

Participants Information

**Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the
Parties to CMS**

23-28 October, 2017

**Philippine International Conference Center
(PICC)**

Manila, Philippines



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ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES AND MANILA

The Philippines

The Philippines (Filipino: Pilipinas) is an archipelago in South-East Asia of more than seven thousand islands located in the western Pacific Ocean at the very eastern edge of Asia. One of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, the Philippine islands which is isolated hundreds of miles by tropical seas from the Asian landmass, harbors diverse and unique terrestrial species with about fifty percent endemism. Likewise, its extensive maritime waters located at the apex of the Coral Triangle, supports rich marine life and known as the center of marine shorefish diversity. Situated at the equator and in the middle of migration pathways, the Philippines is an important foraging and breeding habitats of whales and dolphins, marine turtles, sharks, kites and rays, migratory shorebirds and forest birds.

The country's rich biodiversity is one of the main tourist attractions with its beaches along the world's longest coastlines, mountains, rainforests, islands and diving spots among the most popular tourist destinations.

Since Spanish colonial times, the country has been Asia's largest Catholic country. Over a hundred ethnic groups, a mixture of foreign influences and a fusion of culture and arts have enhanced the uniqueness of the Filipino identity and the wonder that is the Philippines.

As of 2015, the Philippines has a population estimated at 100 million and growing rapidly. From its long history of Western influence, 377 years by the Spaniards and 49 years by the Americans, its people have evolved as a unique blend of East and West in both appearance and culture.

The climate is tropical, with March to May (summer) being the hottest months. The rainy season starts in June and extends through October with strong typhoons possible. The coolest months are from November to February, with mid-January to end of February considered the best for cooler and dryer weather.

Manila

Manila (Tagalog: Lungsod ng Maynila) is the capital of the Philippines and the nation's center of education, business, and transportation. Metro Manila is the most populous metropolitan region of the country composing the city of Manila and surrounding cities of Makati, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City and Taguig.

Manila is rapidly developing and has its own rich history and experiences to offer. The city is sprawling, bustling, with a colorful multi-cultural heritage and varied attractions to visit including shopping centers which is known to be some of the best in Asia.

VENUE

The Twelfth Conference of the Parties to CMS will be held at the Philippines International Convention Center in Manila, Philippines from 23 to 28 October 2017. The venue is strategically located at the heart of Manila, a few minutes away from the international airport, next to Manila Bay.

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)

Delegation Building

Address: Vicente Sotto St, Pasay, 1700 Metro Manila, Philippine

Telephone: +63 2 789 4789

E-mail: info@picc.gov.ph

Website: <http://www.picc.gov.ph/>

ARRIVAL AT MANILA NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA)

Ninoy Aquino International Airport is the gateway to Manila and it is the largest airport in the Philippines. Manila Airport (MNL) is composed of 4 active terminals. They are all referenced as NAIA.



Terminal 1: NAIA Terminal – All International flights except Philippine Airlines, PAL Express, Cebu Pacific, AirAsia Zest, Tigerair Philippines, All Nippon Airways, Cathay Pacific, Delta Air Lines, KLM, Emirates, and Singapore Airlines.

Terminal 2: Centennial Terminal - All Philippine Airlines flights only, and it is divided into two wings: North wing for International Flights, South wing for Domestic Flights.

Terminal 3: NAIA International Terminal - International flights not served at Terminal 1. Is the newest and biggest terminal.

Domestic Terminal: All domestic flights other than Philippine Airline

Arriving participants may approach the CMS COP12 information desk for assistance stationed at terminals 1, 2, and 3.

Alternatively, participants may take a taxi. Taxi service is available to NAIA from all points of Metro Manila. Take only official, metered or pre-booked taxis. Do not accept rides from people that approach you in the terminal. Taxis charge around 200 Pesos (4 USD) to central Manila hotels. It will take about 20 minutes to one hour for the trip, depending on traffic. Many of the major hotels run cars which you can book in advance, the cost is around 750-1000 Pesos (15 - 20 USD).

Please note that:

Due to the construction of the second phase of the NAIA Expressway, expect heavy traffic along airport roads, particularly during rush hour and airport peak hours. It is recommended to leave your hotel for the airport at least three hours prior to your departure, depending on where you are staying.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

Delegates from the following countries travelling with an ordinary passport need a visa to enter the Philippines:

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Armenia
Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Belarus	Bosnia Herzegovina
China	Cuba	DPR Korea	Egypt
FYR Macedonia	Georgia	India	Iran
Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya
Montenegro	Nauru	Nigeria	Pakistan
Republic of Moldova	Serbia	Sierra Leone	Somalia
South Sudan	Sri Lanka	Sudan	Syrian Arab Republic
Timor-Leste	Tonga	Ukraine	Yemen

Applying for a Philippine visa will require that the applicant's passport be valid for six months beyond the applicant's date of departure from the Philippines. The passport must have one blank visa page.

