

Tenth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting
Islamabad, Pakistan – 27-28 November 2014

General Information Note

1. Venue

The meeting will take place at Serena Hotel, Khayabane Suhrawardi, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan and is the prime center for its administration and government. It is a quiet city that comprises mainly of the Parliament House, Federal Government offices, the diplomatic residences, and the official residences of the Prime Minister and President. Islamabad is sprawled over an area of 1,165.5 sq km, of which 906 sq km is the proper city. Its approximate population is 1.36 million. Located on the foothills of the Margalla Hills, the city of Islamabad lies at the edge of the Pothohar Plateau. With an average elevation of 1,663 feet, the city has Kotli Sattian and Murree to its east; Haripur District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to its north; Rawalpindi to its southwest; Kahuta to its northeast; Wah Cantt, Taxila, and Attock District to its northwest; and Kallar Syedian, Gujar Khan, Rawat and Mandraha to its the northeast. The southern region of this city is believed to be an undulating plain.

2. Language

The languages used at the meeting will be English, Arabic, Chinese and Spanish (to be confirmed as the participants confirm their participation in the meeting) and simultaneous interpretation will be available during plenary sessions, with the others working in English only.

3. Visa Requirements for Entry into Pakistan

Pakistan Missions abroad have been authorized to issue conference visas to delegates on presentation of an invitation letter from the organizers and other relevant documents. Delegates are kindly requested to contact the Pakistan Missions in the respective capitals of their countries to apply for the visa as soon as possible. If they experience any difficulties in obtaining the entry visa for Pakistan, please contact Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir at rafiq_59@yahoo.com (e-mail) or (+92) (51) 9103915 (telephone).

4. Travel and Accommodation

All delegates are expected to cover their own travel costs and to make their own flight arrangements for arrival in and departure from Islamabad for the meeting. UNESCO may fund only the travel of a limited number of participants from the Least Developed Countries and on a case-by-case basis.

The Government of Pakistan will provide hotel accommodation for the Ministers and two accompanying officials per country at the meeting venue, Serena Hotel, Islamabad. All participants are kindly asked to communicate their names, or more preferably the names of all members of their delegation as soon as possible to **rafiq_59@yahoo.com** so that necessary arrangements can be made on time.

All other participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations at Serena Hotel. The discounted rates for the rooms are as below:

Category	Single Occupancy (Pak Rs.)	Double Occupancy (Pak Rs.)
Deluxe Rooms	13,500/-	Same for the Conference Participants
Executive Rooms	16,000/-	Same for the Conference Participants

Please note that:

- All the above rates are in Pakistan Rupees.
- The above rates are inclusive of breakfast in coffee shop.
- The above rates are net – non commissionable and exclusive of taxes.
- Taxes, depending on the date of payment, will be levied at 16% of the published tariffs, which are quoted as above.

For hotel reservation, you are requested to contact:

Tel: (+92) 51-287 4000

Fax: (+92) 51-2871092

or call

Mr. Attique Ahmad Khan
 Manager Finance
 Tel: (+92) (0) 333-9554555 and

Mr. Faizan Hassan
 Section Officer Education/Assistant Focal Person
 E-9 Secretariat, Pakistan
 Tel: (+92) (0) 519205467

5. Airport Transfers

Ministers and VIPs will be received by Protocol/officials of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training at the airport. All transfers to/from the Benazir International Airport, Islamabad will be arranged for those who have submitted their travel details through the participation form to the organizers. In order to ensure that you are picked up at the airport, kindly ensure that your travel details are accurately indicated in the participation form and that the form has been submitted to the organizers.

6. Weather in Islamabad in November

Altitude: 508 m above the sea level
 Time Zone: GMT + 5 hrs
 Average Temperature: 16.6 Celsius

However, a more accurate weather forecast (5 days) would be available at the following website www.pmd.gov.pk

7. Currency

The national currency is the Pakistan Rupee (Pak Rs.). Exchange facilities are available at the airport and at various banks within the city. The current exchange rate is approximately Rs.102.90 to one US\$ or Rs.129.26 to one Euro (as of 05th November, 2014). For daily exchange rates you may wish to refer to www.forex.pk/open_market_rates.asp

8. Telephone Code

International access code: 00

Country code: 92

Islamabad City code: 51

9. Business Hours

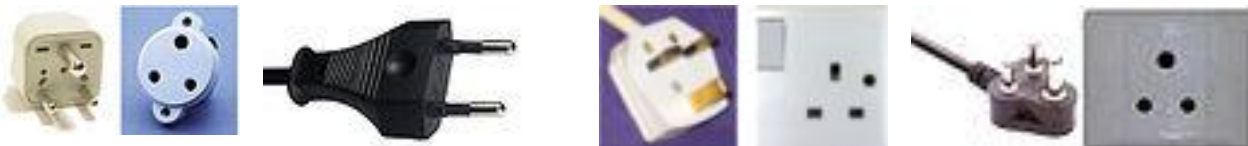
Government Offices open Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM (lunch break from 13.00 to 13.30).

