



1st UNWTO REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS *FUTURE TOURISM FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC*

1 – 2 June 2013
Seoul, Republic of Korea

General Information Note

1. VENUE

The 1st UNWTO Conference on Tourism Partnerships will be held at the **InterContinental Seoul COEX in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 1 - 2 June 2013**. It is jointly organized by the UNWTO and the Korea Tourism Organization, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea.

InterContinental Seoul COEX
524, Bongeunsa-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
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Email: coexseoul@interconti.com
<https://www.iccoex.com/eng>



2. THE CITY OF SEOUL

Korean capital city Seoul is home to more than 10 million inhabitants from all over the country and around the world, living and working in modern skyscrapers and moving rapidly through sophisticated infrastructure. At the same time, diverse forms of nature thrive and permeate throughout, while abundant cultural heritage assets coexist with modernity in this nation's capital of over 600 years. Essentially, Seoul is traditional yet modern, technological yet natural. Being one of the world's largest and advanced cities, Seoul serves as the political, economic and educational hub of Korea. The number of foreign tourists visiting Korea was a mere 1 million in 1987, growing steadily until reaching 9.79 million in 2011 and 11.1 million in 2012. The attraction of "Korean Wave" known as "hallyu", medical tourism, and the simplification of the visa process are seen as major contributors to the tourism boom. Seoul is recognized as an international business-centered city and its urban competitiveness is strengthened through tourism and business events marketing. Seoul ranked 2nd in Asia for the number of international meetings held in 2011 by the Union of the international Association (UIA). The enhanced image of the city, hosting many international events including the G20 Summit and the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, also helped to draw more travelers from abroad.

3. REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to complete the attached registration form and return it to unwto@knto.or.kr by **30 April 2013**. The registration desk will be open at COEX Intercontinental Hotel lobby on Saturday, 1 June 2013 at 08.30 a.m. Name badges will be issued at the time of registration. All participants are requested to wear the name badge during all the sessions of the symposium.

4. TRANSFER ARRANGEMENT AND AIRPORT MEETING SERVICE

Transportation will be provided to all delegates from Incheon International Airport to the official hotel (Coex Intercontinental Hotel) and from this hotel to the airport for departure. It will take about 60 minutes from the Incheon International airport to reach the Coex Intercontinental Hotel, which is located in the centre of the city. In order to organize this service, delegates are requested to complete and return the attached registration form indicating their arrival, departure and accommodation details to unwto@knto.or.kr at the latest by **30 April 2013**.

5. VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Any foreign visitors wishing to enter the Republic of Korea are required to have a valid passport and obtain a Korean visa before coming.
- Nationals of those countries or regions with which Korea has signed a visa waiver agreement can enter without a visa, on the condition that they do not engage in remunerative activities during their stay.

[Table 1] Countries under Visa Exemption Agreements

Continents	Country/Period(days)		
Asia and Oceania	Malaysia / 90 New Zealand / 90	Singapore / 90	Thailand / 90
Americas	Antigua and Bahamas / 90 Barbados / 90 Barbuda / 90 Brazil / 90 Chile / 90 Colombia / 90 Common wealth of Dominica / 90 Costa Rica / 90	Dominican Republic / 90 El Salvador / 90 Grenada / 90 Guatemala / 90 Haiti / 90 Jamaica / 90 Mexico / 90 Nicaragua / 90 Panama / 90	Peru / 90 St. Kitts and Nevis / 90 St. Vincent & the Grenadines / 90 St. Lucia / 90 Surinam / 90 Venezuela / 90 Trinidad and Tobago / 90
Europe	Austria / 90 Belgium / 90 Bulgaria / 90 Czech Republic / 90 Denmark / 90 Estonia / 90 Finland / 90 France / 90 Greece / 90 Germany / 90	Hungary / 90 Iceland / 90 Ireland / 90 Italy / 60 Latvia / 90 Liechtenstein / 90 Lithuania / 90 Luxembourg / 90 Malta / 90 Netherlands / 90	Norway / 30 Poland / 90 Portugal / 60 Romania / 90 Slovak Republic / 90 Spain / 90 Sweden / 90 Switzerland / 90 United Kingdom / 90
Middle East and Africa	Israel / 90 Lesotho / 60	Liberia / 90 Morocco / 90	Turkey / 90 Tunisia / 30

- Nationals of the below countries or regions are allowed up to 30 days of visa-free sojourn for tourism or visit.
- * Exceptions: Nationals of Canada are allowed up to 6 months, and nationals of Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Slovenia, and the United States are allowed up to 90 days.

