



ITU Regional Seminar for the Africa Region on Conformance and Interoperability Testing Centre(s)

Accra, Ghana
4-6 July 2011



Practical Information for Participants

1 Introduction

The Ministry of Communications (MOC) of Ghana is pleased to welcome participants to the **ITU Regional Seminar for the Africa Region on Conformance and Interoperability Testing Centre(s)**, which will take place in Accra, Ghana from 4 to 6 July 2011.

This document provides some practical information on frequently asked questions about the Seminar, including logistical details.

2 Venue

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra

3 Transportation to the venue

To be provided by the Event Organisers.

4 From the hotels to the venue

To be provided by the Event organisers

5 List of recommended hotels close to the venue

LIST OF HOTELS

N O	NAME OF HOTEL	RATING	ROOM RATE(TAX INCLUSIVE) INCLUDING BREAKFAST(\$)		NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILAB LE	CONTACT
			STANDARD SINGLE	STANDARD DOUBLE		
1	Premier Accra Airport Hotel	3	250	290	109	Tel.- 0302216570, 0243654704 Fax. – 0302766904 Email- info@bestwesternpremier.com.gh Loc.- Airport Residential Area
2	Holiday Inn Accra Airport	3	250	350	160	Tel.- 0302740930 Fax. – 0302785180 Email- reservations1@holidayinnaccraairport.com Loc.- Airport Residential Area
3	Crown Apartmento Hotel	3	207	230	24	Tel. 0302771712-3, 0289113600 Fax- 0302762942 Email- reservation@crownapartmento.com Loc.- Airport residential area
4	La Palm Royal Beach Hotel	4	190	230	152	Tel.- 0302771770 0244342621-4 email- lapalm@gbhghana.net Loc.- Trade Fair, La
5	Alisa Hotel	3	180	210	173	Tel.- 0302214244, 0302214233 Email- info@alisahotels.com Loc.- North Ridge, adjacent to world bank Accra office.
6	Midindi Hotel	2	170	200	26	Tel.- 0302770007, 0302769904, 0244469137 Fax. – 0302770879 Email- info@midindihotel.com Loc.- Behind El Wak, East Cantonment

7	Airport West Hotel	2	150	220	30	Tel.- 0302767870, 0302771388, 0244358042, 0277753305 Fax. – 0302765667 Loc. – Airport residential area
8	M Plaza hotel	4	150	190	100	Tel.- 0302763417-9, 0302763492-5, 0302775922 Fax.-0302763416, 0302763417 Email- info@mplaza-hotel.com Loc.- Airport Residential Area
9	Airside Hotel	2	120	130	33	Tel.- 0302760480, 0302783844 Fax- 0302785768 Email- airside@africaonline.com.gh Loc. Airport residential area
10	Airport View Hotel	2	100	120	47	Tel.- 0302769594 0302780341/2 Fax- 0302780342 Email- info@airportviewhotelgh.com Loc.- Airport Residential Area
11	Awet Hotel		80	120	140	Tel.- 0302923796, 0206374915, 0243251225 Loc.- Osu, Lokko road, adjacent night market.
12	El-Elyon Hotel	2	85	90	16	Tel.- 0302774421 0246667680 Fax.- 0302784620 Email- eleyon@africaonline.com.gh Loc.- Osu RE
13	Central Hotel	2	80	100	16	Tel.- 03027010600, 0302258257/8 Fax.- 0302243330 Email- info@centralhotels.com.gh Loc.- Ringway Estate, Osu
14	Hotel Georgia Ltd	2	85	120	53	Tel. – 0302765488, 0302765487 Fax.- 0302765488 Email- georgia@africayahoo.com

						Loc.- Cantonment
15	Blue Royal Hotel		60	80	22	Tel. – 0302783075 Fax. – 0302783076 Email- blueroyalghana@yahoo.com Loc.- Oxford Street, Osu
16	Miklin Hotels		80	100	47	Tel.- 0302500708, 0302502386, 0302502387, 0302502974 Fax.- 0302500558, 0302502975 Email- miklin@ghana.com Loc.- Shiashi, East Legon
17	Continental Plaza Hotel		70	70	50	Tel.- 0302777578, 0302784565 Fax.- 0302777578 Email- cplazahotelgh@yahoo.com Loc. Dzorwulu, opposite Mobitel head office
18	SSNIT Guest House		90	100	11	Tel.- 0302226228, 0302225366 Fax.- 0302225879 Email- contact@ssnitquesthouse.com Loc.- Osu RE, near Ako Adjei Interchange, adjacent DFID.

