

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION NOTE

NORTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOPS:

1) TSUNAMI INUNDATION MAPPING and 2) TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLANNING

UNESCO TTF Project: “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North-West Indian Ocean through Regional Cooperation – Phase 2c”

21 – 25 April 2024

Muscat, Oman

1. Background

Tsunami inundation mapping and evacuation planning is one of the priority topics being addressed to improve tsunami preparedness at the community level in the five partner Member States of the North-West Indian Ocean (NWIO) region of the IOC-UNESCO Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS). The current UNESCO Project (TTF-31 Phase 2c) on *Strengthening Tsunami Early Warning in the North-West Indian Ocean region through Regional Coordination* supports coordination and training in the development of inundation maps and tsunami evacuation plans. This will help facilitate effective community responses to any tsunami threat, but especially from near-field tsunamis. With the successful implementation of inundation maps and evacuation plans in pilot communities, participating countries can work towards implementing the IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP), or similar national initiatives, to develop a solid foundation that will help achieve the goals of the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme to make 100% of at-risk communities prepared and resilient to tsunamis by 2030.

For more information on these events, please visit:

- Tsunami Inundation Mapping Workshop: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3999>
- Tsunami Evacuation Planning Workshop: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4000>

2. Venue of the Workshop and Meetings

Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel (Diwan Hall)

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Google Maps Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/SzpQ5J9az9ZJdDch9>

3. Invitations

All participants will receive official IOC-UNESCO invitation letters from the ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat. The Oman Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) can also provide invitation letters on

request (if required for your visa application). Should you require additional information for your visa, please contact the CAA focal point listed in the contact details section.

4. Air Tickets

Funded participants will be provided with an economy air ticket by UNESCO Jakarta with the shortest and most economical route. If you have not already provided a copy of the information pages of your passport (more than 6 months validity) to the organisers, please do so immediately as this is required for the flight booking. The e-ticket will be emailed to you in due time. Should you require additional information on flight bookings, please contact the UNESCO Jakarta / IOTIC focal points listed in the contact details section.

5. Accommodation Arrangements

All trainers, facilitators, and funded participants will stay at the Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel where the meeting is being held.

Funded participants will have their accommodation arrangement made for them by UNESCO Jakarta as part of their travel package.

Update: Self-funded trainers and facilitators will also have a room reserved for them by UNESCO Jakarta at the Novotel Muscat Airport. You should pay for your room at the hotel reception.

Other self-funded participants, such as those from the United Arab Emirates, can choose a hotel from the list below. If required, the meeting hosts will organise daily transport between select hotels and the workshop venue.

| Hotel | Price/night |
|--|-------------|
| Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel (workshop venue will in this hotel) | 29 OMR |
| City Center Hotel | 20 OMR |
| Holiday Inn AlSeeb Muscat, an IHG Hotel | 41 OMR |
| Mysk Al Mouj Hotel | 40 OMR |
| Kempinski Hotel Muscat | 114 OMR |

6. Local Transport

Airport to Hotel

Update: Participants will need to make their own way from the airport to the hotel. CAA will only arrange transportation from the airport to hotel for the trainers and facilitators.

Two transport options are:

1. **Taxis:** In the following table the recommended transportation options from the airport to the hotel.

| Type of transportation | Booking Time | Estimated Price | Accessibility |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| Mwasalat (Taxi) | Advance or Arrival | 5-7 OMR | Found at the airport taxi exit gate |
| OTAXI (Online Application) | Advance or Arrival | 4-5 OMR | *Smart Phone Apps *Found at the airport taxi exit gate |

2. **Rental cars:** Several car rental companies are located near the airport's arrivals exit.

Hotel to the Workshop Venue

If required, CAA will provide a daily transfer to the workshop venue, which is located at Diwan Hall in Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel (**only for the hotels listed**).

The route map and arrival and departure times are provided below:



| Type of transportation | Arrival | Departure |
|---|---------|-----------|
| Kempinski Hotel Muscat | 7:45 | 7:55 |
| Mysk Al Mouj Hotel | 8:00 | 8:10 |
| Holiday Inn AlSeeb Muscat, an IHG Hotel | 8:30 | 8:40 |

7. Dining and Refreshments

Participants will enjoy daily lunch thoughtfully provided by Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel. Additionally, two invigorating coffee breaks will be offered at the workshop venue.

