

URBAN WASH

A Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Technical Working Group Meeting

Manila, Philippines

May 30 to June 1, 2018

Organized and Hosted by

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION



RCRC Urban WASH Technical Working Group Meeting

Manila 30th May – 1st June, 2018

The Philippine Red Cross and the IFRC is pleased to welcome you to Philippines for the 2018 Urban WASH Technical Working Group Meeting which will be held in Manila from 30th May to 1st June 2018. We would like to share some useful information to ensure that your stay is a comfortable and memorable one.

General Information

Dates and Venue

The Urban WASH technical working group will be held in Manila from 30th May to 1st June at Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Tower, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila Philippines. We will have the meeting held in PRC Multipurpose Hall.

Accommodation

The participants will be billeted in Legend Villas Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The PRC has facilitated the booking reservation of the participants in the Urban WASH TWG and in charge to pay for the accommodation.

The Legend Villa Hotel is close to the PRC Tower and can be reached within 20 minutes. PRC has organized the shuttle from Legend Villa Hotel to PRC tower and vice versa.

The Legend Villas Hotel: Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City, 1550 Metro Manila, Philippines.

<https://www.legendvillas.com.ph/>

Transportation and Arrival in Manila

The PRC has organized a vehicle to fetch and convey the participants from the airport to the Legend Villas Hotel. There are four airport terminals in Manila. If you want to proceed directly from airport to the Hotel, you may use the airport metered taxi or use Grab as this is widely used in the Philippines.

Please submit your travel itinerary to wash@redcross.org.ph in order to organize a car pooling if necessary and your latest picture in order to be recognized by our welcome team.



Meals

As the hotel operate on selective basis, accommodation, breakfast are all included in the room rate. Consequently, it is important that delegates have their breakfast at the hotel they are staying. Some food served in the Legend Villas contain pork or pork products.

Lunch and Snacks are served in the PRC tower. Food served in the PRC tower will not contain pork or pork products.

Power

The Philippines uses a standard voltage of 220V and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. The most common power socket types is type A, which is pictured below. Type B is also commonly found, while Type C can be found in frequently. Fortunately, if you find that your country's outlets are not compatible, power adapters are readily available at convenience stores for a reasonable price.

Water

Although tap water is available, it is advisable to drink bottled water. The water in the hotel you will be belitted is not safe for drinking.

Safety

It is advisable to avoid walking alone in isolated places and in back streets during both day and night.

Street crime such as pickpocketing, bag-snatching and petty theft is the main threat to business travelers and expatriates. We strongly recommend that you pay close attention to your personal belongings. Never carry large amounts of money on you and if possible, leave your valuables (jewelry, identity papers, credit cards, travel tickets) in your hotel safe/ vault.

Additionally, please ensure that you do not leave your belongings unattended because neither the conference organisers nor hotels can be responsible in case of loss or theft. The venue and all recommended hotels have been assessed from a security standpoint and clear that all locations place high emphasis on visitor safety and well-being and the security measures at those sites meet required standards.

More security information will be found in the IFRC Safety & Security Brief – Manila.

Working Hours

- Monday through Friday from 08:00HRS-17:00 HRS
- Tea/Coffee break from 10:00HRS-10:15HRS and Lunch break from 12:00HRS-13:00HRS



Time Zone

Manila follows the PHT time zone (Philippines Time) and will not observed Day Daylight Savings Time this year. To calculate the current time in Manila, add twelve hours (+12) to EDT (Eastern Daylight Time). Manila Time is also GMT+8.

Currency

The official currency is the Philippine Peso abbreviated as PhP. Bank notes are available in denominations of PHP 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 while PhP 1, 5, 10 are available in coins. Currency can be exchanged in foreign exchange bureaus or banks. Banks operate between 8/9AM and 4/6PM (weekdays), and 9AM to 12/4PM on Saturdays depending on the bank branch.

The easiest currencies to exchange are the US Dollar, and Euro. USD 1 = PHP 52.00 / EUR 1 = PHP 64.38

An ATM 24-hour access to your account can be found at most ATMs countrywide which mostly accept international visa and mastercards. There is an ATM kiosk in PRC tower

Geography

The country of the Philippines is an archipelago of more than 7,641 islands located approximately 500 miles off the southeast coast of Central Asia. Most of the islands are volcanic and only about 500 of the 7,100 islands are bigger than one square mile. Manila is the capital and second largest city in Metro Manila. It is a lively and cosmopolitan city that is located about 800 miles from the Asian mainland.

