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Eleventh Session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF - 11) 25-27 September, Malé, Maldives

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

BACKGROUND

The Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS), Government of Maldives shall be hosting the eleventh session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-11) supported by the WMO and Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early-warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES) through funds available from the Government of Canada.

SASCOF-11 will produce a consensus climate outlook for the winter season (October-December) for South Asia and share with sector user agencies at national and regional level.

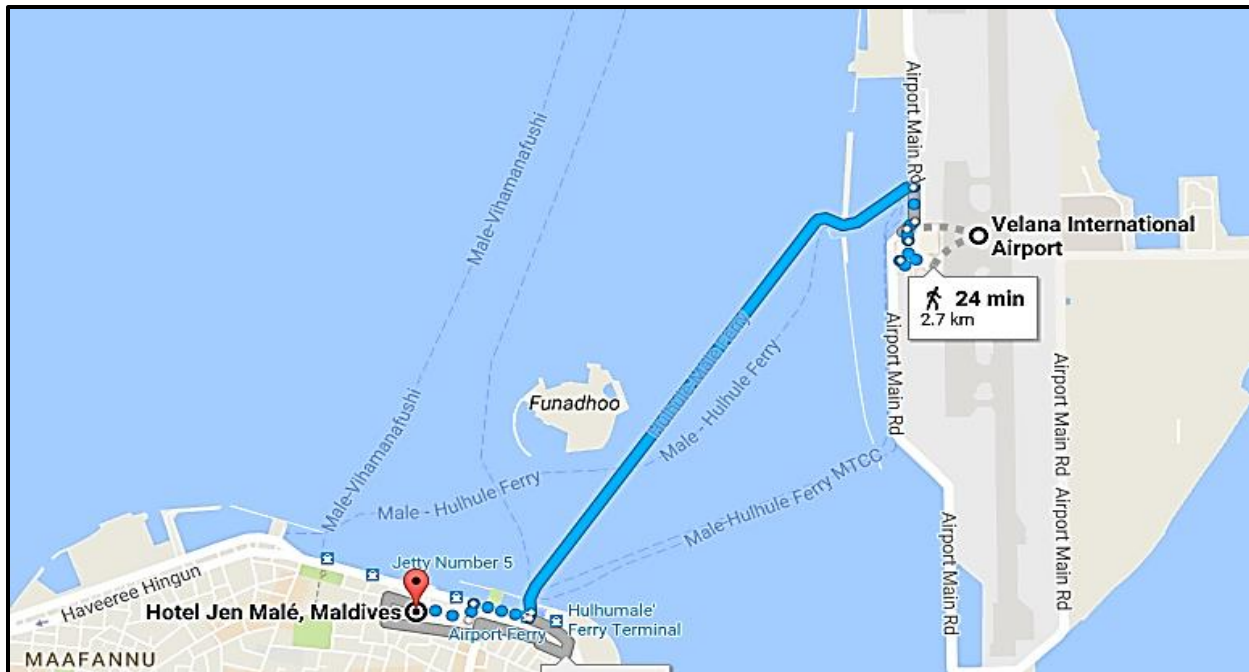
PARTICIPATION:

All South Asia NMHSs, invited national and international experts, WMO and RIMES. Experts from GPCs, RCCs and other leading agencies

VENUE AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION:

The Eleventh South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-11) and its inauguration will be held at conference hall of Hotel Jen, Malé from 25-27 September 2017. The accommodations for international participants are booked at Hotel MOOKAI, Malé city, is a seven-minute boat ride from Velana International Airport. Hotel JEN is located within five-minute walk from Hotel MOOKAI.

For sponsored participants, the hotel accommodation will be directly paid by the organizers covering the period 24-28 September 2017 according to their travel schedules. Breakfast is included in the room tariff and tea/coffee, lunch will be provided at the conference venue. 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. Any additional expenses incurred during stay at the hotel will have to be borne by you.



Location of Hotel Jen, Malé, Maldives

VISA:

A thirty-day free visa is issued on arrival for all Nationalities. They should possess a valid passport with Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) and should have at least 6 months validity. The visitors should have a valid ticket to continue the journey out of Maldives and enough funds to cover the expenses for duration of the stay in Maldives. (US\$100 + \$50 dollars per day) or a confirmation of reservation in a Tourist Resort or a Hotel. All the participants need to apply for **Business Visa** to enter into Maldives for the event.

Business Visa:

Business visa is the permit to remain in the Maldives for a specific period of time, granted to a foreign national visiting the Maldives. This visa is issued for the purposes of doing a business or a professional work that has been permitted and approved by the concerned Maldivian Government authority. Participants need to fill the visa application and Expatriate health insurance form (attached with this information note) and send relevant documents to RIMES for further process.

*The organizers will pay for the Business visa fees plus Expatriate Health Insurance (in case participant does not own it) prior to the arrival of the participants.

Fees:

1. Business visa (MRF 750 or 49 USD (approx.))
2. Expatriate Health Insurance (MVR 550 or 35.74 USD (approx.))

For more information on business visa: <http://www.immigration.gov.mv/pages/vis>

**Note: In case, organizers could not follow up with immigration department for business visa, participants advised to take business visa plus expatriate health insurance at the immigration counter. The payment will be reimbursed to the participants by the organizers.*

Photo should be in white background.

