

**8<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting & 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Signatories to the  
Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and  
Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian  
Ocean and South-East Asia**

Grand Tourane Hotel

Da Nang, Vietnam, 16-25 October 2019

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## I. Vietnam

Vietnam (*officially the Socialist Republic of Vietnam*) is situated in the eastern and southern part of the Indo-Chinese peninsula in South-east Asia. It shares borders with China in the north, Laos and Cambodia in the west, with the South China Sea along its entire coast in the east and the south.

Known for its stunning natural beauty, Vietnam is a popular tourist destination. The landscape is mostly hilly and covered by dense forests accounting for over 40 per cent of the country, while mountains take up another 40 per cent. Over 2,000 rivers build up a complex system with the Mekong and Red River (also known as Hong Ha) being the largest ones. River deltas play a crucial role in providing food security in the country.

Home to approximately 16 per cent of the world's species, Vietnam is a biodiversity hotspot. It ranks 16<sup>th</sup> among countries with the richest biodiversity in the world. Due to its extremely long coastline stretching for over 3,260 km, more than 11,000 marine species are found in Vietnam's coastal waters. The coastline is also the reason for a major tourist attraction – world-famous beaches. The country has eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, among them two World Natural Heritage Sites – Ha Long Bay and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park.

### Da Nang

Da Nang lies on the eastern coast, halfway between the capital of Hanoi in the north and the most populous city Ho Chi Minh in the south. One of the five independent municipalities in Vietnam, it is not only an important port and transportation hub but also one of the most beautiful coastal cities in the country. The city is also the largest in the central region – it ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in Vietnam in terms of population.

Da Nang offers a mixture of mountainous landscapes and beaches, a diverse food scene with an accent on seafood specialities and a vibrant nightlife. Some of the sights in and around the city include the famous Dragon Bridge, Cao Dai Temple, Marble Mountains and Ba Na Hills mountain resorts.

## II. Getting to Da Nang

**Da Nang International Airport** (<https://www.danangairportonline.com/>) (IATA: DAD, ICAO: VVDN) is located in Da Nang. It is the third international airport in the country, besides Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi) and Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City) and is an important gateway to access central Vietnam. The airport is only 2 km away from the city centre. Some of the international airline companies that fly to Da Nang are: Asiana, Cathay, Korean Air, Qatar, Thai Airasia and, Vietnam Airlines.

**By taxi:** A ride from the airport to the central hotels should not cost over 60.000đ (\$2.60). Make sure to confirm the fixed or metered rate with the driver before your ride. Mai Linh taxi is considered one of the most reliable taxi companies servicing Da Nang Airport.

**By train:** The Da Nang train station is located approximately 5 km from the city centre. There are daily trains in every direction. The Reunification Express is a faster option in comparison to the local trains. The train tickets cost between \$12-\$60. The tickets can be purchased at the station or online from [Vietnamese Railways](#); however, many tourists have reported problems while paying by a foreign card. Alternatively, the tickets can be booked through websites such as <https://12go.asia/en> or <https://www.baolau.com/>, which charge small additional fees. It is recommended to book the tickets at least a day in advance if you want to get a particular seat or sleeper.

## Getting Around

Da Nang has a well-connected and budget-friendly transportation system. Most taxis are equipped with meters and the drivers usually have a good command of English. Yellow public buses travel between Hoi An and Da Nang. The tickets are sold on the bus with the ticket price posted inside the door. Da Nang's intercity bus station is 3 km west of the city. It is the cheapest but also one of the slowest means of transportation. Renting a bike is also an option, especially if you are planning to explore the seaside. Daily bike rental fees can range between \$2-\$15.

### III. Meeting Venue

The meeting will take place at *The Grand Tourane Hotel* in Da Nang.

