

**Information for Workshop Participants
Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon**

9-12 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

1. Meeting Schedule:

Sunday, 9 June: Inauguration.

Programme starts at 17:00 (5 pm) with a short session of opening speeches followed by buffet dinner.

Please arrive on flights that land in Kathmandu no later than 15:00 (3 pm) on Sunday, 9 June 2013.

Monday, 10 June to Wednesday, 12 June, 2013: Presentations and discussions.

For a detailed agenda, please see the "Agenda" link on the Workshop website.

Meeting ends at 17:00 (5 pm) on Wednesday, 12 June, 2013

Please depart on flights that leave Kathmandu airport no earlier than 20:30 (8:30 pm) on 12 June 2013.

Note: Select ACAM participants will also be invited to join ICIMOD's First Annual Regional Atmospheric Scientists' Workshop (FARAS), which takes place on Thursday and Friday, 13-14 June 2013, at ICIMOD Headquarters. Those participants will receive further details by email.

2. Meeting Venue:

Megha Malhar Ballroom

Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel

Tahachal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-427 3999

Web: www.crowneplaza.com/kathmandu

3. Recommended Accommodations for Meeting Participants:

Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel

Tahachal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-427 3999

We have negotiated a special rate of USD 118 per person single / USD 129 per person double for the duration from 8 June to 15 June. This rate includes all taxes and service charges, internet, as well as buffet breakfast per guest.

For participants making their own travel arrangements we will provide a hotel booking link shortly. You are welcome to come as early as 8 June or leave late as 15 June to enjoy this special rate. We are working with a travel agency to provide tour packages for half days, whole days, and multi-day trips to different parts of Nepal.

Hotel check-out: The checkout time is 12:00

Note: If you are sponsored by ICIMOD, and participating in ICIMOD's FARAS Workshop, then the hotel reservations will be handled by ICIMOD directly.

Information for Workshop Participants Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon

9-12 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

4. Visa and Airport Information:

Unless you are a citizen of Nepal or India, you will need a visa to enter Nepal. You are welcome to obtain this from the Embassy of Nepal in your home country. However, Nepal also offers visa-on-arrival facilities to citizens of most countries. **For this you will need to carry USD 30 in cash, and two passport size photos.** You will receive the application form before landing in Kathmandu, and you will need to stand in the typically slower-moving visa-on-arrival line at airport immigration.

Please note that visa-on-arrival is NOT available to citizens of Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Ethiopia, Liberia, Cameroon, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Ghana, and Nigeria. If you are a citizen of one of these countries you will need to obtain your visa before flying to Nepal.

For more information please visit www.immi.gov.np.

Please note: For those travelers who are government employees required to travel on an Official Passport, you will need to work through your agency to obtain the appropriate paperwork to apply for a visa well in advance of your trip.

If you need an invitation letter for your travel, the Organizing Committee has prepared a letter upon request. To request this letter, please contact Barb Petruzzi at petruzzi@ucar.edu. We will need your name, institution and address in your email request.

Please note that Kathmandu airport is quite small. If you are lucky you can be out within 20 minutes after landing. But if many flights landed before yours, it may take 1-2 hours to clear immigration and customs.

5. Local Information:

If you are coming to ACAM from outside of Nepal then please also email a copy of your flight itinerary or e-ticket to Liza Manandhar (Imanandhar@icimod.org) no later than 1 June 2013.

The Soaltee Crowne Plaza has offered to provide airport transfer for meeting participants and their guests at a cost of USD 10 per person each-way. We strongly recommend using this service for a hassle-free arrival. To reserve, please email Liza

When you step out of the airport, please look for a driver holding a display placard that reads either "ICIMOD" or "Soaltee Crowne Plaza." In case you cannot find the driver, please take a prepaid taxi from the counter on your right, just before you exit the airport building.

Meals

Breakfast is included in your room rate.

Lunch: ICIMOD is sponsoring lunch for ACAM participants on June 10, 11, and 12.

Dinner: ICIMOD is sponsoring the dinner after the inauguration ceremony on 9 June.

Information for Workshop Participants Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon

9-12 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

Note: If you are sponsored by ICIMOD and/or taking part in ICIMOD's First Annual Regional Atmospheric Scientists' Workshop (FARAS) then you will receive information about other meals by email.

