

June 2009



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

JOINT MEETING OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBRES AND THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES

Pasay City, Philippines, 20 – 22 October 2009

Information Note on Arrangements

1. LOCATION OF SESSION

By kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, the Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres will be held in Pasay City, Philippines, from 20 – 22 October 2009. The provisional timetable is in Appendix 1. The venue will be:

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)
CCP Complex
Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City

2. ENQUIRIES ON THE MEETING

(a) All enquiries concerning the Session, except those regarding local arrangements, may be addressed to:

Mr Adam Prakash
Secretary
Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres
And the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres
Trade and Markets Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Telephone: +39 06 570-4948
Facsimile: +39 06 570-54495 or 570-53152
Email: Adam.Prakash@fao.org

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Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

Or
Kaison Chang
Senior Economist
Raw Materials, Tropical and
Horticultural Products Team
Trade and Markets Division
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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Telephone: +39 06 570-4346
Facsimile: +39 06 570-54495 or 570-53152
Email: Kaison.Chang@fao.org

(b) Information on local arrangements should be addressed to the Liaison Officer for the Session:

Dr. Remedios Abgona
OIC, Fiber Technology and Utilization Division
Fiber Industry Development Authority
BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue
Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone: (0632)9200427
Mobile telephone: 09182018115
E-mail: fida@pldtdsl.net / ftud_fida@yahoo.com

3. ENTRY FORMALITIES

Visas should be obtained from the Philippine Embassy/Consulate nearest to the applicants' domicile. When applying for their visas, delegates should ensure that their passports are valid for at least six months

4. CUSTOMS

Delegates are kindly urged to check customs regulations for the Philippines before entering the country. To facilitate custom examination, visitors are advised to fill in the Baggage and Currency Declaration Form before disembarking. Visitors are allowed to bring in the following items duty-free; reasonable quantity of clothes and jewelry; two bottles of wine or liquor of not more than one litre each; and 400 sticks of cigarettes or equivalent of two reams or twenty packs or two tins of tobacco regardless of size or weight.

Duty free consumables include up to two (reams) cigarettes, two (tins) tobacco, two (2) bottles liquor and /or wine. Only one non-consumable items of each kind whose value exceeds US\$200.00 is allowed. Delegates are strongly recommended to refer to customs for updated information.

The foreign exchange regulation states that visitors carrying more than US\$3 000 are requested to declare the amount at the Central Bank of the Philippines counter at the customs area. Foreign currency taken out upon departure must not exceed the amount brought in. The receipts should be kept for record purposes. Departing passengers may not take more than Php 10 000.00.

5. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Delegates should make their reservations directly to the Liaison Officer. (Please see Appendix 2 for a list of hotels.) A deposit for one night accommodation is required when making a reservation.

6. TRANSPORT

Delegates travelling on international flights will arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, located in Pasay City, about ten kilometres away from the Philippine International Convention Center. Delegates will be met at the airport terminals by a welcome staff and will also be transported to the hotels in Appendix 2, provided that the Liaison Officer receives advance information of their arrival details.

7. CLIMATE

The average temperature for Pasay City: Max 32°C, Min 25°C.

8. HEALTHRecommended vaccinations for all travellers

All travellers should visit either their personal physician or a travel health clinic four to eight weeks before departure.

The following vaccinations are recommended for the Philippines:

1. Hepatitis A recommended for all travellers;
2. Hepatitis B recommended for all travellers;
3. Typhoid for travellers who may eat or drink outside major restaurants and hotels;
4. Yellow fever vaccination is required for all travelers over one year of age who arrive from a yellow-fever-infected area in Africa or the Americas. Otherwise, it is not recommended.

For delegates who may wish to prolong their stay and visit rural areas, vaccinations for Malaria and Japanese encephalitis are recommended.

9. CURRENCY AND BANKS

The Philippines' monetary unit is the peso, divided into 100 centavos. Foreign currency may be exchanged at any hotel, most department stores, banks and authorized money changing shops accredited by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

10. CREDIT CARDS

International credit cards, such as Visa, Diners Club, Bank Americard, Master Card and American Express are accepted in major establishments.

11. SOCIAL EVENTS

City Day Tour: Pick-up point at PICC. Manila tour will cover Fort Santiago, San Agustin Church Museum, Wax Museum, National Museum and Rizal Park. Lunch and afternoon snack will be at Tagaytay Canon Woods overlooking Taal Volcano. The City Tour also includes Quartel de Santo Domingo (Santa Rosa, Laguna) and return to PICC.

12. MEETING REGISTRATION

Registration for the Joint Meeting will take place from 12.00-18.00 on Monday, 19 October 2009 at the Heritage Hotel and between 07.30 to 09.00 on Tuesday, 20 October 2009, at the PICC.

APPENDIX 1**PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

Tuesday, 20 October 2009

09.00 hours	Opening of Consultation on Natural Fibres
16.30 hours	Opening of the Sixteenth Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries

Wednesday, 21 October 2009

09.00 hours	Adoption of the Report of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries
10.00 hours	Consultation on Natural Fibres (<i>continued</i>)
14.30 hours	Opening of the Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres

Thursday, 22 October 2009

10.00 hours	Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres (<i>continued</i>)
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APPENDIX 2**LIST OF HOTELS**

	Contact information	Rates
Heritage Hotel (5 stars) (recommended)	Roxas Boulevard corner EDSA Pasay City Philippines 1300 Telephone: +63 2 854 8888 Facsimile: +63 2 854 8833 Website: www.heritagehotelmanila.com Email: reservationsmanager@heritage_hotelmanila.com	Single room: US\$117.78 Double room: US\$125.89 Shuttle to PICC: Free of charge
Hyatt Hotel (5 stars)	1588 Pedro Gil corner M.H. Del Pilar Malate, Manila Philippines 1004 Telephone: +63 2 245 1234 Facsimile: +63 2 247 1234 Website: www.manila.casino.hyatt.com Email: hyattmanila@hyattintl.com vangie.deguzman@hyatt.com	Single room: US\$130.00 Double room: n/a Shuttle to PICC: Free of charge (if minimum 15 single rooms were booked)
Manila Hotel (5 stars)	One Rizal Park Roxas Boulevard Manila Philippines 1099 Telephone: +63 2 527 0011 Facsimile: +63 2 257 9467/68 Website: www.manila-hotel.com.ph Email: sales@manila-hotel.com.ph	Single room: US\$165.00 Double room: US\$165.00 Shuttle to PICC (one way): PHP700.00
Traders Hotel (4 stars)	3001 Roxas Boulevard Manila Philippines 1305 Telephone: +63 2 527 9163/523 7011 Facsimile: +63 2 527 9188 Website: www.tradershotel.com Email: michele.castro@shangri.la.com	Single room: US\$118.00 Double room: n/a Shuttle to PICC: Free of charge (if minimum 15 single rooms were booked)