



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Expert Group Meeting: Advancing Co-deployment Financing through
the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway in North and Central Asia**

(Almaty, Kazakhstan, 31 January-1 February 2019)

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. INTRODUCTION

This Information Note provides some details regarding the Expert Group Meeting: Advancing Co-deployment Financing through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway in North and Central Asia organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

II. VENUE

The Meeting will take place

- on 31 January 2019 in the Plaza Hotel Almaty (address: Kozhamkulov St 215/120, Almaty 050008, Kazakhstan).
- On 1 February 2019 in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel (address: Al Farabi Avenue 77/7, Almaty, 050040 Kazakhstan) .

III. PARTICIPATION

Government representatives of the United Nations member states, representatives of United Nations agencies and programmes, relevant international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, donors as well as representatives of the private sector and the academic community are invited to participate in the Expert Group Meeting.

IV. CONFERENCE FEE

No conference fee is charged for participation. Travel and accommodation expenses for the government representatives from invited countries are borne by ESCAP. Other participants will be responsible for their own expenses.

V. PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION

Interested parties are invited to fill in the Nominations Form and return it to the following address:

*ICT and Development Section
Information and Communications Technology
and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
UNESCAP, Bangkok*

Fax: +662-288-1085
Email: escap-ids@un.org

VI. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All participants are advised to consult with the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan in their respective countries of residence regarding the latest applicable visa requirements and, if needed, to obtain an appropriate visa prior to their departure. Requests for issuance of a visa support letter should be sent to Ms. Elena Dyakonova, ICT and Development Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, Fax: +662-288-1085, Email: elena.dyakonova@un.org or escap-ids@un.org together with the passport copy, nomination form, indicating home address and travel dates/flight details, if available.

VII. TRANSPORTATION

The participants are responsible for their transfer from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport. Taxis from the Eco-Taxi booth with the green logo below are readily available at the Almaty International Airport. Transfers cost approximately 3,000-4,000 Kazakhstani tenge (KZT).



There will be free bus transportation provided 01 February in the morning from Plaza Hotel to Ritz-Carlton Hotel and in the evening from Ritz-Carlton Hotel to Plaza Hotel.

VIII. ACCOMMODATION

ESCAP has block-booked standard rooms at the Plaza Hotel Almaty for participants from 31 January to 1 February 2019. Please note that participants are responsible for payment directly to the hotel of all expenses incurred by them, including room charges and other expenses, such as for local and long-distance telephone calls, business centre use, laundry, room service and mini-bar items, as well as restaurant and bar services. The focal point to request hotel room reservation is Ms. Elena Dyakonova at elena.dyakonova@un.org.

The Plaza Hotel Almaty can provide an airport transfer service in Almaty at the cost of KZT 3500 (approximately USD 10) for one-way from the airport to the hotel. The contact details of the hotel for reservations are: Kozhamkulov St 215/120, Almaty 050008, Kazakhstan, tel: +7 727 365 7777, email: reception@plazahotel.kz.

IX. DOCUMENTATION

Documents for the Regional Inception Meetings will be made available on the ESCAP website www.escap.org

X. INTERPRETATION AND VISUAL AIDS

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian as well as facilities for computer-aided

presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) will be provided.

XI. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the Regional Inception Meeting can be obtained from:

Elena Dyakonova (Ms.)
Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
ICT Capacity Building Specialist
ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Office: +66 2 288 2312 | elena.dyakonova@un.org
www.unescap.org

XII. USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate: The climate in Kazakhstan is continental with cold winters and hot summers. In January, the average daily temperature in Almaty usually varies from -6 to +5 °C.

Time: GMT+6

Smoking: In accordance with the law of Kazakhstan, smoking in public places is prohibited.

Banking services: ATMs are available in the majority of hotels.

Currency: The local currency is “tenge”. Most hotels and shops accept credit cards, including Visa and Mastercard.

International calls: For international calls, please dial: 8 + 10 + country code + dialed number.

Emergency phone number:

- 101 – Fire emergency
- 102 – Police
- 103 – Ambulance

Electricity: Alternating current, 220V with 50 Hz frequency.

Taxi services: For local taxi services, please contact the hotel reception.
