CMS COP12 SURVIVAL TIPS

Their Future is Our Future: Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People

THE TWELFTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

CMS COP12 • MANILA, PHILIPPINES • 23–28 OCTOBER 2017

PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC) VICENTE SOTTO ST, PASAY, 1700 METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

We hope you find these tips helpful as you prepare for your voyage ahead!

PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY

SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO PACK

1. There is a lot of walking done at these meetings so you may want to make sure you have good comfortable shoes – remember comfort over fashion!
2. The dress code at these meetings tends to be formal, particularly during the first day, opening plenary, and ministerial events. For men, that means a tie and suit jacket. Note, however, that a sulu/traditional dress may be considered formal, and island dress always makes a welcome change in a sea of bland suits!
3. Pack something with an 'island flair' which is still dressy. We'd like to encourage you to raise our island visibility.
4. Travel by the "if you lose it and you will cry, then don't take it" philosophy when it comes to packing jewellery and other precious items.
5. Bring your business cards so they can be handed out to people as part of your networking.
6. Try to stay healthy: bring a water bottle, eat fruit and vegetables, and bring multi-vitamins.
7. It's handy to have some healthy snacks to help you get through long sessions. Pack some with you or purchase in Manila.
8. It's helpful to pack headache pills and stomach medications, as travelling can give you an upset stomach.
9. You may want to bring your cellphones, it is understood there are many places you can purchase local sim cards, and then you purchase your package (data, phone calls, texts). There are stands to provide assistance both in the airports and in malls.
10. Delegates are reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the meeting, including the information documents which can be downloaded from **www.cms.int/en/meeting/twelfth-meeting-conference-parties-cms**

VISA REQUIREMENTS

According to the **CMS COP12 Information Note for Participants**, under normal circumstances, there are a list of countries including the Pacific islands of Nauru and Tonga, that require a visa to enter the Philippines however on the special occasion of CMS COP12, the Philippines will provide visas on arrival for participants on this list. Note participants from these countries are requested to present an invitation letter to the authorities in Manila in advance of their arrival. The Secretariat will issue such letters upon request. Local Philippine staff will have a desk at the airport to assist with visas on arrival.

Don't forget to make sure your passport:

✓ is valid for six months beyond your departure date from the Philippines

✓ has one blank visa page

✓ is machine readable

More information can be found at: **CMS COP12 Information Note for Participants.** We advise you to read this and double check all requirements are met.

SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
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An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States funded by the European Union

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Their Future is Our Future CMS 12 MANILA • PHILIPPINES

A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

AT THE AIRPORT

ARRIVING INTO THE AIRPORT

Please note: Expect the customs process to take some time and make sure you declare what needs to be declared on your forms.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT

Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) is the largest airport in the Philippines. Manila airport (MNL) has 4 active terminals. Terminal 1 and 3 are the international terminals where you will arrive, depending on your flight/airline. Terminal 2 is all Philippine airline flights only. Terminal 4 is for domestic flights. Arriving participants may approach the CMS COP12 information desk for assistance stationed at Terminals 1, 2 and 3.

TAXIS

- A taxi service is available to NAIA from all points of Metro Manila.
- Take only official, metered or pre-booked taxis.
- Do not accept rides from people that approach you in the terminal.
- Taxi charges are around 200 Pesos (4USD) to central Manila hotels.
- It will take 20 minutes to an hour for the trip depending on traffic.
- You may also organise pick-ups from the hotels if available and this would cost around 750–1000 pesos (15–20USD).

NOTE: Due to construction on the NAIA *Expressway*, there is heavy traffic along airport roads, especially during rush hour and airport peak hours. It is recommended you leave your hotel for the airport at least three hours prior to your departure, depending on where you are staying.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM YOUR HOTEL AND THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Daily transport to and from hotel to conference venue will be provided for free at designated pick up points/stations and time intervals at or near the recommended hotels.

The schedule of daily group transport service will be posted in the lobby of the recommended hotels and on the **CMS COP12 website**.

NOTE: Delegates staying in hotels other than those recommended by the CMS Secretariat should arrange their own transportation at their own costs.

