



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

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**Workshop on quarantine  
and pre-shipment uses  
of methyl bromide**  
Port Ghalib, Egypt, 3 November 2009

**Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties to the  
Montreal Protocol on Substances that  
Deplete the Ozone Layer**  
Port Ghalib, Egypt, 4–8 November 2009

## Information note for participants

### I. Venue

1. The Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer will be held from 4 to 8 November 2009 in Port Ghalib, Marsa Alam, Egypt, at the International Convention Centre (<http://www.portghalib.com/InternationalConventionCentre.aspx>).
2. This meeting will be preceded by a workshop on quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide on 3 November 2009 at the same location.



Figure: Map of Egypt highlighting the location of Port Ghalib and Marsa Alam.

## II. Getting there, visas and Customs regulations

3. Port Ghalib is located five minutes from Marsa Alam International Airport (<http://www.marsa-alam-airport.com/>). In collaboration with EgyptAir (<http://www.egyptair.com/>), the national carrier, and the Port Ghalib resort, the Government of Egypt will increase the frequency of domestic flights between Cairo and Port Ghalib to up to six times daily to coincide with the arrivals of international flights between 29 October and 15 November 2009. In collaboration with the host Government, EgyptAir will be offering discounted international business class fares. At the point of booking, please quote the reference “Conventions Plus” to enjoy the 10–20 per cent discount.

4. To enter Egypt, participants’ passports must be valid for at least six months following the date of entry into the country. Participants are requested to check for specific regulations according to their country of origin. Entry visas may be obtained from Egyptian diplomatic bodies abroad or from the entry visa department at the Travel Documents, Immigration and Nationality Administration. Participants are urged to initiate the visa process themselves and to check related requirements, as the Secretariat will be unable to assist participants who have arrived without visas. Participants are therefore encouraged to act speedily to obtain their visas prior to arrival to avoid delays and other unnecessary inconveniences. If it has been impossible to do so, however, please visit the designated desk in the airport arrivals hall to complete the necessary formalities.

5. Some groups are exempted from paying Egyptian visa fees upon arrival. If participants believe that they are entitled to such an exemption, they are urged to obtain confirmation from their closest Egyptian representation abroad as soon as possible. Egyptian visa fees do not apply to the following:

- (a) Holders of diplomatic passports;
- (b) Officials of international organizations and specialized agencies and State participants to conferences;
- (c) Arab League officials;
- (d) Non-national spouses of Egyptian nationals;
- (e) Non-national members of the clergy, prominent scientists, journalists and members of official cultural, educational and sports delegations;
- (f) Non-national students studying in Egyptian institutions;
- (g) Non-diplomatic personnel of diplomatic and consular missions affected in Egypt;
- (h) Parents, siblings and adult children of members of the diplomatic and consular corps affected in Egypt.

6. Nationals of Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America are subject to a reduced visa fee.

7. The Egyptian Customs service operates in the same way as those in most major countries worldwide. It is important, however, to note that it is illegal to export Egyptian antiques. There is no limitation on the amount of foreign currency that you may bring into or take out of Egypt.

8. To view a list of Egyptian embassies abroad, please visit the Ozone Secretariat’s website at [http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting\\_Documents/mop/21mop/21mop\\_info\\_notes.shtml](http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/21mop_info_notes.shtml).

## III. Meet and assist service

9. The Government of Egypt has contracted Karnak Travel, a subsidiary company of EgyptAir, to provide for participants a meet and assist service in Cairo to facilitate immigration and Customs formalities, transfers from one terminal to another or from the terminals to nearby hotels if an overnight stopover in Cairo cannot be avoided. To ensure that you receive the assistance that you require on arrival, please send your confirmed travel details to [events@karnak.egyptair.com](mailto:events@karnak.egyptair.com). If you are interested in other services that Karnak Travel will offer during the meetings, please contact the Conference and Special Events Department via either of the following e-mail addresses: [unep\\_ozl21@yahoo.com](mailto:unep_ozl21@yahoo.com) or [events@karnak.egyptair.com](mailto:events@karnak.egyptair.com).

