



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织



SULTANATE OF OMAN  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

## 2014 Global Education for All Meeting

Muscat, Oman  
12-14 May 2014

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION



## Contents

1. Meeting Venue .....	- 3 -
2. Registration of Participants .....	- 3 -
3. Provisional Programme .....	- 4 -
4. Working Languages .....	- 4 -
5. Access Rules for Senior Officials' Meeting and Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting.....	- 4 -
6. Hosting Arrangements – Hospitality.....	- 5 -
7. Entry to the Country – Passport and Visa Requirements.....	- 5 -
8. Health Regulations .....	- 5 -
9. Arrivals and Departures .....	- 6 -
10. Accommodation .....	- 6 -
Suggested Hotels with negotiated 2014 GEM Rates.....	- 7 -
11. Local Transport .....	- 8 -
12. Currency.....	- 9 -
13. Climate .....	- 9 -
14. Electricity .....	- 9 -
15. Telephone.....	- 9 -
16. Facilities available at the Meeting Venue .....	- 9 -
17. Press Liaison Office .....	- 9 -
18. Local Time .....	- 9 -
19. In Country contact person(s) on logistics arrangements .....	- 10 -

## 1. Meeting Venue

The meeting will take place at Al Bustan Palace Hotel in Muscat, Oman. Al Bustan Palace Hotel is located 40 kilometers from Muscat International Airport, Muscat and about 6 km from the old City of Muscat.

The UNESCO Secretariat will be at the meeting venue from 10 May 2014. All urgent correspondence and messages during 10-14 May 2014 should be addressed as follows:

UNESCO Secretariat  
2014 Global Education for All Meeting  
Al Bustan Palace Hotel  
Muscat, Al Bustan  
Tel : +968 24799666  
Fax : +968 24706300  
E-mail: [gem@unesco.org](mailto:gem@unesco.org)

Up to Saturday 9 May 2014, correspondence and general inquiries concerning the meeting, **with the exception of requests concerning accommodation and airport transfers<sup>1</sup>**, should be addressed to:

EFA Global Partnerships Team  
Education Sector  
UNESCO  
7, Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris 07 SP  
France  
Tel: +33 1 45 68 11 07 or +33 1 45 68 08 25  
Fax: +33 1 45 68 56 25  
E-mail: [gem@unesco.org](mailto:gem@unesco.org)

## 2. Registration of Participants

Participants may register at the meeting reception desk in the Al Bustan Palace Hotel, as follows:

Senior Officials' Meeting

- Sunday, 11 May, 4 pm to 6 pm
- Monday, 12 May, 8 am to 9.30 am

Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting (please refer to access rules, Section 4)

- Tuesday 13 May, 11 am to 2.30 pm

During the meeting, the reception will be open from 8 am to 6 pm (on Monday) and from 9 am to 6 pm (Tuesday and Wednesday). Registered participants will receive a set of working documents, an identification badge and other necessary documentation. They are kindly requested to wear their badge for the duration of the meeting to facilitate identification, security and contact with other participants and members of the UNESCO Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> For transfers, hotel reservations and local transport, please see **sections 11, 12 and 17**

### 3. Provisional Programme

<b>Day 1 - Monday, 12 May 2014</b>	
8:00 to 9:30	Registration for Senior Officials' Meeting
9:30 – 13:00	<b>Senior Officials' Meeting</b> 1. Introduction and updates 2. Presentation of GMR and regional reports, Discussion of findings
14:30 – 18:45	<b>Forum</b> Parallel sessions organized by partners on key themes
<b>Day 2 - Tuesday, 13 May 2014</b>	
9:30 - 13:00	<b>Senior Officials' Meeting</b> 3. Education beyond 2015 4. Roadmap and next steps
11:00 – 14:30	Registration for Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting
14:30 – 18:00	<b>Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting</b>
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> (open to all participants)
15.30 – 18.00	<b>Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting</b> Session 1 - Review of progress
<b>Day 3-Wednesday 14 May 2014</b>	
9:30 –18:00	<b>Ministerial/ Leaders' Meeting</b>
9:30 – 13:00	Session 2 - National EFA 2015 Reviews and Big Push Session 3 - Education beyond 2015
14:30 – 17:00	Session 3 - Education beyond 2015 (ctd) Session 4 - Adoption of Statement
17:00 – 18:00	Session 5 – (open to all participants) Conclusions/Next steps & Closing remarks

### 4. Working Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish throughout the Plenary Sessions of the Senior Officials Meeting and of the Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting. All parallel Forum Sessions will also offer interpretation in several languages (please check details in the Forum programme).

Working documents will also be available, to the extent possible, in all four languages.

### 5. Access Rules for Senior Officials' Meeting and Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting

#### Senior Officials Meeting (12-13 May a.m.)

- ★ For senior officials (up to 3 persons per country/organization - if you plan to attend with a larger delegation, please contact the Secretariat as seating and hosting capacity are limited).

## Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting (13 May pm and 14 May)

Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting (13 May 14:30 – 15:30)

- ★ Open to all participants (Ministers, Leaders and Senior Officials)

Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting (13 May 15:30 – 18:00 and 14 May 9:30 – 17:00)

- ★ **Access restricted:** Open to Ministers/heads of country delegations and invited top leaders of selected organisations. Every Minister/Head of delegation or Leader can be **accompanied in the room by one person maximum**.
- ★ During the Registration for the Ministerial/Leaders Segment, **two special badges** will be handed out, one for the Minister/Leader and one for the accompanying official.  
If you have questions concerning your participation in the Ministerial/Leaders' Session, please contact the Secretariat.
- ★ **Video transmission** in the adjacent room will allow all other participants to follow the debate.

Session 5 - Closing Ceremony of the Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting (14 May 17:00 – 18:00)

- ★ Open to all participants (Ministers, Leaders and Senior Officials)

## 6. Hosting Arrangements – Hospitality

The Omani government will offer accommodation and meals at the Al Bustan Palace Hotel to **all Ministers/Heads of GEM country delegations** during their stay.

All other participants are kindly invited to make their own accommodation arrangements<sup>1</sup> and cover the cost of their travel and stay.

During the three meeting days, from 12 to 14 May 2014, lunch as well as morning and afternoon coffee/tea breaks will be offered by the Omani government to all registered participants.

A special Dinner reception will also be offered to all participants by the Omani government on 13 May 2014.

## 7. Entry to the Country – Passport and Visa Requirements

Flights will arrive at Muscat International Airport in Muscat, the capital of the country. Information regarding entry visas can be obtained from the nearest Omani Embassy. If there is an embassy or consulate in your country of origin, please take the necessary steps to obtain your visa. A list is available at: <http://www.omanet.om/english/useful/embassies.asp> .

If there is no Embassy in your country or if you encounter any difficulties in obtaining your visa, please contact the Ministry of Education in Oman, with a copy of your passport (valid for six months) and a photograph. For inquiries, please contact:

Ms. Fatma Al Hinai +96899362352; [alhinaif2008@hotmail.com](mailto:alhinaif2008@hotmail.com) or  
Mr. Salim Al Habsi +968 93344477; [salimalhabsi999@gmail.com](mailto:salimalhabsi999@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> Please see **section 17**

## 8. Health Regulations

Participants are advised to consult their travel agency, airline or national vaccination centre to obtain all necessary information.

Please consult your doctor before departure for advice on health precautions and the best preventive treatment in your case.

## 9. Arrivals and Departures

Participants will be met upon arrival at Muscat International Airport in Muscat. All participants are requested to inform the local organizers of their flight schedule **at the latest 10 days** prior to arrival to ensure prompt pick-up.

Contact: [salimalhabsi@moe.om](mailto:salimalhabsi@moe.om)  
Oman National Commission for UNESCO  
Ministry of Education, Muscat, P.O.Box: 3, P.C: 100 Muscat, Oman  
Tel : 00968 93344477  
Fax : 00968 24759555

[fatmaalhanae@moe.om](mailto:fatmaalhanae@moe.om)  
Oman National Commission for UNESCO  
Ministry of Education, Muscat, P.O.Box: 3, P.C: 100 Muscat, Oman  
Tel : 00968 99362352  
Fax : 00968 24759555

Protocol officers will assist participants with immigration formalities at **Muscat International Airport**.

VIP participants will be welcomed in the VIP Lounge.

## 10. Accommodation

At the exception of ministers/Heads of GEM country delegations<sup>1</sup>, all participants are invited to make **their own hotel reservations directly with the hotels according to the list of hotels underneath**, with **copy for information** to the Oman National Commission for UNESCO (in order to benefit from the special negotiated rates for the 2014 GEM) at the following address:

Oman National Commission for UNESCO  
Ministry of Education, Muscat, Oman  
Tel : 00968 93344477  
Fax : 00968 24759555  
E-mail: [salimalhabsi@moe.om](mailto:salimalhabsi@moe.om)

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 5

## Suggested Hotels with negotiated 2014 GEM Rates

### 1. Al Bustan Palace Hotel (5★) 0 km from the venue.



Room Categories <i>50 rooms available</i>	Single Occupancy+ Breakfast	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast
Standard Room	425 \$	425 \$
Deluxe Room	606 \$	606 \$

**Tel : +968 24799666**  
**Fax : +968 24706300**  
**Website : [www.albustanpalace.com](http://www.albustanpalace.com) , [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)**

### 2. Shangri-la Hotels (5★) 5 km from the venue



Room Categories <i>50 rooms available</i>	Single Occupancy+ Breakfast	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast
Hotel Al Waha Superior Room	180 \$	207 \$
Hotel Al Bandar Deluxe Room	207 \$	233 \$
Hotel Al Husn Deluxe Room	350 \$	375 \$

