



CSC



IANAS CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007
Strengthening S&T in the Americas:
A Tool for Development, Social Inclusion and Democracy
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
CARIBBEAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY**
Margarita Island, Venezuela

7-9 June, 2007

In the name of the Academia de Ciencias Físicas, Matemáticas y Naturales de Venezuela, we would like to thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in the General Assembly of the Caribbean Scientific Community (CSC) and in the Conference and General Assembly of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences, IANAS, which will take place in Venezuela coming June. It will be a great pleasure for us to receive all of you and enjoy your company.

Please find below useful information:

1. VENUE

Hotel Laguna Mar

Pampatar, Sector Apostadero

Isla de Margarita

Venezuela

Tel. 58.295.4004000/2621985

Fax: 58.295.2621045

E-mail: www.lagunamar.com.ve

2. INFORMATION CENTRE

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Coordinator in Venezuela

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3. VISAS AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Based on international agreements, there are countries that don't need passport to enter the Venezuelan territory:

For other countries, it is necessary to present an effective passport with the corresponding visa, obtained in the country of origin at the Venezuelan Embassy or Consulate.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS

Venezuela is a country on the northern coast of South America.

It comprises a continental mainland and numerous islands in the Caribbean Sea. Venezuela borders Guyana to the east, Brazil to the south, and Colombia to the west. Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Curacao, Bonaire, Aruba and the Leeward Antilles lie just north of the Venezuelan coast. Falling within the tropics, Venezuela sits close to the equator.

The capital is Caracas, with a population of approximately 5 million people. It is located near the coast, but 800m above the sea level, what gives the city a very pleasant climate.

Caracas is located on the feet of Avila, a mountain with 2600 meters, where we can find the Magic Avila Park and the Humboldt Hotel. This is one of the best touristic attractions. At the height of 2100m we find ice skating rings and a most pleasant climate.

The Margarita Island is on the northeast coast, in the heart of the Caribbean Sea. More information can be found at:

www.ilemargarita-venezuela.com <<http://www.ilemargarita-venezuela.com/>>

www.trip-margarita.com <<http://www.trip-margarita.com/>>

www.vnezuelatuya.com/margarita <<http://www.vnezuelatuya.com/margarita>>

5. CLIMATE

Venezuela enjoys a tropical climate and has two very climatic stations: a rainy season, from May to December, with a temperature ranging between 25 and 31° C, and a mild one, with no rain and temperatures between 22 and 27° C, from January until April.

In Caracas the temperatures are around 25° C and in the Margarita Island, between 30 and 32° C throughout the year.

6. IN VENEZUELA YOU WILL FIND

- The highest waterfall of the world... Salto Angel or Kerepakupai - Merú
- The biggest lake of South America... Lago de Maracaibo
- The third longer river of South America..... Rio Orinoco
- The longest and highest cableway of the world. Teleférico de Mérida (Los Andes)
- The oldest rocks of the planet... El escudo Guayanés
- The most beautiful and charming Caribbean island.....Margarita

7. TIME ZONE

The official time in Venezuela is UTC-4.

8. CUSTOMS AND TRANSFER

During the flight to Venezuela you will be given papers to be filled in. You will be asked to declare your personal values and to hand in these forms to the immigration authorities.

Arriving at the International Airport Simon Bolivar, in Caracas, you shall transfer to the National Airport, which is approximately 500 meters away, where you will take your flight to Margarita Island.

The transference to the National airport is quite easy by taxi or even walking.

The flight Caracas-Margarita Island takes about 40 minutes. We will have a person from our staff waiting for you at the airport in Margarita Island, who will take you to the hotel.

The return procedure will be the same, with our personnel taking care of your transfers and other necessary details.

* Venezuelan authorities recommend arriving at the Simón Bolívar Airport 3 (three) hours in advance of the flight Caracas-Home town.

9. EXIT TAX

The present tax is of Bs. 131.712 (corresponding to USD 61,00), which includes the exit tax and airport rates

10. CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The national currency in Venezuela is the Bolivar. The official exchange rate is: Bs 2.150 = USD 1.00. Exchange services are offered at the International Airport in Caracas, in the Santiago Mariño's Airport in Margarita Island and in the Exchange Houses at the Island. We do not recommend currency operations at the Hotel.

Credit cards accepted are:

VISA
MASTER CARD
DINERS and
AMERICAN EXPRESS

11. ELECTRICITY

The electrical voltage in Venezuela is of 110, 60 cycles

12. DRESSING

Since we are having our Conference in a tropical, seashore Hotel, we suggest the use of light, sport or casual clothing. Though our natural environment is tropical, we shall remind that the meeting will be held in a room with air conditioner, thus a light sweater or a casual jacket is recommended.

Formal dressing is requested only during the Opening Ceremonies of both the CCC and IANAS meetings.

On June 8 an Official Dinner will be offered, but dressing is informal.

Do not forget to bring bathing suits.

13. SERVICES

The organization of the event will be at your disposal for helping with the flight tickets Caracas-Margarita Island-Caracas.

If you have trouble buying this ticket from your country please contact us. We will be happy to buy you your ticket and you can reimburse us when you get to the hotel. To make this arrangement, as well as to organize your transfer, please send us ASAP your travel details.

At Margarita Island, the transfer airport-hotel-airport will be offered by the organization.

In the hotel's website (www.lagunamar.com.ve <<http://www.lagunamar.com.ve/>>) you will find many other facilities that will be offered during your stay.

In addition, reconfirmation of flights, permanent support during the event, information about touristic attractions, purchases and internet services in the session room.

14. OBSERVATIONS

- For those participating in the IANAS Conference and General Assembly, the Academy of Sciences of Venezuela will be covering the expenses of 4 (four) nights of lodging, including the national meals and drinks, from 6 to 9 June at the most.
- For those who are going to participate on the Caribbean Scientific Community Assembly, the Academy will assume the costs related to 5 (five) nights of lodging, including the national meals and drinks, from 5 to 9 June.
- **All other expenses will be of the responsibility of the participant, what includes lodging and food of accompanying persons.**
- If you have plans of staying in Margarita Island before or after the indicated dates, we will be glad to help you with the necessary reservation.
- If you need a car for your personal locomotion, we can arrange the rental documents.
- In case you have any kind of alimentary restriction, please let us know in due time so that we can arrange special food for you.
- Also, if you have any kind of health problem or demand, please let us know so that we can provide all the necessary adaptations.

Hoping to offer you a pleasant trip to Venezuela and a happy stay in our country, we will be waiting for you!

Muchas gracias!