



1st Regional Connectivity Forum for the Americas, Asuncion, Paraguay, 4 August 2014



Practical information

1. Venue of the meeting

The 1st Regional Connectivity Forum for the Americas will be held in:

Bourbon Conmebol Convention Hotel

Address: Avenida Sudamericana 3104

Tel: +595 21 659 1000

<http://www.bourbon.com.br/en/hoteis-e-resorts/bourbon-conmebol-asuncion-convention-hotel/>



2. Hotels

CONATEL, as the Administration hosting the meeting, has secured special rates in various hotels, which are indicated in the table below, along with a map showing the proximity of each hotel to the venue of the meeting.

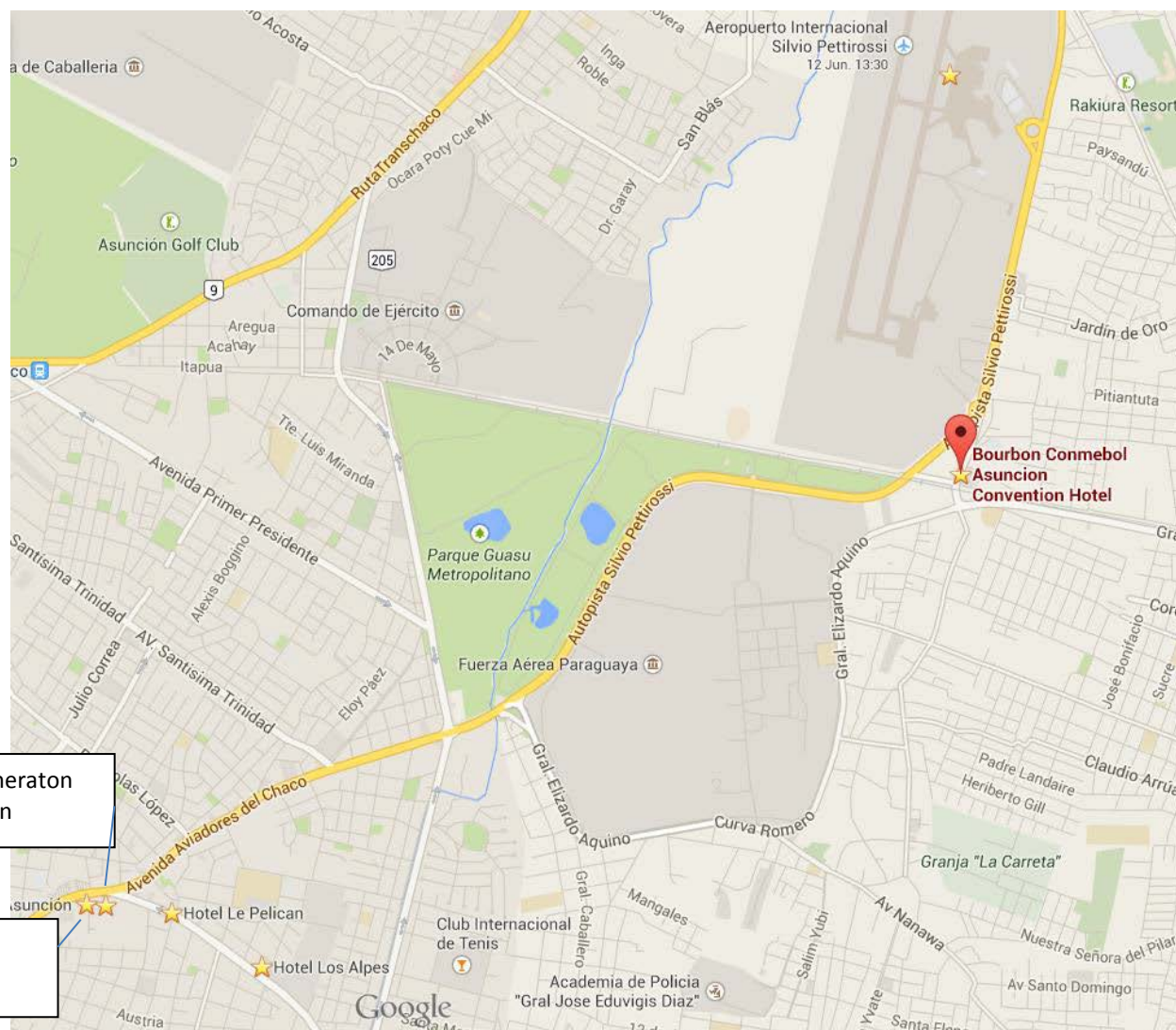
Please use the forms that are provided to book your room, specifying that your reservation is for: Evento CONATEL (CONATEL event).

