



Fourth session of SOUTH ASIAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SASCOF-4)

Kathmandu, Nepal, 18-19 April 2013

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

General Information

The fourth session of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-4) will be hosted by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) of Nepal at Kathmandu from 18 to 19 April 2013. The session will be conducted in English only and there will be no arrangements for translation. Like in the previous years, a 3-day capacity building training workshop on long range forecasting has also been arranged during 15 to 17 April 2013, back to back with the SASCOF-4 session. These meetings are co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with technical coordination by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Venue

Both the training workshop and SASCOF-4 will be held at the Royal Singi Hotel, Lal Durbar, Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal. The full information of the hotel is provided below.

Entry visa requirement

No foreigner except Indian nationals is entitled to enter into and stay in Nepal without valid visa. Participants are kindly requested to inquire about visa requirements from their respective Consulates or Embassies of Nepal. It is important to take action in advance for obtaining the visas, as there could be significant waiting periods for scheduling appointments for visa applications in some countries.

Please note that Indian citizens travelling in Nepal by air/land have to show upon arrival at the entry point either a valid passport or similar type of identity card with photograph.

Please visit <http://www.immi.gov.np> for further information.

All foreign participants who need a letter of invitation in support of the visa application may contact Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma with copy to Mr. Suman Kumar Regmi (Contact details at the end of this note).

Hotel Information

A block of rooms has been reserved for participants at the following hotel which is located at the heart of Kathmandu City.

ROYAL SINGI HOTEL
P.O. Box: 13168
Lal Durbar, Kamaladi
Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4424190/4424191
Fax: +977-1-4424189/4425802
E-mail: singi@ntc.net.np
URL: <http://www.hotelroyalsingi.com/>

The negotiated hotel charges, including service tax and VAT, per room per night including breakfast, are \$100 for single room and \$106 for double room. The room charges for the country participants supported by WMO will be paid by the local host from the funds provided by WMO. All resource persons and other invited experts will need to settle their bills directly with the hotel.

Transportation

Local transportation is being arranged by the local organizers to pick up/drop the participants from the airport/hotel. The venue for the meeting is the same hotel.

Pre-paid Taxi service, identifiable with green number plates, is also available for downtown transfer at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Kathmandu, across the green channel.

Directions

Kathmandu has an international airport called Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), which is connected with many international cities. The hotel and venue of the meetings is at a distance of approximately 5 km west from the airport.

Please visit <http://www.tiaairport.com.np> for more information.

Computer and Internet Access

All Participants are strongly recommended to bring their own Wi-Fi/Ethernet-ready laptop computers for use with the practical exercises. Wireless internet access is available at the venue as well as in the rooms. Internet access including Wi-Fi is complimentary at the Hotel.

Conference Support

Computer-connected projection facility will be available for presentations. Copier and printing

services will also be available. Printed copies of documents can be made available, as needed.

Electricity

The mains supply in Nepal is 220 V (50Hz). If you wish to use an electrical appliance, you may need an appropriate international adaptor plug.



Currency and Credit Cards

Local currency is Nepalese Rupee (NPR). Foreign currencies must be exchanged only through the banks or authorized foreign exchange dealers. Money can be exchanged at the foreign exchange counter at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) upon arrival.

For Indian citizens, Indian currency is also accepted in most commercial establishments; however currency denominations of INR 500 and INR 1000 are banned in Nepal.

The prevailing exchange rate for NPR is: 1 USD = 87 NPR. Please visit <http://www.nrb.org.np> for latest official exchange rates.

Credit Cards like the American Express, Visa, Master Card etc. are accepted in major establishments, but cash transactions are the norm in most places. You should always verify what cards are accepted by any business before trying to use one. Many businesses post on the entrance door or in other conspicuous areas which cards are accepted. If uncertain, verify from business staff.

Most banks in the area also have ATMs which normally operate for 24 hours. Stand-alone ATMs can also be found at several locations around the city. Banks will also cash Traveller's Cheques although you will probably need to show some identification, such as a passport.

Communication

Prepaid and post paid SIM cards are available at many places and can be bought by presenting some identification documents like photocopy of passport and passport-size photograph. A widely available network service is Ncell or NTC prepaid service.

(Please visit <http://www.ncell.com.np> or <http://www.ntc.net.np> for detail information.

Cheap calls can also be made through telephone booths or cyber zones which are available at many places within the city.

Time Zone

The Nepalese Standard Time is UTC+5.45, and there is no daylight saving concept.

Local Weather

April marks the middle of the pre-monsoon season in Kathmandu. Average high/low temperatures range from 28 degrees Celsius (~82 degrees Fahrenheit) during the day, to 12 degrees Celsius (54 degrees Fahrenheit) at night in April. Being the one of the hottest month of the year, it is not

unusual for some April days to reach above 32 degrees Celsius (>90 degrees Fahrenheit). The weather remains practically dry in the day time with average relative humidity 25% whereas in the morning it can increase up to 95%. Pre-monsoon thunder or thundershowers activities are common in April especially during afternoon/evening with a mean monthly rainfall of 61 mm.

Tour/Sightseeing/shopping

Kathmandu is a well-known place for sightseeing. There are a number of UNESCO heritage sites within the city. Some of the places are in walking distance from the ROYAL SINGI HOTEL. The city has many international brand showroom as well as international standard shopping center within the distance of few kilometers.

Please visit <http://www.welcomenepal.com> for more information.

Additional Local Information

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal>

Local Contact

For any additional local information or assistance that you may require, please contact:

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Focal Point for SASCOF- 4

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WMO Contacts

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