Nationals from countries not listed above who are traveling to the Philippines for business and tourism purposes are allowed to enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding thirty (30) 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.

Beginning 01 January 2017, Philippine immigration authorities will not allow entry into Philippine airports and seaports of foreign nationals holding non-machine readable passports.

For further inquiries and up to date information, please click on the following link; <http://www.dfa.gov.ph/consular-services/visa-information>

However, on the special occasion of COP12, the Philippines will provide visas on arrival for participants from countries in the list above. Participants from these countries are requested to present an invitation letter to the authorities in Manila in advance of their arrival. The Secretariat will issue such letters upon request.

Local Philippine staff will have a desk at the airport to assist with visas on arrival.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

Hotel rooms for delegates:

The delegates will make their own reservation by guaranteeing their reservation with their own credit card and paying directly to the hotel. Kindly refer to the cancellation conditions.

CMS COP12 RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Below is the list of recommended hotels for the CMS COP12. When booking a hotel room, use the email address provided for each of the hotel and indicate that you are a participant of CMS COP12 to take advantage of the discounted rates.

Sofitel Philippine Plaza (5 star hotel)

Address: CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Tel: +632 8326950

Email: madelene.sy@sofitel.com

Website: <http://www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-6308-sofitel-philippine-plaza-manila/index.shtml>

Room Type	Single Occupancy (US\$)	Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Superior Room	PhP7,370.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast	PhP8,352.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast

Diamond Hotel (5 star hotel)

Address: Roxas Boulevard Cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila

Tel: +63 917 8687399

Email: eberin@diamondhotel.com

Website: <http://www.diamondhotel.com/>

Room Type	Single/Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Deluxe Room	Php6,200.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Deluxe Regency or Bayview	Php7,000.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Premier King/Twin	Php8,000.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Premier King/Twin Poolview	Php8,400.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Premier Regency	Php8,800.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast

Century Park Hotel (4-star hotel)

Address: 599 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila

Tel: +632 528 8888

Email: sales3@centurypark.com.ph

Website: <http://www.centurypark.com/>

Room Type	Single/Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Classic Superior Room	Php4,500.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Deluxe Room	Php5,500.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast

Hotel Jen (4 star hotel)

Address: 3001 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Tel: +632 795 8888

Email: maricel.autencio@hoteljen.com

Website: <https://www.hoteljen.com/>

Room Type	Single/Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Deluxe Room	Php5,500.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast

Golden Phoenix Hotel (4 star hotel)

Address: Oceanaire Building, Sunrise Drive, CBP D. Macapagal, Pasay City

Tel: +632 683 2888

Email: corp9sales.goldenphoenixhotels@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.goldenphoenixhotelmanila.com/>

Room Type	Single/Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Deluxe Room	Php3,540.00 net/room/night with breakfast
▪ Suite Room	Php6,380.00 net/room/night with breakfast
▪ Executive Room	Php7,920.00 net/room/night with breakfast

Microtel by Wyndham (3 star hotel)

Address: Coral Way Avenue, Corner, Seaside Boulevard, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

Tel: +632 403 3333

Email: mdbalanon@microtel.ph

Website: <http://www.microtel-manila.com/>

Room Type	Single/Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Standard Room	Php4,300.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Corner Room	Php5,300.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast
▪ Suite Room	Php6,400.00 net/room/night with buffet breakfast

Red Planet Hotel

Address: Bradco Avenue, Aseana City, Paranaque City

Tel: +632 519 0888

Email: sheryl@redplanethotels.com; philippines@redplanethotels.com

Website: <https://www.redplanethotels.com/hotel/aseana-city-manila>

Room Type	Single/Double Occupancy (US\$)
▪ Standard Room	Php2,658.00 net/room/night with plated breakfast

HOTEL SECURITY:

Hotels for delegates have been carefully selected. However, delegates are advised:

- Never give out your room number or invite strangers to your room.
- Never leave valuable property unattended in your rooms, meeting rooms, restaurants, swimming pool area, etc.
- Always use safety lock on the door, even during the daytime.
- Always use room safe for valuables, or use lockable storage for valuables at the front desk, but make sure they issue a receipt for your items.

DAILY TRANSPORT FROM HOTEL TO CONFERENCE VENUE:

Daily group transport from hotel to conference venue and vice versa shall be provided for free at designated pick up points/stations and time intervals at or near the recommended hotels. The schedule of daily group transport service will be posted in the lobby of the recommended hotels and on the CMS COP12 Website. Delegates staying in hotels other than those recommended above, should arrange for their own transportation, at their own cost, to and from the venue.