6. Currency exchange

Hotels, airlines, travel agencies and major department stores take international credit cards. Otherwise, most transactions in Kathmandu require cash (in Nepali Rupees). We recommend that you change money at an airport bank counter upon arrival. There are commercial banks within a few kilometers of the hotel, but their hours are limited, so you might not be able to go during the meeting. The hotel front desk can also change money. ATMs are common around Kathmandu, and there is one ATM machine within the hotel premises. However, ATM machines in Nepal typically only provide small amounts (~USD120) per transaction with foreign cards, so your ATM fees might add up. Exchange rates fluctuate. At the time of writing it is about ~85 Nepali Rupees to the US dollar.

7. Electricity

Electricity service throughout Nepal is 220 Volts AC, 50 hz. You will find different types of power plugs used in Nepal, including continental European and British ones. If you plan to use equipment from your country such as a personal computer or mobile phone in Nepal, we recommend that you to bring a plug adaptor.

8. Internet Service

If you are staying at the Soaltee Crowne Plaza internet service is included in your room rate.

9. Weather, Clothing, and Shoes

Mid June is when the summer monsoon begins. If you are lucky you will experience the dramatic single-day transition from hot-dry-dusty-hazy weather into the rainy season. **Bring an umbrella!**

Expect temperatures on sunny days around 32°C (90°F), with cooler temperatures on rainy days. Night time temperatures will probably be around 18-20°C (65-68°F). The Soaltee Crowne Plaza has a nice swimming pool, so bring a swimsuit!

Kathmandu is at 1300 meters above sea level (4300 ft), at 27.7 degrees north. The sun can be intense, so bring appropriate sun protection.

Many streets in Kathmandu are uneven and dusty or muddy, so bring appropriate walking shoes. There are also opportunities for short hikes nearby.

10. Travel Advice:

Note: If you are sponsored by ICIMOD and/or taking part in ICIMOD's FARAS Workshop on Thursday and Friday, 13-14 June 2013, then please work with ICIMOD for your travel arrangements, per directions that will be emailed to you separately.

Information for Workshop Participants Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon

9-12 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

Note, if you have a window seat you will most likely get a good view of the Himalaya before landing in Kathmandu. If you are coming from the west (Europe, Middle East, Delhi, get a window seat, away from the wing, on the left side ("A"). If you are coming from the east (Calcutta, Dhaka, South East Asia, East Asia), then get a window seat on the right side.

Although Kathmandu is increasingly well connected, it still requires one or two connections from most cities around the world. If you are making your own travel arrangements, then here is some advice on routes to consider. For questions please email Arnico Panday (apanday@icimod.org):

If you are coming from India:

There are nonstop flights to Kathmandu from Delhi (Air India, Jet Airways, IndiGo, Spicejet), Kolkata (Air India), Varanasi (Air India, Buddha Air), and Mumbai (Jet Airways). If you are coming from another city you will most likely find a good connection through Delhi.

If you are coming from China:

There are direct flights to Kathmandu from Chengdu via Lhasa (Air China), Kunming (China Eastern) or Guangzhou (China Southern). If you are coming from another city you will have to connect to these flights. You might also consider flights via Hong Kong on Dragon Air.

If you are coming from Bangladesh:

There are nonstop flights from Dhaka on Biman Bangladesh and United Airways Bangladesh.

If you are coming from Bhutan:

Druk Air flies from Paro to Kathmandu. Alternatively, you can travel to Baghdogra, India, cross the border into Nepal and fly to Kathmandu from Kakarvitta (Buddha Air or Yeti Airlines).

If you are coming from Southeast Asia:

There are daily flights from Bangkok (Thai Airways and Nepal Airlines), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia Airlines, AirAsiaX, and Nepal Airlines), Hong Kong (Dragon Air and Nepal Airlines) and Singapore (Silk Air, 5 times a week).

For reliability we advise against flying Nepal Airlines.

If you are coming from Singapore and the Silk Air flight is full, consider connecting in Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur.

If you are coming from Manila, your best connections are likely through Guangzhou, Hong Kong, or Bangkok.

If you are coming from China, Japan or Korea:

Korean Air flies nonstop from Seoul to Kathmandu on Mondays and Fridays. On other days, your best connections are through Hong Kong (on Cathay Pacific & Dragon Air), Guangzhou (on China Southern) or Bangkok (on Thai Airways).

**Information for Workshop Participants
Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon**

9-12 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

If you are coming from Pakistan:

Pakistan International has flights from Karachi and Islamabad on certain days of the week. Alternatively you could come with a one-stop connection the Persian Gulf, for example via Doha (Qatar Airways), Abu Dhabi (Etihad) or Muscat (Oman Air).

