



## **IOPS COMMITTEE MEETINGS 28 February – 1 March 2011**

**Amman – Jordan**

### **Information Note for Participants**

The IOPS Meetings will take place from February 28th to March 1st 2011 in Amman-Jordan.

### **Registration**

Please note that the meeting is open to IOPS Members and IAIS Pension Coordination Group Members. Delegates are invited register by filling out the registration form of the event and sending it by email or fax to:

Ms. Sally Day-Hanotiaux, OECD/IOPS Secretariat  
E-mail: [sally.day-hanotiaux@oecd.org](mailto:sally.day-hanotiaux@oecd.org)  
Fax :+33 1 44 30 63 08

### **Conference venue**

The meetings will be held at the Grand Hyatt in Amman, which is a 5 star luxury hotel located in the business and diplomatic district Jabal Amman. Amman city centre is only two kilometres away. The preferred hotel for the discerning business traveller. Facilities at the hotel include a health centre, spa and a variety of specialty restaurants. The hotel is just 45 minutes from Queen Alia International Airport.



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

Mr. Shamel Narmuq	E-mail: <a href="mailto:shamel.narmuq@hyatt.com">shamel.narmuq@hyatt.com</a> Fax: +962 6 462 5881 Tel: +962 6 465-1234 Website: <a href="http://www.amman.grand.hyatt.com">www.amman.grand.hyatt.com</a>
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### **Accommodation**

We have obtained a negotiated rate with this hotel for participants of the Meetings. 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 should be made directly to the Grand Hyatt ([shamel.narmuq@hyatt.com](mailto:shamel.narmuq@hyatt.com))
- ✓ Guests must inform their credit card data during the booking and present the same credit card during check-in;
- ✓ The credit card informed at the booking will be used as guarantee for no show;
- ✓ The Payment for extra services must be made directly by each guest during check out by credit card or cash;
- ✓ Each participant of the Meetings is responsible for own reservation;

## **Visa for Jordan**

Most nationalities can obtain the visa upon arrival at the airport. Please contact your local Jordanian Embassy or Consulate for information on visa and entry requirements to Jordan. For further information about Jordanian Diplomatic Missions Worldwide, please visit the Jordanian Foreign Ministry Website [www.mfa.gov.jo](http://www.mfa.gov.jo)

The cost of one entry visa for all nationalities is JD 10 (around \$14).

If you have any difficulties in obtaining your visa, please contact:

Ms. Sherine Khair

Events Supervisor

Insurance Commission

Tel: +962-6-5656327

Fax: +962-6-5692838

E-mail: [skhair@irc.gov.jo](mailto:skhair@irc.gov.jo)

## **Airport transfers**

Queen Alia International Airport is 20 miles (32km) south of Amman. Taxis are available outside the arrival hall of the airport.

*Airport Taxi:* operate 24 hours a day. The cost is JD 19 (approximately USD 27) per car and the ride takes about 40 minutes.

## **Working languages**

The meeting and workshop sessions will be held in English.

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

Ms. Sally Day-Hanotiaux

Tel: +33 1 45 24 96 61

E-mail: [sally.day-hanotiaux@oecd.org](mailto:sally.day-hanotiaux@oecd.org)

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## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

### **Language**

The official language of Jordan is Arabic, but English is widely spoken – especially in Amman. Many Jordanians have travelled or have been educated abroad so French, German, Italian and Spanish are also spoken, but to a lesser extent.

### **Climate**

Jordan has a combination of mediterranean and arid desert climates, with mediterranean prevailing in the North and West of the country, while the majority of the country is desert. Generally, the country has warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters, with annual average temperatures ranging from 12 to 25 C (54 to 77 F) and summertime highs reaching the 40 C (105-115 F) in the desert regions. Rainfall averages vary from 50 mm (1.97 inches) annually in the desert to 800 mm (31.5 inches) in the northern hills, some of which falls as snow in some years.

In March the daytime temperatures aren't too extreme ranging from 6 to 17C, it can be cold and rainy in the north but is balmy by the Gulf of Aqaba and the Dead Sea.

### **Dress**

Jordan is primarily a Muslim country, although the freedom of all religions is protected. Women in Jordan are not required to wear headscarves or face covers, but very revealing clothing is never appropriate and conservative dress is advisable for both men and women in the old part of Amman (Downtown), and outside Amman. Shorts are rarely worn by either sex, and would be out of place in the downtown Amman area.

### **Currency**

Jordan's official currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JOD), which consists of 100 piastres or 1,000 fils. Notes are in denominations of JD 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1. Coins are in denominations of JD 1/2 and 1/4; 10, 5, 2 ½, 1 and 1/2 piastres (qirsh).

