

Logistic Information for the 21st IOCCG Committee Meeting

Santa Monica, CA, USA

1-3 March 2016

Meeting Details

The 21st annual IOCCG Committee meeting is scheduled for 1-3 March 2016 and will be hosted by NOAA and NASA, which is gratefully acknowledged. The meeting will take place at the Santa Monica College (1900 Pico Blvd.), in Santa Monica, CA, USA. A tentative schedule for the IOCCG-21 Committee meeting is as follows:

Tuesday 1 March 2016:

8:30 am – 12:30 pm: IOCCG Executive Meeting (Executive members only)

1:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Full IOCCG Committee meeting

Wednesday 2 March 2016:

9:00 am – 5:30 pm: Full IOCCG Committee meeting

Thursday 3 March 2016:

9:00 am – 3:30 pm: Full IOCCG Committee meeting

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm: Wrap-up Executive meeting (Executive members only)

We hope to arrange transportation from the hotel to the college and back again each day – details will be provided closer to the time.

Visa Information

Requirements for entry into the U.S.A. differ from country to country (see <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html>). It is recommended that you enquire with your nearest USA Embassy or Consulate regarding your visa application. There are several steps to apply for a U.S. visa, including scheduling an appointment for an interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, so please allow several months to obtain your visa. Note that it may be difficult to qualify for a visa outside of your place of permanent residence.

Getting to Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica is located about 11 km north of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which is serviced by many direct international flights. The easiest way to get from the LAX airport to downtown Santa Monica is to take a taxi (or Uber) (~\$40 if you manage to avoid rush hour traffic). Alternatively, you can take the free shuttle bus from the LAX terminals to Parking Lot C, where there is a bus plaza for the “Big Blue Bus Route 3” or Rapid 3 (www.bigbluebus.com), which stops in downtown Santa Monica.

Hotel Arrangements

We have secured a block booking at the Wyndham Santa Monica at the Pier (120 Colorado Ave, Santa Monica, <http://www.wyndhamsantamonicipier.com/>) for the nights of 29 Feb – 4 March 2016 (4 nights) at the U.S. government rate of **\$217 per night**, plus applicable taxes (14.26%) and fees (\$3.75). You are kindly requested to make your own room reservations as soon as possible (before 8 January 2016), via the following web link (phone booking will not be accepted):

http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2016/47152_IOCCG2016/main.wnt

All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Please contact the IOCCG Project Office if you have problems in making your booking. If you would like to book a room outside of those dates, please book the available dates online, and then contact Ahmed Saad (Asaad@wyndham.com) regarding the other nights, which will be based on the hotel’s availability (possibly higher rates). If enough participants would like to reserve room outside of the block booking, we can try to increase the room block ahead of time, based on the feedback received. Individuals will be responsible for their own room, tax, and incidental expenses at the time of checkout unless arrangements have been made for their hotel expenses to be covered by IOCCG.

- Check-in Time is 3:00 pm
- Check-out Time is 11:00 am.

For non-sponsored participants, a valid credit card will be required upon check-in, which will be authorized for the estimated expenses incurred by the guest based on their length of stay.

Points of Contacts for IOCCG-20

Point of Contact (in USA): Paul DiGiacomo
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Weather

Typical weather in Santa Monica in early March is generally mild with mostly clear days, and temperatures ranging from 11 – 19°C. Also be prepared for a small chance of light rain.

Electricity

Electric power is standardized in all states across the USA. It is set at 110 Volts and 60 cycles. Standard electric plugs, as illustrated below, have two flat blades. The plugs on some newer appliances have a third round grounding pin. Most commercial buildings are equipped with electrical receptacles that can accommodate either type of plug, but occasionally they will not accommodate the grounding pin, so an adaptor is required if your computer has a third pin.

