

**Eighth Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics  
29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008, Manila, Philippines**

**Practical Information for Participants**

**I. Meeting information**

**Venue and general information**

- 1) The Eighth Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) will be held in Manila, Philippines at the Garden Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel (<http://www.shangri-la.com>) on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.
- 2) The web sites for the meeting can be found at the following addresses:  
For the agenda and meeting content: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/citygroup.htm>  
For logistics arrangements: <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/events/disability>
- 3) On Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008, the Washington Group Secretariat and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will meet for a final briefing on the agenda and mechanics of the Eighth Meeting. The briefing is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.
- 4) A possible back-to-back meeting of the ESCAP Project with the 8th Meeting of the WG (as suggested by Ms. Jennifer Madans in a teleconference among the WG Steering Committee members with Dr. Romulo Virola on January 9, 2008) is viewed as an opportunity to exchange ideas as well as share the progress and activities of the Project.

**Registration**

- 4) The opening session of the Eighth Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability will commence at 09:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Participants are requested to register between 08:15 and 08:45 a.m. on the same day. Participants who will not be able to register on the opening day are requested to do so as soon as possible, to ensure that their names will appear on the list of participants.

**Working language of the workshop**

- 5) The workshop will be conducted in English.

**Internet and e-mail services**

- 6) There will be Internet-connected computers available to participants at the meeting.
- 7) Internet, e-mail and telefax services are available at the Conference venue at cost to users. Internet cafés and computer shops offering Internet, e-mail and web-based services are common.

**Meals**

- 8) Meals will be provided throughout the meeting as follows:
  - a) Coffee breaks
  - b) Lunch
- 9) A welcome dinner and closing lunch are also being arranged for the participants.

**Social activities**

- 10) The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) and the National Statistics Office (NSO) will organize a cultural presentation for the participants. A city tour for the participants is being arranged,

tentatively scheduled at the end of the meeting. Information on these activities will be provided to the participants upon registration.

#### Meeting contacts

- 10) Arrangements for the Eighth Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics are being handled jointly by the WG Secretariat, NSCB, and NSO, in collaboration with the LOC.

Contact information:

<b>For the agenda and meeting content:</b>  <b>Mr. Cordell Golden</b> National Center for Health Statistics (Secretariat for the WG) 3311 Toledo Road, Room 6428 Hyattsville, MD 20782 Telephone: +1 301 458 4237 Fax: +1 301 458 4038 Email: <a href="mailto:CGolden@cdc.gov">CGolden@cdc.gov</a>	<b>For local arrangements:</b>  <b>Ms. Teresita M. Almarines</b> National Statistical Coordination Board (Secretariat for the LOC) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Midland Buendia Bldg., 403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City, Philippines Telephone/ Fax: +632 896 7981 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tm.almarines@nscb.gov.ph">tm.almarines@nscb.gov.ph</a>  <b>and/or</b>  <b>Ms. Emalyn P. Pineda</b> National Statistical Coordination Board (Secretariat for the LOC) Telephone: +632 890 9404 Fax: +632 895 2436 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ep.pineda@nscb.gov.ph">ep.pineda@nscb.gov.ph</a>
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## II. Travel information

#### Visa requirements

- 11) Nationals from ASEAN member countries are allowed to enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding 21 days, provided that they hold valid tickets for their return journey to port of origin or next port of destination. Philippine regulations require that passports are valid for a period of not less than six (6) months beyond the contemplated period of stay. For details, please see the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs website at <http://www.dfa.gov.ph> or contact your local consular office.

#### Transport from and to Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)

- 12) The airport is located 7 km (4 miles) south of Manila. Participants can travel to the city center by car, bus, jeepney, and taxi. For more information, see the Ninoy Aquino International Airport website at <http://www.miaa.gov.ph/>.
- 13) Taxi service is available from NAIA to all points of Metro Manila. Designated airport taxis (i.e., taxis marked with "Bayan Ko, Sagot Ko") are stationed at the lower level of the arrival area of the airport. A taxi desk is available at the airport.