10. Electricity

Electricity in Pakistan is 220 Volts. Current frequency is 50Hz.

Plug sockets: A variety of electrical plugs are found throughout Pakistan, so an all-around adaptor plug set is highly recommended. Type D and Type C are the most common. Most hotels usually have desks and work stations which accept a variety of plug types.

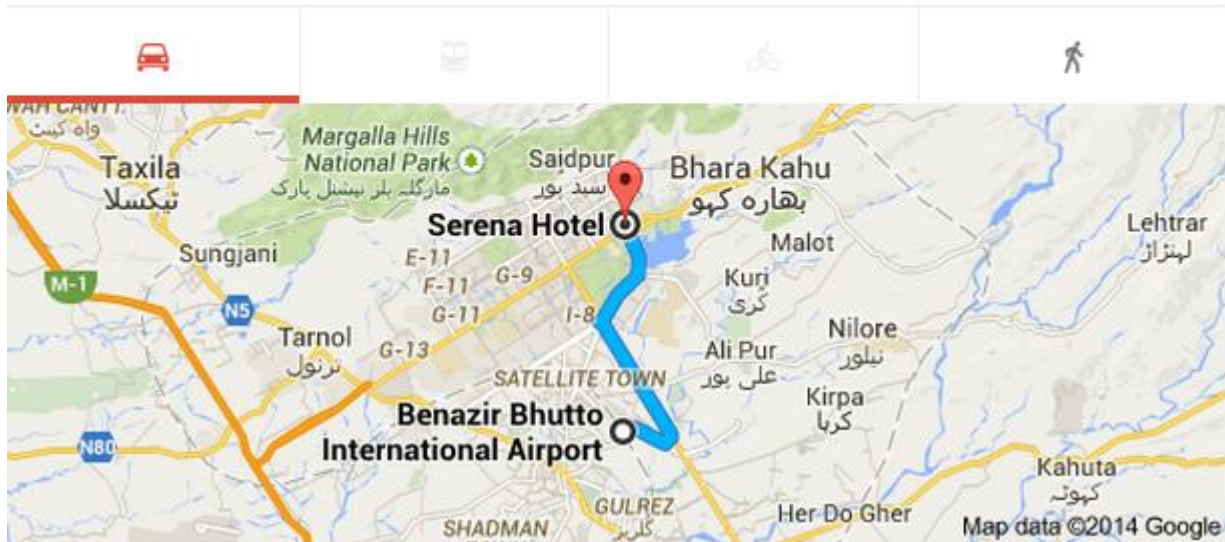
The following types of plugs are generally used in Pakistan:



11. Airport to Serena Hotel Map

From Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Airport Rd, Rawalpindi 46200

To Serena Hotel, Club Rd, Islamabad



12. Shopping Spots

Super Market

Islamabad is separated into sectors, with each one having its own shopping area. The Super Market located in F6 is one of the oldest supermarkets in Islamabad. It is still considered a great place to shop in the city due to its reasonable prices. Items such as medicines, cosmetics, clothes, books, DVDs, fresh flowers and food could be bought here. Bargaining is expected, although some shops have fixed prices.

Jinnah Supermarket

Jinnah Supermarket, located at F7, is the biggest place to shop or hangout in the city. It houses various restaurants and cafés, as well as a supermarket and a wide array of stores that sell anything from branded clothes to books, antiques, handicrafts and home furnishings. There are also sports items, computer and electronics shops, flower shops, music shops and gift stores. Most shops have fixed price items.

Kohsar Market

This small, but reputable market, located at F6, is a grocery store with perhaps the best collection of imported grocery goods from different parts of the world including frozen seafood, breakfast cereal, taco shells and varieties of cheese. It also offers vegetables straight from the farm, sirloin steak cuts, salads, desserts and fresh breads. Produce here are always fresh and available. Visit no other place if you plan to concoct a foreign recipe.

The Centaurus Mall

The Centaurus is a mixed use real estate development in the most prime and central location of Islamabad, which has rapidly taken its shape to be one of the most desirable addresses in Pakistan. The Centaurus has pioneered the concept of a contemporary modern, luxurious master planned community that integrates residential amenities with a world class shopping mall, a 5 Star Deluxe hotel, and a Corporate tower, to bring premium lifestyle to Pakistan.

13. Important Contact Numbers in Pakistan

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