

AIMS REGIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY

Seychelles, 26th- 28th October 2005

INFORMATION NOTE

The Aims Regional Meeting will be held at Mahe Island, Seychelles, from 26th – 28th October 2005.

1. Venue:

Plantation Club Resort and Casino
Baie Lazare
P.O. Box 437
Tel: (248) 38 68 68
Fax: (248) 38 68 83
Email: resa3@plantationclub.sc
Website: www.plantationclub.com

2. All correspondence regarding hotel reservations should be addressed to:

Mrs. Dina Bristol
Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources
Botanical Garden
Mahe
Seychelles
Tel: + (248) 670512/723028
Fax: + (248) 610638
Email: d.bristol@env.gov.sc

And Copied to:

Mrs. Lyn Marie
Protocol Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mont Fleuri
Tel No: + (248) 283500
Fax No: + (248) 225852
Email: laccouch@mfa.gov.sc

Mr. Ayub Appoo
Protocol Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mont Fleuri

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Tel No: + (248) 283500
Fax No: + (248) 225852
Email: aappoo@mfa.gov.sc

3. Participation and Registration:

A registration desk will be in place at the site of the meeting one day before commencement of the meetings. Registration will be open from Monday 25th October 2005 in the afternoon. Folders, badges and any other relevant information will be issued at time of registration.

4. Entry Formalities:

No visa is necessary for the Seychelles. A visitor's permit will be issued upon arrival at the Seychelles International Airport.

Customs Regulation

The importation of firearms, harpoons, seeds, plants and meat product is prohibited. Visitors over 18 are allowed to import or possess duty free of the following quantities; 200ml of perfume and/or eau de toilette, 400 cigarettes or 250g. of tobacco, 2 litres of any kind of alcoholic drink.

Special permission is required to export 'coco-de-mer' nuts, which are only to be purchased from a licensed dealer, who must provide all necessary certification.

5. Reception at the International Airport:

Participants will be met by members of the Seychelles Secretariat. Transfer from the airport to the Plantation Club Hotel and Casino will be provided for all participants.

It is therefore important that confirmation of participation and flight itineraries be provided to Mrs. Dina Bristol as early as possible – d.bristol@env.gov.sc and copied to laccouch@mfa.gov.sc – aappoo@mfa.gov.sc

6. Accommodation

Discounted room rates have been obtained for participants at the Plantation Club Hotel. Confirmation of reservation should be made by 20th October 2005 to Mrs. Dina Bristol

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Please indicate preference for room arrangements;

HALF BOARD (SINGLE=US\$130, TWIN= US\$ 180)
BED & BREAKFAST (SINGLE=US\$100, TWIN=US\$138).

7. Practical Information

Background Information on Seychelles can be obtained on the following websites;

www.virtualseychelles.com
www.aspureasitgets.com

Local Time: The official time in Seychelles is three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+3)

Climate: The weather in Seychelles is hot and humid with temperature averaging between 24-30°C.

Dress Code: The dress code in Seychelles is **casual** (short – sleeved shirt is in order for gentlemen)

Health Regulations: Vaccination for yellow fever is required for visitors who have traveled from, or through a partly or wholly infected area within the preceding 6 days. Infected areas include certain parts of Northern, Central, Southern America as well as Central Africa. (South Africa is not considered as an infected area).

Currency Regulations: The Seychelles Rupee (SR) is the official currency.
1 rupee = 100 cents. Coins: cents 5, 10, 25 and Rupees 1 and 5. Notes: Rupee 10, 25, 50 and 100.

The current rate of exchange is approximately SR 5.5 to 1 US\$, SR 6.8 to 1Euro and SR10 to £1.

Foreign Exchange;

All visitors are required by law to use only foreign currency (US\$, £ and Euro) in making payments in hotels, guesthouses and for other holiday-related expenses such as hiring of cars or boats, the services of tour operators or travel agents, patronage of casinos and domestic transfers.

Credit cards, namely Visa, American Express and Master Card are widely accepted in Seychelles.

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Incidental purchases or payments such as in restaurants outside hotels, shopping (excluding duty free shops) and taxi fares are payable in local currency.

Business Hours:

Government Offices are open from 08:00 hrs to 12 noon and 13:00hrs to 16:00hrs.
Banks open from 08.30 hrs to 14.30 hrs from Monday to Friday and some branches open from 09.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs on Saturdays. They are closed on Sundays.

Shops open daily from 09.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs and are closed on Sundays. The Victoria market opens daily from 06.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs and is closed on Sundays.