



Workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Urban Areas

10-12 December 2013

Radisson Hotel San José
San José, Costa Rica

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/events/MHEWSCITIEScentralamerica/index_en.html

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The Training Workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems will be held in San José, Costa Rica at the:

Radisson Hotel San José

Calle 3, Avenida 15, Barrio Tournón

P.O. Box 538-2120 Calle Blancos

San José Costa Rica

Tel: +(506) 20106000

Fax: +(506) 22578221

E-mail: ycano@radisson.co.cr / reservaciones@radisson.co.cr

HOTEL RESERVATION

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Radisson Hotel San José for a negotiated daily rate of 125.00 USD for single occupancy, including the room, breakfast, lunch and free unlimited WIFI access. All participants are strongly urged to stay in this hotel as we have made a commitment with the hotel for 60 rooms to guarantee the best rate possible. **Please note that the deadline for making room reservations and qualifying for this price is 22 November 2013.** After this date there is no guarantee for room availability for last-minute-participants.

Hotel Reservation for participants financially supported by WMO:

For participants supported by WMO, hotel reservation will be directly made by WMO upon receipt of the "Request for Financial Assistance" (RFA) form. Cost of room, breakfast, lunch and free WIFI access is directly paid to the hotel by WMO. Each participant funded by WMO will receive a lump sum to cover dinner and airport transportation.

Hotel Reservation for participants NOT financially supported by WMO:

Participants who are NOT financially supported by WMO should make their own hotel reservation at the Radisson Hotel San José, **via e-mail: ycano@radisson.co.cr**, phone or fax. Please do not forget to request a confirmation number. In order to qualify for the negotiated daily rate of 125.00 USD, when you make your reservations, please refer to "WMO Meeting, 10-12 December 2013". If you are not planning to stay at this hotel, please provide your hotel information to WMO Secretariat to Ms Maud Allegrini upon confirmation of your reservation. Please take note that for all those not staying at the Radisson Hotel, lunch will not be included.

Information Note for Participants

TRANSFER FROM AND TO THE AIRPORT in San Jose

The local hosts have kindly offered roundtrip transportation of the participants between the airport and the Radisson Hotel San José. Participants are requested to send their itineraries to Ms Priscilla Ramirez: (pramirez@wmo.int) before 4 December 2013, to ensure that the transportation can be arranged.

For participants who wish to arrange their own transportation they can arrange for a taxi at the airport, at the exit of Customs, where a taxi-teller is conveniently located and working 24/7. The official taxis are orange color, named Taxis Unidos. Cost of one-way from the airport to the hotel is approximately 32 to 38 USD.

VISA ARRANGEMENTS

Participants wishing to enter the Republic of Costa Rica must possess valid passports. Some nationalities with a confirmed round-trip ticket can stay for 30 days without visas. Meanwhile, any visitors from countries that have no diplomatic relations or no special visa exemption with Costa Rica should obtain an entry visa before arriving to Costa Rica.

For more information, please visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at <http://www.migracion.go.cr/extranjeros/visas.html> or please contact the Costa Rica Embassy or the nearest Consulate in your area, as early as possible.

For participants requiring visa for Costa Rica, upon receipt of Participant's nomination form, WMO will request the local hosts (National Disaster Risk Management Agency and the National Meteorological Service of Costa Rica) to provide an official invitation letter to the participant for the visa application process. The invitation letter will be sent to you via your email address.

Should you have any problems or questions, please contact.

Ms Yadira Muñoz
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Email: pramirez@wmo.int

LANGUAGE

Official language in Costa Rica is Spanish.

The Workshop will be held in two languages, English and Spanish.

INSURANCE POLICY

The workshop organizers cannot accept liability for personal injuries sustained, or for loss of, or damage to, property belonging to conference participants or their accompanying persons, either during or as a result of the workshop. Participants are advised to arrange for insurance to cover medical, travel, and personal effects while attending the meetings.

Information Note for Participants

WMO's insurance coverage for non-staff members supported by WMO to participate in the event is as follows: "The Organization accepts limited responsibility for compensation in the event of death, illness or injury attributable to the attendance at meetings or the performance on behalf of the Organization of services by persons not belonging to the staff of the Organization but authorized to travel at its expense and/or receiving a daily subsistence allowance from it. These persons remain therefore fully responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of events which are not attributable to the attendance of meetings or the performance of services on behalf of the Organization and for arranging such life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate."

CURRENCY AND BANKS

The official unit of currency is the Colon (CRC). One "Colon" is divided into 100 cents.

1.00 USD is approximately 489.00 CRC

1.00 EUR is approximately 670.00 CRC

ATMs are plentiful throughout the country and banks. Banks are open Monday through Saturday. Most hotels will exchange foreign currency or travelers' cheques. Major credit cards are widely accepted at the main hotels and restaurants.

TIME ZONE

Time zone CST (UTC-6)

WEATHER IN SAN JOSE IN MARCH

Mean precipitation:	40.3 mm
Mean humidity:	82%
Mean temperature:	19.6°C
Maximum temperature:	23.4°C
Minimum temperature:	15.8°C
Rainy days:	8
Prevailing wind:	12.7 km/h N.E.

Costa Rica *Instituto Meteorológico Nacional* website: <http://www.imn.ac.cr>

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Ambulance: 911	Police: 911
Fire brigade: 911	Hospital Clinica Biblica (506) 2522-1000

ELECTRICITY

Costa Rica supplies electricity at 110 volts AC. USA standard electric plugs are used. If you're plugging in an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

TIPPING

The tip and taxes are included in the bill, so tipping is not necessary. If you have a large group, or have excellent service, a 10-15 % tip would be appropriate.

Information Note for Participants

WMO FOCAL POINTS**WMO Secretariat (Geneva, Switzerland)**

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