#### Airport facilities

- 14) Airport information desks are open for all flights.
- 15) The international airport has adequate traveler facilities: tourist information and assistance counters, hotel and travel agency representatives, banks and ATMs, postal service, telephone booths, and medical clinics, among others. Baggage carts and porter services are available for free.
- The airport has wheelchairs which are available upon request from the airline ground staff. It also has ramps, lifts, and toilets for the disabled; passengers requiring any special assistance should inform their airline prior to travel. There is a contact number for assistance (telephone number: +632 877 1111).

#### Airport fees

- 16) Passengers departing for international destinations are charged an airport fee of PhP 750.

**Hotel accommodation**

17) **It is advisable for participants to book their hotel accommodation as early as possible.** An Attendance and Hotel Reservation Form is available from the NSCB website: [www.nscb.gov.ph/events/disability](http://www.nscb.gov.ph/events/disability) for submission to the local Secretariat on or before 15 September 2008. In the said form, participants have the option to make their own reservations or the Secretariat will do it on their behalf.

18) The list of hotels located near the meeting venue is provided below:

Name of Hotel	Address/Tel. No./URL	Room Rates (as of Nov 2007)	Distance from Meeting Venue	Hotel Rating	Disabled Friendly
EDSA Shangri-la Hotel	1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (+632) 633-8888 <a href="http://www.shangri-la.com">http://www.shangri-la.com</a>	Tower Wing: Superior Room: USD 110++ Premiere Room: USD 130++ Garden Wing: Single: Deluxe Garden: USD 145++  Deluxe: USD 135++ Superior: USD 125++ Double/Twin: Deluxe Garden: USD 175++  Deluxe: USD 165++ Superior: USD 155++		5-star	Yes
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila	1 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (+632) 633-7111 <a href="http://www.holidayinn.com">http://www.holidayinn.com</a>	Deluxe Rooms Single: USD 110+ Double: USD 115+	5 minutes cab ride 10-15 minutes walk	5-star	Yes
Crowne Plaza	Ortigas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (+632) 633-7222 <a href="http://crowneplaza.com">http://crowneplaza.com</a>	Deluxe Rooms Single: USD 110+ Double: USD 115+	5 minutes cab ride 10-15 minutes walk	5-star	Yes
The Linden Suites	37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (+632) 638-7878 <a href="http://www.lindensuites.com">http://www.lindensuites.com</a>	Executive Room: USD 85 (single), USD 95 (double) Studio Suite: USD 90 (single), USD 100 (double)	5-10 minutes cab ride 10-15 minutes walk	4-star	Yes
Astoria Plaza	J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (+632) 687-1111 <a href="http://www.astoriaplaza.com">http://www.astoriaplaza.com</a>	Deluxe Room: USD 82 One-Bedroom Suite: USD 96	5 minutes cab ride 10-15 minutes walk	Fully residential and hotel suites	Yes
Discovery Suites	25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (+632) 683-8222 (+632) 683-8111 <a href="http://discoverysuites.com">http://discoverysuites.com</a>	Junior Suite: USD 97+ One Bedroom Suite: USD 105+ Two Bedroom Suite: USD 165+	5 minutes cab ride 10-15 minutes walk	Service hotel (fully furnished and cooking is allowed)	Yes
New Horizon Hotel	778 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City (+632) 532-3021 (+632) 532-3026 <a href="http://newhorizonhotel.manila.com">http://newhorizonhotel.manila.com</a>	Superior Room: USD 43 Junior Suite: USD 50 Deluxe Room: USD 58	10 minutes cab ride 3 minutes train ride	3-star	Yes
The Legend Villas	60 Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City (+632) 633-1501 (+632) 632-0845 <a href="http://www.legendvillas.com.ph">http://www.legendvillas.com.ph</a>	Superior Room: USD 45-48 Premiere Room: USD 52-54	10 minutes cab ride 15 minutes bus ride	3-star	No
Richville Hotel	286 EDSA Crossing, Mandaluyong City (+632) 533-7080 (+632) 533-1608 <a href="http://www.richvillehotel.net">http://www.richvillehotel.net</a>	Standard Room: USD 46 Premiere Room: USD 53	5-10 minutes walk	3-star	Yes

### III. Other information

#### Weather

- 19) October in Manila is wet or monsoonal, with temperatures ranging from 84 to 87 degrees Fahrenheit (28 to 31 degrees Celsius). An umbrella is a necessity. The conference room where the meeting is to be held is air-conditioned with temperature maintained in the range of 70 to 78 degrees Fahrenheit (21 to 26 degrees Celsius).

