

Meeting of the Study Group 3 Regional Group for Africa (SG3RG-AFR) and associated BDT Seminar

Cotonou, Benin, 8 to 11 May 2012

Information note for participants

1- Event venue

Benin Marina Hotel

Address: Route de l'Aéroport
Cotonou

Tel : +229 21 30 01 00

Fax: +229 21 30 11 55

Email: info@benin-marina-hotel.com

Site Web: www.benin-marina-hotel.com

2 - Hotels

Hotel reservation may be made directly by delegates. However, those delegates wishing to do so may request ATRPT-Benin to do it. It will be sufficient to let the ATRPT contact know their travel itinerary as well as the name of the preferred hotel. Preferential rates have been obtained with certain hotels.

Hotel reservation forms will otherwise have to be sent directly to the hotel, with a copy to:

Autorité Transitoire de Régulation des Postes et Télécommunications du Bénin

01 BP 2034 Cotonou (République du Bénin)

Tel : +229 21 31 01 65

Fax : +229 21 31 00 67

E-mail : dtatian@atrpt.bj ; contacts@atrpt.bj

The proposed hotels are five or ten minutes away from the event venue.

Arrangements will be made by the ATRPT to transport delegates from their respective hotels to the event venue.

However, delegates staying in a hotel other than those on the proposed list, will have to make their own arrangements.

The list of hotel is available in **Annex 3**.

3 – Arrival and transportation to hotel

Arrangements have been made by the host to meet delegates upon arrival at the airport and take them to their respective hotel. Any participant wishing to benefit from this service is requested to send their travel itinerary to the following contacts:

Mr Romaric MONTCHO

Tel : +229 21 31 01 65 ;

Mobile : +229 66 65 17 38

Email : mromaric@atrpt.bj

Ms. Noelly HOUNDEBASSO

Tel : +229 21 31 01 65 ;

Mobile : +229 97 83 03 03

Email : hnoelly@atrpt.bj

4- Formalities to enter Benin

A valid passport is required to enter Benin. Citizens from certain countries also require a visa, although citizens from the member countries of ECOWAS do not. These countries are: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinée, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Guinée Bissau and Togo. For citizens of countries requiring a VISA and who do not have a consular representation of Benin in their country, the ATRPT and the Immigration Service of Benin offer their services to have their visa ready upon arrival at the airport in Cotonou. In order to do that, please send your travel itinerary, full address and a clear photocopy of the first three pages of your valid passport to:

Mr Tatian DOSSOU

Tel : +229 21 31 01 65 ;

Mobile : +229 95 54 35 26

Email : dtatian@atrpt.bj

5. Currency and exchange

The local currency is the CFA Franc, usually written FCFA. The indicative exchange rate is as follows:

1Euro = 655.957 FCFA

1 USD = 482. 027 FCFA.

Foreign currency may be changed either at the airport or at the exchange bureaux in the city of Cotonou.

6- Opening hours

Government offices : 0800h to 1230h and 1500h to 1830h, Monday to Friday.

Banks : 0830h to 1700h, Monday to Friday. Saturdays from 0900h to 1300h.

7- Language

The official working language is French.

8- Climate

Benin enjoys a transitional equatorial climate, with two heavy rain seasons (May to July and September to October). Temperatures on the coast are milder than they are in the North of the country (40°C). In the far North of the country, the climate is a lot less humid and temperatures are often much higher than in the rest of Benin. The *harmattan*, a dry dusty wind from the desert, blows over Benin during the dry season.

In May temperatures oscillate between 25°C and 30°C

9- Local time

Official time in Benin is one hour ahead of the Greenwich meridian (GMT +1). There is no difference between summer and winter.

10- Telecommunications

The country code for the Republic of Benin is +229.

Mobile codes are : 64, 66, 67, 68, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99.

A SIM card costs approximately 1 000 FCFA. It must be registered according to Benin regulations.

11- Electricity

Main tension is **220 Volts/50Hz**. Should you require a weaker tension, please inquire at reception.

Available sockets are the following:



12- Water

Although tap water is safe to drink, you may wish to drink bottled water. It can be acquired at your hotel.

13 - Health

An international vaccination certificate against yellow fever will be required upon arrival at Cotonou airport.

14 Internet connectivity

An Internet connection will be available at the event venue. Payment may be required at certain hotels.

15 Contact

For any questions, please contact:

Mr Luc BOKO

Tel : +229 21 31 01 65 ;

Mobile : +229 66 30 05 30

Email : bluc@atrpt.bj / bokoluc@yahoo.fr