

Monitoring land cover, land use and fire in agricultural and semi-arid regions of Northern Eurasia

Joint NASA LCLUC Science Team Meeting and GOF-C-GOLD/NERIN, NEESPI, MAIRS Workshop

National Center of Space Research and Technologies, National Space Agency
Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN

September 15-19, 2009
(Training sessions September 20-21, 2009)

MEETING LOGISTICS

I. VENUE

The Joint NASA LCLUC Science Team Meeting and GOF-C-GOLD/NERIN, NEESPI MAIRS Workshop will take place in the Resort “Alatau”, Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Resort “Alatau” is located in the suburbs of Almaty City, in the foothills of the Zailiyskii Alatau, next to the thermal mineral spa.

Address

Resort “Alatau”
Verkhnyaya Kamenka Village
Almaty 050007, Kazakhstan

Tel: +7 (7272) 549 737 / 549 627
Fax: (+7 7272) 549 697 / 549 681

Opening and registration

The **Meeting** will open at 9.00 am on 16 September 2009. Participants are encouraged to arrive at the venue at 08.30 am for registration and to pick up of meeting materials.

Official language of Kazakhstan and working language of the meeting

The official language of Kazakhstan is Kazakh. Russian language is widely spoken. The working language of the meeting is English, however simultaneous Russian/English interpretation will be provided.

Documents

All documentation for the meeting is available from the website:
http://lcluc.umd.edu/Program_Information/meeting-registration_almaty.asp

Social events

A banquet will be organized for participants in the evening of 16 September 2009.

Participants of **NASA LCLUC Science Team** meeting are also invited to an exclusive bus tour around the city of Almaty in the afternoon of 16 September 2009 (two and half hours with stops for sightseeing).

All participants are invited to a day-long field excursion on 18 September about 100 km distance with local expert in order to demonstrate and discuss different types of land cover and landuse in South Kazakhstan. The participants should bring comfortable clothes, walking shoes, sun glasses and caps/hats.

We also offer a walk to foothills and canyons near Almaty on 20 September to become acquainted with local landscapes and vegetation (cost \$15). The participants should bring comfortable clothes, hats, walking shoes.

Organizers of the meeting

NASA LCLUC Program (Dr. G. Gutman and Dr. Chris Justice), GOFC-GOLD Program (Dr. Olga N. Krankina) and MAIRS Program (Dr. Ailikun) are overseeing the organization of the meeting and are responsible for circulation of official invitations to the participants. The National Space Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan provides official support on behalf of the Government of the Republic Kazakhstan.

National Center of Space Research and Technologies (Mr. Dzumabek S. Zhantaev, Mr. Lev F. Spivak) are responsible for preparation of necessary documents and overall organization of the meeting in Almaty

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II. TRANSPORT

Resort “Alatau” is located approximately at a distance of one hour drive (outside rush hour) from the Almaty international airport.

The organizers provide transportation from the airport to “Alatau” Resort and back for participants from foreign countries, **who** have sent to organizers (nmuratova@mail.ru; ingvoinova@rambler.ru; madina_iki@rambler.ru) their arrival and departure information by **10 September 2009** (flight number, date and time of arrival) will be met with a poster displaying the logos of the meeting at the airport and transported to the resort.

Those who are not expecting to be met at the airport should take a taxi to “Sanatoriy Alatau” (in Russian for ‘Resort Alatau’). Taxi from the airport to the Resort “Alatau” costs from \$40-\$50 US dollars, depending on the time of arrival (night taxi fares are higher than during the day). In case of urgent problems please immediately contact phone number +7 701 3174913 or +7 777 364 00 51.

III. ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Services

All hotel rooms are comfortable and have a loggia (balcony) overlooking the mountains, color TV set, satellite TV, air conditioner, refrigerator, hair dryer and a safe. The participants must pay long distance and international calls from their rooms. Accommodation costs include usage of a work-out room and some physical therapy procedures, excluding massage.

A modern medical center, a sport complex, a restaurant, a bar, a sauna and a swimming pool are also available. A beauty salon, a souvenir shop, a post office and currency exchange kiosk are located on the ground floor near the lobby.

Accommodation at “Alatau” Resort includes three meals a day (ethnic and European dishes).

Price of accommodation and meal

Accommodation will be booked for all participants and pre-paid by the organizers for sponsored participants. All participants must contact **the organizers** (nmuratova@mail.ru; ingvoinova@rambler.ru; madina_iki@rambler.ru) to reserve a room in the resort.

The price of a single room in Resort “Alatau” is \$105; the cost of a double room is \$150.

Payment

Payments may be made in any way convenient to our guests: cash (in Kazakh Tenge), bank transfer, credit cards (American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Eurocard, Diners Club and JCB).

Communication services

A business center with Internet access, printer, copy machine and fax is located on the ground floor near the lobby. Participants may also connect to Internet from their rooms, through a telephone line at an extra cost.

Electricity

The electric current for Kazakhstan is 220V. Western European (continental) plugs can be used in Kazakhstan.

IV. SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

There is no registration fee for the participation in the meeting and training sessions.

Participants are expected to cover their own transportation costs, meals, accommodation and all other expenses. Since the meeting is being held at the popular “Alatau” Resort in Almaty city, we advise the participants to contact organizers responsible for room reservations at the resort as soon as possible (nmuratova@mail.ru; ingvoinova@rambler.ru; madina_iki@rambler.ru). Limited support for transportation and accommodation is available and will be decided on case-by-case basis with preference for participants who can cover some of their own costs. Contact Olga.Krankina@oregonstate.edu with explanation of your needs and estimate of transportation costs. Sponsored participants are fully responsible for all additional expenses (accommodation and meals in the days before and after the meeting, telephone

calls from the hotel room, email and fax from the hotel, additional services at the sanatorium, laundry services, etc.). When there is no access to Internet from the hotel, priority messages may be sent from the organizers' e-mail address.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visa

The visa requirements vary by country and the participants should arrange for their own visas. For further questions about visas, please contact **the local consulate or embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. If you require a letter of invitation please contact the organisers** (nmuratova@mail.ru; ingvoinova@rambler.ru; madina_iki@rambler.ru).

Weather

In mid September the weather in Almaty is changeable – from +10° to +25° C. Participants, however, should be prepared for rainy, colder or warmer weather.

Money

Dollars and Euros can be exchanged at a currency exchange kiosk located on the ground floor near the resort lobby, or in the city on the way from the airport to the resort. Currency exchange rate is 1 US dollar = about 150 Kazakh Tenge, 1Euro= about 205 Kazakh Tenge.