CBD

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL ASIA ON
UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES
AND ACTION PLANS
Istanbul, Turkey, 17 – 20 October 2011

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. Opening and registration

The Regional Workshop for Central Asia on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from Monday, 17 to Thursday, 20 October 2011.

The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, 17 October 2011 and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting at 8:00 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

Nippon Hotel
Shougun Meeting Room
Topçu Caddesi No: 6, 34437
Taksim - Istanbul, Turkey
Reservations: (+) 90 212 313 33 00
E-mail: info@nipponhotel.com.tr
Web site: http://www.nipponhotel.com.tr/index.asp

3. Working language

The meeting will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation to Russian.

4. Documents

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

http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWNBSAP-CASI-02

5. General information on access to Istanbul, Turkey

Istanbul is serviced by two airports: Atatürk International Airport (24 km from downtown) and the Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (32 km from downtown).

The Government of Turkey has generously arranged for your transportation from the airport to the hotel. Please look for a sign with your name on it at the exit of the customs area. Non-funded participants wishing to avail themselves of the transportation must provide flight information directly to Ms. Natalia Chalaeva at natalia.chalaeva@cbd.int.

Metered taxis are available at both airports, the rates are listed below (both have a 50% surcharge for transportation between midnight and 6:00 a.m.). Taxi to and from the airport:

- Atatürk TRY 20-30 (approx. US $12-18), the journey is about 30-50 minutes
- Sabiha Gökçen TRY 80-90 (approx. US $44-50) the journey is about 80-90 minutes.

6. Visa information

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

The Government of Turkey has kindly offered to facilitate the obtention of visas upon arrival at the point of entry into Turkey for participants of this meeting. Kindly provide the following information to Ms. Natalia Chalaeva at natalia.chalaeva@cbd.int.

- Full name
- Passport number
- Date of birth (day/month/year)
- Name of mother
- Name of father

Information on visa procedures and forms, including a list of relevant Turkish diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey at: http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sub.en.mfa?cc4e437c-6769-4d79-9017-10b63c651224

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

7. Hotel information

Sponsored

The Secretariat has prepaid and reserved rooms for sponsored participants at the Nippon Hotel, please note that an alternative accommodation is not recommended. Any extras, such as telephone, room upgrade, bar, laundry, e-mail, restaurant, etc. are at participants own cost and must be settled upon checking out.

Non-sponsored

Non-sponsored participants may wish to avail themselves of the accommodation at the rate of €110 for a single room including breakfast. Please contact the hotel directly for your reservations:

Nippon Hotel
Shougun Meeting Room
Topçu Caddesi No: 6, 34437
Taksim - Istanbul, Turkey
Reservations: (+) 90 212 313 33 00
E-mail: info@nipponhotel.com.tr
Web site: http://www.nipponhotel.com.tr/index.asp

Further information on hotels in Istanbul is available at the following web site:

http://www.goturkey.com/

8. Field Trip

A half day field trip to Bogazici (Istanbul Strait) on a Ferry boat has been organized for Thursday, 20 October, 2011 by the Government of Turkey. The field study visit will include visits to local agencies and sites to demonstrate issues related to mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes. A special law has been in force since 1983 to protect historical, cultural and natural values of İstanbul Strait. The visit will show the implementation of the law and its benefits. The visit will take approximately 3 hours and will be accessed from city center. Please bring appropriate clothing for the field trip.

9. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

The relevant DSA will be paid to sponsored participants on the first day of the meeting.

10. Official language

The official language in Turkey is Turkish: English is spoken in hotels and restaurants.

11. Weather and time zone information

In October temperatures in Istanbul usually range between a maximum of +20°C in the daytime and a minimum of +12°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: http://www.worldweather.org/014/c00047.htm.

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC +3 hours.

12. Electricity

The electrical currents in Turkey are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz, the plug type is shown in the illustration below.

13. Currency

The currency in Turkey is the Turkish lira (TRY, TL). The current exchange rate as at 20 September 2011 is US $1 = TRY $1.81 and € 1 = TRY $2.46.

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 – Country Listing

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS REQUIRE VISAS IN ORDER TO ENTER TURKEY AS VISITORS (AS LISTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY)

Citizens of the following countries and territories require a visa to **visit** or **transit** Turkey:

A
Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Australia
Austria

B
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi

C
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Congo, Republic of the
Cuba

D
Dominica
Dominican Republic

E
East Timor
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia

F
Fiji

G
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana

H
Haiti
Hungary

I
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Ireland
Ivory Coast

J
Jamaica

K
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of

L
Lao, People's Democratic Republic of
Lesotho
Liberia

M
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova
Mozambique
Myanmar

N
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Norway

O
Oman

P
Pakistan
Palau
Palestinian Authority
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal

Q
Qatar

R
Russian Federation
Rwanda

S
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Samoa
Sao Tomé e Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland

T
Tanzania, United Republic of
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Tuvalu

U
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

V
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Y
Yemen

Z
Zambia
Zimbabwe