[Table 2] Nationals of countries or regions allowed for visa-free entry

Continents	Country/Period(days)		
Asia and Oceania	Australia / 90 Brunei / 30 Fiji / 30 Guam / 30 Hong Kong / 90 Japan / 90	Kiribati / 30 Macao / 90 Marshall Islands/ 30 Micronesia / 30 Nauru / 30 New Caledonia / 30	Palau / 30 Solomon Islands / 30 Samoa / 30 Taiwan / 30 Tonga / 30 Tuvalu / 30
Americas	Argentina / 30 Canada / 180 Ecuador / 30	Guyana / 30 Honduras / 30 Paraguay / 30	Uruguay / 30 United States / 90
Europe	Albania / 30 Andorra / 30 Bosnia-Herzegovina / 30 Croatia / 90	Cyprus / 30 Monaco / 30 Montenegro / 30 San Marino / 30	Serbia / 30 Slovenia / 90 Vatican / 30
Middle East and Africa	Bahrain / 30 Egypt / 30 Kuwait / 30 Mauritius / 30	Oman / 30 Qatar / 30 Republic of South Africa / 30 Saudi Arabia / 30	Swaziland / 30 United Arab emirates / 30 Seychelles / 30 Yemen / 30

For more information, please contact the local Korean consulate or embassy in your country or visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.mofat.go.kr.

6. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official languages of the conference are English and Korean. There will be simultaneous interpretation from Korean to English and vice versa.

7. TECHNICAL TOUR

A special Seoul City Tour will be organized by the Korea Tourism Organization.

8. SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Korea Tourism Organization will host a welcome lunch on Saturday, 1 June 2013.

9. ACCOMODATION

Hotel accommodation should be booked individually. Please contact the hotel directly with the attached booking form. Grand InterContinental Seoul Parnas is offering a special conference rate of KRW250,000(room only) + (subject to 21% of service charge & tax).

Grand InterContinental Seoul Parnas
521, Teheran-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Korea
Reservation inquiry
Phone:+82 2 559 7777 Fax: +82 2 559 7896
Email: ic-convention@parnas.co.kr

More range of hotels around the venue is listed below for your convenience.

Park Hyatt Seoul ★★★★★

Phone: +82 2 2016 1234
Email: seoul.park@hyatt.com
Website: www.seoul.park.hyatt.com

* located directly opposite the COEX Convention and Exhibition Center

Novotel Ambassadors Gangnam ★★★★★

Phone: +82 2 567 1101
Email: novogres@ambatel.com
Website: www.ambatel.com/gangnam

*12 minutes by taxi during non-peak time

The Ritz-Carlton Seoul ★★★★★

Phone: +82 2 3451 8000
Website: www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Seoul

*12 minutes by taxi during non-peak time

Renaissance Seoul Hotel ★★★★★

Phone: +82 2 555 0501
Email: rhi.selrn.reservation@renaissancehotels
Website: www.renaissanceseoul.com

*14 minutes by taxi during non-peak time



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Website: www.benikea.com

* Please note that accommodation at reasonable prices can be found and booked on BENIKEA website (www.benikea.com/eng).

10. USEFUL INFORMATION

➤ Exchange Rate

The official currency is the Won (KRW). The Korean currency consists of one thousand, five thousand, ten thousand and fifty thousand won notes. Banknotes are issued in the following denominations: KRW 1,000, KRW 5,000, KRW 10,000 and KRW 50,000; and coins in use are: KRW 10, KRW 50, KRW 100, and KRW 500. Buses and vending machines may only accept 1,000 won bills and coins. (Exchange rates are: USD 1.00 = approx. KRW 1,087, EURO 1.00 = approx. KRW 1,433 as of February 25, 2013). Facilities to exchange foreign currency are available throughout the city.

➤ Climate and Clothing

Seoul has four very distinct seasons, with spring and fall being quite mild, summer hot and humid and winter being cold and dry. During the month of June the average temperature ranges from 12 to 24°C. It is the perfect time of the year to travel as temperatures are ideal and the country experiences warm and sunny weather. Light outerwear is recommended for the outdoors, and thin long sleeve jackets are recommended for the evening.

➤ Time Difference

The official time in Korea throughout the conference is nine hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+9). (No daylight savings time.)

➤ Phone Calls & Mobile Phone Service

For local calls within the same area or city, just dial the telephone number. For another area or city, dial the 'area code' before the telephone number. The area code should also be dialed when using a mobile phone. For international calls, dial the international dialing code (001, 002, or 008), country code, area code, and the individual number. Domestic and international phone cards are available for sale at most convenient stores, hotels, and airports. Mobile Phone Rental Services are available at Incheon International Airport. The service desk is located on the 1st and 3rd floors (Public Area). Please check your mobile supply module GSM or WCDMA before renting.

➤ Credit Card

Major credit cards such as AMEX, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted at hotels, restaurants and stores.

➤ **Electricity Supply**

The standard voltage in Korea is 220V. The outlet has two round holes and is the same type used in France, Germany, Austria, Greece, Turkey, and many other countries. Always check the power supply before using your equipment and please check before plugging in. Adapters for electronics brought from your country can be bought at electronics stores, airports, and more.



➤ **Business Hours**

Government offices open at 9:00 and close at 18:00, Monday to Friday. Banks are open from 9:00 to 16:00.

➤ **Tax & Tipping**

A Value-Added Tax (VAT) is levied on most goods and services at a standard rate of 10% and is included in the retail price. At hotels, a 10% VAT is applied to rooms, meals and other services, and is included in the bills. Tipping is not customary in Korea. In tourist hotels, a 10% service charge is added to the bill, and 3-10% at some large restaurants.

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNWTO Secretariat	Korea Tourism Organization
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