VACCINATIONS

Required & Recommended Vaccinations

The only vaccine required by international regulations is **yellow fever**. Proof of vaccination will only be required if you have visited a country in the yellow-fever zone within the six days prior to entering Southeast Asia.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the following vaccinations for travelers to Southeast Asia:

Adult diphtheria and tetanus Single booster recommended if none has been given in the previous 10 years. Side effects include a sore arm and fever.

Hepatitis A Provides almost 100% protection for up to a year; a booster after 12 months provides at least another 20 years' protection. Mild side effects such as headache and a sore arm occur in 5% to 10% of people.

Hepatitis B Now considered routine for most travelers. Given as three shots over six months. A rapid schedule is also available, as is a combined vaccination with hepatitis A. Side effects are mild and uncommon, usually headache and a sore arm. Lifetime protection occurs in 95% of people.

Measles, mumps and rubella Two doses of MMR required unless you have had the diseases. Occasionally a rash and flu-like illness can develop a week after receiving the vaccine. Many young adults require a booster.

Polio Only one booster is required as an adult for lifetime protection.

Typhoid Recommended unless your trip is less than a week. The vaccine offers around 70% protection, lasts for two to three years and comes as a single shot. Tablets are also available; however, the injection is usually recommended as it has fewer side effects. A sore arm and fever may occur.

Varicella If you haven't had chickenpox, discuss this vaccination with your doctor.

These are recommended only for long-term travelers (more than one month):

Japanese B Encephalitis Three injections in all. Booster recommended after two years. A sore arm and headache are the most common side effects.

Meningitis Single injection. There are two types of vaccination: the quadrivalent vaccine gives two to three years' protection; meningitis group C vaccine gives around 10 years' protection. Recommended for long-term travelers aged under 25.

Rabies Three injections in all. A booster after one year will then provide 10 years' protection. Side effects are rare – occasionally a headache and sore arm.

Tuberculosis A complex issue. Adult long-term travelers are usually recommended to have a TB skin test before and after travel, rather than vaccination. Only one vaccine is given in a lifetime.

TRAVEL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

All participants traveling is recommended to have valid travel and medical insurance covering the period of stay in the Philippines.

The CMS Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants secure prior to departure an international insurance for the period of participation.

WEATHER

The month of October is characterized by essentially constant daily high temperatures, with daily highs around 31°C throughout the month, exceeding 33°C or dropping below 29°C only one day in ten.

CURRENCY

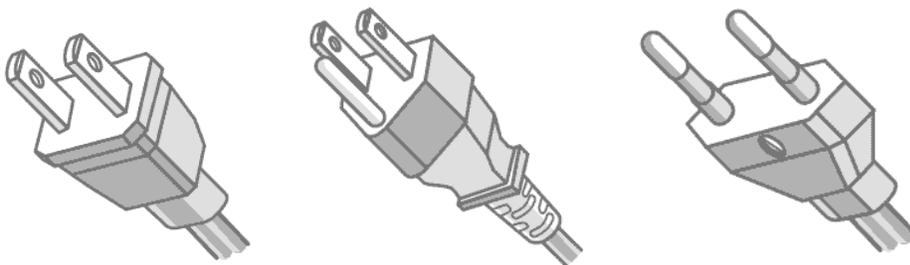
The official currency of the Philippines is the peso (PHP). One peso is divided into 100 centavos, with notes in denominations of PHP 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000. Coins come in values of 25 centavos and 1, 5, 10 pesos. It is best to arrive with some local currency, though you can easily withdraw cash at ATMs. Credit cards are accepted by most hotels and restaurants in Manila, though small hotels may levy a surcharge if you pay by card. The exchange rate as of May 2017 is 50.01 pesos per dollar.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES

The official languages in the Philippines are Filipino and English.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

Electronic equipment must be compatible with the country's voltage, which is 220 volts at 60 Hertz. Common electrical outlets used in the country:



You might need either a transformer (to reduce voltage) or an elevator. Some electronic devices are able to work in a wide range of voltages, i.e. from 100v to 250v, but please check its labels before plugging it in; you can destroy the device if you are lucky, but you can generate a fire in the worst case.

TIME ZONE

The Philippines Standard Time is eight hours ahead of Universal Time all year around. GMT+8

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Dial 911 for immediate assistance.

SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE

On-site registration

In order to get access to the conference venue, participants should first go through Security at the main entrance of the venue and then follow the signage for the registration desk. Participants are requested to bring an identification document which should be shown at the registration desk. Participants will then receive a conference badge which should always be worn when they are on the meeting premises.

