

Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)

10-12 November 2009

Beirut, Lebanon

Information Note



Practical Information

INTRODUCTION

The [9th Global Symposium for Regulators \(GSR\)](#) will be organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Lebanon (TRA). The Symposium will be preceded by [Global ICT Industry Leaders Forum](#) on 9 November 2009.

All useful information will be made available on the events' websites in due course: for GSR, at: www.itu.int/gsr09; and for GILF at: www.itu.int/gilf09.

VENUE: Habtoor Grand Hotel Convention Center
Sin El Fil, PO Box 55555, Beirut, Lebanon
<http://grandbeirut.habtoorhotels.com/site/general/Default.aspx>

The Habtoor Grand Hotel Convention Center is situated in Grand Beirut.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The Global ICT Industry Leader Forum and the Global Symposium for Regulators will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

REGISTRATION

Participants registration for the meetings will open **Habtoor Grand Hotel Convention Center** on 8 November 2009 at 14:00 hours, 9-11 November from 07:30 hours to 18:00 hours and on 12 November from 08:00 hours to 12:00 hours. However, all participants are required to [pre-register exclusively online](#), as from **29 July 2009 on the [GSR 09 website](#)**.

There is no registration fee for both meetings.

WORKING HOURS

↻ The Global ICT Industry Leaders Forum: the opening ceremony will take place on Monday 9 November 2009 at 09:00 hours, and the working hours will be from 09:00 hours to 12:00 hours and from 14:00 hours to 17:30 hours.

↻ The 9th Global symposium for Regulators: the opening ceremony will take place on Tuesday 10 November 2009 at 09:00 hours, and the working hours will be from 09:00 hours to 12:30 hours and from 14:00 hours to 17:00 hours.

TRANSPORTATION

Transfer from Beirut International Airport to Habtoor Grand Hotel

The Host will arrange shuttle bus for all participants. A shuttle bus service from the Airport to official hotels and the hotels to the Airport will be arranged free of charge for participants on the following dates; 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 November 2009. More information will be provided soon!

Alternatively, participants may take a limousine or a public taxi. The participants are advised to contact the Information Desk at the Airport for assistance.

HOTELS

Hotels with preferential rates and booking information are made available online at: www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/GSR/GSR09/hotels_beirut.html.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Immigration

All foreigners must have a valid passport and visa to enter Lebanon. Passports must be valid for at least six months. Visas can be obtained in advance at Lebanese embassies and consulates around the world.

The citizens of the following countries are exempted from entrance visas: Bahrain – Jordan – Kuwait – Qatar – Oman – Saudi Arabia – United Arab of Emirates.

Currency & Exchange

The official Lebanese currency is the Lebanese pound or lira (LL). Notes are available in denominations of: LL1,000; LL5,000; LL10,000; LL20,000; LL50,000; and LL100,000. There are also LL250 and LL500 coins.

U.S. dollars are used widely throughout the country. Restaurants, hotels, and stores often quote their prices in U.S. dollars, and many establishments will convert and provide U.S. dollar prices for you upon request. If you plan to use U.S. dollars, it is advisable to bring small bills (US\$1 to US\$20 notes).

The USD/LL exchange rate is relatively stable, hovering around US\$1=LL1,500.

Money or travelers checks can be exchanged at banks, private money exchange shops, and major hotels. Major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club) are accepted at most large establishments throughout the country. ATMs are also widely available in Beirut and larger cities and will usually dispense both U.S. dollars and Lebanese pounds

Communications

Telephones:

While the telephone system in Lebanon is well-developed, there are few public pay phones, and international phone calls are expensive. Most Lebanese use mobile phones, and coverage extends throughout the country. The country code for Lebanon is (961). This is followed by the local area code and the telephone number. The area code for mobile phones is (03) and the area code for Beirut is (01). If you are dialing Lebanon from outside the country, omit the (0) in the area code.

Internet:

There are Internet cafés available throughout Lebanon, and many larger hotels now offer high-speed and wireless Internet access for free or for a small fee.

Electricity

Electric current is 110/220 volts, 50 cycles. A two-pin plug, with round pins is commonly used (Type C, similar to many European countries), but other types of plugs are also in use so it is best to check before you go.

Health

Lebanon is a developed country with relatively good health facilities. Similar to travel to other foreign countries, hepatitis A and B vaccines are recommended; also make sure tetanus-diphtheria and measles vaccinations are up-to-date. A typhoid vaccine is also recommended for travel to Lebanon.

Although Beirut's tap water is considered safe to drink, it's probably best to drink bottled water as the Lebanese do. As is the general traveler's rule, to be absolutely safe drink water only from bottles with intact caps, do not take ice in your drinks, and eat only cooked food and fruits that you can peel.

Time Zone

Lebanese time is G.M.T. +2 hours in winter (October to March) and +3 hours in summer (April to September), when daylight savings time is observed.

Business Hours

Shops and businesses are typically open Monday through Saturday, 9:00-18:00. Banking hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:30-12:30. Working hours for government offices and post offices are typically 8:00-14:00.

All information about Lebanon can be found on the Ministry of Tourism Website:
http://www.destinationlebanon.com/About/Practical_Information.aspx

SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITION

Sponsorship is being managed by the host country. For more information, please send an email to
GSR.sponsorship@tra.gov.lb