

NASA LCLUC, GOF-C-GOLD, MAIRS
5-6 November 2011 - Session 1: Coastal Zone
7-9 November 2011 - Session 2: Workshop on Land Cover Land Use
10-11 November 2011 - Session 3: Training, Change in South East Asia

Thank you for participating in the above-mentioned activity in Hanoi, Vietnam.
The following information summarizes arrangements for your participation.

Arrival at Noi Bai International Airport in Vietnam

Upon arrival go through your immigration checks and collect your baggage at the baggage claim area. After clearing customs, you can make your way to your hotel by using various transport options (see below). The drive from the Noi Bai International Airport to Hanoi will take approximately 45 minutes.

Check with your hotel for information on their airport transfers and please be sure to **make your reservations prior to your arrival to Vietnam**. For those staying at the Melia Hanoi Hotel, the hotel offers airport transfer services at the following rates:

- Mercedes Benz E200 (04 seats): US\$70.00 net per car per way - for 03 person maximum.
- Toyota Camry 2.4 (04 seat): US\$55.00 net per car per way - for 03 person maximum
- Mercedes Sprinter (16 seats): US\$ 70 net per car per way - for 3 persons maximum, additional US\$ 15.00 net per person (Guaranteed one-way airport pick up charge for no show or cancel) Our hotel representative will be welcoming the guests at the airport with signboard, mineral water.

Reservations can be made by emailing rsvn@meliahanoi.com.vn. Cost will be added to your hotel bill.

OR

If you decide to take a taxi, go to the fixed priced taxi stand outside the exit. The cost should range VND 210,876 (US\$10) for a sedan and VND 337,402 (US\$16.00) for an SUV (toll charges are included in the price) and you will need to prepay for the taxi. If you take a tout taxi, be sure you have a clear price agreement with the driver before getting into the taxi.

Workshop Venue

The Workshop from 7-9 November will be held in Ballroom 03 on the first level of the Melia Hanoi Hotel located as follows:

44 B Ly Thuong Kiet Street
Hoan Kiem
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel.: (84-4) 3934 3343
Fax: (84-4) 3934 3344

Workshop Agenda

See Agenda document linked to LCLUC meeting page at:
<http://lcluc.umd.edu/meetings.php?mid=21>

Attire

The basic attire for the workshop is smart/casual: for women, dresses, blouses, skirts, covered shoes, sandals, trouser suits, blouse/trouser combinations or their own country attire; for men, sport shirts, slacks with covered shoes. It is NOT appropriate to wear shorts, t-shirts, slippers, or denim jeans.

Immunizations

Please check with your personal physician before traveling to see if you require any immunizations.

Healthcare Services

The International SOS clinic in Hanoi is located closer to Noi Bai International Airport and is only a short 20 minutes drive from Hoan Kiem Lake, the center of the tourist district. The clinic is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Clinic information:

International SOS Vietnam, Ltd.
Clinic Address: 1 Dang Thai Mai
Postal Address: 51 Xuan Dieu
Tay Ho, Hanoi, S.R. Vietnam Vietnam

Tel +84 4 3934 0666 +84 4 3934 0666
Fax +84 4 3934 0556

For more information, please visit their website at:
http://www.internationalsos.com/en/about-our-clinics_vietnam_3534.htm

Electricity

Electric current in Vietnam is 220 Volts.

If you are from a country with a different voltage, please be sure to bring a proper converter.

Climate

Generally, the weather in Hanoi during November will probably be cool and dry. Average temperatures can range from:

High 22 Celsius (72 Fahrenheit) to 15 Celsius (59 Fahrenheit)

*Low 10 Celsius (50 Fahrenheit) to 5 Celsius (41 Fahrenheit)

*Specifically, in evenings and early mornings

For more accurate weather information, please visit the following website at: <http://weather.yahoo.com/regional/VMXX.html> or your local newspaper.

Currency

Vietnam currency is the dong (abbreviated "d" or VND). The exchange rate is approximately 15,950VND = 1US\$. At present, travelers' checks such as American Express or credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are accepted in Vietnam. Also, there are many places within the city that have ATM machines and most stores and markets accept USD. For current exchange rates, please check the following website at <http://oanda.com/>

Drinking Water

While in Vietnam, please drink only sealed bottled water.

Pre and Post-Conference Tours

For participants who are interested in pre or post-conference tours, the following are travel agencies which may assist you with your travel needs:

Diethelm Travel (Vietnam) Website:

<http://www.diethelmtravel.com/vietnam/Pages/home.aspx>

Handspan Adventure Travel:

Address: 78 Ma May str., Hoan Kiem dis., Hanoi

Tel: 844 3 9262828, Ext: 14

Contact: Ms. Nguyen Phuong Chi - Sales Leader

Email: chisales@handspan.com

Sites located within walking distance of the Melia Hanoi Hotel are:

Hoa Lo Prison Museum: The Hoa Lo Prison, later known to American prisoners of war as the "Hanoi Hilton", was a prison used by the French colonists in Vietnam for political prisoners and later by North Vietnam for prisoners of war during the Vietnam War.

Hoan Kiem Lake and Ngoc Son Temple

Water Puppet Theater (500m)

Grand Cathedral (500m):

The Hanoi Old Quarter: The Old Quarter, near Hoan Kiem lake, has the original street layout and architecture of old Hanoi. At the beginning of the 20th century the city consisted of only about 36 streets, most of which are now part of the old quarter. Each street then had merchants and households specialized in a particular trade, such as silk traders, jewelry, etc. The street names nowadays still reflect these specializations, although few of them remain exclusively in their original commerce. The area is famous for its small artisans and merchants, including many silk shops. Local cuisine specialties as well as several clubs and bars can be found here also. A night market (near Đồng Xuân market) in the heart of the district opens for business every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening with a variety of clothing, souvenirs and food.

Quan Su Pagoda (500m)

Other places of interest in Hanoi include:

Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and Museum	Temple Phu Tay Ho
One Pillar Pagoda (Chua Mot Cot)	Temple of Literature
Hanoi Opera House	Dong Xuan Market
Lake of the Restored Sword	Maison Centrale
West Lake	Tran Quoc Pagoda

Near Hanoi is the Perfume Pagoda (chua Huong), King's Island, Halong Bay (one of the natural wonders of the world designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, Hoa Lu (former 12th century imperial capital and one of the most beautiful places in Vietnam)

Helpful Information

Please visit the following website for detailed information about Vietnam (i.e., travel tips, weather, visa, etc.):

<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Vietnam/Overview>