6 Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations should be made by participants directly with Hotel.

Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Please get in contact directly with the hotel (using the contact e-mails) indicating your participation at the Seminar.

7 Passports and Visas

A valid passport is required to enter to Ghana. The passport should be valid for at least three months after arrival date in Ghana.

The updated version of nationals from specific countries who do not require entry visas to Ghana include the following:

A. ECOWAS CITIZENS

B. Special Administrative Region

Kenya	Malaysia	Singapore
Egypt	Hong Kong	Trinidad and Tobago

C. Nationals of the following Commonwealth East and Southern African Countries

Malawi	Lesotho	Botswana
Zimbabwe	Tanzania	Uganda
Swaziland		

D. Holders of German, Cuban, Iranian, and Brazilian Diplomatic/Service Passports (for a period not exceeding three (3) months)

E. Holders of passport of Regional Economic Communities in Africa and the African Economic Community as well as United Nations and its specialized agencies.

- The World Bank
- African Development Bank

F. Persons in direct Airside transit

There may be visa requirements for citizens of some countries to enter Ghana. Where this is the case, visa applications can be made at any Ghanaian Embassy or Consular Office in your country. Upon request, the Ministry of Communications (MOC) of Ghana will provide participants, who are officially registered in the Seminar, with an invitation letter in order to facilitate the processing of their visa applications. Applicants should address such requests, together with a scanned copy of their passport (pages with photo, date of issue and expiry date) as well as their occupation/position within their company, to any of the following contact persons in the host country AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

8 Contact point

For any further information, please contact: **Mrs. Patricia Dovi Sampson**

E-mail: sampsonpatricia@hotmail.com

Tel: 233 244 292133

Fax: 233 302 667114

9 Social events

Social event(s) may be announced during the Seminar.

10 Language

English is the official language in Ghana. The Seminar will be held in English and French.

11 Currency and Banking

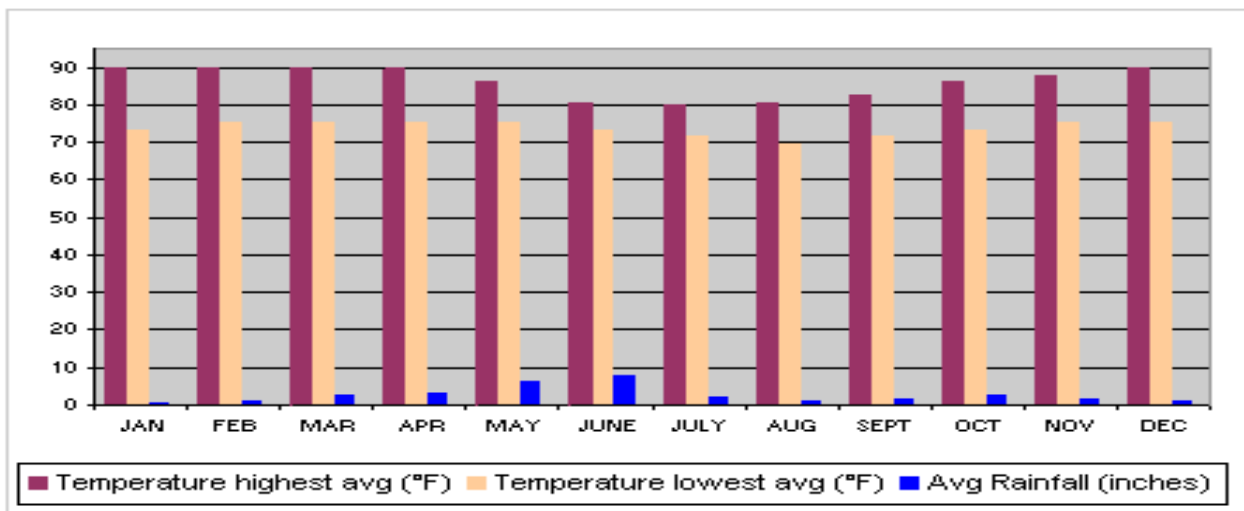
Ghanaian Cedi (GHS) is the country's currency. Major foreign currencies may be exchanged to Ghanaian Cedi at hotels and foreign exchange banks in Accra and at Accra International Airport. Regular banking hours are 8 am - 2 pm.

