



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

Strengthening Data Compilation and Analytical Capacity

11-13 September, 2017

Suzhou, China

I. Introduction

The United Nations Statistics Division and the General Administration of Customs of China are jointly organizing a 3-day regional workshop on strengthening data compilation and analytical capacity for international merchandise trade statistics. It will be held from 11 to 13 September 2017 in Suzhou, China.

II. Working language

The working language of the workshop is English.

III. Time and venue

The workshop will be held at the Suzhou Training Centre of the General Administration of China Customs.

Address: Suzhou Taihu Lake National Tourism Resort in Wu Country of Suzhou
#58 Zhoushan Road
苏州太湖国家旅游度假区舟山路 58 号

The workshop sessions will begin at 09:00 AM, while afternoon sessions will start at 13:30 PM. The lunch break will be between 12:15-13:30 PM.

IV. Registration

Registration of participants starts at 8:30 AM, Monday, 11 September 2017 at the Customs Training Centre.

IV. Accommodation Reservation and Payment

All confirmed participants have an overnight room already reserved for them at the Customs Training Centre.

The hotel room is \$80 per night. Participants will pay the bills themselves upon check-out (credit cards are accepted).



Participants are strongly encouraged to stay at the Customs Training Centre, as there are not many other hotel options in Suzhou close to the Training Centre, and participants would be responsible for their own transportation to and from the workshop and would be personally responsible for other financial costs. However, if you choose to stay at another hotel, please e-mail lalabug@163.com and copy snydern@un.org.

V. Meals:

Buffet lunch and dinner will be available at the Customs Training Centre, at a cost of \$12.50 for lunch and \$12.50 for dinner. If you wish to make use of the option of meals at the Customs Training Center, please indicate so beforehand by writing to lalabug@163.com and copy snydern@un.org. Also, indicate if you have dietary restrictions.

VI. Local information

A: Arrival at the airport

The General Administration of Customs of China can reserve a pick-up service for participants (either from Suzhou Airport or Shanghai Airport to and from the workshop venue). The cost is \$45 each way from Shanghai Airport to the Customs

Training Center in Suzhou. Participants wishing to reserve this transportation services are asked to please fill out the Airport Pickup Form (attached as Annex I) and send to the contact details indicated in the form once their flights have been booked.

There are also trains from the main train stations in Shanghai to Suzhou, ranging in price from \$2 - \$18. The high-speed train ranges from \$6 to \$18 and depart from the ShangHai HongQiao train station (the station is just located under the Hong Qiao International airport. The ordinary, slower train, departs from the main Shanghai train station, but does not run very frequently. Upon arriving in SuZhou or SuZhou north train station, take the subway or bus to the Customs Training Center.

More information on the trains can be found here:

<https://www.travelchinaguide.com/china-trains/>.

B: Visa information

All participants are required to possess valid passports to enter the People's Republic of China. The General Administration of Customs of China will provide Visa Assistance letters to participants that have provided a copy of their national passport to the UN administrative team.

C: Exchange rate

China's unit of currency is the Renminbi (RMB). Major foreign currencies are exchangeable at banks. The exchange rate (as of July 2017) is 1 US Dollar ~ 6.8 RMB.

D: Weather

The average daily temperature in Suzhou during September is 27 °C (81 °F) during the day and 21 °C (70 °F) at night.

E: Electricity and Water Supply

The standard electricity supply in China is 220 Volts, 50 Hz, AC. Most plugs are two-pin and three-pin with flat pins.

Drinking tap water and un-boiled water is not recommended.

Welcome message

Distinguished guests,

Welcome to Suzhou Training Base of the General Administration of China Customs. It is located on the shore of Taihu Lake in Suzhou which is hailed as "Paradise on earth". It is also a branch campus of Shanghai Customs College.

As a noted historic and cultural city, Suzhou attracts millions of tourists from home and abroad with its unique charm. It is located in the southeastern part of Jiangsu Province, adjoining Shanghai in the east, Zhejiang Province in the south, Taihu Lake in the west, and the Yangtze River in the north. It covers an area of about 8,488 km², with an urban area of around 2,743 km². It has a population of 647,800, among which 329,000 are living in the urban areas.

