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## **OECD/IOPS GLOBAL FORUM ON PRIVATE PENSIONS**

**14-15 November 2007**

**Beijing, China**

### **Information Note for Participants**

The *OECD/IOPS Global Forum on Private Pensions* will take place on 14-15 November 2007 in Beijing, China. This conference will be hosted by the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC), with the sponsorship of the Government of Japan.

#### **Registration**

Please note that participation is by invitation only. Delegates of the OECD Working Party on Private Pensions are invited to register for this conference. To do so, please contact:

Mrs. Morven Alexander-Drane, OECD  
E-mail: [morven.alexander@oecd.org](mailto:morven.alexander@oecd.org)

#### **Conference venue**

The conference will be held at the Hotel InterContinental Beijing Financial Street. It is located close to Yuyuantan/Yuetan Park (see maps on pages 7 & 8).

Please find below the address and contact person at the hotel.

<p>Mr. Simon Dai Assistant Director of Sales InterContinental Beijing Financial Street No.11 Financial Street, Xicheng District, 100034 Beijing China</p>	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:simon_dai@intercontifsbj.com">simon_dai@intercontifsbj.com</a> or <a href="mailto:phoebe_li@intercontifsbj.com">phoebe_li@intercontifsbj.com</a> Fax: + 86-10-58525959 Tel: +86-10-58525721 or +86-10- 58525888 Website: <a href="http://www.intercontinental.com/icbeijing">www.intercontinental.com/icbeijing</a></p>
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### Accommodation

We have obtained a negotiated rate with this hotel for participants of the conference. Each participant is responsible for the reservation and payment of his/her own accommodation. To make your reservation, please complete the Hotel Reservation Form (attached to your invitation letter) and send it directly to the hotel.

**IMPORTANT:** Reservations must be made by **15 October at the latest**, as after this date, the group booking made for conference participants will no longer be held. Reservations thereafter will be subject to availability and the rate may be higher. **Hotel's cancellation policy: reservations cancelled after 28 October will be charged one night's retention to the participant's credit card.**

### Visa for China and Insurance

Please note that a visa is required for most nationalities to enter China and it is strongly recommended that participants verify requirements with the embassy/consulate in his/her country.

General information on visas can be found at: <http://www.cnto.org/chinavisa.asp>

For official invitation letters for visa purposes, please contact:

Ms. LIN Honglun  
Deputy Director  
International Department  
China Insurance Regulatory Commission  
Tel: +86 10 6628 6279  
Fax: +86 10 6628 8089  
Email: [honglun\\_lin@circ.gov.cn](mailto:honglun_lin@circ.gov.cn)

Mr. ZHAO Guangyi  
International Department  
China Insurance Regulatory Commission  
Tel: +86 10 6628 6280  
Fax: +86 10 6628 8089  
Email: [guangyi\\_zhao@circ.gov.cn](mailto:guangyi_zhao@circ.gov.cn)

Participants are advised to have adequate medical and travel insurance to cover their visit to China.

### Arrival and departure

Upon arrival in China, foreign tourists must fill in a Passenger's Luggage Declaration at the customs and accept customer's check. Foreign tourists are not allowed to take objects out of China for other people. Foreign tourists who enter China must fill out a "Health Certificate for Travel in China" and abide by the Quarantine Law of China and other relevant laws and regulations.

Capital International Airport (PEK) is located 17 miles (28 kilometers) northeast of Beijing city centre. Its facilities include cash machines (ATMs), bureau de change areas, a fully operational bank and postal services. There are a number of cafés and restaurants at the airport, as well as a shopping area and a business and conference center.

### **Airport transfers**

**Hotel Limousine:** the Hotel InterContinental Beijing offers an airport pickup service, at a cost of CNY 700 one-way, payable to the hotel upon check-out. This service can be reserved via the Hotel Reservation Form (attached to your invitation letter).

**Taxi** from Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK):

Distance: 40 KM / 24.86 MI South West to Hotel. Taxi Charge (one way): approx. CNY 120

Time by taxi: approximately 50 minutes

From Beijing Capital International Airport, take the Airport Express Way to Si Yuan Qiao Exit.

