|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **APTlogogreen3** | **The Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services**  4 - 6 July 2023, Maldives | **D:\Documents and Settings\shiham\My Documents\My Pictures\CAM logo\tam logo-1.bmp** |

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC) Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services will be held from 4 - 6 July 2023 in Maldives. The event will be organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by Communications Authority of Maldives (CAM). This meeting is a part of implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII.

Please find the following information for the convenience of participants:

1. MEETING VENUE

The venue for the Meeting of the SATRC WG on Policy, Regulation and Services will be at the Conference Room of Kaani Grand Sea View Hotel at Maafushi Island, Maldives. The detail of the hotel is mentioned below:

**Kaani Grand Sea View**

Beach Front 08090

Maafushi Island

South Male’ Atoll

Maldives

Tel: +9609533626

Website: <http://www.kaanigrand.com>

2. PARTICIPATION

All SATRC Members and Affiliate Members of APT in SATRC Member countries can attend the meeting.

3. REGISTRATION

Registration can be done online at <http://www.apt.int/content/online-registration> preferably by **12 June 2023** for making necessary arrangements. **Only the registered participants are entitled to attend the workshop.**

**4. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION RATE & RESERVATION**

1. For the logistics and convenience of the participants, it is recommended that all participants stay at the meeting hotel, Kaani Grand Sea View at Maafushi Island during the period of the workshop:

**Contact Point for all the Hotel (Accommodations):**

Mr. Danura Kumarasiri

Operarations Manager

Phone: +9609500775

Email: danura@kaanimaldives.com

**Kaani Grand Sea View**

Beach Front 08090

Maafushi Island

South Male’ Atoll

Maldives

Tel: +9609533626

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Room Type** | **Room Rate/Night** | |
| **Single** | **Double/Twin** |
| Deluxe Room with Breakfast | USD 115 | USD 115 |

* *Rates are inclusive of an international buffet breakfast and free Wi-Fi in room*
* *Rates are inclusive of service charge and all taxes (GST and Green tax) per room per night*
* *Special rate has been arranged by CAM.*

1. Alternative Accommodation is available at following hotels:
2. **Kaani Village and Spa**

Mirihi Magu, Maafushi, Maldives

Phone: +9609500775

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Room Type** | **Room Rate/Night** | |
| **Single** | **Double/Twin** |
| Deluxe Room with Breakfast | USD 100 | USD 100 |

1. **Kaani Beach Hotel**

Aabaadhee Hingun Road, Maafushi, Maldives

Phone: +9609500775

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Room Type** | **Room Rate/Night** | |
| **Single** | **Double/Twin** |
| Deluxe Room with Breakfast | USD 90 | USD 90 |

* *Rates are inclusive of an international buffet breakfast and free Wi-Fi in room*
* *Rates are inclusive of service charge and all taxes (GST and Green tax) per room per night*

**For more information regarding hotel reservations, please directly contact with the hotel (Mr. Danura Kumarasiri/Operations Manager)**  **and copy to the Local Secretariat.**

1. Other Alternative Accommodation is also available at the many guest houses and hotels on Maafashi Island. These accommodation options are listed on major online hotel booking websites and participants who wish to stay at these guest houses/hotels can make their bookings directly through them.

**5.**

**VISA AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Participants are required to hold a valid passport with a minimum of six months validity remaining on the passport. Visa on arrival will be provided to all visitors to the Maldives. If any participant requires an invitation letter from the host, please contact the Local Secretariat.

6. WORKSHOP WEBSITE, DOCUMENTS AND CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINE

Related information about the meeting as well as documents will be available at <https://www.apt.int/2023-SATRC-WG-PRS>

The administrations/organizations who wish to contribute to the sessions of the workshop, should send the contributions in the form of presentation material in Microsoft Power Point, English Version together with a short abstract/biodata to the APT Secretariat by e-mail ([aptsatrc@apt.int](mailto:aptsatrc@apt.int)). **The deadline for submission of contribution is 27 June 2023.**

**7. WIRELESS LAN**

Internet Access over wireless network will be available during the workshop. APT encourages the use of electronic documents during the workshop The participants are kindly requested to bring their own laptops with Wi-Fi capability.

8. MALDIVES: A BRIEF COUNTRY PROFILE

Maldives consists of 1,190 coral islands grouped in a double chain of twenty-seven atolls situated in the Indian Ocean. Most atolls consist of a large, ring-shaped coral reef supporting numerous small islands. The country covers an area approximately 90,000 square kilometres, of which only 298 square kilometres is dry land. The islands are of average one to two square kilometres in area, and no individual island is longer than eight kilometres. The Maldives lies between 1-1.5 meters above sea level, with the highest island situated at 3 meters above sea level. Maldives is largely flat and has no land features such as hills or rivers, but some islands have dunes such as that found in Hithadhoo island of Addu Atoll, and wetlands and marshes such as those found in the Fuvahmulah island of Gnaviyani Atoll.

