

15th Steering Committee Meeting of the CGIAR Regional Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus

4-6 September 2012, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Visas

Visa-free travel for citizens of the following countries was recently introduced in Kyrgyz Republic. According to the Order signed by the President of the Republic (No. 2020-V dated 14 June 2012), procedures for issuing visas to foreign citizens were also simplified considerably. Citizens of the following countries are granted visa-free travel for up to 60 days:

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Belgium
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Vatican
6. United Kingdom
7. Hungary
8. Germany
9. the Netherlands
10. Hellenic Republic
11. Denmark
12. Iceland
13. Ireland
14. Spain
15. Italy
16. Canada
17. South Korea
18. Kuwait
19. Latvia
20. Lithuania
21. the Principality of Liechtenstein
22. Luxembourg
23. Malta
24. Monaco
25. New Zealand
26. Norway
27. United Arab Emirates
28. Poland
29. Portugal
30. Saudi Arabia
31. Singapore
32. Slovakia
33. Slovenia
34. United States of America
35. Finland
36. France
37. Croatia
38. Czech Republic
39. Switzerland
40. Sweden
41. Estonia
42. Qatar
43. Brunei Darussalam
44. Bahrain

The participants from those countries not included in the list are kindly requested to send their passport copy as soon as possible in order to arrange their visa authorization through Kyrgyz authorities. The passport copies should be sent to Mr. Muzaffar Aliev, Administrative officer in the Program Facilitation Unit in Tashkent by e-mail: m.aliev@cgiar.org

Upon arrival

Upon arrival at MANAS International Airport in Bishkek, the participants not requiring visas (see list of countries above) should proceed directly to the passport control. The participants whose citizenship is not indicated in the above list should proceed to the consular section of the airport with the copy of the visa authorization number that will be provided by the PFU. The PFU will assist with visa authorization after receiving a copy of your passport. Please take with you one passport size photo and about 80-100 USD in cash (preferably small banknotes)

After customs clearance you will be met by a person carrying a plate with your name or the name of the hotel AK KEME. Please get in touch with this person and they will take you from the airport to your hotel.

Transportation

Transportation of the participants from/ to airport/ hotel will be provided according to the flight itineraries received.

The participants will travel together by bus from Bishkek to Issyk Kul on 3 September (about 4-5 hours drive). The bus will pick up all participants from AK KEME Hotel at 9:00 am on 3 September. The participants will return from Issyk Kul to Bishkek on 6 September. Return time to Bishkek is 17:00 at the latest.

Weather

- Autumn in Kyrgyzstan is relatively warm. It begins in September and lasts until mid-November. Sunny warm days and cold snap at nights are typical for autumn at Issyk Kul lake.
- In September the air temperature during the day is around +17 to +20 degrees Celsius. At night, the temperature is about +7 to +12 degrees. Frequent rainfall. It is recommended to take a sweater, a jacket and an umbrella.

Air and Water Temperatures, C	May	June	July	August	September	October
Day Air temperature	14.4	18.0	20.6	20.6	17.9	12.7
Night Air temperature	8.8	11.3	13.4	13.3	9.4	4.6
Average daily Water temperature	12	17	20	21	19	15

Venue and hotel information

The meeting will be held at "Issyk Kul Avrora" sanatorium (www.aurora.kg), located at Bulan Sogottu village in Issyk Kul district, about 270 km from Bishkek. It is a Soviet-style but comfortable facility surrounded by a large park close to the lake. The meeting will be held in the conference hall on the ground floor, next to the reception in the "Issyk Kul Avrora" sanatorium.

Security and contact numbers

Bishkek is a safe city, but you are advised to take the usual precautions when going out. You must carry your ID document (passport) at all times.

In case of emergency please contact our office staff:

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Miscellaneous

Kyrgyzstan currency is called "Som." Som notes are available in 1000, 500, 200 and 100. Smaller coins are also available. One US Dollar is equivalent to around Kyrgyz Soms 47 as of August 2012. All major currencies are accepted and can be changed at the airport, major hotels, banks, and exchange offices. Major credit cards are accepted by hotels. However, accommodation and meals in "Issyk Kul Avrora" sanatorium need to be paid in cash in Kyrgyz Soms. The cost is about 50 US Dollars per day per person.

The official language in Kyrgyzstan is Kyrgyz, but Russian is also spoken by almost everybody. English is widely spoken by young people in the capital.

Meat is the main food in Kyrgyzstan. Vegetarian dishes are available at the hotel and in many smaller eating places around in Bishkek.