For more details, please visit the link below.

http://www.immigration.gov.mv/downloads/photo_guidelines.pdf

EXPATRIATE HEALTH INSURANCE:

For application of expatriate health insurance, following documents are requested.

1. PP Date Page (Color Copy)
2. Scan copy of highest academic certificate
3. Flight details (will be provided to you soonest)
4. Invitation letter (attached herewith)

MONEY:

The Maldives has a non-convertible currency – Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) – this cannot be purchased beforehand. One Rufiyaa is 100 Laari and is available in 500, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 Rufiyaa notes. The US Dollar is accepted as legal tender throughout the Maldives. Should you arrive with no USD\$ then other major international currencies can be exchanged at the Bank of Maldives Foreign Exchange counter located in the arrival hall. This is the only dedicated foreign exchange counter in the Maldives. It is advised not to exchange currency in Male where bank queues are common and waiting time lengthy.

Only major foreign currency will be exchanged for local currency MVR. Hold on to your exchange receipt as you will need to present this upon departure at the exchange counter if you wish to change local currency back to foreign currency.

One US Dollar is equivalent to 15.42 Rufiyaa. However, the exchange rate offered on US\$1 and US\$5 notes by local businesses may be lower. This is because there is a 3% handling charge made by the bank on the deposit of US\$1 notes of US\$5 or less. The banks in the Maldives are very particular about the condition of bank notes and will refuse deposits of old style US\$.

ATMS AND CREDIT CARDS:

All major credit and debit cards can be used at resorts, hotels and many shops and restaurants in Male as well as on local islands. Note however, that a credit card payment fee may be applied to the total value of your bill. This charge can fluctuate dependent on the credit card payment processing company and may be up to the value of an additional 5%.

LOCAL TAX:

All services directly related to guests will incur 10% service charge and 12% T-GST (Tourism Goods and Service Tax). The 10% service charge is applied to the total value and 12% T-GST applied to the total value + service charge.

CLIMATE:

With a tropical climate, plenty of sunshine and temperatures around 30°C throughout the year. Maldives experienced southwest monsoon (wet season) from mid-May to November. There can be heavy rain showers pretty much any time of year, but they tend to be short

MOBILE SERVICES:

Dhiraagu and Ooredoo are two cellular services providers. You can buy a local SIM card for around US\$10 and use it in your own phone if it's unlocked (check with your provider before you leave) – this becomes worth the price almost immediately if you're using your phone locally. There are offices of both providers at the airport, so it's easy and cheap to pick up a local SIM on your way to your hotel. The international country code for the Maldives is +960. All Maldives numbers have seven digits and there are no area codes.

ELECTRICITY:

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Republic of Maldives usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you are plugging in an appliance that was built for 220 -240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

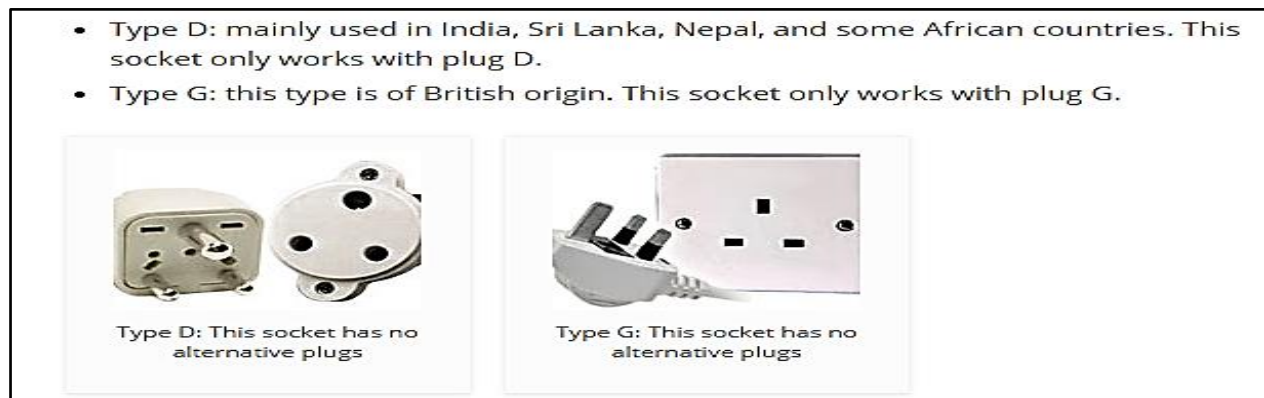


Figure 1. The type of electrical sockets used in Maldives

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 Maldives are strongly recommended to make your own travel insurance arrangements

CONTACTS:

For any other required information and logistical assistances, please contact Ms. Dusadee Moya (dusadee@rimes.int), with copy to Dr. Anshul Agarwal, Hydrologist, RIMES (anshul@rimes.int) and Mr. Mitesh Sawant, Project Officer, RIMES (mitesh@rimes.int).

For discussions relative to the meeting agenda, please contact Dr. Govindarajalu Srinivasan, Chief Scientist, RIMES (srini@rimes.int).

MMS and RIMES meeting staff will be ready to assist you, for any concerns that may arise upon your arrival in Maldives; you can contact local MMS staff.

Maldives Meteorological Service:

Local Secretariat MMS is itself located at Velana International Airport. You can reach MMS Staff on telephone: 3323084 at any time.