8. Funded Participants

All funded participants eligible for funding support will receive a per diem in United States Dollars (USD) for each day they are in Muscat, which will depend on their flight schedule. Payment will be made into the nominated bank account. Please ensure you have provided your bank details to UNESCO Jakarta.

9. Visa Requirements

If you require a visa for your travel, CAA is ready to assist you. If you require an invitation letter from the Omani hosts (CAA) to support your visa application, please contact them, and they will promptly provide it.

For those who wish to have CAA facilitate the visa application process, they kindly request that you submit the following documents to the focal point by the deadline of April 1st, 2024:

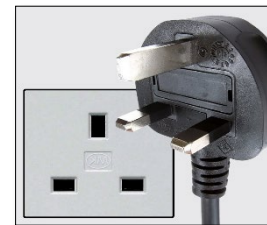
- A passport-sized photo.
- A photocopy of your passport.

10. Time

The time in Muscat, Oman is 4 hours ahead of UTC.

11. Electricity

Oman employs a voltage of 220 volts at 60 Hertz. You may encounter the usage of two or three-pin plugs, as illustrated.



12. Telecommunications

There are three Telecommunication companies in Oman. The visitors can get E-SIM or physical SIM at the airport. The table below shows the telecommunication companies.

| Company name | More information |
|----------------|---|
| Omantel | https://www.omantel.om/ |
| Ooredoo (Oman) | https://www.ooredoo.om/ |
| Vodafone | https://www.vodafone.om |

13. Weather

Muscat has a hot, arid climate with long and very hot summers and warm winters. In April, the average daily temperature range is 25°C (night) – 35°C (day). It will be the end of the wet season with an average rainfall of 17 mm expected for the month.

14. Money Matters

The currency used in Oman is the Omani Rial (OMR). One US dollar is approximately 0.385 OMR (UN exchange rate for 01 March 2024).

Major currencies are readily exchangeable in Oman. Muscat Airport provides money exchange services in both the Baggage Claim Area and Arrival Hall. ATMs at the airport accept international credit and debit cards, although it is advisable to review your bank's regulations for global card use.

While hotels can exchange money, an additional fee may apply. Leading businesses including car rentals, shopping malls, and hotels accept major credit and debit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

Moreover, major credit cards find acceptance at various hotels, dining establishments, and shopping venues. Muscat boasts numerous ATMs for convenient access to funds. The official exchange rate is 1 USD = 0.39 OMR. For rates on other currencies, refer to electronic bulletin boards displayed in banks and money exchange offices.

15. Places of Interest

Muscat is the capital of Oman, which shares its border with the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. Surrounded by desert and mountains, Muscat is known for its glittering marketplaces, also known as souks, and delicious seafood. Muscat is famous for its ancient and modern structures, such as Portuguese forts built in the 16th century and the modern Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. One can notice the traces of Portuguese in Muscat. Also, its topography is one of the highlights that attract tourists to Muscat. Some of the best things one can do in Muscat are trekking deserts, enjoying lavish Omani hospitality, and spotting dolphins at sunset.

For further details about the places that can be explored, please visit <https://www.goindigo.in/get-inspired/what-to-do-on-your-next-getaway-in-muscat.html#:~:text=This%20port%20capital%20of%20Oman,modern%20Sultan%20Qaboos%20Grand%20Mosque>

16. Contact Details

Oman Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

- Mr Yousuf Al-Aufi: email y.alaufi@caa.gov.om; Mobile Phone +968-92343477

ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat

- Mr Rick Bailey: email r.bailey@unesco.org
- Ms Nora Gale: email n.gale@unesco.org

UNESCO Jakarta

- Mr Ardito Kodijat: email a.kodijat@unesco.org
- Mr Rochmy Hamdani Akbar: email rh.akbar@unesco.org

For specific enquiries please contact:

| Enquiry | Contact Person(s) | Contact email(s) |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Oman CAA Invitation & Visa Assistance | Yousuf Al-Aufi | y.alaufi@caa.gov.om |
| Flight reservations and per diems (Funded participants) | UNESCO Jakarta / IOTIC | a.kodijat@unesco.org rh.akbar@unesco.org |
| Meeting Information & IOC-UNESCO Invitation | ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat | r.bailey@unesco.org n.gale@unesco.org |