Proceed to North 4th ring road then Xue Yuan Qiao after which turn left to Xi Zi Men. Drive to Yue Tan North Bridge and turn left to hotel.

### **Procedural arrangements**

**IOPS meetings, open to IOPS members only:**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 09.00-18.00: IOPS Technical Committee Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 18.00-19.30: IOPS Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 09.30-12.30: IOPS Annual General Meeting

**Global Forum on Private Pensions:**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, **14h00**-18h00, continued on

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 09.30-17.45

Registration of Global Forum participants will begin at **13h30** on Wednesday.

### **Working languages**

The conference will be held in English and Chinese. Simultaneous English-Chinese interpretation will be available.

### **Documentation and website**

If you have been asked to contribute a paper or presentation to the conference or wish to submit any relevant background materials, please send your material to:

Mr. Yu-Wei HU, OECD (email: [yu-wei.hu@oecd.org](mailto:yu-wei.hu@oecd.org)) **by 19<sup>th</sup> October at the latest**

The conference documentation will be posted, as soon as available, on the OECD's website, at [www.oecd.org/daf/pensions](http://www.oecd.org/daf/pensions)

Participants will receive a set of documents upon arrival at the conference.

### **Presentations**

Facilities for PowerPoint presentations will be available in the conference room.

### **Meals and Social Events**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November: lunch for all IOPS participants will be provided by the organisers.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November: all participants of the Global Forum are invited to a dinner, hosted by the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, at the conference hotel.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November: lunch for all Global Forum participants will be provided by the organisers.

The organisers regret that no programme for spouses/partners can be arranged.

### **For further enquiries please contact:**

Ms. Fiona Stewart (**IOPS and Global Forum**)

Tel: +33 1 4524-1452; email: [fiona.stewart@oecd.org](mailto:fiona.stewart@oecd.org)

Ms. Morven Alexander-Drane (**Global Forum**)

tel: +33-1 4524-8836; e-mail: [morven.alexander@oecd.org](mailto:morven.alexander@oecd.org)

Mr. Yu-Wei Hu (**Global Forum**)

Tel: +33-1 4524-8719; email: [yu-wei.hu@oecd.org](mailto:yu-wei.hu@oecd.org)

### **TOURISM**

China National Tourism Office: <http://www.cnto.org/aboutchina.asp>

The Hotel InterContinental Beijing would be pleased to assist guests with tourism enquiries and can book excursions. Day and ½-day tours, with pick up and drop off at the hotel, are available – e.g. Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tian'anmen Square, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace. Please contact:

Ms. Roxanne Lu, Hotel InterContinental Beijing Financial Street

Tel : +86 10 5852 5701; Fax : +86 10 5852 5959; Email : [roxanne\\_lu@intercontifsbj.com](mailto:roxanne_lu@intercontifsbj.com)

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

#### **Currency**

China's currency is the Renminbi (RMB), usually called the Yuan. Ten Jiao make up one Yuan. At present, the Yuan is worth about US \$0.12, with slight daily fluctuations. The Bank of China has exchange desks for foreign currency and travellers cheques with convenient hours at all hotels, airports, Friendship Stores, and other shopping areas.

No foreign currency is allowed to circulate in China. Selling of foreign exchange is illegal. Travellers may exchange foreign currency cash or cheques at Bank of China offices or exchange counters at the published exchange rates. These bureaux will issue a foreign exchange statement which shall be valid for 6 months. Avoid unofficial transactions, no matter how favourable the rate of exchange.

### **Credit Cards**

Visa, Master Card, American Express, Diner's Club, Federal Card, Million Card and JCB credit cards are accepted at most hotels and state run shops in the major cities. Travelers should be prepared to pay in Yuan when shopping in smaller shops, at restaurants and in smaller hotels.