It is important to book your room as quickly as possible, because a limited number of rooms have been set aside for the meeting.

The hotel reservation forms must include a credit card number (please see form attached herewith). You shall receive confirmation from the hotel when your booking has been accepted. Please keep in mind that each hotel has its own policy for cancelling reservations, as well as charges if you do not take the room you have booked.

Note: Bourbon Conmebol Convention Hotel, venue of the event, is the hotel that is closest to the airport.

Hotel	Category	Rooms	Special rates	Remarks
<i>Bourbon Connebol Convention Hotel</i> (venue of meeting) Avenida Sudamericana 3104 Phone: (595-21) 659-1000 reservas.connebol@bourbon.com.py Ms. Natalia Sandoval www.bourbon.com.br	5 stars	Superior (Single) Superior (Double) Premier (Single) Premier (Double) Junior Suite Premier Suite Presidential Suite Please note there are rooms for those who have special needs	USD 139 + VAT USD 160 + VAT USD 150 + VAT USD 173 + VAT USD 250 + VAT USD 260 + VAT USD 1531 + VAT	Check-in: 14:00 Check-out: 12:00 Buffet breakfast Free Internet Room service 24 hours a day Transfer with luggage (USD 10 x person) Cancellation policy: Reservations may be cancelled at no cost up to 72 hours prior to the date of arrival. After 72 hours, cancellations incur a one-night charge.
<i>Sheraton Asunción Hotel</i> Aviadores Del Chaco 2066 Phone: (595-21) 617-7000 reservas.asuncion@sheraton.com laura.candia@sheraton.com Ms. Laura Candia www.sheraton-asuncion.com.py	5 stars	Classic (Single) Classic (Double) Club Floor (Single) Club Floor (Double) Suite (Single) Suite (Double) Presidential (Single) Presidential (Double) Please note there are rooms with access for persons with disabilities	USD 140 + VAT USD 160 + VAT USD 190 + VAT USD 210 + VAT USD 265 + VAT USD 285 + VAT USD 440 + VAT USD 460 + VAT	Check-in: 15:00 Check-out: 12:00 Buffet breakfast Free Internet (free for those on the Club Floor and in the suites) Room service 24 hours a day Transfer with luggage (USD 33 x person) Cancellation policy: Reservations may be cancelled at no cost up to 24 hours prior to the date of arrival. After 24 hours, cancellations incur charges.
<i>Hotel Ibis Asunción</i> Aviadores Del Chaco 2060 Phone: (595-21) 620-1000 h7324-re@accor.com Mr. Carlos Ramírez http://ibishotel.ibis.com/es/hotel-7324-ibis-asuncion/index.shtml	2.5 stars	Standard master room Please note there are rooms for persons with limited mobility	USD 86 (weekdays) USD 76 (weekends)	Check-in: 12:00 Check-out: 12:00 Breakfast is not included (USD 8 x person) Free Internet Room service 24 hours a day Transfer with luggage (USD 25 x person) Cancellation policy: Reservations may be cancelled at no cost up to 24 hours prior to the date of arrival. After 24 hours, cancellations incur charges.
<i>Hotel Le Pelican</i> Avda. Santa Teresa 2489 casi Gumerindo Sosa Phones: (595-21) 661-436 / 661-833 / 625-855 contact@hotellpelican.com carmenkoch@hotmail.com Ms. Alejandra Ochipinti http://www.hotellepelican.com/	2 stars	Single Double Triple Quadruple	210,000 Gs 250,000 Gs 300,000 Gs 350,000 Gs	Check-in: 12:00 Check-out: 12:00 Breakfast Free Internet Room service 24 hours a day Transfer free of charge Cancellation policy: Reservations may be cancelled at no cost up to 24 hours prior to the date of arrival. After 24 hours, cancellations incur a one-night charge.
<i>Hotel Los Alpes Santa Teresa</i> Avda. Santa Teresa 2855 e/ Cnel. Cabrera & Dr. B. Caballero Phones: (595-21) 607-348 / 665-345 / 606-645 losalpessantateresa@gmail.com Mr. Oscar Cubas http://www.hotellosalpes.com.py/index.html	2 stars	Single Double Triple Quadruple	220,000 Gs 270,000 Gs 320,000 Gs 370,000 Gs	Check-in: 11:00 Check-out: 14:00 Breakfast Free Internet Room service 24 hours a day Transfer free of charge Cancellation policy: Reservations may be cancelled at no cost up to 24 hours prior to the date of arrival. After 24 hours, cancellations incur charges.