**Tel : +968 24776249**  
**Fax : +968 24776299**  
**Website : [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)**

### 3. Haffa House Hotel (4★) 10 km from the venue



Single Occupancy+ Breakfast <i>30 rooms available</i>	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast	Suite + Breakfast
104 \$	130 \$	143 \$

**Tel : +968 24707207**  
**Fax : +968 24707208**  
**Website : [www.Shanfarihotels.com](http://www.Shanfarihotels.com)**

### 4. Al Falaj Hotel Muscat (4★) 10 km from the venue



Single Occupancy+ Breakfast <i>80 rooms available</i>	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast
78 \$	105 \$

**Tel : +968 24702311**  
**Fax : +968 24795853**  
**Website : [www.omanhotels.com](http://www.omanhotels.com)**

## 5. Platinum Hotel Muscat (4★) 20 km from the venue



Single Occupancy+ Breakfast <i>30 rooms available</i>	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast
116 \$	142 \$
Tel : +968 24392500 Fax : +968 24392501 Website : <a href="http://www.theplatinumoman.com">www.theplatinumoman.com</a>	

## 6. Tulip Inn Hotel Muscat (3★) 20km from the venue



Single Occupancy+ Breakfast <i>30 rooms available</i>	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast
116 \$	142 \$
Tel : +968 24471555 Fax : +968 24471600 Website : <a href="http://www.tulipinmuscat.com">www.tulipinmuscat.com</a>	

## 7. Holiday Hotel Muscat (3★) 20km from the venue



Single Occupancy+ Breakfast <i>40 rooms available</i>	Double Occupancy+ Breakfast
90 \$	116 \$
Tel : +968 24525779 Fax : +968 24528800 Website : <a href="http://www.holidayhotelsoman.com">www.holidayhotelsoman.com</a>	

## 11. Local Transport

Transport between the airport and hotels will be provided upon arrival and at departure for all delegates, free of charge, by the Omani authorities, **on condition that they communicated their flight details to the dedicated address before the deadline** (see 11. above).

For delegates staying in **Shangri-la Hotels, Haffa House Hotel, Al Falaj Hotel Muscat, Platinum Hotel Muscat, Tulip Inn Hotel Muscat and Holiday Hotel Muscat**, shuttle service will be provided at appropriate times for all official meetings between your hotel and the meeting venue. Outside these hours, taxis are available.



## 12. Currency

The currency of Oman is the Omani Rial (O.R). Rial comes in both coin and banknote form. The size of the Omani currency, both coins and bills increases with value and varies in color; US\$ 1 is approximately O.R 0.385. Currency exchange facilities and ATM machines are available at the airport and at the meeting venue hotel.

## 13. Climate

The weather in Oman is generally hot and humid. May is the beginning of the hot season with an average temperature of 35 - 40 degrees Celsius.

## 14. Electricity

Electrical outlets in Oman are charged to 220-240 Volts (Primary Socket Type: British BS-1363), which is compatible with appliances from the U.K. but not those from the US and many other nations. While most computer cables have adaptors for voltage, visitors from the U.S. and those not on the 220-240 V will have to bring adaptors to run their appliances. Outlets in Oman generally are three holes (grounded outlets).



## 15. Telephone

The Omani phone system is both modern and widespread, with comprehensive coverage for cell phones and reliable pay phones found throughout the Sultanate. Purchasing a second-hand phone is inexpensive and convenient, and calling from Oman on a public phone is easy with a phone card available at most convenience stores.

Emergency numbers are often four digit numbers, including Police, which is 9999.

## 16. Facilities available at the Meeting Venue

The following facilities will be available on the premises:

- Telephone and fax (costs will be borne by the user)
- Cyberspace for Internet connections and email (free of charge)
- WiFi at the entire meeting space.

## 17. Press Liaison Office

Facilities will be provided to representatives of the press to enable them to follow the proceedings of the meeting. Plenary Sessions of the Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting on 13 and 14 May will however be closed sessions. A Press conference will be organized.

## 18. Local Time

Oman Standard time is GMT +4. Oman does not observe daylight savings.

## 19. In Country contact person(s) on logistics arrangements

The Oman National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Oman is assigned to be the focal point of the host country. All communications on logistics arrangements, notably transport and accommodation, may be addressed to:

Mr Salim Al Habsi  
International Relations Specialist  
The Oman National Commission for UNESCO  
Ministry of Education  
Muscat, Oman  
Mobile: 00968 93344477  
Tel: 00968 24759259  
Fax: 00968 24759555  
E-mail: [salimalhabsi@moe.om](mailto:salimalhabsi@moe.om)

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**For more information about UNESCO, Education for All and the 2014  
Global EFA Meeting, please check:**

**[Global EFA Meeting](#) and <http://www.onc.gov.om/>**