### **Population & climate**

As the capital of the People's Republic of China, Beijing is the nation's center of government, economy, culture and international activities, as well as serving as a transportation hub to the entire country. With a population of 11 million people, Beijing contains 18 districts and counties covering an area of 10,450 square miles. The suburbs contain: Dongcheng, Xicheng, Xuanwu, Chongwen, Chaoyang, Haidian, Fengtai, and Shijingshan. An outer suburban area consists of: Fangshan, Mengtougou, Changping, Tongxian, Shunyi, Daxing, Huairou, Miyun, Pinggu, and Yanqing.

Beijing City is an independently administered municipal district located in the northeastern part of China at an elevation of 143 feet above sea level. Beijing has a continental climate. January is the coldest month with an average temperature of 24 degrees Fahrenheit. At an average temperature of 79 degrees Fahrenheit, July is the warmest.

### **Health Requirements**

No special vaccinations are required, but those who have travelled from an infected area before coming to China should have vaccination records available for a Health Declaration form upon arrival. Tourists are recommended to drink bottled water when they travel in China.

### **Safety**

China is considered one of the safest countries in the world to travel. Crime is very low throughout China, and there are virtually no crimes committed against tourists. Even during the late evening hours travellers have little to be concerned about. The Chinese are friendly and hospitable, and Chinese law is quite strict.

Seasoned travellers recommend taking a few simple precautions to avoid potential problems. All Chinese hotels provide an in-room safe or locked security boxes at the front desk. Leave valuables at the hotel. Pickpockets and petty theft are usually the only problems to be on guard against. When in particularly crowded areas and while travelling through airports, train or bus stations, keep an eye on your baggage. If there is a problem report it immediately to a security guard or the police.

Useful Telephone Numbers: **Dial 110 for Police, 119 for Fire, 120 for Emergency**

Other Numbers: 113 for Long Distance Operator, 114 for Directory Inquiries and information, 115 for International Operator, 116 for Long Distance Inquiries, 117 for Time, 121 for Weather

### **Beijing City**

Beijing has a long history. As early as 500,000 years ago, ancient "Peking Man" lived at Zhoukoudian, 30 miles southwest of Beijing. King Wu was the first to declare Beijing the capital city in 1057 B.C. Established in 1045 B.C., Beijing is an ancient cultural city, serving for 800 years as the capital of the Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties.

Beijing was also known as Peking by the Western world before 1949. In the early nineteen twenties, Beijing became the cradle of China's new democratic revolution. The May Fourth Movement against imperialism and feudalism began in 1919. On October 1st, 1949, Chairman Mao announced to the world the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Beijing is also known as a tourist city for its many places of interest, including ancient architecture, royal gardens, mansions, towers, temples, palaces, and modern structures. It is a gathering place of artists and other talented people.

Airlines connect Beijing to more than 110 cities at home and abroad while the city boasts a fine railroad and highway system for local travelers. Urban construction has brought new changes to Beijing, building a unique combination of ancient civilization and modern metropolis.

## **PLACES OF INTEREST IN AND AROUND BEIJING**

**The Great Wall** is a symbol of the ancient Chinese civilization. Stretching 3,950 miles, The Great Wall was built as a defensive structure. It is listed in the United Nation's Education, Science and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage List in 1987. The best preserved and most imposing section of the wall is at Badaling, 50 miles north of Beijing and over 2,625 feet above sea level, but the magnitude and beauty of the wall can also be seen at Jinshanling, Mutianyu, and Simatai.

Construction of the Great Wall first began during the warring period of 476 - 221 B.C. In the beginning walls were built at some strategic points by different kingdoms to protect their own territories. After the first Emperor Qin Shihuang of the Qin Dynasty unified China in 221 B.C., he decided to have the individual walls joined together creating one Great Wall. It took more than 1 million people and more than 10 years to finish the work.

**The Forbidden City** is also known as the Palace Museum. It is the largest and most well preserved imperial residence in China today. Located in the center of Beijing, The Forbidden City was built between 1406 and 1420 under Ming Emperor Yongle, and served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. Ming Emperor Zhudi was the first emperor to live there. It is 3,150 feet long from north to south and 2,460 feet wide from east to west. It has 9,900 rooms and halls containing many precious relics. A 170-foot wide moat encircles the Forbidden City along with 32-foot high walls. There are four entrances, the Meridian Gate to the south, the Shenwu Gate (Gate of Military Prowess) to the north, the Xihua Gate (Western Flowery Gate) to the west, and the Donghua Gate (Eastern Flowery Gate) to the east.

