



## **INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (ICPEN)**

**Panama City, Panama**

**October 8, 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE FOR DELEGATES**



The Republic of Panama is a country located on the southwest of Central America, bounded on the North with the Caribbean Sea, on the South with the Pacific Ocean, on the East with the Republic of Colombia and on the West with the Republic of Costa Rica.

Its conditions of a country of transit make it a cultural meeting point from around the world. The country is the geographical stage of the Panama Canal, designed to facilitate communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans which has influenced significantly world commerce. For its geographical position, currently offers a wide platform of maritime, commercial, real estate and financial services, among them, the Colon Free Zone, the largest free zone of the continent and the second largest in the world.

### **Description of the Event**

The ICPEN Conference and Workshops will take place in the Megapolis Convention Center, Panama city, during October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

[info.mcc@megapolisconvention.com](mailto:info.mcc@megapolisconvention.com)

### **Register for the ICPEN**

On October 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, in the Megapolis Convention Center, from 8:00 a.m., participants can register and will be given their accreditations for the ICPEN Conference and Workshops.

### **Contacts of the Consumer Protection and Competition Defense Authority (ACODECO)**

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### **Coordinator**

- **Consumer Protection and Competition Defense Authority (Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la Competencia ACODECO)**

## **Participants**

- Member and Partner Countries of ICPEN and Observers.

## **Objective**

- To Generate and to exchange information and intelligence on consumer protection issues.
- To share the best practices in legislative topics and consumer protection enforcement.
- To take actions to combat cross-border violations of consumer protection laws.
- To facilitate effective cross-border remedies.
- To identify and to promote measures for consumer protection enforcement.
- To promote and to encourage greater participation and cooperation with other consumer protection organizations.

## **Program**

- ICPEN Conference and Workshops Agenda is Attached

## **Participants Profile**

- Consumer Protection Authorities and Agencies, their officials and related organizations involved in consumer protection topics.

## **Accreditation**

- ACODECO will offer all participating members, partners and observers from official delegations credentials for the ICPEN Conference and Workshops. Credentials will be given on October, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at the Megapolis Convention Center

## **Computer Center**

- In the Megapolis Convention Center participants will have computers with internet access, printers, scanners and copier machines.

## **Food**

- ACODECO will offer lunch
- On October 9<sup>th</sup>, ACODECO will host a gala dinner for delegations participating in the ICPEN Conference and Workshops in the Miraflores Locks Visitors Center.

## **Information of the hotels near to the event place**

The Megapolis Convention Center is located in a central and commercial area of Panama City, surrounded by many business, hotels and banks. Its precise address is at Balboa Ave, Multicentro Commercial center, level 9, Panama City.

HOTELS LIST					
HOTEL	SINGLE ROOM	DOUBLE ROOM	% TAX	RESPECTIVE TOTAL	DETAILS
Plaza Paitilla Inn	99.00	109.00	10%	109.90 & 119.90	Single Room with a King size bed and double room with 2 double bed. Including Buffet breakfast, Wifi and a welcome Cocktail
Four Point Sheraton	132.00	154.00	included	132.00 & 154.00	Single room with a Queen bed and double with 2 double bed. Including breakfast buffet and wifi
Wyndham Garden	125.00	145.00	10%	137.50 & 159.50	Single room with King size bed , double room with 2 queen size bed. including breakfast buffet & wifi
Sheraton Panamá	169.00	169.00	10%	185.90	Single room with king size bed and double room with 2 double bed.
The Saba Hotel, Vía Argentina	104.50	115.50	included	104.50 & 115.50	Single room with a double bed size and a double room with 1 double bed and ¾ bed. Including wifi, business center, breakfast buffet and local calls.
Hard Rock Hotel	150.00	150.00	included	150.00	Bed can be King size or double. Including breakfast buffet, \$25.00 match play for the casino, \$20.00 for daily drinks for each room (not combinable), internet, discount for the mall multicentre, gym and pool.

- We recommend to make reservations as soon as possible to prevent prices changes.

### Air Ticket Discount

Copa Airlines will offer 20% discount on its airline ticket to all participants of the ICPEN Conference and Workshops under the following conditions:

- Valid Discount for booked rate in the regular Economy Class available. The penalty for any change of date will be under Copa Airlines regulations.
- Discount does not apply on advertised promotional tariffs on Executive Class, internet tariffs, travel packages, neither are permitted upgrades to another Class.
- The trip should be exclusively to participate in the ICPEN Conference and Workshops, although the “fare basis” been for 30 days or more.
- The airline tickets must be purchased directly from Copa Airlines offices. The discount applies only for direct sale from Copa Airlines offices and does not apply if bought through a travel agency.

## **GENERAL INTEREST INFORMATION**

### **Money Exchange**

The official currency is the Balboa, however the US Dollar (USD \$) is widely used nationwide.

### **Weather**

In Panama City only have two seasons: dry and rainy seasons. October is a rainy season.

### **Entry Requirements**

- The Immigration National Service of Panama requires that tourists have one of the following documents (in both cases passport is required):
  - Tourist Visa issued by a Panamanian Consulate in your country, valid for 90 days. The cost for visa varies, depends each country.
  - Tourist Card, available for USD\$5.00 and can be obtained with the airline. The card is valid for 90 days without prejudice of what is established by international agreements ratified by the Republic of Panama and the principles of reciprocity (tourist card is valid for people from countries exempt of the tourist visa requirements).
- For more information for entry requirements to Panama, please contact the Panamanian Embassy or Panamanian Consulate in your country or visit the website of the Immigration National Services [www.migracion.gob.pa](http://www.migracion.gob.pa)
- List of Embassy and Consulates of Panama <http://www.mire.gob.pa/contenido.asp?elemind=4716>

### **Taxes**

- All goods, except food, are subject to a 7% sales tax (named ITBMS). A tourist tax of 10% it's including for hotels.

### **Time Zone**

- Panama is located in the time zone **-5 GMT** and has no time changes during the year.

## **Tips**

- Usually paid 10% tips of total bill in many restaurants, but is not mandatory, unless it is advertised on the menu or in a sign in the restaurant. Before paying for a tip, be sure that the place does not include it on the bill..

## **Vaccines**

- We suggest to all visitors to find information with the Panamanian Consulate in your country because many countries require the yellow fever vaccine and its proof is required to entry in the country.

## **Passport**

- Please check the effective date of your passport because you will need it to travel to Panama.

For more information about required documentation to entry Panama, please visit the website [www.migracion.gob.pa](http://www.migracion.gob.pa)

## **Airport Taxes**

- Passengers have to pay USD\$20.00 to leave the county through the airport. Sometimes this tax is included in the airline ticket cost. You have to check with the airline in your country.

## **Communications**

- Panama has direct international dialing service and also mobile service, fax, telex, cable, radio, television and internet. Our international code is 507.

## **Electricity**

- In Panama the A.C. of 110 volt current is used.