#### **IV. Hotel accommodation**

10. The Government of Egypt has negotiated preferential rates for participants staying at the hotels listed below. Please visit the Port Ghalib website hotel page (<http://www.portghalib.com/Hotels.aspx>) for further details.

<b>Hotel name</b>	<b>Rate (US\$) for single occupancy room on a bed &amp; breakfast basis</b>
InterContinental The Palace	140
Crowne Plaza Sahara Sands	120
Crowne Plaza Oasis	120
Coral Beach Marina Lodge	90

11. Please book your hotel accommodation directly with the hotels as soon as possible to take advantage of your preferred accommodation. Contact details are set out in the annex to the present note.

#### **V. Registration and identification badges**

12. To facilitate the issuance of identification badges at the meeting venue, participants are strongly encouraged to pre-register online through the Secretariat's website (<http://ozone.unep.org/> or <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/>) from 1 September 2009 to avoid unnecessary delays at the venue. Registration on site will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, 31 October 2009 and continue until Saturday, 7 November 2009. If possible, participants are urged to collect their badge from the conference centre on their arrival at the resort rather than wait until the first day of the meeting.

13. Participants are requested to present their passports when entering the conference centre and collecting their identification badges. For security reasons, badges must be displayed to gain entrance to the conference centre and its meeting rooms. In addition, participants should expect daily security checks upon entry.

#### **VI. Financial assistance to developing countries**

14. Limited funds are available to assist the participation of representatives of Parties that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Should your Government require such assistance, please submit a written request to the Secretariat. To facilitate timely action on requests for funding, please submit such requests before 1 September 2009, and include in the request the details of the participant to be assisted.

15. Please note that only one participant's travel using the most appropriate economical fares and United Nations daily subsistence allowance rate may be covered for each country selected for assistance. For further enquiries regarding the financial assistance to be provided to one representative of your Government, please contact Ms. Ruth Batten (e-mail: [ruth.batten@unep.org](mailto:ruth.batten@unep.org) or fax: + 254 20 762 4691/2/3).

#### **VII. Opening of the meetings**

16. The workshop on quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide will be opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 3 November 2009.

17. The Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties will be opened at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 November 2009.

18. The morning sessions of the meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon sessions from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., unless otherwise specified during the meetings.

## **VIII. Paperless system and meeting documents**

19. Following the success of the paperless meetings in Doha in November 2008 and Geneva in July 2009, the Secretariat will again be using the paperless system to process conference-room papers and provide access to meeting, information and background documents. Participants are urged to bring their laptops to the meeting as the Secretariat will only have a limited number of laptops to loan to participants. The paperless system can be accessed via any laptop that has wireless connectivity and an internet browser. Support staff will be on hand during the registration process and throughout the meetings to provide assistance as necessary.

20. All pre-session documents will be distributed to the Parties in the official address list of the Ozone Secretariat by post or e-mail as specified by each Party. All documents will also be available for downloading from the Ozone Secretariat website (<http://ozone.unep.org/> or <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/>) as they become available.

21. If your Government has not yet informed the Secretariat of its decision regarding the use of the internet and e-mail communication for correspondence and the transmission of meeting documents, it would be greatly appreciated if this issue could be addressed, so that the Secretariat can further minimize the use of paper in the distribution of pre-session documents. Please note that any communication on this issue should be channelled through the official Government focal point. For any queries, please contact Ms. Maria Saldanha (e-mail: [maria.saldanha@unep.org](mailto:maria.saldanha@unep.org) or fax: + 254 20 762 4691/2/3).

