



Global Terrestrial Observing System

Rome, Italy, 8-10 February 2006

Land Use and Land Cover Harmonization

INFORMATION NOTE

The following information is provided in order to make your time in Rome as pleasant and efficient as possible.

Date

The meeting will start on **Wednesday 8 February at 9:00 AM** and finish on **Friday 10 February at 5:00 PM**.

Please note that a preliminary meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 January 1pm to 5pm between the GTOS Secretariat, GTOS Chairman and GTOS Panel Chairs.

Venue

The meeting will take place in the **Mexico Room** (D211, building D, 2nd floor) at FAO HQ, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, I-00100 Rome, Italy. The FAO building is next to the Circo Massimo, subway ("Metro") line B ("linea B") stop.

Airports

The two main airports are Fiumicino airport (sometimes called Leonardo da Vinci airport, 36 km west of Rome) and Ciampino airport (16km southeast of Rome, but used primarily for charter flights). The site www.adr.it provides details on the two airports.

Transport

Taxi

A taxi from Fiumicino airport to a hotel near FAO HQ should cost approximately Euro 40 (US\$50).

A few notes of caution:

- 1) Only use taxis at the official taxi stand outside the arrivals hall (ignore other offers in arrivals hall). It is not advisable to accept rides from unauthorized taxis either at the airport or at the railway station - **go to the taxi stand**.
- 2) Please be aware that **EVEN** in the taxi stand there may be unofficial taxis. Official taxis must have a clock/counter on the dashboard.
- 3) Ask for an estimate of the fare before departure. The average cost of a taxi ride from Fiumicino to FAO HQ is about Euro 40 but will vary on the day, time, and heavy luggage.
- 4) Remember to have Euros with you so that you can pay the taxi driver on arrival.
- 5) Bring with you the details of your hotel or of FAO HQ: Ask to be taken ("mi può portare a") e.g. FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla. If you need a receipt for the taxi ride, please ask the taxi-driver ("posso avere una ricevuta").
- 6) Please ask the Hotel or FAO staff for assistance if you have any problems with the taxi drivers on arrival.

7) Please note that you might have to pay an additional fee if you have a lot of luggage or you arrive late at night/early in the morning.

Public Transport

1) You can take a train from the airport (direction Fara Sabina - every 20 minutes, less frequent on Sundays) to Ostiense Station and then take a short taxi ride to your hotel.

2) Or you can take a train from the airport directly to Stazione Termini (the main station), and then take a taxi to your hotel. Note these trains are less frequent. At Termini Station you can also take the subway (linea B) to Circo Massimo (direzione/direction Laurentina). You will find the FAO gate entrance directly in front of you as you go up the steps from the subway station. The tickets for the Subway can be bought at a "Tabaccheria" at the Airport and Termini Station and from the automatic machines at the subway station (which is signposted and directly under Termini Station). The cost of the subway ticket is 1Euro.



The electronic version of map is available at: http://db.romaone.it:8080/4daction/strade_mappe?tipo=a&quadrante=MN5

Tourist maps of the City are available from the information office (Termini Station, 1st floor).

Security

Usual precautions: Keep luggage close to you at all times on the train, in the subways, and at the air terminals.

Beware of groups of young children approaching you while walking around the city, on buses, or in the subway. Note that often an item of clothing or a newspaper is used to hide the hands "at work" and accomplices may create diversions to distract you.

Lodging

Bettoja Massimo D Azeglio

Via Cavour 18
Rome 00184

Telephone: [+39] 06.4870270

Fax: [+39] 06.4827386

Complimentary buffet breakfast

The hotel is located just 200 meters from the bustling Termini station.

RATINGS - 4 STARS

Web: www.romehoteldazeglio.it

E-mail: dazeglio@bettojahotels.it

The Bettoja Massimo D Azeglio offers a restaurant and a wine cellar.

FAO HQ Facilities

Arriving at FAO HQ

Security passes will be ready for you at the security desk (entrance A). The passes will be valid for the whole period of the meeting. If you have any difficulties you can contact Ms Ricchiuti or Ms Vertecchi who will be able to assist you (contact details below).

General Information

- 1) Official FAO working hours are from 08.30 to 17.00.
- 2) The staff of hotels near FAO will be able to explain how to get to the building. In most cases one can easily walk in less than 15 minutes.
- 3) Once you arrive, please enter FAO through building A, at the front of the complex, and go to the reception desk. There should be a visitors building pass for you, which will give you access to the entire building. The security staff will be able to help you find the room you require (the meeting is in the **Mexico room**).

N.B. FAO is a non-smoking organization. Smoking is not permitted inside any of the FAO buildings.

Services within FAO

There is a travel agency, a newsagent, a post office, a bank, and eating facilities on FAO premises which are open from Mondays to Fridays only.

Contact points

Anne Ricchiuti: tel. 06-57056804 or 56804 for internal calls.

Stephanie Vertecchi: tel. 06-57052565 or 52565 for internal calls.

