 3kms
4. ETHIOPIA HOTEL
Tel: 251 1 517400
Fax: 251 1 510871
Price: Double and Single Rooms, USD65.00 & USD 45, respectively
Service charge, tax and breakfast are included
Distance from Conference venue: about 10 minutes drive
5. IMPERIAL HOTEL
Tel: 251 11 6293329
Fax: 251 11 5525833
E-mail: imperialbcenter@ethionet.et
Price: double/twin and single rooms, USD 100 and USD 120 respectively; Suite USD 120.
Distance from the conference venue about 15kms
6. AXUM HOTEL
Tel: 251 11 6613916
Fax: 251 11 6614265
E-mail; axum.d@ethionet.et
Price: Single, USD40 and USD55; Double, USD50; Twin, USD55; Semi suite USD75
Breakfast and VAT are included.
Distance from the conference venue is about 30 minutes drive
7. WABI SHEBELLE HOTEL
Tel: 251 11 5517187
Fax: 251 11 5518477
E-mail: washo.et@ethionet.et
Price: Single USD46, Double USD56 and Suite USD92, USD99, and USD109
(All room rates are inclusive of buffet breakfast, 15% VAT and 10% service charge)
Distance from the conference venue about 10 minutes walk
8. HOTEL DE LEOPOL INTERNATIONAL PLC.
Tel: 251 11 5507777, 0911 214054 (Ato Nega)
Fax: 251 11 5531466
E-mail: hoteldeleopol@ethionet.et
Studio room (single occupancy) USD 68
Standard room (single occupancy) USD 106
Standard room (double occupancy) USD 125
Distance from the conference venue about 15 minutes drive

9. RAS AMBA HOTEL

Tel: 251 11 1228080

Fax: 251 11 1233221

E-mail: rahot@ethionet.et

Price: single room, USD52; Double for single, USD52; Double for two, USD68; Semi suite for single, USD 45; Semi suite for two USD80 and for three persons, USD 90;

Distance from the conference venue about 7kms

10. GG ROYAL HOTEL

Tel: 251 11 6292329, 6292330

Fax: 251 11 6293123

E-mail: ggroyalhotel@ethionet.et

Price: Single room, USD30; Twin room, USD40

Distance form the Meeting venue: about 5kms

11. NATIONAL HOTEL (GHION BRANCH)

Tel: 251 11 5515166, 55113768

Fax: 251 11 5513417, 5508750

E-mail:

Price: Suite Room (single), USD 42; Twin Bedroom (for one person), USD 58; Single Suite, USD50 and Double Suite, USD 70.

Prices include breakfast and VAT

Distance from the meeting venue; about 3kms

12. KINGS HOTEL

Tel: 251 11 3711300

Fax:

E-mail: kingshotel@ethionet.et

Price: Suite, USD 62: Twin Bed, USD 62: Single bed, USD 50

Breakfast and tax is included.

More information on hotels is also available at the following site:

<http://www.africa-ata.org/hotels.htm>