The word "forbidden" is quite literal, as the imperial palace was heavily guarded and off-limits to ordinary people. As the residence for emperors and their families, most of the walls of the imperial palace were painted red and roofs were covered with yellow glazed tiles. The red and yellow combination forms a strong color contrast, representing the absolute authority, supremacy, and richness of feudal emperors. In 1987, UNESCO also listed the Forbidden City in the World Heritage List. It is the largest palace in the world.

**The Ming Tombs.** The Ming Dynasty lasted from 1368 to 1644. The Ming Tombs are a group of mausoleums of 13 Ming emperors, their empresses and their concubines. The tombs are located about 31 miles north of Beijing and are scattered across an area of 25 square miles. Two of the tombs, Changling and the most famous, Dingling, an underground palace, are open to the public.

**Tian'anmen Square.** Tian'anmen was built in 1417 and renovated in 1981; it was the symbol of New China. On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao at Tian'anmen Square proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China. Located in the center of Beijing, it is the largest city square in the world. It covers an area of 122 acres and is big enough to hold a half million people. Tian'anmen (the Gate of Heavenly Peace) was the front gateway to the imperial palace in the Ming and Qing dynasties. A picture of Tian'anmen is at the center of the Chinese national emblem.

**The Temple of Heaven** was built in 1420 during the reign of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty, and is located in the southern part of the city. It was the place where emperors of the Ming and Qing would pray to heaven for good harvests. It was one of the most strictly protected and preserved cultural heritages of China. It is the largest temple complex in China with 12 million people visiting the temple every year.

**The Summer Palace** was a grand imperial palace and a royal garden of the Qing Dynasty. Construction began in 1750, and today remains an outstanding example of imperial gardens in classical Chinese style.

The Summer Palace contains tens of thousands of precious cultural relics. This imperial garden features 3,000 rooms and covers an expanse of 17.3 acres, with more than 100 picturesque sites of interest.

**Beihai Park** was the imperial garden of the Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, and is one of the oldest of the Chinese gardens. Beihai Park is located on the west side of the Forbidden City, is a wide expanse of Tai Ye Chi. Tai Ye Chi is divided into three parts: Beihai Lake (in Beihai Park) in the north, Zhonghai Lake in the middle, and Nanhai Lake in the south. Beihai, the best known of the three, was turned into a royal garden as early as 1,000 years ago.

**Jingshan Park.** A royal garden of the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368 - 1911), Jingshan Park is located adjacent to the Palace Museum. The main purpose of Jingshan Park was for the emperors' enjoyment, climbing hills, admiring the scenery and eating and drinking. Within the park, Jingshan Hill covers an area of approximately 57 acres and rises to a height of 144 feet, from which visitors can oversee the entire city of Beijing. It is considered the best place for a panoramic view of the whole city.

**Beijing Zoo.** Built in 1906 and opened to the public in 1908, The Beijing Zoo is the oldest zoo in China, and covers an area of approximately 124 acres. The zoo's residents consist of more than 6,000 animals of over 500 species including giant pandas, golden monkeys, and brown bears. The zoo also houses many rare animals from other parts of the world: hippopotami, zebras, giraffes, chimpanzees, lions and antelopes from Africa, parrots from South America, birds and polar bears from the Arctic, bison from Europe and apes from Asia.

**Hutongs** are a special feature of downtown Beijing, where there are 4,550 of them. A hutong means street, lane and alley lined on both sides by courtyards containing different kinds of houses. The best-preserved hutongs are those around the Mansion of Prince Yixin. Riding in old-fashioned pedicabs through these hutongs is something special for your Beijing trip.



## Location of Hotel InterContinental Beijing Financial Street

red star marks the hotel

(Fuchengmennan is part of the Financial Street. Financial Street is the new name of this street)

