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## Tenth Session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum(SASCOF-10)

24-26 April 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan

### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

#### VENUE AND HOTEL ACCOMODATION

The Tenth South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-10) and its inauguration will be held at conference hall of Jambayang Resort, Thimphu from 24-26 April 2017. The SASCOF-10 has coincided with the start of tourist season in Bhutan, and therefore, accommodations for participants are booked at Jambayang resort and Hotel Riverview. Hotel Riverview is 5min walk from Jambayang resort; however, pick up and drop vehicle is provided from Hotel Riverview to the meeting venue by the hotel.



Figure 1. Location of the meeting venue

## **MEALS**

For WMO support participants and experts, breakfast is covered in the room cost. Coffee/tea and lunch will be provided to all participants during the SASCOF session. Participants should pay for the dinner. You can have dinner at the venue hotel or you can visit restaurants in the city which around 10 to 15 min walk.

## **VISA**

Nationals of **India, Bangladesh and Maldives** can obtain their visa on arrival at Paro International Airport without any charge.

Other participants must submit a completed visa application form and copy of their passport photo page to the Bhutanese SASCOF-10 focal officer Mr. Tshencho Dorji, NCHM by email at [tshenchod@moea.gov.bt](mailto:tshenchod@moea.gov.bt). A visa (which will be issued on a separate sheet of paper) and copy of the visa will be sent to the participant by email. You must show the visa at your flight check-in counter before boarding your flight. At Paro, you must show the visa and invitation letter to the immigration officers. Therefore, you should **PRINT OUT THE VISA INVITATION LETTER AND CARRY THEM WITH YOU.**

All participants (except nationals of India, Bangladesh, Maldives and official passport holders from SAARC countries) must pay a visa fee of US\$. 40 upon arrival at Paro Airport. Please carry US\$. 40 in cash or equivalent in Indian Rupees for visa fee.

## **RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL**

Airport pick-up and drop will be arranged by NCHM, Thimphu.

Participants must forward their flight details (flight numbers, arrival and departure time and date) to Mr. Tshencho Dorji ([tshenchod@moea.gov.bt](mailto:tshenchod@moea.gov.bt), NCHM, Bhutan) no later than 11 April 2017.

## **MONEY**

Bhutan's unit of currency is the Ngultrum (US\$ 1: 65.00). Current exchange rate of US\$ to Indian Rupee is US\$ 1: 65 (Rate as of March 2017). US dollars are usually accepted. Money exchange can be done at the Bank and hotels. Requests for money exchange can be supported and facilitated by the local organizing committee.

## **CREDIT CARDS**

Most of hotels, handcraft shop accept credit cards in Bhutan, such as government-run handicraft Emporium, a few other handicraft shops and some of the larger hotels in Thimphu, but these transactions do take time and charges may apply. Credit-card companies may charge different fees.

## **TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES**

Traveler's cheques are accepted at Bank in Bhutan, most of hotels and foreign exchange counter at the airport. It normally charges 1% of bank charge per transaction.

## **ATMs**

ATMs will dispense Ngultrum and maximum Nu. 40,000 per day (Nu. 15000/- per transaction only). They generally charge US\$ 2 from Bank of Bhutan per withdrawal. They are generally compatible with Maestro and VISA cards.

## **COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS**

The meeting/conference rooms will have internet & Wi-Fi facilities. Therefore participants are encouraged to bring their own Wi-Fi/Ethernet-ready laptop computers. Internet access/Wi-Fi is complimentary at the hotels.

## **WEATHER**

Thimphu is the capital city of Bhutan. April month is the spring season in Bhutan and the weather is generally warm and dry with light intermittent showers. The average maximum and minimum temperature are 22.4°C and 8°C respectively. The average total precipitation in April is 29.2 mm.

## **RESTRICTION ITEMS**

Delegates possessing cigarettes, tobacco and tobacco products for personal consumption must declare the items and pay duties and taxes as specified in the rules (It is usually 200% tax for tobacco products). Allowance limits are 200 sticks of cigarettes as person. Participants may check the department of Revenue and Customs website at [www.mof.gov.bt](http://www.mof.gov.bt) for allowance quota on other products. All items must be accompanied by the receipt; failing to do so is serious crime as per the tobacco Control Act of Bhutan 2000.

Prior permits must be obtained from the Bhutan Agriculture and food regulatory Authority to import and export animals, food and plants products to and from Bhutan.

## **MOBILE SERVICES**

Bhutan Telecom and Tashi cell are two cellular services providers. Pre-paid SIM cards/ Vouchers are readily available at about US\$ 4 per SIM card at the airport. It is recommended to get local SIM card.

## **ELECTRICITY**

Electricity in Bhutan is 220-240 Volts, 50 Hertz. If you travel with a device that does not accept 220-240 Volt at 50 Hertz you will need a voltage converters. Outlets in Bhutan generally accept 3 types of plug:



## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

While on travel you may become, sick or receive an injury, some of your personal belongings may be stolen. In order to protect you from this kind of unpleasantness committee cannot be held

liable for any cases of damage, injury, sickness, theft, etc. during your travel to and from, and stay in Bhutan are strongly recommended to make your own travel insurance arrangements

## CONTACTS

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