## **IX. Local currency and payment facilities**

22. The national currency is the Egyptian pound (LE). It is divided into 100 piastres. Bank notes are available in denominations of 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 and coins in denominations of 50 and 25 piastres. ATM machines can be found in Port Ghalib and credit cards and traveller's cheques are accepted in major hotels. Currency can be exchanged easily through banks and bureaux de change.

## **X. Weather and local time information**

23. The weather in Port Ghalib is usually warm and dry, but will be cooler in November, when temperatures will range between 21 and 29° C, which is equivalent to between 70 and 85° F. The conference centre is air conditioned.

24. When outdoors, light cotton clothes, a hat, sun cream and sunglasses are suitable during the day and a sweater can be useful during the evening. While there is no specific dress code, women will feel more comfortable if they do not wear shorts and they are advised to cover their shoulders. This is particularly relevant when visiting churches and mosques.

25. During the meeting, the local time will be two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +2).

## **XI. Health requirements and medical facilities**

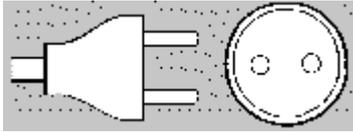
26. There are no compulsory vaccinations, but visitors arriving from infected areas must possess a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate. Medical care is readily available and qualified resident doctors can be consulted at the hotels listed above, should the need arise. Marsa Alam has a well-equipped hospital. Most pharmacies are open around the clock; however, it is advisable to bring any special prescriptions with you.

## **XII. Other practical information**

27. The official language of Egypt is Arabic. Other languages, such as English, French, German, Italian and Spanish are also widely spoken.

28. With regard to personal safety, according to the Government, crime in Egypt is almost non-existent. Security is good and tourist police, who can speak English, are available if needed.

29. The electrical current is 220 volts. A picture of the plug type can be seen below.



*Figure: Illustration of plug type. It is similar to those used in France, but with slimmer or smaller prongs.*

30. An extensive network of public telephones with affordable prepaid cards can be used for local, national and international calls. Special cellular line offers are easily attainable and roaming agreements exist with almost all national and international operators. Stamps can be purchased at post offices or from hotels. Internet access is widely available.

31. Visitors can take photographs freely except in some restricted areas, such as airports, ports and military areas. Some museums and historic sites restrict photography to protect artefacts and may charge a fee.

32. With regard to business hours and public holidays, government and administrative offices and banks generally open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, except for Fridays, Saturdays and public holidays. Most shops open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Sunday. Please note that these opening hours may vary in shopping centres.

### **XIII. Tourism**

33. For tourist information on Port Ghalib and Egypt, please visit the following official websites:

[http:// www.portghalib.com/](http://www.portghalib.com/)

<http://www.egypt.travel/>

<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/>

<http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/default.aspx>

Port Ghalib

Egyptian Tourist Authority

State information service

Government services portal

## Annex

### Contacts

#### Marsa Alam International Airport

<http://www.marsa-alam-airport.com/>

**Tel.:** + 20 10 343 4688

**Fax:** + 20 65 370 0030

**Mobile:** + 20 12 310 2281

#### Hotels

The four hotels in Port Ghalib are the Intercontinental Hotel, Crowne Plaza Sands, Crowne Plaza Oasis and Coral Beach Marina Lodge. To reserve, please use the following contact details:

Reservation specific e-mail address: [mop21@icportghalib.com](mailto:mop21@icportghalib.com)

Reservation direct phone number: +20 65 336 0013

Reservation fax number: +20 65 336 0023

The direct hyperlinks for group bookings are as follows:

InterContinental The Palace

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/reservations/dates-preferences/port-ghalib>

Group code - MOP

Crowne Plaza Sands

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/ptgss?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/cp/1/en/hotelsearchresults>

Group code - MOP

Crowne Plaza Oasis

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/ptgso?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/cp/1/en/hotelsearchresults>

Group code - MOP

Coral Beach Marina Lodge

Should you wish to stay at this hotel, please use the reservation contact details given above.

The map below shows the location of the recommended hotels in relation to the conference venue.

