



3rd Meeting of the GCOS Surface Reference Network (GSRN) Task Team

14-18 October 2024
Face-to-face (Xi'an, Shaanxi, China)



INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

GENERAL

1. The 3rd Meeting of the GCOS Surface Reference Network (GSRN) Task Team is scheduled to take place in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China from 14 to 18 October 2024.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

2. Participant who needs assistance in applying for an entry visa into China, please provide the personal information form attached and a copy of the front page of your passport and send them to Ms. Guo Xiao (gsrcn@cma.gov.cn) before 31 August.

ARRIVAL

3. Participants are expected to arrive in Xi'an China on **13** October and will be accommodated at the **Sheraton xian north city hotel**.

REGISTRATION

4. Participants will receive the badges and updated information on arrival. Please ensure that you always carry your badge with you during the meeting.

WORKING LANGUAGE

5. The working language will be English.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

6. Block reservations have been made at the Sheraton xian north city hotel. All information about the Hotel can be found [here](#).

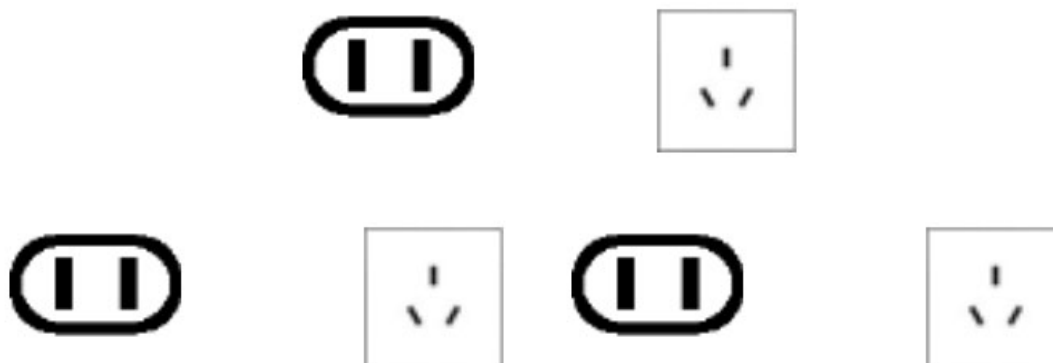
AIRPORT TRANSFER

7. The Shaanxi Meteorological Service will provide complimentary airport-hotel transportation. All the participants will be greeted at the International Arrival Exit of Xi'an Xianyang International Airport by staff holding a sign with **Shaanxi Meteorological Service**. Should you not meet our staff at the airport, you have the option to take a taxi to the hotel and the taxi fare should not exceed RMB150. Please always request the driver to use the taxi meter and get your receipt back in case you lose your belongings. If needed, do not hesitate to call the local organizer or request assistance from a person nearby to call the local organizer. Most of the Chinese will be happy to provide such assistance.

Please print the following signs and take them with you when you travel to Xi'an.

INTERNET FACILITIES AND ELECTRICITY

8. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the meeting rooms and hotel rooms. The standard voltage in China is 220 volts at 50Hz. The below plugs are usually used. If your appliances plug does not match these types, you may need a plug adapter.



CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND CREDIT CARDS

9. The Local currency is the Chinese Yuan (RMB), with the approximate exchange rate of 1 USD =7.26 RMB (Rates on 12 July, 2024). Major currencies can be exchanged at the banks nearby. The most common credit cards (e.g. Visa, MasterCard,) are widely accepted at major hotels and shopping malls.

CLIMATE

10. Weather statistics of Xi'an in
Mean daily maximum temperature: 19 °C
Mean daily minimum temperature: 10 °C
Average monthly rainfall: 65 mm
Average monthly number of rainy days: 6 days

Update weather information can be found on CMA's websites
(<http://www.weather.com.cn/english>, or <http://www.cma.gov.cn/en>).

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/MEDICAL SERVICES

11. Currently, there is no need to provide COVID-19 nucleic acid test results for entry into China. Up-to-date information on international travel and health is provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the following website:
<http://www.who.int/ith/countries/listc/en/>.

Medical services are of a high standard and most international prescription drugs are readily available through retail pharmacies. It is suggested that you bring personal medical insurance to cover any unforeseen medical needs during the trip.

TIME ZONE

12. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 8 hr

INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZER

13. For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Ms Guo Xiao (English)
China Meteorological Administration
Tel: +86 13810662614(Mobile)

OVERVIEW OF Xi'an

14. The City of Xi'an (lit. "Western Peace") is located south-west of Beijing, two hours by flight. Home to the renowned Terracotta Warriors and the impressive Bell Tower. Xian was China's capital in ancient times and was its trading and military base during the Tang Dynasty in the early 7th Century. It was also the starting point for many a traveler on the Silk Route made famous by the early adventurer Marco Polo.

15. Recommended Attractions
 - a. **Terracotta Army:** The Terracotta Army is a collection of over 8,000 life-sized clay soldiers, horses, and chariots that were buried with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. This remarkable archaeological site was discovered in 1974 and has since become one of China's most popular tourist destinations.
 - b. **Xian City Wall:** The Xi'an City Wall is one of the best-preserved ancient city walls in China. Spanning over 13 kilometers, it encloses the historic center of Xi'an. Visitors can walk or cycle on top of the wall and enjoy panoramic views of the city.
 - c. **Giant Wild Goose Pagoda:** The Giant Wild Goose Pagoda is a Buddhist pagoda that was built in the Tang Dynasty. It stands at 64 meters tall and offers a great vantage point to enjoy the cityscape.
 - d. **Shaanxi History Museum:** The Shaanxi History Museum is a comprehensive museum that show cases the history and culture of Shaanxi Province. It houses a vast collection of artifacts, including pottery, bronzes, calligraphy, and Tang Dynasty murals.
 - e. **Muslim Quarter:** Located in the heart of the city, the Muslim Quarter is a vibrant neighborhood known for its Islamic culture and cuisine. Visitors can explore the bustling market streets, sample local snacks, and visit the Great Mosque, which is one of the oldest and largest mosques in China.
 - f. **Bell Tower and Drum Tower:** The Bell Tower and Drum Tower are iconic symbols of Xi'an. The Bell Tower, built in 1384, houses a large bell that was used to mark the time in ancient times. The Drum Tower, located nearby, features a huge drum that was used to keep time and warn of emergencies.