#### Foreign exchange

- 20) Participants may bring with them into the Philippines foreign currency notes in the form of travellers' cheques, drafts, letters of credit, or other banking instruments, which may be exchanged for Philippine Peso. Current exchange rates range from PhP 41-42 to 1 US Dollar.

Participants may be required to declare the amount of travelers' cheques or currency in their possession on arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Exchange facilities are available at the airport, hotels, and malls, normally between 8:30am to 7:00pm, Mondays thru Sundays. Banks are open between 9:00am to 3:00pm, Mondays thru Fridays.

**View latest exchange rate on the website of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas**  
(<http://www.bsp.gov.ph/statistics/keystat/day99.htm>)

#### Language

- 21) Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and is spoken widely.

#### Timezone

- 22) GMT plus 8 hours.

#### Transport within Manila

- 23) Metered and fixed rate taxis are widely available in key cities nationwide. Jeepneys and buses are inexpensive ways of getting around most places.

In Metro Manila, the fastest way of commuting is via the railway system. The Light Rail Transit (LRT) connects *Caloocan City* (i.e., *Monumento* station) on the north to *Parañaque City* (i.e., *Baclaran* station) on the south. On the other hand, the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) connects *Quezon City* (i.e. *North EDSA* station) on the north to *Pasay City* (i.e., *Taft Avenue* station) on the south.

#### Electrical system in Manila

- 24) The standard voltage in Manila is 220 VAC at 50Hz. 110-volt outlets are also available in most hotels. Plugs are Type A (flat blade attachment plug) and some establishments also provide Type C (round pin attachment plug).

#### Postal services

- 25) Postal/courier services are available at the Business Center located inside EDSA Shangri-la Hotel. It offers state-of-the-art equipment and around-the-clock services. Other services available at the meeting venue are facsimile transmissions, scanning, and other business amenities.

#### Medical services

- 26) First aid and medical services are available at the Medical Centre, 4th Floor, Service Building, EDSA Shangri-la Hotel during weekdays.

#### NSCB, NSO, and NCDA websites

- 27) The NSCB (<http://www.nscb.gov.ph>) serves as the coordinator and secretariat for the inter-agency Technical Working Group on Disability Statistics.
- 28) The NSO (<http://www.census.gov.ph>) conducts the Census of Population and Housing (CPH), which is the main source of the country's disability statistics.

- 29) The National Commission on Disability Affairs (NCDA) (<http://www.ncda.gov.ph>), formerly National Council on the Welfare of Disabled Persons or NCWDP, is the national government agency mandated to formulate policies and coordinate the activities of all agencies, whether public or private, concerning disability issues and concerns. As such, the NCDA is the lead agency tasked to steer the course of program development for persons with disabilities and the delivery of services to the sector.

**Tour information**

- 30) Tour information may be obtained from the following addresses:  
<http://www.tourism.gov.ph> and <http://www.dotpcvc.gov.ph> .

**Emergency phone numbers**

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|--|----------------------------|
| 31) National Statistical Coordination Board: |                            |
| Social Sectors B Division                    | +632-8967981               |
| Programs, Policies and Advocacy Division     | +632-8952436/+632-8909404  |
| National Statistics Office:                  |                            |
| Census Planning and Operations Division      | +632-7137072/ +632-7169426 |

A mobile phone number for emergencies will be provided at the meeting upon registration.

In case of any emergency (police) assistance, the participant may dial 117 in any landline phone, payphone, or mobile phone.