



**United Nations Regional Workshop on the 2020 World
Programme on Population and Housing Censuses:
International Standards and Contemporary Technologies**

Colombo, Sri Lanka

8-11 May 2018

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. INTRODUCTION

This information note provides details on the organization of the workshop and logistical arrangements, along with other relevant information intended to assist your travel to Colombo, Sri Lanka and your participation in the workshop.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on substantive aspects of the workshop please contact the following United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) staff:

Mr. Srdjan Mrkic
Chief, Demographic Statistics
United Nations Statistics Division, New York
E-mail: mrkic@un.org

Ms. Meryem Demirci
Interregional adviser, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division, New York
E-mail: demircim@un.org

In case of emergency while in Colombo, please contact the following staff from Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka:

Mrs. Anoja Senevirathne
Director, Population Census and Demography
Mobile phone: +94 71 5471445
E-mail: anoja.seneviratne95@gmail.com

Mrs. Champika De Silva
Deputy Director, Population Census and Demography
Mobile phone: +94 71 3551410
E-mail: cham2004de@yahoo.com

3. WORKSHOP ORGANISATION AND COORDINATION

The regional workshop is organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the workshop is to introduce four recently revised/prepared international guidelines for population and housing censuses—the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 3)*, the *Handbook on the Management of Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 2)*, the *Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses and the Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Data Collection Technologies in Population and Housing Censuses*—and the standards, concepts and methods contained therein in order to facilitate national planning and

preparations for 2020 round censuses. The workshop will also provide a forum for reviewing national experience in, and document good practices on, the use of contemporary technologies including those for census mapping and data collection.

5. VENUE & DATE OF THE WORKSHOP

The venue of the workshop will be the **Hilton Colombo Residences** in Colombo.

Address: P.O Box 200, Union Place, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka;

Tel: +94(0)11 5344644-7;

E-mail: Manoj.piyasena@hilton.com;

Web: <http://www.hilton-colombo-residence-colombo-sri-lanka.en.wv.lk/index.html> .

The workshop will be conducted from 8 to 11 May 2018.

6. CONFERENCE PACKAGE

The conference package will include lunch and morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

7. LANGUAGE

The workshop will be conducted in English.

8. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants have to make their own arrangements with respect to getting a visa to enter Sri Lanka. They are responsible for checking with the embassy of Sri Lanka in their country to find out if they need a visa. If a visa is required, participants have to make necessary arrangements for getting a visa prior to arrival or on arrival (if this is an option).

General eligibility requirements for Sri Lankan Visas?

Sri Lanka Immigration and Emigration may grant or issue a visa to you if -

- I. Sri Lanka Immigration & Emigration is satisfied that you are suitable to enter Sri Lanka.
- II. Sri Lanka Immigration & Emigration approves the purpose for which you are entering Sri Lanka.
- III. You hold a passport valid for a minimum period of six months from the date you arrive in Sri Lanka.
- IV. Sri Lanka Immigration & Emigration is satisfied that you have adequate funds for your maintenance whilst in Sri Lanka and for the payment of your return passage to the country which issued your passport.
- V. You are in possession of a written assurance (ticket) to return to the country of domicile or a visa to the next country of destination if you are a visit visa holder.

General conditions of a Visit Visa

- You should not engage in any form of employment, paid or unpaid, or in any trade or business other than that specified in the visa during the period of your stay in Sri Lanka.
- Your visa must be utilized before the date of expiry noted on the visa.
- Validity of your visa is subject to entry into Sri Lanka during the indicated entry period.

9. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Participants are requested to collect their identification badges at the registration desk between 8:30 and 9:00 AM on Tuesday, 8 May 2018.

For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their meeting badges for the duration of the workshop.

10. TRANSPORT FROM AND TO AIRPORT

Participants traveling to Colombo will arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport, located 30 km north of Colombo.

Alternatively, public metered-taxis are available at the terminal building for journeys from the airport to hotels. Delegates should expect to pay a taxi fare of approximately LKR2500-3 000.

Useful information about transport from/to the airport and the passenger guide is available at the official website of the airport:

http://www.airport.lk/passenger_guide/passenger_guide.php

11. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements for hotel accommodations need to be made by individual participants at a hotel of their own choice.

A list of hotels in the vicinity of the workshop venue is provided below. Participants can contact hotels directly and make reservations. Some of the popular web sites for booking hotel rooms include: www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com, www.orbitz.com, www.travelocity.com

Please note that a credit card may be required for making reservations and participants should plan accordingly. Participants are highly recommended to reserve accommodation at their earliest possible.

| HOTEL | Contact Person Email, Phone, Web Address | More Information |
|----------|---|---|
| Galadari | Mr. Shamika De Silva, Shamika@galadarihotel.lk , +94112544544, +94770208739 | https://www.booking.com/hotel/lk/the-galadari-colombo-sri-lanka.html |
| Hilton | Manoj Piyasena Manoj.piyasena@hilton.com | https://www.booking.com/hotel/lk/hilton-colombo-residence.html |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| | +94115344644-7, +94115360502 | |
| Cinnamon Red Colombo | Ms. Dilmini Kulatilake, dilmini@cinnamonhotels.com +94112497238, +94773596358 | http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/cinnanonredcolombo |
| Renuka City Hotel Colombo | Ms. Mishal perera, am@renukahotel.com +94112573598, +94774512777, | www.renukahotel.com |

12. TRANSPORT TO ATTEND WORKSHOP

Participants choosing to stay in hotels other than the one where the workshop will be held should have to make their own transport arrangements for attending the workshop.

13. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Country requirement at entry: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers over 9 months of age arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transited for more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Polio vaccination certificate for travellers arriving from polio-endemic and polio-infected countries.

14. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION

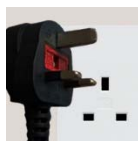


The weather in May is usually hot and rainy. There are relatively high temperatures averaging about 25-30°C. The month receives quite a bit of rainfall. Therefore, participants are suggested to bring light clothing and an umbrella.

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC +5:30 hours.

15. ELECTRICITY

The electrical currents are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz. The two types of plugs shown in the illustration below are used in the country.



16. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sri Lanka`s national currency is the Sri Lanka Rupee (LKR).

Currency exchange rate: The exchange rate fluctuates. The official exchange rates as of 19 April 2018 at the Central bank of Sri Lanka were: 1 USD = 158.1 LKR and 1 EUR=196.6 LKR and 1 GBP = 225.3 LKR . Currency exchange is available at banks, airports and major hotels in Sri Lanka. ATM services are also available at most hotels. See following link for more information. <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/rates-and-indicators/exchange-rates>

Credit and Debit Cards: American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted in Sri Lanka. Most shopping malls and big stores, hotels and restaurants in Sri Lanka accept major international credit cards. However, it is recommended to carry some cash since some small establishments and stores may not accept credit cards.

Tourist information: For tourist information, visit:

<http://www.srilanka.travel/index.php?route=common/home>