

**1ST AFRICA/MIDDLE-EAST EXPERT MEETING AND
WORKSHOP ON THE HEALTH IMPACT OF AIRBORNE DUST**

AMMAN, JORDAN, 2-5 NOVEMBER 2015

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 2

1. TIME AND PLACE

The World Health Organization/Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action (WHO/CEHA), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and State Meteorological Agency of Spain (AEMET), are organizing the 1st Africa/Middle-East Expert Meeting and Workshop on the Health Impact of Airborne dust, in Amman, Jordan, from 2 to 5 November 2015. The venue of the meeting will be the Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan.

2. LANGUAGE OF THE MEETING

The language of the meeting will be English with intermediate interpretation into Arabic.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The main objective of the Expert Meeting and Workshop is to assess the state of knowledge and encourage countries' actions with regard to impacts of airborne dust on public health in the Middle East and North Africa Region. The Expert Meeting and Workshop will promote active communication among dust-related service providers, African/Middle-Eastern national meteorological and hydrological services and relevant national and international environment, air-quality and public health agencies. An outcome of the workshop will be a set of recommendations addressed to policy-makers, managers, service providers and researchers aimed at raising awareness of the negative impacts of airborne dust on health and designing and implementing preparedness and mitigation measures. The Expert Meeting and Workshop will cover the following themes: Dust and Air Quality Measurement, Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning Systems; Air Quality Standards and Indices; Dust Causes & Transportation Paths; Health Hazards and Impacts Studies; Health Services and Preparedness; Economic Costs of Health; Response and Mitigation Measures on dust and health; and Inter-sectoral and inter-country cooperation frameworks and mechanisms.

4. TRAVEL OF PARTICIPANTS

The organizers (WHO/CEHA, WMO, UNEP/ROWA, EUMETSAT and AEMET) will sponsor the participants of a number of experts and representative from countries of the Region. Kindly liaise with your sponsoring organization for the travel and per diem arrangements. In any case, please note that the earliest arrival time to Amman will be 1 November 2015 and return by the first available flight after the closure of the Meetings. Participants will shortly be contacted (if not done yet) for their tickets. They should comply with the selected routing and see that their return reservations are confirmed before leaving their countries to Amman, Jordan. Self-purchase of ticket is not allowed and will requires the sponsor's prior written authorization. Any deviation over this routing would be at the traveler's expense, including additional travel days for which the sponsors bear no responsibility.

5. VISAS

Participants should obtain (if necessary), at their own cost, visas to enter Jordan before traveling. Should any assistance be required, they should contact either the WHO Representative or the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in their countries.

Meanwhile, WHO is prepared to assist participants from countries where Consular Authorities of Jordan are not available, in obtaining their visas on arrival at the airport of Amman, provided **AT LEAST ONE MONTH'S NOTICE** and full details are given in order to obtain the necessary clearances.

6. SECURITY PROCEDURES AT QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Security measures at Queen Alia International Airport are standard procedures, these procedures include, photographing and taking finger scanning of passengers regardless of nationality, all passengers including holders of UNLP have to pass through the same procedures.

7. HEALTH DOCUMENTS

Participants are kindly requested to check with the travel agents or Airline concerned regarding health requirements and should be in possession of valid certificate(s) for whichever vaccination is required. A yellow fever-vaccination certificate is required from travelers coming from infected areas.

8. INSURANCE

Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for accident, illness and baggage insurance if so desired.

9. CURRENCY

The monetary unit is the Jordanian Dinar (JD) subdivided into 1,000 fils. The WHO official rate of exchange of US\$ 1 is currently JOD 0.708, subject to the daily rate of exchange.

10. DAILY ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT

Sponsored participants will receive as soon as possible after arrival in Amman, a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the Meetings, including authorized travel time, as per our designated itinerary. In accordance with the rules of the UN, the allowance is paid from the first day of WHO designated travel over the most direct route up to the last day before the traveler returns home on the first available flight after the closure of the Meetings. **Beyond the payment of this allowance, the sponsors including WHO/CEHA accept no responsibility for the payment of the hotel bills, meals, taxis, visas, excess baggage charges, insurance, ground transport charges, airport taxes and other incidental expenses. These liabilities should be settled directly by participants**

11. ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements have been made for participants to stay at Kempinski Hotel, Abdul Hamid Shouman Street, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan. Telephone Number: +962 6 5200 200, Fax: +962 6 5200 214; website: www.kempinski.com

Please note that a block reservation has been made for participants attending the above Meeting and accordingly participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance (ad hoc per diem) based on their stay at Kempinski Hotel, in Amman, Jordan. In this respect, participants have to advise in case of NOT staying at Kempinski Hotel, otherwise, participants will bear the cost of the number of nights or any other cancellation fees requested by the hotel.

Hotel rates:

Single room	US\$ 114 (inclusive of taxes)
Double room	US\$ 132 (inclusive of taxes)

12. TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO KEMPINSKI

The WHO Rules does not allow offering transportation services from and to Queen Alia International Airport. Participants need to arrange for transportation at their own cost. The Kempinski Hotel is offering transport from the airport to the hotel at a cost of 40 Jordanian Dinars. If you are interested please share your flight details with hotel to arrange for a taxi. However, there are reliable and safe airport taxi services at Queen Alia international Airport 24/7. The rate is about 20 Jordanian Dinars. There is also a bus service 24/7. For more details please visit <http://qaiairport.com/en/content/transportation>

13. MAILING ADDRESS

Personal mail for participants whilst in Amman may be addressed as follows:

(NAME)
c/o Director
WHO Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action (CEHA)
P.O. Box 926967
Amman 11190
Jordan

Telephone : (+9626) 5524655, 5531657
Fax : (+9626) 5516591
E-Mail : emceha@who.int

Participants could be contacted at the hotel.

14. CLIMATE

The climate in Amman is broadly similar to that of the Mediterranean Basin. The rainy season extends from late October through to March or April, with the heaviest rains from January through to March, while there is an almost complete absence of precipitation during summer months. The low humidity during the dry season contributes to comfort.