3. Entrance to the country

The delegations from the following countries **do not require a visa to enter the country:**

- Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela,
- Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom,
- Israel, Japan, Korea,
- South Africa

All the other countries require a visa.

Nevertheless, those delegations from the following countries, in addition to a visa, must obtain an Entry Authorization from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, People's Republic of China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen,
- Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Saint Helena, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe,
- As well as those countries with which Paraguay has no diplomatic or consular ties.

It is suggested that all delegations check requirements for entering Paraguay with the accredited concurrent Paraguayan Embassy or with the Visa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador at phone number +595 21 414 8771 (opening hours: 7:00 to 13:00, from Monday to Friday) or at e-mail: visas@mre.gov.py. Further information is available at the website: www.mre.gov.py

4. Transport and Access

There are buses, taxis and chauffeured cars for hire (remises) which travel to and from the airport and the central part of the city of Asunción.

At the exit of the airport terminal there is a stop for taxis and cars for hire (remises).

Rate from the airport to the meeting venue hotel is about USD 10 (if you request transportation service when booking your room in the venue hotel) and the trip is about 10 minutes.

The rate to the other hotels that are being suggested (del Sol business district) is about USD 20 and the trip will take about 20 minutes. The rate to the hotels in downtown Asunción is about USD 30 and the trip is about 30 minutes long.

On the website of the Silvio Pettirossi Airport, you will find further information on available services:

http://www.dinac.gov.py/v2/index.php?option=com_k2&view=itemlist&task=category&id=49:eropuerto-internacional-silvio-pettirossi&Itemid=205

CONATEL shall not be providing any transportation service from and to the airport and hotels or from and to the hotels and meeting venue.

The taxi rate to the venue of the meeting from the other suggested hotels is about USD 10 for a trip of about 15 minutes.

5. Contacts of Paraguay's National Telecommunication Commission (CONATEL)

CONATEL has designated the following person as National Coordinator for the meeting:

Mr. Federico Ribeiro

Manager

International and Inter-institutional Management

Phone: (595-21) 438-2620

Fax: (595-21) 451-029

E-mail: federicoribeiro@conatel.gov.py

For queries about visas, hotels or the coordination of social events, please contact:

Ms. Liliana Zena

Chief, Protocol Unit

International and Inter-institutional Management

Phone: (595-21) 438-2635

Fax: (595-21) 451-029

E-mail: lzena@conatel.gov.py

7. Local time

GMT-4

8. Weather

Paraguay is at the center of South America, and therefore is a landlocked country located between 19° 18' and 27° 36' south latitudes and between 59° 19' and 62° 38' west longitudes. It is bound to the north by Brazil and Bolivia, to the east by Brazil and Argentina, to the south by Argentina, and to the west by Argentina and Bolivia.

Tropical to subtropical.

Average temperature: 25° to 35° in the summer and 10° to 20° in the winter.

For further information on the weather, please go the website of the National Meteorology and Hydrology Division of the National Civil Aviation Department:

<http://www.meteorologia.gov.py/>

9. Precautions

It is recommended that during your stay in Paraguay you drink bottled water. It is also advisable to subscribe a medical insurance valid abroad to cover your stay

10. Internet connectivity in the meeting venue

A wireless local area network shall be available in the meeting rooms during the event.

