

RA VI WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND HYDROLOGY
THE THIRD MEETING
12 – 14 March 2013, Helsinki, Finland

INFORMATION NOTE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Background

The RA VI Working Group on Climate and Hydrology was established as per the Resolution 4 of the XV-RA VI Session, held in September 2009, in Brussels, Belgium.

The Working Group has 12 core members including a co-chair for Climate and a co-chair for Hydrology. The list of members and the WG' documents are available on the web page of the WMO Regional Office for Europe and can be accessed via the following web link: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/RA6_WG_CH.php.

This third meeting will have the objective to review the implementation of the work programme and plan the reporting to the 16th Session of RA VI.

Dates and venue

At the kind invitation of the Government of Finland, the meeting will be held from 12 to 14 March 2013, in Helsinki, Finland, in the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), situated on Mechelininkatu 34a, Helsinki (see the map as Annex 1).

Meeting Format

The Working Group Meeting is scheduled to open at 10:00 on 12 March and to close at 13:00 on 14 March.

The Opening of the Meeting will be conducted as a Plenary Session, composed of key note speeches and informative reports on behalf of the WMO Secretariat and the Co-chairs of the Working Group.

The delivery of the Task Teams' reports is scheduled for the afternoon Plenary Session.

The second day of the Meeting is planned to be conducted in two Expert Group Sessions, composed of the reports on the implementation of the tasks with no or limited cross-cutting actions, as well as with a follow up discussion specific to the expert group.

The Closing Session is scheduled as a panel joint group discussion on the follow up of the required actions and plan the reporting to the 16th Session of RA VI.

The Provisional Agenda is attached to the Invitation Letter as Doc.1.

Registration of participants

The registration at the meeting will take place in the meeting room 30 minutes before the beginning of the meeting and will be organized by the host institution.

The host institution will kindly offer the meals and the coffee/tea breaks for the meeting period; therefore it would be much appreciated if each WG member sends to the local organizer (see contact details below) a confirmation about his/her availability to participate in the meeting.

Working languages

The working language of the meeting will be English.

Internet facilities

Wireless internet will be available. The password will be provided to the participants during the meeting.

Entry requirements

Entry visa is required for some countries. For more information, please visit the website of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at:

<http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=15716&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

The host institution is ready to provide you, upon request, with a nominal invitation letter, if required for the entry visa issue.

Hotel reservation

Each participant is responsible for reservation and payment of his/her own accommodation, however SYKE recommends to stay in the Helka Hotel (www.helka.fi), which has a contract price of 120 euro per night (including breakfast buffet, sauna and wireless internet connection). If you wish to book a room in Helka Hotel, please note that **the deadline for the reservation is 12 February 2013.**

Other hotels nearby the meeting venue are also available and can be booked online at: www.booking.com/Helsinki-Hotellit.

Local transportation

From airport to the city

Public transportation in Helsinki is well organized by trams, buses and metro. Helsinki/Vantaa airport is connected to the city by Finnair Express busses. The bus will take 30 minutes and the fare is 6.30 euro (http://media.finnair.com/files/pdf/FINNAIR_CITY_BUS_TIMETABLE.pdf). The taxi fare is 35 - 40 euro.

From Helka hotel to the meeting venue

A walk from the Helka Hotel to SYKE takes some 20 minutes and is recommended if the weather is fine. Please note that streets may be slippery due to snow and ice, and you need shoes that are appropriate for outdoors.

You can also take tram no 3T (see the map). It runs every 7 minutes. SYKE is the 3rd tram stop northwards from the Kamppi station. The distance between the Helka hotel and the tram stop is 200 meters. The distance between the Apollonkatu tram stop and SYKE is 400 m. The ticket fare is between 2.00 (machine) and 2.80 (driver) euro.

Info on local climate

Climate data for March in Helsinki:

Mean precipitation: 36 mm

Number of rainy days: 14

Mean daily maximum temperature: 0 °C

Mean daily minimum temperature: - 7 °C

Electricity connections

City and town power systems are generally 220 volts and 50 Hz with CEN plugs.

Currency

The Finnish currency unit is euro.

Information and contact details of the organizer

For any further local information, please contact:

Markku Puupponen

Finish Environment Institute

Mob: +358 40 7432184

Fax: +385 148 51 901

e-mail: markku.puupponen@ymparisto.fi

The WMO Secretariat contact person is:

Natalia Berghi

Programme Officer

Regional Office for Europe

Development and Regional Activities Department

Phone: +41 22 7308298

Fax: +41 22 7308047

E-mail: nberghi@wmo.int.

Helsinki touristic information

Touristic information about Helsinki can be found at:

<http://www.visithelsinki.fi/en/come/tourist-information/helsinki-city-tourist-information>