If you are coming from the Middle East:

Due to the large number of Nepali workers in the Gulf, Kathmandu is very well connected to the Gulf region, with daily or multiple daily flights to Bahrain, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Muscat.

Note that Kathmandu is one of the few cities in Asia does not have flights on Emirates, but only on its low-cost subsidiary FlyDubai. For the best in-flight experience, consider Etihad, Oman Air or Qatar. For the cheapest tickets consider FlyDubai, Air Arabia, or RAK Air.

If you are coming from Africa:

If Qatar Airways, Gulf Air, or Air Arabia fly from your home airport then they will provide the best connections to Kathmandu. If they don't then consider flying Ethiopian Airlines or Kenya Airways to Delhi, and connect there onto Jet Airways. Note that Jet Airways is better equipped to interline luggage than Air India, so that should be your preferred connecting airline from Delhi to Kathmandu.

If you are coming from Europe:

Due to the large number of one-stop flight connections offered by Middle Eastern airlines, there are no more direct flights from Europe to Nepal (except charters from Amsterdam).

Usually your best connections are the one-stops through the Middle East, especially on Qatar Airways through Doha, on Etihad through Abu Dhabi, on Oman Air through Muscat, or on Gulf Air through Bahrain.

Alternatively, you could fly a European airline to Delhi and connect from there on Jet Airways, but do note that international-to-international flight connection procedures at Delhi are more tedious than at many other international airports. Also note that Jet Airways has a better reputation for interlining luggage than Air India, so that should be your preferred connecting airline from Delhi to Kathmandu.

If you are coming from Canada:

Your easiest connections are probably on Cathay Pacific from Toronto or Vancouver via Hong Kong, on Korean Air from Toronto or Vancouver via Seoul, or on Qatar Airways from Montreal via Doha. You could also connect via USA or Europe (see appropriate sections).

If you are coming from the United States, and you have restrictions due to Federal Funds:

Information for Workshop Participants Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon

9-12 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

If you are traveling on a federal grant and have to abide by the Fly-America Act, you would need to fly as far as possible on an American flag carrier or its code-share, or on one of the EU airlines that is exempt from Fly-America restrictions. No US airline flies to Nepal. Thus your choices include the following:

- Fly United or Delta to Hong Kong or Bangkok, and connect from there to Kathmandu on Dragon Air or Thai.
- Fly United to Doha or Bahrain, and connect from there on Qatar Airways or Gulf Air.
- Fly United's nonstop from Newark to Delhi, or American Airlines' nonstop from Chicago to Delhi, and connect from there to Kathmandu on Jet Airways. Note that international-to-international flight connection procedures at Delhi are more tedious than at many other international airports. Also note that Jet Airways has a better reputation for interlining luggage than Air India, so that should be your preferred airline from Delhi to Kathmandu.
- Fly Lufthansa, Swiss, Air France or some other exempt European airline to Delhi, and connect from there on Jet Airways. Note that international-to-international flight connection procedures at Delhi are more tedious than at many other international airports. Also note that Jet Airways has a better reputation for interlining luggage than Air India, so that should be your preferred airline from Delhi to Kathmandu.

If you are coming from the United States and don't have airline restrictions:

Any of the connections above would work, but you may be more comfortable on the following options:

- Fly Cathay Pacific from New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles to Hong Kong, and connect to the Dragon Air flight to Kathmandu. Cathay Pacific is an OneWorld partner with American Airlines.
- Fly Qatar Airways from New York, Washington, Houston, or Chicago, with a stop in Doha. Flights to Doha take 12-14 hours. Doha to Kathmandu takes 4 hours. Typically connection times in Doha are 5-7 hours. You can use the Oryx Lounge at Doha airport for USD 40 to access comfortable seating, free food, and showers.
- Fly Korean Air from New York, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, Seattle, San Francisco, or Los Angeles via Seoul. Note though that flights to Kathmandu operate only on Fridays and Mondays, so you would need to arrive on 8 June and leave on 14 or 17 June. Korean Air is a SkyTeam partner with Delta.

You might also find good fares on Emirates (from New York, Washington, Houston, San Francisco, or Los Angeles), with short connection times in Dubai. Note though that Emirates' B777 aircraft have tighter 10-across seating (compared to 9-across in most other airlines), and the connection from Dubai to Kathmandu is on its low-cost subsidiary FlyDubai.

11. Contact Information:

Local Organizing Committee:

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Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon**

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For General Information, please contact:

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