Maldives is renowned for its white sandy beaches, pristine turquoise waters and unique underwater marine life. The people of the Maldives islands are widely dispersed across the atolls, with about 200 inhabited islands. 170 islands are developed as tourist resorts and the remaining islands are uninhabited or used for agriculture & other livelihood purposes. The capital of the Maldives is Male’.

9. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Male’ is the capital of Maldives. The main international airport (Velana International Airport) is located in Hulhule island just a kilometre from Male’. The airport is connected to Male’ via an over water bridge and to Hulhumale’ a new city entirely built on an artificial island developed by reclamation. Maafushi island, where the meeting will be hosted, is situated in South Male’ Atoll. It takes about 30 minutes by speed boat to reach Maafushi from the Airport.

Maafushi is an inhabited island, but it is also renowned for tourist hotels and guest houses. Many recreational and water sports activities are offered by the hotels.

10. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Speedboat transfer is the norm to resorts close to the International Airport. The rest is covered by seaplane or domestic flight. If you are travelling to Male’ you can take a taxi from the airport. Scheduled ferries also operate from Male’ to many of the atolls. Male’ City, and Hulhumale’ are also served by schedule daily public bus service.

11. WEATHER

The Maldives has a warm and humid tropical climate, all year round and is influenced by two dominating monsoons. The fact that the Maldives is located at the equator, Maldives receives plentiful of sunshine throughout the year. The temperatures of Maldives ranges between 26° Celsius and 32° Celsius throughout the year. The dry season (northeast monsoon) runs from December to April. While the rainy season (southeast monsoon) runs from late May to November.

For further details on weather in the Maldives, please visit <http://www.meteorology.gov.mv/>

12. LANGUAGE

The official language of the Maldives is Dhivehi, which is a unique language spoken only by the people of Maldives. Dhivehi is an Indo-Aryan language with roots in Sanskrit and influenced by other major languages in the region. The language was influenced by the Arabic language with the advent of Islam in the 12th century, and the English language with the introduction of English medium education in the Maldives.

13. TIME ZONE

GMT/UTC + 5.00 hours

14. BANKS & CURRENCY

The Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives. Please use only the authorized money changers and banks to convert currency. They will issue a certificate of exchange which is required at the time of re-conversion of any unused currency. The currency may be exchanged at the airport on arrival. The Official Foreign Exchange Rate is MVR 15.42 for US$ 1.

Most bank ATMs honor Visa, Visa Electron, Master & Maestro cards and you may use these ATMs also to withdraw money. Most hotels, shops & other establishments accept all accept major international credit cards.

15. ELECTRICITY

230Volts AC 50Hz Electric sockets of Type D. It is advisable to come along with Global adaptors.



16. TRANSPORTATION DURING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

All participants who inform their flight arrivals in advance will be met by the staff of CAM upon arrival at the Velana International Airport. To avail this facility, delegates are kindly requested to send their flight itineraries through email to the Local Secretariat with a copy to APT Secretariat at least 7 (seven) days prior to date of travel. Transportation to the hotel from and to the Airport will be provided. It takes about 30 minutes by speed boat to reach the Maafushi Island.

17. INSURANCE

APT and Local Secretariat will not bear any cost of medical or travel insurance for the participant including any measures for Covid-19 such as quarantine, PCR test, etc. APT and Local Secretariat, therefore, requests Administrations/Organizations to kindly make necessary arrangements for medical, travel insurance and others covering the whole period of the event and overseas travel for the participant.

18. CONTACT INFORMATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **APT Secretariat**  Nidup Gyeltshen  Project Coordinator  Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)  12/49 Soi 5 Chaeng Watthana Road  Bangkok 10210, Thailand  Tel: +66 2 573 0044  Fax: +66 2 573 7479  E-mail: [aptsatrc@apt.int](mailto:aptsatrc@apt.int) | **Local Secretariat**  Zulaikha Ibrahim  Deputy Director General  Phone: +960 3030350, Mobile: +960 7788150  Email: [zuley@cam.gov.mv](mailto:%20zuley@cam.gov.mv)  Ali Misbah  Senior Technicial  Phone: +960 3030355, Mobile: +960 7733063  Email: [misbah@cam.gov.mv](mailto:misbah@cam.gov.mv)  Communications Authority of Maldives (CAM)  Tel: +960 3323344  Fax: +960 3320000  Email: [admin@cam.gov.mv](mailto:admin@cam.gov.mv) |