12 Credit cards

The most widely accepted credit cards are Visa and Mastercard. These cards are accepted in major hotels, restaurants, banks and businesses. Your card may be used for payment at most all airlines, leading hotels and major supermarkets. However be cautious when using your credit card to avoid fraud.

13 Climate

The climate of Ghana is tropical, but temperatures vary with season and elevation. Except in the north two rainy seasons occur, from April to July and from September to November. In the north the rainy season begins in April and lasts until September. The harmattan, a dry desert wind, blows from the northeast from December to March, lowering the humidity and creating hot days and cool nights in the north. In the south the effects of the harmattan are felt in January. In most areas the highest temperatures occur in March, the lowest in August.



Source: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/>

14 Local time

Ghana Standard Time is GMT. Ghana does not operate Daylight-Saving Time.

15 Tipping

Tipping is commonplace in Ghana.

16 Taxes

Sales tax in Ghana is 12,5% VAT.

17 Electrical appliances

The standard power supply in Ghana is 220-240 volts, 50 hz. An electrical converter will be necessary to run 110-120 volt appliances.

18 Calling code and Internet TLD

Ghana calling code is 00233. The Internet TLD is .gh

19 Drivers

Cars in Ghana have their steering wheel on the left. Cars drive on the right.

20 About Ghana

Ghana literally "Warrior King", derived from the ancient Ghana Empire

The Republic of Ghana, is a country located in West Africa. It is bordered by Ivory Coast to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, and the Gulf of Guinea to the south.

Known as the Gold Coast Crown Colony from 1874, it achieved independence from United Kingdom in 1957, becoming the first sub-Saharan African nation to do so and choosing the name Ghana to reflect the ancient Empire of Ghana.

Ghana spearheaded the political liberation of colonized Africa from the very first day of her Independence. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah (first Prime Minister) championed the cause of African Unity which led to the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU).

(Sources:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghana#See_also
- <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/>)

21 About Accra

The word *Accra* is derived from the word *Nkran* meaning "ants" in Akan, a reference to the numerous anthills seen in the countryside around Accra.

As the capital of Ghana, Accra is the administrative, communications, and economic centre of the country.

Accra is the largest city in Ghana with the population of the city proper estimated at 1,963,264 as of 2009. Accra also doubles as the capital of the Greater Accra Region and of the Accra Metropolitan District, with which it is coterminous.

Originally built around a port, Accra stretches along the Atlantic Coast and north into the interior. Serving as the nation's capital, then the Gold Coast, from 1877 its architecture ranges from large and elegant nineteenth century colonial buildings to skyscrapers and apartment blocks made of concrete, glass and steel in the 1970s, reflecting its transition from a 19th century suburb of Victoriaborg to the modern metropolis it is today.

(Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accra>)

Altitude

Accra is located about 61m /200 feet above sea level.

Transportation

Taxis: there is a convenient taxi network but most don't have meter system so price negotiation is required between passenger and driver. But there are also metered taxis which are slightly expensive. Taxis in Ghana are painted in two colors: the four fenders are yellow/orange and the rest of the car is in a color of choice. Taxis can be obtained at taxi ranks or along any road in Accra. There are also shared taxis, which follow fixed routes, similar to taxis' and have fixed rates per passenger.

Trotros: by far the most common form of transport in Accra, trotros are the most efficient and cost-effective way of getting around the city. Trotros stop at any bus stop or gathering of people, just waving the hand up and down to attract the driver's attention.

(Sources:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accra#Transportation>
- <http://wikitravel.org/en/Accra>)

22 Food and Drink

Tap water in cities is safe to drink. Other water sources should be regarded as being potentially contaminated, and water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilised. Milk is unpasteurised and should be boiled. Powdered or tinned milk is available and is advised. Avoid dairy products which are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

(Sources: <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/ghana/health>)

23 Health Care, Vaccinations and Health Requirements

Medical facilities are poor outside urban areas in Ghana.

Emergency facilities are extremely limited.

For serious medical treatment, medical evacuation would be necessary.

Disease	Recommendation	When to see a doctor
Diphtheria	recommended	1 day
Malaria	recommended	1-7 days
Yellow Fever	required	10 days
Hepatitis A	recommended	1 week
Meningitis	recommended	1 week
Tetanus	recommended	1 day

(Sources:

- <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ghana#insurance>
 - <http://www.traveldoctor.info/vaccinations/ghana.63.html>)
-