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ALIMENTACION

منظمة
الغذية
والزراعة
للأمم
المتحدة

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SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Fifth Session

Male', Republic of Maldives, 13th – 16th March 2011

NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Fifth Session of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) will be held at the Nasandhura Palace Hotel, Male', Maldives from 13th – 16th March 2011. This Hotel is only minutes away from Malé International Airport by a speedboat, and situated within a few steps from the airport ferry service jetty.
2. Registration will start at 08.00 hrs on Sunday 13th March 2011, followed by the formal opening of the Session at 09.00 hrs. The normal working hours will be 09.00 to 12.30 hrs and 14.00 to 17.00 hrs.
3. The Session will run back-to-back with the First Special Session of the South West Indian Ocean Project (SWIOFP) Regional and Policy Steering Committee which will be held on 12 March 2011 and at the same venue.

WORKING LANGUAGES

4. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French.

ENTRY FORMALITIES

5. GMR Malé International Airport is the gateway to the breathtakingly beautiful Maldives. Currently, there are more than 25 airlines offering direct scheduled and chartered flights to Male International Airport from over 27 cities around the world, including London, Berlin, Rome, Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Colombo, Delhi, Singapore, Doha, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, to name a few. If you consider all the possible connecting flights, the Maldives is a very accessible destination, albeit a long-haul journey for most visitors.

6. All travelers arriving in Maldives should have a valid passport. Entry visas would be issued on arrival by Maldives Immigration Officials. Officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture would be present near the Immigration desks to assist the participants. Participants who expect to experience difficulties in obtaining a visa in the manner described above should immediately forward their particulars to the Liaison Officer (see details on paragraph 15).
7. Participants are requested to inform the Liaison Officer of their flights, dates and arrival times so that facilities can be made available to meet them at the Airport.
8. Travellers arriving from yellow fever infected areas require an inoculation certificate.

USEFUL INFORMATION

9. The Maldives is an independent republic and an Islamic state. With ready smiles, and always willing to lend a helping hand, the Maldivians are friendly and make visitors feel very welcome. Maldives has deep blue seas, turquoise reefs, white sandy beaches and palm trees which make it an idyllic tourist destination. It is also a place full of character, where its people have long spent their days languishing in the very essence of idyll living. The country is made up of 1,190 coral islands formed around 26 natural ring-like atolls, along the north-south direction, spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, making this one of the most dispersed countries in the world. Male' is the capital city of Republic of Maldives.
10. Tourism is the largest economic industry in the Maldives, as it plays an important role in earning foreign exchange revenues and generating employment in the tertiary sector of the country. The tourism industry accounts for 28% of GDP. The archipelago of the Maldives is the main source of attraction to many tourists visiting the country worldwide. Fishing is the second largest sector.
11. Maldives is located at the equator and experiences a monsoonal climate with two distinct seasons; dry season (northeast monsoon) and wet season (southwest monsoon). In these two seasons the temperature varies hardly. Northeast monsoon extends from January to March. Since Maldives consists of small islands and are surrounded by seas, hot days are often tempered by cooling sea breezes and balmy evening temperatures. However, daily temperature ranges from around 31⁰C in daytime to 23⁰C at nighttime.
12. Dhivehi is the official and main language spoken. The language is widely used for conversing with people. Since it involves the use of many English, Hindi and Arabic words, it seems to resemble various languages spoken in Sri Lanka, South East Asia and North India. English is commonly used in business. The adult literacy rate stands at 99%. The local currency is Maldivian Rufiya (MRF) with a current exchange rate of about 12.85 for one US\$ and about 17.67 for one Euro (January 2011). Most banks and hotels accept major credit cards and exchange U.S dollars.
13. The electrical power supply is 220-240 volts. Plugs are of the UK-style with 3 square pins.

14. Tap water may not be suitable for drinking and participants are advised to use bottled water for drinking.

CORRESPONDENCE

15. For further information on the SWIOFC meeting please contact :

Aubrey HARRIS
Secretary,
FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa,
P.O. Box 3730, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: (263-4) 253655-8, 252021-3 ext 212
Fax: (263-4) 700724, 703496
Email : aubrey.harris@fao.org

For information related to accommodation, visa and other local arrangements please contact the following:-

Noora Jaleel (Ms)
Liaison Officer
Senior Research Officer,
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
PO Box 20096
Velaanaage, Maldives
Tel: (960) 332 2625
Mobile: (960) 9980999
Fax: (960) 332 6558
Email: noora.jaleel@fishagri.gov.mv,

ACCOMMODATION

16. Participants are encouraged to stay at the Nasandhura Palace Hotel and other hotels in the vicinity where we have negotiated special arrangements

Nasandhura Palace Hotel
Tel: (+960) 332 3625
Mobile: (+960) 778 2009
Fax: (+960) 332 0822
Email: ghuzlan@nasandhurapalace.com
Website: www.nasandhurapalace.com

Other hotels in the vicinity

- Hotel Mookai
- Kam Hotel
- Hotel Relax Inn

Please contact with Nasandhura Palace Hotel for any further information of the above hotels.

17. Other hotels nearby include the:

Traders Hotel:

Tel: (960) 3321079

Fax: (960) 3325397

Email : info@maldiveshotels.mv

Web : <http://www.shangri-la.com/en/property/male/traders>

18. Restaurants nearby includes :

1- Sala Thai Restaurant

Tel : (960) 3345959

Website : <http://www.salathai-maldives.biz/>

2- Royal Garden Cafe'

Tel : (960) 332-0288

19. The Secretariat of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, the Regional Management Unit of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project are collaborating to support national participants to these meetings. Countries will be informed of their support, in due course. Non-supported participants/observers are kindly requested to book and confirm reservations directly, as early as possible and inform the organisers on the following attached information sheet. Confirmed reservations should be respected and all participants are advised that they will be responsible for the settlement of their hotel bills.



**Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
Male', Republic of Maldives**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN PROJECT (SWIOFP)
REGIONAL AND POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE**

12 March 2011

FIFTH SESSION OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

13 – 16 March 2011

**INFORMATION ON PARTICIPANTS
(Please print)**

Family Name Dr/Mr./Ms Given Name

Country or organisation.....

Official designation

Nationality.....Passport No.....

Date and Place of Issue.....Valid Until.....

Mailing Address

Fax No.....Tel. No.....E-mail Address.....

Name of Accompanying person (s), if any

Arrival date..... At.....Hours By Flight

Expected date of departureAt.....Hours By Flight.....

Hotel Accommodation required / Already booked

From (date) To (date) At

Single occupancy Double occupancy Twin sharing with

Date Signature

Participants are requested to forward the completed forms to:

Noora Jaleel (Ms)
Liaison Officer
Senior Research Officer,
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
PO Box 20096
Velaanaage, Maldives
Tel: (960) 332 2625
Mobile: (960) 9980999
Fax: (960) 332 6558
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