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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan | International Telecommunication Union |   **ITU Regional Forum on**  **Digital Financial Services Development**  *Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017*  **PRACTICAL INFORMATION** |

**1. Forum Venue**

**The Ritz Carlton Astana**

Address: 16, Dostyq Str., 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: [+7 717 273 4000](javascript:void(0))

Website: <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/residences/astana>

**2. Registration**

Registration of participants will start on 5 July 2017, Wednesday, at 09:00 in the event venue.

**3. Languages**

The Forum will be held in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation.

**4. Recommended hotels**

The event will take place at the **Ritz Carlton Astana**. National Bank of Kazakhstan has made a group booking for the participants at a special rate of 95,000.64 KZT (around 304 USD) for single standard room including VAT and breakfast. Room quantity is limited therefore participants are invited to contact representatives of the National Bank of Kazakhstan to ensure availability.

The cancellation is **non-refundable** because this period enjoys the Specialized “Astana EXPO 2017”.

The following hotels are recommended by the hosts:

**The Ritz Carlton Astana**

Address: 16, Dostyq Str., 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: [+7 717 273 4000](javascript:void(0))

Website: <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/residences/astana>

**Hilton Garden Inn Astana**

Address: 15, Kabanbay-batyr Ave., 010010 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 717 275 6700

Web : <http://www.hilton.ru/hotels/hilton-garden-inn-astana/>

Special rate for single standard room of 132,288 KZT (around 420 USD) including VAT and breakfast is valid for the period of the EXPO 2017.

**Park Inn Radisson Astana**

Address: 8A, Sary Arka Ave. 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone:  +7 (717) 2670000

Web : <https://www.parkinn.ru/hotel-astana>

Special rate for singe standard room of 87,360 KZT (around 276 USD) including VAT and breakfast is valid for the period of the EXPO 2017.

**Wyndham Garden Astana**

Address: 6/1, Turar Ryskulov Str., Esil district, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 7172 670144; +7 7172 620 142

Email: [reservation@wyndhamgardenastana.com](mailto:reservation@wyndhamgardenastana.com)

Special rate for single standard room of 67,200 KZT (around 213 USD) including VAT and breakfast is valid for the period of the EXPO 2017.

Hotels in Astana may be overbooked in the period of Astana EXPO 2017 from 10 June to 10 September 2017. Participants are recommended to make their accommodation arrangements well in advance.

**5. Transportation**

National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan will arrange arrival/departure transfer in accordance with the information provided in the registration forms. The participants will be met at the International Arrivals Gate of the Astana International Airport by the Organizing Committee member carrying a name plate.

**6. Contacts**

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| **ITU Area Office for CIS**  Mr. Farid Nakhli Programme Officer  Telephone: +7 495 926 60 70  Fax: +7 495 926 60 73  Email: [farid.nakhli@itu.int](mailto:farid.nakhli@itu.int) | **National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan**  **Ms. Mukhabbat Sabirova**  Chief Specialist, Protocol Division  Department of International Cooperation  Telephone: +7 727 27704754  Mobile: +7 777 555 25 29  Еmail: [sabirova@nationalbank.kz](mailto:sabirova@nationalbank.kz)  **Mr. Serzhan Balykbayev**  Head, Protocol Division  International Cooperation Department  Telephone: +7 727 330 24 55  Mobile: +7 775 542 35 81  Еmail: [serzhan@nationalbank.kz](mailto:serzhan@nationalbank.kz) |

**7. Currency/exchange/credit cards**

National currency unit in the Republic of Kazakhstan is Kazakh tenge (KZT). Credit cards are approved for payments in banks, big hotels, and some tourist agencies and shops.

As of 13 April 2017, the exchange rates were as follows:

1 USD = 311,76 KZT

1 EUR = 330,53 KZT

Banks are open from 9:00 to 18:00, Monday through Friday. Currency exchange is done by all banks.

**8. General information**

Astana has been in 1830 the [capital city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_city) of the Republic of [Kazakhstan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan) since 10 June 1998. Founded as Akmolinsk, it served as a defensive fortification for Siberian Cossacks and was granted a town status on 26 September 1862. The city was renamed to Tselinograd on 20 March 1961 to mark the city’s evolution as a cultural and administrative centre of the virgin lands campaign. In 1992, it was renamed Akmola, the modified original name meaning "a white grave". On 10 December 1997 Akmola replaced [Almaty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almaty) as the capital of Kazakhstan and was renamed Astana on 6 May 6 1998, which means "the capital city" in Kazakh. As of 1 May 2016, the population of Astana was 880,191 – that is third largest city of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Astana is located on the Ishim River in the north of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in Akmola Region.

**9. Climate**

The climate of Astana is extremely continental, with a cold snowy winter and torrid summer. In July, daily average temperature is +21° C, night average temperature is +18° C.

**10. Time zone**

Time in Astana (summer) – UTC/GMT + 6 hours.

**11. Electrical devices**

Voltage power in Kazakhstan - 220V / 50 Hz.

**12. Communication tools**

In the event venue, Forum participants will be provided with a Wi-Fi Internet access.

For telephone calls inside the city of Astana, dialing code is +7 7172. For international telephone calls from Astana, please dial: + the country dialing code, the settlement dialing code, the subscriber code or follow instructions on IP telephony card.

**13. Visa**

Requirements for entry the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://mfa.gov.kz/index.php/en/consular-issues12>

Those participants who need an **entry visa** to the Republic of Kazakhstan are recommended to apply in advance to the consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan in their country for information on visa requirements.

To receive visa support letter, kindly mark relevant section in the Registration Form.