11. Currency and exchange rate

The *Guaraní* (Gs) is the official currency.

Detailed information about the banknotes and coins are available at The Central Bank of Paraguay web site: <http://www.bcp.gov.py/>

Bank notes:

2.000 (two thousand Guaraníes) – polymer



5.000 (five thousand Guaraníes) – paper and polymer



10.000 (ten thousand Guaraníes) - paper



20.000 (twenty thousand Guaraníes) - paper



50.000 (fifty thousand Guaraníes) – paper



100.000 (hundred thousand Guaraníes) - paper



The most used denominations of coins are: 1.000 (Thousand), 500 (Five Hundred), 100 (Hundred) and 50 (Fifty) Guaraníes.



The American Dollar (USD) is generally accepted.

The exchange of money can be done at banks (from 08:30 to 13:30) and at bureaus of changes (from 08:00 to 18:00).

The exchange rate fluctuates, more information can be found at the Paraguay Central Bank (<http://www.bcp.gov.py/>) or at the Tourism National Secretary (www.senatur.gov.py).

The exchange rate is approximately USD 1,00 = 4.432,00 Guaraníes

Credit cards most accepted are American Express, Visa and MasterCard.

11. Shopping

- Mariscal Lopez Shopping:

Address: Quesada 5050 and Charles de Gaulle

Telephone: 595 21 611 272

Website: www.mariscallopez.com.py

- Shopping del Sol

Address: Aviadores del Chaco

Telephone: 595 21 611780

Website: www.shoppingdelsol.com.py

12. Electricity

Electric power in Paraguay is 220 volts, at 50 Hz.

The type-C plug is the standard, although plug types A and B can also be found.



Type C, Europlug.



Type A, NEMA 1, two pins



Type B, NEMA 5, 3 pins.

13. Languages

Paraguay's official languages are Spanish and Guaraní.

14. Tipping

It is customary to leave a 10% tip for service in cafeterias and restaurants, as well as tips for doormen and porters.

15. Prices and taxes

For most goods and services, a 10% value-added tax (VAT) is added, although in some cases the VAT is already included in the price.

16. Emergency phones

National Police Emergency: 911

Medical Emergency Outpatient Service: 141

Fire Department of the Police Force: 131

Volunteer Firefighters of Paraguay: 132

17. Brief History of Paraguay

Paraguay was discovered in 1524 by the Spanish explorer, Alejo García, who established the Giant Indies Province. The most famous names relative to the discovery and subsequent settlement of Paraguay at that time were Sebastián Gaboto, Pedro de Mendoza, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Juan de Salazar de Espinoza, Juan de Ayolas, Domingo Martínez de Irala and others, who played a major role in building forts and towns and, in an alliance with the first-nation communities, started the process of social assimilation marked by the driving force of the conquistadors and the evangelism of the Catholic Church. The first missionaries were from the order of St. Francis of Assisi, and then the priests of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. Both orders left a considerable and rich cultural heritage in Paraguay.

Spanish rule came to an end in 1811 with the revolution of May 14, when a group of patriots decided to forge an independent sovereign country.

In 1844, the new republic adopted a constitutional government with Don Carlos Antonio López and enjoyed a period of astonishing economic, technical and social development. At that time, services such as the railway, merchant marine, and telegraph were established. Large handsome

buildings were constructed, a shipbuilding yard was installed, and the first steel plant in the Americas was built.

At present, Paraguay is a unitary presidential constitutional republic governed by the democratic rule of law and with three branches of government: the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The territory is divided into 17 departments each with a governor and a department council, and each district has its own local government headed by a municipal mayor.

The multiculturalism prevailing in Paraguay makes the country unique and different, constantly evolving. The country's first-nation peoples comprise five different linguistic groups, although the most important is Guaraní, and immigrants from many countries of the world have contributed to the initial Spanish-Guaraní ethnic mix, providing an extraordinary cultural wealth.

