

MEETING VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

HOTEL SMARTSUITES ROYAL BARRANQUILLA

Calle 80 # 51B-25

Barranquilla, Colombia

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Central de Reservas en Bogotá: +57 (1) 657 87 57

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www.smartsuitesroyal.com

Room Rate:

*Participants at the meeting will benefit from a special rate of USD\$95 per day – (plus taxes). Buffet Breakfast is included in the rate as well as free internet access in every room. When making reservations please indicate that you are attending the **Workshop on Illegal Traffic of Hazardous Wastes and other Wastes under the Basel Convention**.*

Guarantee Policy:

All reservations must be guaranteed with a valid credit card.

Cancellation Policy:

Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid a penalty of one night (room price, taxes and extra services reserved).

TRANSPORTATION

Participants can book transportation from the airport to the hotel (35 minutes drive) and they can pay for the service at the hotel. The rate is USD\$21 or \$40600 Colombian Pesos

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

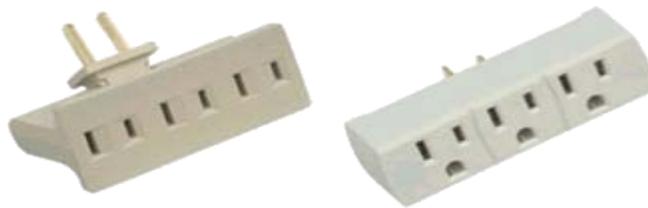
The Colombian Peso (COP\$) is the currency of Colombia. The COP is available in banknotes, which bear the value of 1.000, 2.000, 5.000, 10.000, 20.000, 50.000; and coins which bear the value of 50, 100, 200, 500. As of November, 2012 the exchange rate for the Colombian Peso is \$ 1,831.96 COP = \$1 US Dollar and \$ 2,373.01 COP = €1 Euro. Please check before leaving your country since the current exchange rate may vary regularly.

Participants are strongly warned not to exchange money on the street with informal dealers. Due to internal regulations, hotels are not allowed to exchange money.

Major credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, American Express,) are accepted at hotels, major restaurants and most shops in Barranquilla.

ELECTRICITY

Voltage in Colombia is 110-120 volts and frequency 60 Hz. The image below shows a Colombian power outlet (not to scale). N.B.: Participants are advised to bring their own adaptors should they wish to connect their laptops at the meeting venue and/or the hotels.



LANGUAGE

The official language of Colombia is Spanish; however English is spoken in hotels and main touristic places.

MOBILE NETWORK

Colombia uses the international GSM (Global System for Mobile Telephony) standard. Foreign visitors can use mobile phones outside the national network under the international "roaming" system. The international dialing code for Colombia is +57. To place a call, dial as follows: International calls: Dial 00 + (9) + country code + area code + number National calls: Dial 00 + (9) + city code + number The city code for Barranquilla is 5.

TEMPERATURE

Barranquilla has a tropical savanna climate (Aw) according to Köppen climate classification; it is hot all-year-round, with high levels of relative humidity. The average temperature is 28.4 °C (85 °F).[58] Daytime temperature usually remains around 32 °C (90 °F).

Nevertheless, from late November to early April, trade winds more or less cool it to a more comfortable temperature during daylight. During evening and through the night, temperature can

change due to the strong winds it receives. Rainy seasons are from April to June and from August to November.

TIME

Colombia is 5 hours behind GMT/UTC and does not observe daylight saving time (no time change).

TIPPING

Tipping is a common practice in Barranquilla. In restaurants the tip is usually included in the bill. If not, a 10% tip is customary in restaurants.

DRESS CODE

Although Barranquilla has a hot, tropical climate, air conditioning is quite prevalent so it is recommended to dress accordingly. Casual attire is suggested for all working sessions.

VISAS

Foreign nationals who wish to visit or stay in Colombia must obtain the permits necessary to do so. Aiming to make it easier for the delegates of the workshop, and other guests, the Colombian Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Coordination of Visas and Immigration, has taken the necessary measures to guarantee their entry to the country, particularly to those people from countries that need a visa to enter the country.

However the application and process of a visa must be presented by the foreigner. Further information on Embassies and Consulates is also available on the web site of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures_services/visas.

IMPORTANT: The Colombian Government is not responsible for the procedures and validity of transit visas required by the event's participants to move to and from our country.