

Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)
Conference La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala
20-23 November 2012

Location:

The 13th MACHC Conference is being held at the "Soleil La Antigua Spa and Convention Center" Hotel, La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.



Antigua Guatemala is the main city of the department of Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, it is well known by its Spanish renaissance architecture with baroque facades of the new world, As well as a large number of ruins of churches. Has been designated World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1979.

The name "Guatemala" is derived from "Goathemala," which means "the land of the trees" in the Maya-Toltec language, officially named the Republic of Guatemala (Spanish: *República de Guatemala*), is a country in Central America bordered by Mexico to the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, Belize to the northeast, the Caribbean to the east, and Honduras and El Salvador to the southeast. Its area is 108,890 km² with an estimated population of 13,276,517.





Partners Programme

The hosts have arranged a programme for partners of delegates during the conference.

How to get to the Soleil La Antigua Hotel:

A shuttle service has been arranged by the hotel (please ensure that your flight is correct and provided in the registration form), the cost of the service is US\$30.00 for one way trip. The hotel is 45 km from the La Aurora, International Airport; taxis will be available at US\$60.00.

The Meeting Venue and Accommodation:

Soleil La Antigua Hotel & Spa

The 13th MACHC Conference will be held at the Conference facilities at the "Soleil La Antigua Hotel".

The Maritime Affairs Directorship (MAD), has negotiated a discounted rate and has made a block booking under the name of 13th MACHC Conference 19-23 november 2012, delegates should make their reservations directly with the hotel at cintya.ordonez@gruposoleil.com, eventos1@gruposoleil.com, November is a very busy time for the hotel so you are strongly advised to make your reservation by 31 August 2012.

Block Booking Rates:

Single Room: Quetzales *Q.1040.00 or (US\$131.00 per person / night).
with partner **additional (US\$50.00).

Notes:

The special rate includes

- Breakfast
- Lunch***
- Dinner
- Facilities available gym, pool, sauna.

But does not NOT include

- Extras such as telephone calls or laundry service.

NB: Please be aware that any person choosing not to make use of the recommended hotel will be liable for a conference fee, (US\$36.00) this includes, lunch and coffee break (am/pm).

Alternatively, the Real Plaza Hotel, www.realplaza.com.gt; which is within walking distance of the Soleil La Antigua Hotel, offer rooms from US\$ 80.00 + tax per night, it includes breakfast, early booking is strongly advised.

The Soleil La Antigua Hotel is located within the center of Antigua Guatemala and each room features: en suite bathroom, hair dryer and cable LCD TV.

To make your reservation email: cintya.ordonez@gruposoleil.com, and eventos1@gruposoleil.com, please copy in hidrografia@deptomaritimo.gob.gt.

***Based on an exchange rate of Q7.9 for US\$1**

****Additional fee is for bed and breakfast**

***** Only during conference**

Extra Information and Frequently Asked Questions:

Will I require a VISA?

Depending on your nationality, and the purpose and duration of your visit, you may need a visa to visit Guatemala.

What is the weather like?

Guatemala is located in tropical Central America around 14°N Latitude and one would expect the country to have a solidly tropical climate. Large parts of Guatemala are very mountainous and climate depends much more on altitude than on latitude. The temperate zone extends from approximately 1,000 m (3,300 ft) to 2,000 m (6,600 ft) above sea level. Daytime temperatures rarely exceed 30° C (85° F) and nights are pleasantly cool. Guatemala City and destinations like Antigua Guatemala are in the temperate zone.

Clothes to Bring?

While in Guatemala City and the highlands area wear spring clothing and a sweater at night. Comfortable walking shoes are suggested. While at archaeological sites and the lowlands, light-colored, lightweight, cotton clothing is recommended. Sunglasses and a hat are recommended while on tours or at the beach.

Will I be understood if I speak English?

The official language is Spanish, but English is spoken in the popular tourism areas, over 20 indigenous languages are still spoken in the country.

What electricity supply is used in Guatemala?

Guatemala uses the same supply as the United States of America, 220 volts AC 50Hz electricity supply. Most plugs have 2 or 3 pins. Adapters can be purchased at the airport and local supermarkets. US made adapters will not require a transformer.

What Tax system us used?

In Guatemala all goods and services are subject to 12% VAT (value added tax) and this is included in all prices given, so the price you see on a price tag is the price you pay. For details on this process please go to <http://portal.sat.gob.gt>

Do I have to Tip?

The standard practice is to tip hospitality industry staff (waiters, bar staff and hotel porters) the rate is 10%.

Can I drink the water?

Water in Guatemala is considered safe and potable, however if you prefer bottled water it is available from all supermarkets, shops and cafes.

THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE MAY BE OF INTEREST TO FIRST TIME VISITORS TO GUATEMALA.

- www.visitguatemala.com
- www.gruposoleil.com