

### SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

# REGIONAL WORKSHOP "RESILIENT ICT CONNECTIVITY FOR THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY, SDGS AND THE WSIS GOALS"

and

# EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SPECA THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

(Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20-22 September 2016)

#### Information notice

#### I. Introduction

1. This document provides some details regarding the regional workshop "Resilient ICT Connectivity for the Knowledge Economy, SDGs and the WSIS Goals" and the eight session of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (TWG on KBD) jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, hosted by the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR).

## II. Participation

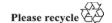
2. Government representatives of the United Nations Member States, representatives of United Nations agencies and programmes, relevant international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, donors as well as representatives of the private sector and the academic community are invited to participate in the regional workshop. Representatives of neighbouring countries, other countries interested in supporting the Programme, United Nations agencies and programmes, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and donor agencies can attend the eighth session of the TWG on KBD as observers.

#### III. Venue

3. These events will take place from 20 to 22 September at the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (address: Amangeldy Street 73, Almaty, Kazakhstan, tel.: +8 (727) 220 7331 # 112).

## IV. Organization

4. Registration of participants will start at 0830 hours on 20 September 2016. The regional workshop will be held from 0900 hours until 1700 hours on 20 and 21 September 2016, and from 0900 hours until 1200 hours on 20 September 2016. The eighth session of the SPECA TWG on KBD will be held from 1330 hours until 1700 hours on 22 September 2016.



#### V. Conference fee

5. No conference fee is charged for participation. Travel and accommodation expenses are borne by the participants.

## VI. Passports and visas

- 6. All participants should be in possession of a valid passport with an entry visa if required. Passport validity: six months from the last date of visa validity period. Please note that the visa processing may take up to two weeks. Visa applications should be submitted well in advance to the participants' respective embassies/consulates in their country of residence.
- 7. Participants from states, which have no representative offices of the Republic of Kazakhstan, may obtain a visa in a consular post at the airport of Almaty. **More information can be found at the following website: www.mfa.kz.** Requests for issuance of a visa support letter should be sent to Ms. Lyazzat Palymbetova, tel. +7 727 3384404, mob. +7 701 6588826, e-mail: palymbetova@un.org.

## VII. Transportation

8. Participants are responsible for their transfer from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport.

#### VIII. Accommodation

9. A suitable number of standard single rooms (approximately KZT 23 120 per night including breakfast) are pre-booked at the Grand Voyage Hotel located in Almaty city at 93/1 Kurmangazy Street. Ms. Lyazzat Palymbetova (tel. +7 727 3384404, mob. +7 701 6588826, e-mail: palymbetova@un.org) will assist with your hotel reservation. Each participant is expected to cover the cost of his or her own board and accommodation.

#### IX. Documentation

10. Documents for the regional workshop and the eighth session of the SPECA TWG on KBD can be found at the ESCAP website at the following addresses:

Regional Workshop:

www.unescap.org/events/regional-workshop-resilient-ict-connectivity-knowledge-economy-sdgs-and-wsis-goals

SPECA meeting:

www.unescap.org/events/eighth-session-speca-thematic-working-group-knowledge-based-development

# X. Interpretation and visual aids

11. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian as well as facilities for computer-aided presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) will be provided.

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### XI. Further information

12. Further information on the regional workshop and the annual session of the SPECA TWG on KBD can be obtained from:

and

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#### XII. Useful information

**Weather:** In September, the average daily temperature in Almaty ranges from 11°C to 24°C.

Time zone: GMT+06:00

**Smoking:** In accordance with the law of Kazakhstan, smoking in public places is prohibited.

**Banking services:** ATMs are available in the majority of hotels.

**Currency:** The Kazakhstani tenge (KZT) is the currency of Kazakhstan. Exchange rate: 1 USD = 350 KZT (approximately). Most hotels and shops accept credit cards, including Visa and Mastercard.

**International calls:** For international calls, please dial: 8 + 10 + country code + dialed number.

**Emergency number:** 101 – Fire emergency; 102 – Police; 103 – Ambulance service.

**Electricity:** Voltage of the alternating current comprises 220 V with 50 Hz frequency.

Sockets according to European standards have two round pin contacts.



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