**Address:**

**Grand Tourane Hotel**

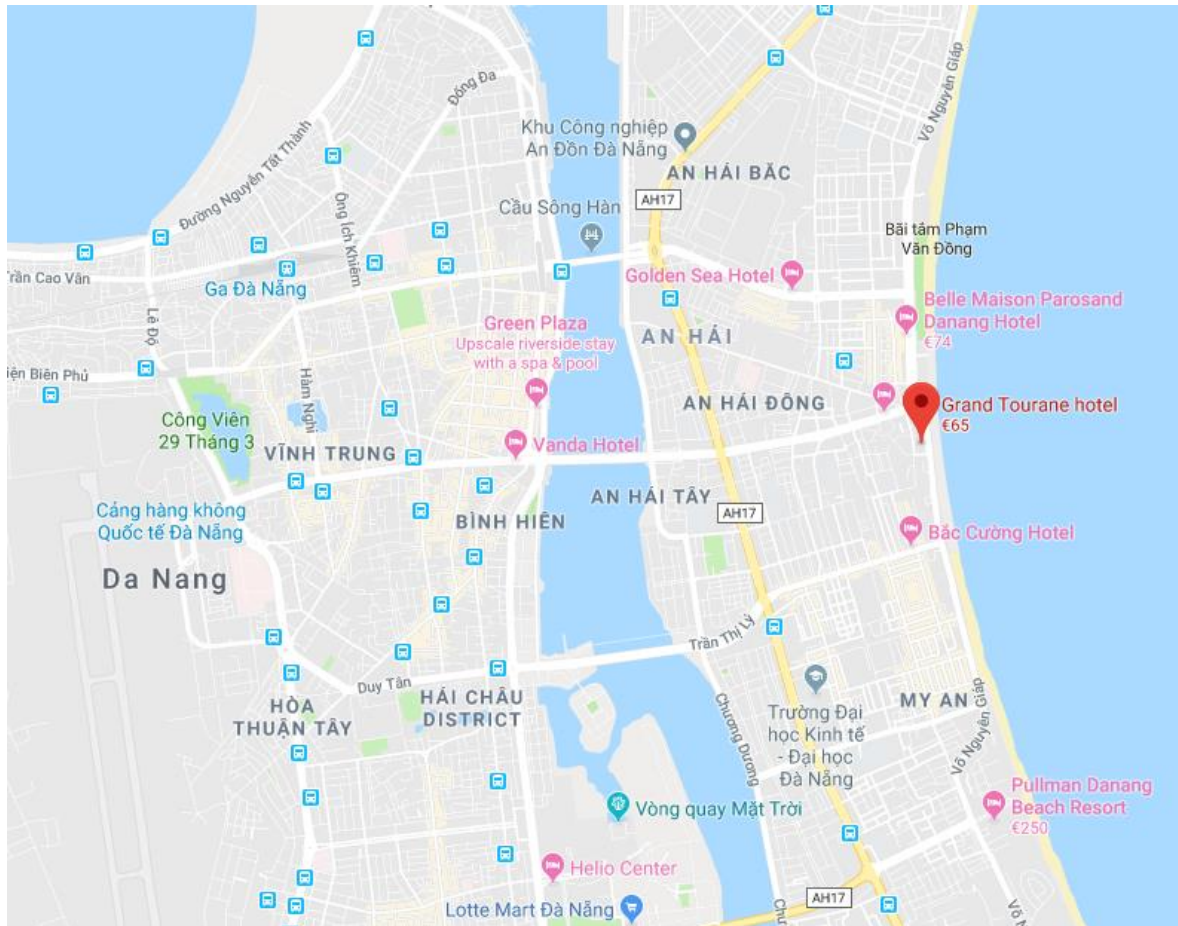
252 Vo Nguyen Giap, Son Tra  
550000, Da Nang  
Vietnam

Tel. +84 (0) 236 377 88 88 +84 (0) 236 377 55 55

Website: <https://grandtouranehotel.com>

Email: [reservations@grandtouranehotel.com](mailto:reservations@grandtouranehotel.com)

Located by the renowned My Khe beach, the Grand Tourane Hotel is just five minutes away from the city centre offering a spectacular view over Da Nang's skyline.