AT THE CMS COP12 VENUE

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

- Before you can enter the conference venue, you need to go through Security at the main entrance of the venue to the registration desk.
- You have to bring your passport with you and a printed copy of your country's accreditation letter.

NOTE: On-site registration will start on 21 October at 3:00PM.

ONCE REGISTERED

- Keep your badge safe, as you wont be able to get into the building without it.
- You must wear it at all times when inside the building but don't wear it outside as it could mark you instantly as a visitor and makes you attractive to pick pockets.
- If you lose your badge report it immediately to the CMS Secretariat.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- **High level panel** takes place in the afternoon of Sunday 22 October 2017. This involves dignitaries and ministers, several leaders including the executives of international organisations and celebrity goodwill ambassadors.
- **Champion Night**, open to all COP participants at the Conference Center Reception Hall from 6:00PM–7:00PM.
- **Official opening** will take place on Monday 23 October 2017 at 9:00AM.
- **Formal sessions** of the meeting will be held daily from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and from 2:00PM to 5:00PM at the Conference venue.
- **Conference excursions** are being organised for participants by the Government of the Philippines, please bring outdoor shoes and suitable clothes for these, should you be interested in attending.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

FIRST DAY

On your first day, it is useful to familiarise yourself with maps of the venue to find key points such as:

- Toilets and bathrooms
- IT help desk
- Bank or money machines
- Water cooler machines
- Power points and desks
- Restaurants or food carts
- Computer rooms where you can check internet and print for free
- Shops in case you need key minor items e.g. batteries, gum, Panadol
- The exits are in case of emergencies
- Key meeting rooms such as the main plenary and exhibition sites etc.

NOTE: Click here to learn more about the venue and to access a venue floor map

WEATHER

October is characterised by essentially constant daily high temperatures, with daily highs around 31°C throughout the month, and can exceed 33°C or drop below 29°C.

NOTE: it may be cool inside the conference venue itself so you may want to bring a light jacket or wrap, just in case.

DRINKING WATER

- Drinking tap water is usually safe.
- You may prefer to drink bottled water to ensure your drinking water is sanitary.

SMOKING POLICY



- All conference rooms and public areas are strict no-smoking zones.
- Smoking in public areas such hotels, airports, restaurants, theatres, shopping complexes, etc. and transportation such as airlines, railways, cars and coaches is a punishable offence in some areas.
- Most hotels, restaurants and even airports have smoking lounges or marked smoking areas.

ELECTRICITY





- Electric power is 220 volts at 60 Hertz is the common standard, some hotels may also use 110 volts AC.
- It is advisable to carry universal adaptors.

CURRENCY

- The currency used in the Philippines is the peso (PHP).
- One peso is divided into 100 centavos, with notes in denominations of PHP 20, 50, 200, 500 and 1000.
- Coins come in values of 25 centavos and 1, 5, 10 pesos.
- It is best to arrive with some local currency, though you can easily withdraw cash at ATMs.
- Credit cards are accepted by most hotels and restaurants in Manila, those small hotels may levy a surcharge if you pay by card.
- The exchange rate as of May 2017 is 50.01 pesos per US dollar.

NOTE: Click here for more information, (site updated August 2016).

HEALTH

- The only vaccine required by international regulations is yellow fever, proof of vaccination will be required only if you have visited a country in the **yellow-fever zone** within the six days prior to entering Southeast Asia.
- The host government recommends all participants have valid travel and medical insurance covering the period of stay in the Philippines.

NOTE: The World Health Organization recommends the following vaccinations for travelers to Southeast Asia: adult diphtheria and tetanus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, mumps and rubella, polio, typhoid, varicella. For more information please visit the **CMS COP12 Information Note for Participants.**

TIME ZONE

The Philippines Standard Time is 8 hours ahead of Universal Time. **GMT +8**

DIALLING CODES

Country Code for Manila: **+632**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police & Fire: **757** or **116**

Emergency: **501-650** or **501-728**

MORE INFORMATION

- **CMS COP12 website**
- **Philippines (host government) website**
- **CMS COP12 Information Note for Participants**

We hope you find this helpful and have a safe and pleasant journey ahead!

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
E: sprep@sprep.org
www.sprep.org

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