18. Gastronomy and Tereré

Paraguay's national gastronomy is based local farm produce and meat. The most important ingredients are maize, cassava, and peanuts and the most famous dishes are Paraguayan soup and different varieties of chipá (cheese buns), including chipá candói, chipá mbejú, chipá guasú, and chipá kaburé. Beef is important for the following dishes: so'ómbichy, chastaca, chipá so'o, soyo, bife pupú, locro and others. International cuisine holds a special place on menus, with fine dishes and delicious desserts, in addition to a wide variety of fruit available almost all year round.

Paraguayan cuisine has pre-Columbian origins from the Guaraní ethnic group and also Spanish heritage from colonization by the Spaniards.

Typical Paraguay food is the result of a combination of Hispanic culinary techniques and the use of native products and other products introduced and acclimatized by the Spaniards, such as green vegetables, rice, beef, etc.

The staple product of Paraguayan dishes is maize, whether ground, cooked or fermented, a key ingredient for many dishes and foods.

Paraguay's flagship dish is Paraguayan soup, which is a stew made by mixing and boiling corn flour with eggs, fresh cheese, diced onions and sour milk.

Paraguay's gastronomy has elements common to all of America, such as the use of maize, cassava, peanuts and vegetables, but in addition, because of local natural resources and the legacy left by the Guaraní culture and its fusion with European culture, the country has a gastronomical tradition that is different from the rest of Latin America, even from the other countries of MERCOSUR.

The more traditional foods such as the chipá, or Paraguayan cheese bread, Paraguayan soup and a wide variety of desserts are a delight for all those interested in tasting our dishes.

In Paraguay, there are three types of yerba mate, which are infused herbal beverages widely used at all times: the first is the mate (ka'ay), which consists of pouring the herbs into a small gourd,

brewing them in hot water and sipping the infusion with a metal straw; the second is the mate cocido, simply called the cocido (cooked mate), which involves pouring hot water onto a bunch of herbs previously scorched over hot embers, letting them brew and then drinking the beverage like coffee or tea. The third way of preparing the beverage is the most popular and authentically Paraguayan: it is the tereré, an onomatopoeic word that identifies the cold or frozen mate that is prepared by adding medicinal yuyos (herbs) that are crushed so they can release their sap into the water.

There is no reliable information about the origins of the tereré. Certain researchers claim that yerba mate was being used before the Spanish Conquest and refer to the drink as mate, indicating that at the time it was better to drink it slowly from a sugar cane reed, even with cold water. This leads us to believe that this practice was not very different from what, over the centuries, would be called tereré.

In Paraguay, tereré is usually taken together in social groups, with family, amongst friends and co-workers or with a visitor. No one is ever turned down when drinking it. A round of tereré (tereré jere) can last for many minutes, even hours, and if the yerba becomes very diluted, it is changed and the drinking session continues.

Many people contend that a round of tereré makes it easy for people to talk together, because while someone is drinking another person talks and all the others listen, and then everybody takes turns participating in the conversation. Furthermore, this beverage is a common legacy belonging to all Paraguayans, men and women, rich and poor, intellectuals and illiterates, young and old: everybody loves this beverage the same.

The traditional vessels for drinking tereré have now made way for modern ones, beautiful portable containers for keeping the beverage (like a thermos), which make it possible to drink tereré while travelling, watching a football match, fishing or simply taking a long hike. For everybody and at all times, tereré is the best of companions.

18) Arts and Crafts

Paraguayan arts and crafts have two styles: the indigenous crafts and mixed crafts assimilating the culture of the colonizers. In the former case, the use of natural elements prevails, such as feathers and animal skins, roots, leaves and reeds for producing woven, wooden and clay objects. Paraguayan arts and crafts also use elements introduced by the Spanish Conquest, including fibers, metal, wood and machinery. Cotton and wool threads, woven fabrics, leather goods, stone and wood carvings, jewelry, pottery and ceramic can be seen in apparel and household linen, such as the ñandutí, ao-poí, ponchos, hammocks, and tablecloths, gold and silver filigree, images, and the manufacture of musical instruments, among others.

20. Places to visit

The National Secretariat for Tourism (SENATUR) has information available if you wish to go on a tour, visit sites and take advantage of your stay in Paraguay to the utmost.

www.senatur.gov.py



Palacio de los López