### III. Registration

Registration will start at 08.00 on 16 October 2019 at our venue for AC8 and at 08.00 on 21 October 2019 for MOS8.

### IV. Hotel Accommodation

All delegates, including those funded through the Secretariat, need to make their own hotel bookings. The following hotels offer special rates for the conference attendees:

#### **Grand Tourane Hotel \*\*\*\***

*Conference Venue*

252 Vo Nguyen Giap Street  
Phuoc My ward, Son Tra district  
Danang  
Tel. +84 236 3778 888  
Web site: <https://grandtouranehotel.com/>

**Pullman Danang Beach Resort \*\*\*\*\***

*(2.6 km away from the venue)*

101 Vo Nguyen Giap Street  
Khue My ward, Ngu Hanh Son district  
Danang  
Tel. +84 236 3958 888  
Web site: <http://www.pullman-danang.com/>

**Golden Sea III Hotel \*\*\***

*(800 m away from the venue)*

242 Vo Nguyen Giap Street  
Phuoc My ward, Son Tra district  
Danang  
Tel. +84 236 3936 936  
Web site: <http://goldensea3hotel.com/vn/home/>

**Truong Son Tung 5 Hotel \*\*\***

*(600 m away from the venue)*

256 Vo Nguyen Giap Street  
Phuoc My ward, Son Tra district  
Danang  
Tel. +84 236 3939 555

Please click [here](#) for a booking form, airport transfer and booking instructions. When choosing accommodation, funded delegates should please bear in mind that the daily subsistence allowance rate for Da Nang, intended to cover accommodation, meals and local transport, is currently at 132 US\$.

## **v. Weather**

October coincides with the peak of the wet season in Da Nang. Rain can be expected for half of the month. The average temperature ranges between 23 and 28°C (73-82°F). However, please keep in mind that the temperature could drop below average due to heavy rainfall and occasional storms. Bad weather conditions could result in transportation delays due to flooding. Make sure to bring your raincoat, water-resistant shoes, umbrella and suitable clothes.

## **vi. Currency**

Vietnam's currency is the Dong (₫). As of 13 August 2019, the exchange rate was ₫26,020.74 for €1 and to ₫23,208.35 for \$1.

## VII. Voltage and Type of Pins

In Vietnam, the power sockets are of type A, C and F. The standard voltage is **220 V**, and the standard frequency is **50 Hz**.

- Type A: an ungrounded plug with two flat parallel pins, also used in North and Central America and Japan.



- Type C: also known as “Europlug”. Also works with plug E, F, J, K or N.



- Type F: also known as "Schuko". This socket also works with plug C and plug E.



## VIII. Visas

Most visitors, except for those coming from [visa exempt countries](#), will need a visa to travel to Vietnam. Upon request, an official letter of invitation will be sent to participants. Visas can be obtained from your nearest Vietnamese Embassy or Consulate.

If you have any difficulties obtaining a visa, please contact the Secretariat: [cms.secretariat@cms.int](mailto:cms.secretariat@cms.int).

## **IX. Working language of the meeting**

The meeting will be conducted in English.

## **X. Internet**

Wi-Fi will be provided free of charge in the meeting rooms and for the duration of the meeting.

## **XI. Identification badges**

All participants will receive an identification badge to access the venue. You are requested to wear this badge during your stay at the Venue.

## **XII. Time zone**

Vietnam is in the Indo-China Time zone (GMT +7 hours).

## **XIII. Information on Vietnam**

For tourist information about Vietnam please visit: <https://vietnam.travel>

## **XIV. Useful Numbers**

Country dialling code: +84

Emergency contact numbers:

- 113 – Police
- 114 – Fire
- 115 – Ambulance/First Aid

General Information Service: 1080

UNEP/CMS Secretariat: +49 228 815 2401