Founded in 514 BC, Suzhou has over 2,500 years of history. Even the original city layout established in the Spring and Autumn Periods (770 BC-221 BC) is still preserved to this day, which is referred to as the "double chessboard" pattern of "parallel water and land; canals alongside streets". To this extend, Suzhou epitomizes the appearance of many regions south of the Yangtze River, which are typically characterized by small bridges over canals and streams, whitewashed walls and black tiles. There are 538 historical and cultural sites under special protection in Suzhou, including 34 national-level, and 106 provincial-level sites. In particular, there are nine most famous classical gardens here which have been listed as the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Humble

Administrator's Garden, Lingering Garden, Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty, Canglang Pavilion, Lion Grove Garden, Garden of Cultivation, and Lotus Park. Meanwhile, Kunqu and local Chinese Zither were also added to the List of Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. It is the home to a number of national historic and cultural towns, including Zhouzhuang, Tongli, Luzhi, Mudu and Shaxi, which are recognized as typical traditional towns south of the Yangtze River. Three quarters of Lake Tai are in Suzhou, and 8 out of the 13 most popular tourist attractions of Lake Tai are also in Suzhou.

WE, the Suzhou Training Base staff will spare no efforts to provide you with sincere and attentive services, and hope the beautiful environment here will leave you a memorable impression.

We wish the Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics a complete success, and wish you have an enjoyable stay in Suzhou.

Suzhou Training Base of the General Administration of China Customs
Branch Campus of Shanghai Customs College

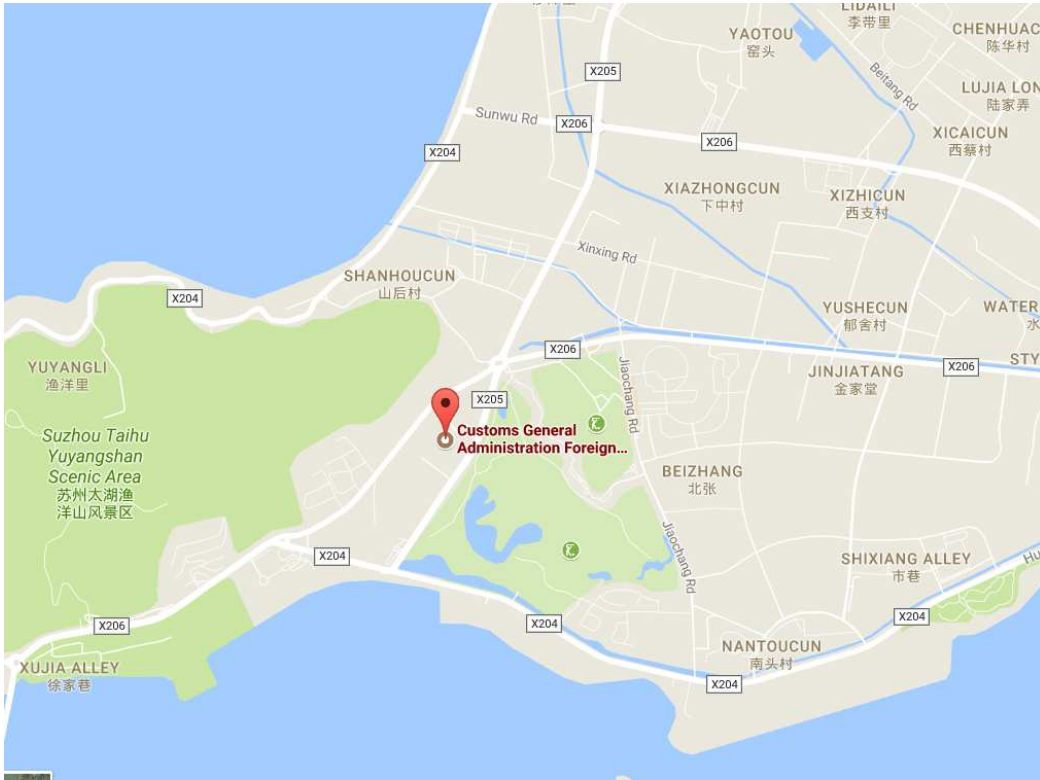


Address of Customs Training Centre:

Suzhou Taihu Lake National Tourism Resort in Wu Country of Suzhou

#58 Zhoushan Road

苏州太湖国家旅游度假区舟山路 58 号



<https://goo.gl/maps/Ev3g6gmK8Qr>

ANNEX I

AIRPORT PICK-UP FORM

Note: this transportation costs \$45 each way from Shanghai airport

Participant's name:

Country:

Arrival Date (D/MM/YYYY):

Airport:

Time of arriving flight:

Flight Number:

Departure date (DD/MM/YYYY):

Airport:

Time of departing flight:

Flight Number:

Requesting airport pick-up on arrival: Yes () No ()

Requesting airport drop-off on departure: Yes () No ()

**Please send this form to lalabug@163.com
and copy: snydern@un.org.**