On-site registration will start on 21 October 2017 at 15:00 and run throughout the meeting. Participants are encouraged to register as early as possible in order to avoid congestion right before the opening of the meeting.

Throughout COP12, strict security measures are observed and the conference ID should be visible at all time and is mandatory for admission to the conference venue as well as to the various meeting rooms. A lost ID should immediately be reported to the CMS Secretariat.

List of delegations

A list of delegations that are attending the COP will be made available on the [CMS Website](#) under “information documents”, as well as distributed during the meeting. Participants not wishing their full coordinates to appear on the list of participants should notify the Secretariat staff at the registration desk.

Documents

In order to minimize the environmental impact of the meeting and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the meeting, including the information documents, which can be downloaded from the [CMS Website](#)

Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be conducted in English, French and Spanish, with interpretation during plenary sessions.

Internet, PC access and photocopying facilities

Participants will have access, free of charge, to a limited number of PCs located at the conference venue. Wireless internet (WIFI) will be available everywhere on the meeting premises. Limited printing and photocopying facilities will also be at the disposal of the meeting participants.

Official Opening

The official opening of the COP will take place at the Conference venue at 9 am. on Monday, 23 October 2017. The formal sessions of the meeting will be held daily from 9 am. to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Conference venue. These times might change.

High Level Panel

A High Level Panel will take place in the afternoon of 22 October and will involve dignitaries and Ministers from around the world, several leaders including the Executives of International Organizations and celebrity goodwill ambassadors. More information about the High Level Panel can be found on the [CMS website](#). The contact point in the Secretariat is Ms. Laura Cerasi, Email: laura.Cerasi@cms.int.

Exhibitions

Those who are interested in displaying an exhibition are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible to enable the necessary arrangements. The person to contact at the Secretariat is Mr. Tilman Schneider, Email: tilman.schneider@cms.int

Activities to be exhibited and posters should be relevant to the objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species and related Agreements. Selection of exhibitors will take into account geographical balance.

The exhibition can be set up between 21 and 23 October 2017. The final deadline for dismantling is the evening of 28 October 2017.

Side Events

Parties, country observers and relevant organizations are encouraged to contribute actively to the success of the meeting by showcasing their work or any related issue of interest in the form of a side event. Initiatives and projects to be presented should be relevant to the objectives of the Convention and specifically to the items of the COP agenda.

We kindly request those that are interested in this opportunity to inform the Secretariat by filling out the [application form](#) which can be downloaded from the dedicated website [Side Events | CMS](#). Please return this to the Secretariat by Email: cms.secretariat@cms.int **no later than 1 August 2017**.

Time and room allocation

Side event space will be provided free of charge at the venue throughout the conference period. The Secretariat will allocate the accepted applications after the indicated deadline and will confirm the approximately one month prior to the conference. The Secretariat may have to decline some of the applications due to space constraints.

Side events are typically scheduled at lunch time or evening and have a maximum duration of one hour to avoid overlap with important Working Groups and Committee meetings.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration for the allocation of side events:

1. Relevance to the Convention's work and COP agenda;
2. Feasibility and preference on certain dates in accordance with the COP programme;
3. Avoidance of thematic overlaps per time slot;
4. The expected level of participation and room size;
5. Order of request (when the registration is received).

It should be noted that side events may be rescheduled in the interest of the official sessions of the meeting.

Technical specifications

Side event rooms are normally equipped with a computer, a projector, a screen, internet access and power sockets. No interpretation for side events will be provided.

Organizers of side events are free to bring their own equipment, including technical items, at their own risk.

Catering

Organizers of side events might wish to offer food and drinks. Catering for the side event may be provided only by the official caterer for the venue. Contact details will be posted at [CMS Website](#) as soon as they become available.

Shipping of materials for exhibitions and side events

Organizers of exhibitions and side events who wish to ship items (information and display materials and/or equipment) to the conference venue may contact the designated person. Contact details will be posted on the CMS Website as soon as they become available. Organizers of exhibits and side events will be responsible for the transport, setting up and dismantling of the materials and their customs clearance.

Conference Excursion

A conference excursion organized by the Government of the Philippines will take place in the vicinity of Manila on 27 October 2017. Participants will be able to choose between various options. We recommend bringing outdoor shoes and good clothes.

Tourist Information

Information about the Philippines (e.g. excursions, museums, activities) will be provided at the information desk at PICC. Further information, including on tour operators, is also available on the following websites:

<http://www.tourism.gov.ph>

<http://www.experiencephilippines.org>