Workshop on The Development of Transport Statistics and Transport Related Sustainable Development Indicators in the Arab Countries

Beirut, Lebanon, 16-18 September 2019

Aerial view of Beirut

ESCWA building
Welcome

The United Nations - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) are jointly organizing the Regional Workshop on The Development of Transport Statistics and Transport Related Sustainable Development Indicators in the Arab Countries. The aim of this information brochure is to help you make your participation in the workshop and your stay in Lebanon smooth and pleasant.

The Workshop

The Regional Workshop on the Development of Transport Statistics and Transport Related Sustainable Development Indicators in the Arab Countries is jointly organized by ESCWA and AITRS, and will be held from 16 to 18 September 2019 at ESCWA Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon.

The workshop aims to develop transport statistics and indicators and transport related sustainable development indicators in the Arab countries in line with ESCWA’s work on identifying regional development priorities geared towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the use of new technologies in data collection and dissemination. The workshop also provides the opportunity to strengthen collaboration with regional and national partners and to ensure that transport data are consistent and streamlined regionally and internationally. The workshop also provides a platform for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.

The address and contact details of the Workshop venue are as follows:

United Nations – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

ADDRESS
UN House
Riad el-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-8575
TELEPHONE: +961-1-981301
FAX: +961-1-981510
Satellite Tel via NY HQ: +1(212)-963-9731
Satellite Fax via NY HQ: +1(212) 963-9732
Website: https://www.unescwa.org/
Visa Arrangements

Participants are required to check if they need a visa for Lebanon and make their own arrangements for the visas if needed. Detailed information on entry visas to Lebanon is available on the following link. http://www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/38

Arrival and Transport from Airport to Hotel

Participants will arrive in Beirut through Rafic Hariri International Airport. Once outside the arrival building you will be received by many taxi drivers. Transport from and to airport are at own participant's expense. The transfer charge from the Airport to the Hotel is about LL 40,000.

Transport in Beirut

Beirut is not very big, and most areas are accessible by foot. Most people get around by taxi. There are two kinds of taxis – the “service” (pronounced the French way – “ser-vees”)
and the normal taxi. The service runs as a kind of shared taxi – other people may get in en route to your destination. If you are OK with this, then tell the taxi driver “service” and make sure he agrees before getting in the taxi. For any taxi, you should always agree on the price with the driver before getting in. Standard maximum prices are: LL 2,000 for a service and LL 10,000 for a taxi going a significant distance. Transport from hotel to meeting venue and back are at own participant's expense.

**Hotel Arrangements**

Each participant will arrange for their own hotel booking. A list of hotels with the UN rate will be provided.

For each day of the Workshop, participants will be responsible for their own transport arrangements. The address and location of The ESCWA building are shown above.

**Other Information about Beirut**

**Weather**

Beirut is situated on the sea level. The average temperatures in September will be between 22.0°C and 29.0°C.

**Electric supply**

Electricity in Lebanon is 220 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.

**Money and currency**

The official currency in Lebanon is the Lebanese Lira (LL). Notes available in coins with denominations of: 250 and 500 Lira; and banknotes available in denominations of: 1,000; 5,000; 10,000; 20,000; 50,000 and 100,000.

United States dollars $ are used widely throughout the country. Restaurants, hotels, and stores often quote their prices in dollars, and many establishments will convert and provide dollar prices for you upon request.

The $/LL exchange rate is relatively stable, hovering around $1=LL1,500

**Banks**

The opening hours for most banks are: Monday – Friday: 8.30 am – 2.00 pm and Saturdays: 9.00 am -1.00 pm.
It is possible to withdraw money (in Lebanese currency or United States Dollar) at ATMs with your bank card.

**Credit cards**

VISA, Mastercard and American Express are accepted in most of the international hotels, shops and restaurants.

**Language**

While Arabic is Lebanon's official language, English and French are widely spoken. Most Lebanese speak at least two or three languages, and visitors will find no problems communicating. Many establishments provide signs, menus and information in both Arabic and English or French.
Key Contacts

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