Foreign currency can be exchanged at most major banks, bureaux de change or at many hotels.

American Express, MasterCard and Visa are all widely accepted, and most hotels, restaurants and shops also accept payment by credit card. ATMs are found throughout Amman, as well as in larger towns.

Banks, currency exchange and ATMs facilities are available in Queen Alia International Airport.

### **Electricity**

200V; 50 cycles; rounded two-prong plugs are used. Transformers and adapters available widely.

## Medical Services

Medical services are excellent in the larger cities and towns and most doctors are bilingual in Arabic and English. Larger hotels have a doctor on call and embassies can also suggest doctors and hospitals.

## Shopping

American Express, VISA, and MasterCard are accepted at the majority of shops, although it is always a good idea to confirm this before buying. Occasionally a small discount is offered on cash sales. Visitors are encouraged to check the daily dollar rate at their hotels before going on a spree.

## Water

Water is a precious resource in Jordan and visitors are encouraged not to waste it. It is advised to stick to drinking bottled water, which is cheap and readily available.

## PLACES OF INTEREST IN JORDAN

### Amman



*The Roman Theatre in Amman.*

A sprawling city spread over 19 hills, or "jebels". Amman is the modern, as well as the ancient capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Known as Rabbath-Ammon during the Iron Age and later as Philadelphia, the ancient city that was once part of the Decapolis league, now boasts a population of around 1.5 million. Often referred to as the white city due to its low size canvas of stone houses, Amman offers a variety of historical sites such as the Citadel and the Roman Theatre.

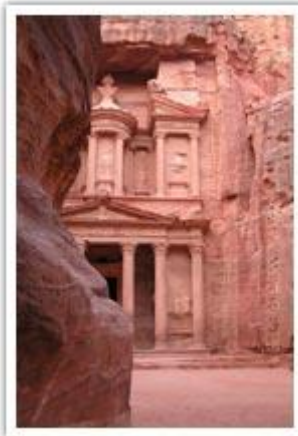
### Madaba



*The Mosaic at St. Georges Church in Madaba.*

The trip south from Amman along the 5,000-year-old Kings Highway is one of the most memorable journeys in the Holy Land, passing through a string of ancient sites. The first city to encounter is Madaba, "the City of Mosaics". The city, best known for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, is home to the famous 6th century mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

## Petra



*The Treasury at Petra.*

Petra the world wonder, is without doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and greatest tourist attraction. Located approximately three hours south of Amman, It is a vast, unique city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab people who settled here more than 2000 years ago, turning it into an important junction for the silk, spice and other trade routes that linked China, India and southern Arabia with Egypt, Syria, Greece and Rome.

## Wadi Rum



*On top of one of Wadi Rum's towering mountains.*

Wadi Rum is a protected area covering 720 square kilometers of dramatic desert wilderness in the south of Jordan. Huge mountains of sandstone and granite emerge, sheer-sided, from wide sandy valleys to reach heights of 1700 meters and more. Narrow canyons and fissures cut deep into the mountains and many conceal ancient rock drawings etched by the peoples of the desert over millennia. Bedouin tribes still live among the mountains of Rum and their large goat-hair tents are a special feature of the landscape.

## The Dead Sea



*The Dead Sea coastline with its spectacular salt crystal formations.*

At 410 meters below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest place on earth. Jordan's Dead Sea coast is one of the most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes in the world and it remains as enticing to international visitors today as it was to kings, emperors, traders, and prophets in antiquity.

## Jerash



*The Temple of Artemis at Jerash.*

A close second to Petra on the list of favourite destinations in Jordan, the ancient city of Jerash boasts an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6,500 years. The city's golden age came under Roman rule and the site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman provincial towns in the world.

## Aqaba



*The Fort at Aqaba.*

Famed for its preserved coral reefs and unique sea life, this Red Sea port city was in ancient times, the main port for shipments from the Red Sea to the Far East.

## Desert Castles



*Qusair Amra.*

Jordan's desert castles, beautiful examples of both early Islamic art and architecture, stand testament to a fascinating era in the country's rich history. Their fine mosaics, frescoes, stone and stucco carvings and illustrations, inspired by the best in Persian and Graeco - Roman traditions, tell countless stories of the life as it was during the eighth century.

## Art Galleries in Jordan



*Art Gallery in Amman.*

Jordan has a rapidly developing fine arts scene, including an increasing number of female artists. Today, artists from various Arab countries find freedom and inspiration in Jordan. The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Tel: 4630128, Fax: 4651119), for example, boasts a fine collection of paintings, sculptures and ceramics by contemporary Jordanian and Arab artists.

For more information about interesting places in Jordan please visit [www.visitjordan.com](http://www.visitjordan.com)