Language

The main languages are Filipino and English, the two official languages of Philippines. However, while most people in Manila are bilingual, Filipino is more commonly used on a day-to-day basis and remains the sole National language. Common phrases in Filipino that might be useful to know before you visit are:

How are you?: Kamusta?

Goodbye: Paalam!

Yes: Oo

No: Hindi

Thank You: Salamat!

Please: Pakiusap

How much?: Magkano?

Take me to ___: Dalhin mo ako sa

I am ___: Ako ay si ___.

Where's the restroom?: Saan ang banyo?

Sorry: Pasensya na po.

Good Morning: Magandang umaga!

Good Afternoon: Magandang tanghali!

Good Evening: Magandang Gabi!



Climate

The first half of the year, from January to May, is the best time to visit the country. November to February is cool, while March to May is hot and dry. June to October is rainy, with the months between July and September characterized by typhoons. Average temperature is 78 degrees F/25 degrees C; average humidity is 77%. Some parts of the country such as Cebu, are warm and comfortable in all seasons and can be visited throughout the year. For up-to-date information, please visit the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) visit their website <http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/>

Clothing

Lightweight cottons and linens are worn throughout most of the year such as t-shirts, shorts, jeans, and sandals. Rainwear or umbrellas are advisable for the rainy season.

No Smoking Policy

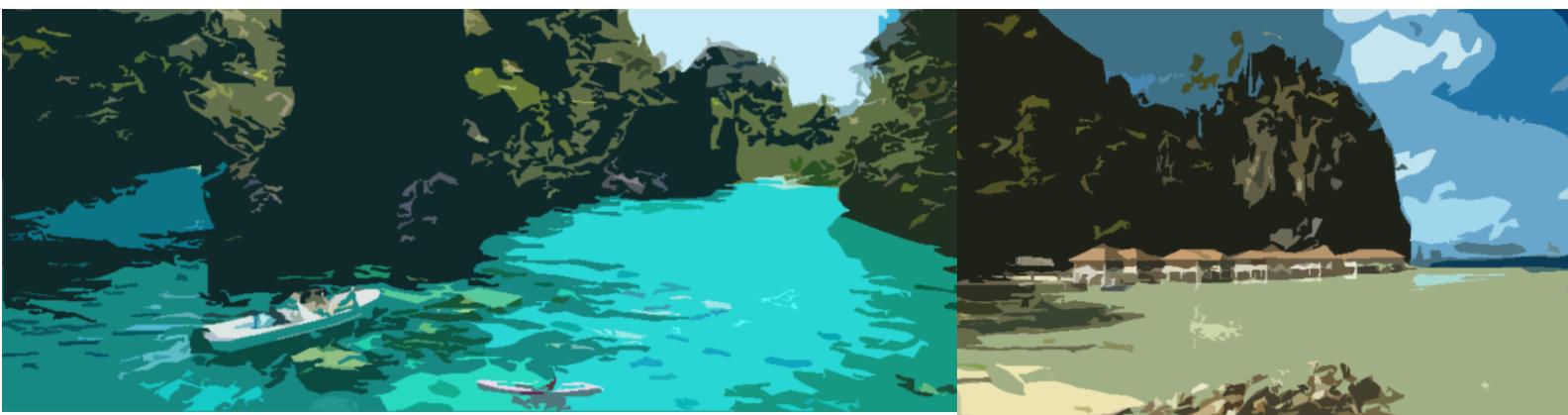
Smoking is not allowed indoors or in public areas. However, special smoking areas have been established. We ask our delegates to kindly follow the no-smoking policy.

Health Insurance

You must have valid travel insurance (including health cover) for the duration of your stay in the Philippines.

Hospitals in Mandaluyong City

- **Dr. Victorio R. Potenciano Medical Center:** (02) 531 4911
- **Address:** 163 Edsa, Mandaluyong City
- **Mandaluyong Medical Center:** (02) 532-0480
- **Address:** 605 Boni Avenue Mandaluyong City
- **The Medical City:** (02)531-9001
- **Unciano General Hospital:** (02)533-6565 to 66/ 633-9357
- **Address:** 393 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City



Emergency Hotlines

- Manila traffic hotline: (02) 527 3087
- Mandaluyong traffic hotline: (02) 534 2993
- Philippine Red Cross: (02) 790-2300 (hotline: 143)
- Bureau of Fire Protection (NCR): (02) 729 5166 and (02) 410-6319
(Regional Director, Information Desk)
- Philippine National Police (PNP) hotline patrol: (02) 722-0650
(hotline: 117)

Contact Information

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact:

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