Meeting room facilities

Presentations and Equipment

The conference will be equipped with overhead (light) projector and electronic projector to give Power Point presentations from a PC. If you are giving a presentation please send the PPT in advance or provide us with a CD-ROM containing a copy of your presentation.

Internet access

Computers with internet access are usually available to participants in the Atrium (ground floor, between building A and B).

PCs

Participants are encouraged to bring their own PC as only one PC will be available inside the meeting room. **Also please remember to bring an adaptor for Italian plugs (3 round pins in a row).**

Photocopying

Photocopying of documents can be done on request to the GTOS Secretariat.

Additional information

Weather

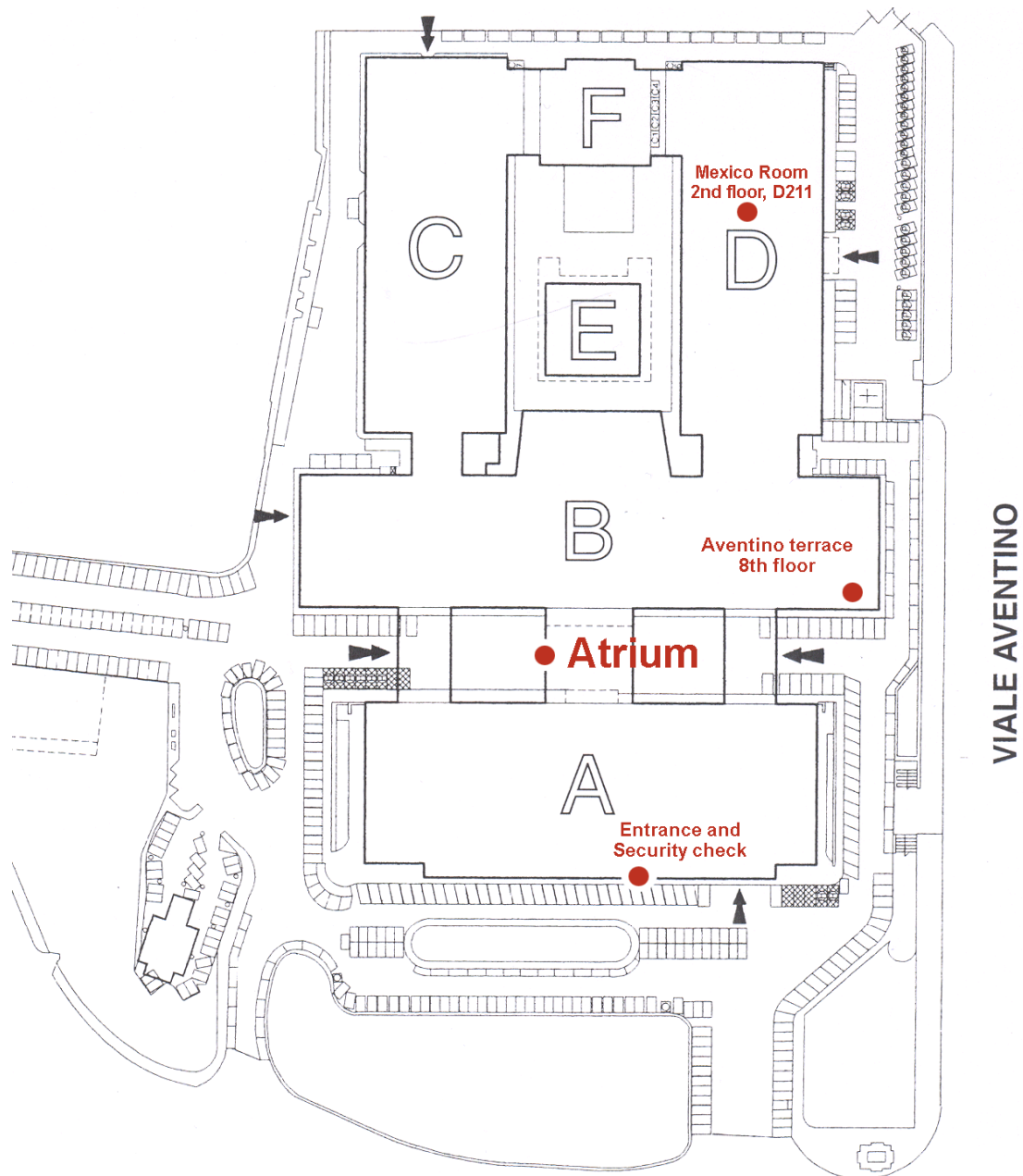
The temperature in Rome in **February** is usually warm, with an average maximum temperature of **13** degrees celsius and a minimum night temperature of **4** degrees celsius. The average monthly precipitation is 68 mm so please bring appropriate garments for this eventuality. Up to date weather information can be obtained from: www.eurometeo.com/english/forecast/city_LIRA

Visa requirements

Please inform us if you require an official letter of invitation for the meeting to apply for a visa.

Exchange rates

Current exchange rates are approximately US\$1.20 = 1 Euro. The most up-to-date exchange rate can be obtained from the following site: www.xe.com/ucc/.



VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA