

Information for Delegates

17TH SESSION OF THE
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD
IMPORT AND EXPORT
CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS
24-28 November 2008

Shangrila's Mactan Hotel Resort & Spa

Punta Engaño Road,
Lapu Lapu City 6015
CEBU, PHILIPPINES



Information for Delegates

Cebu is located 365 miles south of Manila and has an international airport with direct flights from many countries. It is often called the "Queen City of the South" and is the country's oldest city.

With its six (6) cities; Cebu, Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, Toledo and Talisay; and its 47 smaller towns, Cebu has become a thriving, highly urbanized center that comes second to Manila's bustling metropolis.

The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems will be held from Monday 24 to Friday 28 November 2008 at the Shangrila's Mactan Hotel Resort and Spa, Punta Engaño Road, Lapu-Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines.



Accommodation

The Secretariat has arranged a block booking for CCFICS delegates at the meeting venue - Shangrila's Mactan Hotel Resort and Spa.

Shangrila's Mactan Hotel Resort and Spa offers five star accommodation at a special rate of PhP7,365.00 nett (Philippine Peso) per night for delegates attending the Codex meeting.

There is also a range of other hotels in the area. A list of hotels has been provided separately. Delegates are required to make their own accommodation bookings directly with the hotels. Taxis are available at the airport to take passengers to their respective hotels. Kindly check on the list regarding the details on available accommodation and transport requirements.





Flight Information

Mactan-Cebu International Airport is located one hour south of Manila and services domestic flights and international flights. There are two ways to get to Cebu. At present, international airlines offer direct flights to Cebu from abroad. The following airlines serve the Mactan-Cebu International Airport:

- ◆ Asiana Airlines (Seoul-Incheon)
- ◆ Cathay Pacific (Hong Kong)
- ◆ Korean Air (Seoul Incheon)
- ◆ Malaysia Airlines (Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu)
- ◆ Mandarin Airlines (Taipei-Chiang Kai Shek)
- ◆ Philippine Airlines (Seoul-Incheon, Tokyo-Narita)
- ◆ Qatar Airways (Doha, Singapore)
- ◆ Silkair (Singapore)

The alternative of a direct flight is to fly to Manila and take a domestic flight to Cebu.

For more information on the Mactan Cebu Airport, see <http://www.mactan-cebuairport.com.ph/>



Visa Information

Most foreign nationals from various countries traveling to the Philippines are allowed to enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding twenty one (21) days, provided they hold valid tickets for their return journey to port of origin or next port of destination and their passports valid for a period of at least six (6) months beyond the contemplated period of stay. Please check with the Philippine consular offices in your respective countries.

However, the following are only allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a stay not exceeding seven (7) days:

- ◆ Holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative (SAR) passports;
- ◆ Holders of British National Overseas (BNO) passports;
- ◆ Holders of Portuguese passports issued in Macau; and
- ◆ Holders of Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports.

For more information on visa and travel requirements see

<http://www.dfa.gov.ph/consular/visa-02.htm>



Time Zone

Philippine standard time is eight hours ahead of the Greenwich Meridian Time (GMT + 8 hours)



Climate and Clothing

Cebu is best from December to May when the weather turns dry. It is coolest from December to February, hottest from March to May. Temperature can rise as high as 37°C in the summer. The rainy season begins in July. **Wear natural fibers and lightweight clothing.** The dress style is generally casual, however shorts or sleeveless shirts should never be worn when visiting churches, mosques or temples.



Electrical Power Supply

Most areas in Cebu are supplied with 220 volts, 60 cycles. A plug with 2 flat parallel prongs is the norm. Adaptors may be available from most major hotels.



Currency, Banks and Foreign Exchange

The Philippine currency is peso, divided into 100 centavos (1 peso = 100 cents). Coin denominations are broken down as 25c, P1, P5, P10. Notes are in denominations of P10, P20, P50, P100, P200, P500 and P1000.

Most foreign currencies can easily be changed at banks, hotels, and authorized dealers. Foreign currency is not readily taken by the establishments in Cebu. Major foreign credit cards may be accepted only at major hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants.

Banks are open from 9am to 3pm from Mondays to Fridays. Government offices and private firms from 8am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays. Some private offices are open on Saturdays from 9am to 12nn. Shops are open from 10am to 9pm.



Getting Around

Getting around Cebu, one may take a colorful jeepney or a bus at minimal fare. Tricycles (motorcycles with sidecars) are popular in outlying areas and in the suburbs, quite notably within Mactan Island. Taxicabs are widely available.

Cebuano is the native tongue. While Filipino is commonly understood and spoken, the English language is widely used in business transactions and education.



Places of Interest

Bantayan Island is located at the northernmost tip of Cebu mainland and is composed of 3 municipalities,



Fe and Madridejos. Aside from having one of the oldest churches in the Visayas and Mindanao, it is also known for its white sand beaches and crystal clear waters. Beach resorts dotting the island shores offers a mix of local and international cuisines as well as vast arrays of fresh seafood's to choose.



Located off the coast of Danao City in North Cebu mainland is known as the "Lost Horizon in the South" because of its unspoiled beauty. Camotes consists of four islands: Pajican, Poro, Ponson and the tiny Tulang Island. To cross the island, one has to go to Danao City, an hour away from Cebu City, or take a fastferry. There are boats which travel to and from the island and Danao City everyday.



Places of Interest



MACTAN ISLAND

Mactan Island lies a few kilometers southeast of Cebu mainland. The island is connected to Cebu Island by two bridges,

the Mandaue-Mactan Bridge and the Marcelo B. Fernan Bridge. This coral island is famous for its dive sites, local handicrafts like the guitar and more than a dozen of beautiful beach resorts of international standards.

Malapascua is sometimes referred to as "Logon", the main community in the south of the island. The island is 3 km long and 1 km wide,



MALAPASCUA ISLAND

with a population of about 4,000. It has white sand beaches and crystal clear waters. The west coast is ideal for swimming and snorkeling. A walk or tour on the whole island can be done.

For more information on tourist attractions in Cebu see <http://www.cvis.net.ph/dotr7>