

## **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**



### ***“Enhancing Consumer Protection in a Global Economy”***

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.

### **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.

### **Register for the ICPEN**

Participants must make their registration in the following link: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/VZGSJX2> )

On October 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, in the Megapolis Convention Center, from 8:30 a.m., participants can register and will be given their accreditations for the ICPEN Conference and Workshops.

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

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### **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.

### **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 8:30 a.m. at the Megapolis Convention Center.

### **Computer Center**

- Participants will have access to computers with internet, printers, scanners and copier machines.

### **Food**

- Lunch will be offered by ACODECO at the Megapolis Convention Center's restaurant.

### **Cultural Activities**

- On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, a field trip will take place on the Miraflores Lock Visitors Center, where a film on the Panama Canal construction and operation is going to be shown to participants to the ICPEN Conference and followed by dinner hosted by ACODECO.
- And, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, participants for the Workshops will enjoy a trip to several attractions of Panama City.

### **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 businesses, hotels and banks. Its precise address is at Balboa Ave, Multicentro Commercial center, level 9, Panama City.

Following, we submit to your consideration a list of hotels that may be of interest for their proximity to the Megapolis Convention Center:

Hotel	Contact Person	Reservation Code	Single Room	Double Room	% Tax	Details
Hotel Hard Rock Café	Julio Sánchez <a href="mailto:julio.sanchez@decapolishotel.com">julio.sanchez@decapolishotel.com</a>	ACODECO	\$150.00	\$150.00	incluido	Bed can be King size or Double. Including breakfast buffet, internet.
Decapolis Hotel	Julio Sánchez <a href="mailto:julio.sanchez@decapolishotel.com">julio.sanchez@decapolishotel.com</a>	ACODEC	\$130.00	\$130.00	incluido	Single or Double rooms with 1 King size bed or 2 double beds. Includes: Breakfast Buffet and wifi.
Plaza Paitilla Inn	Gabriela González <a href="mailto:ggonzalez@plazapaitillainn.com">ggonzalez@plazapaitillainn.com</a>	98069	\$94.00	\$104.00	10%	Single room with a King size bed and double room with 2 double beds. Including Breakfast Buffet, Wifi.
Hotel Intercontinental Miramar Panama	---	---	\$150.00	\$170.00	10%	Includes Deluxe or Executive floor (according to type of room reserved), breakfast buffet & internet de courtesy Internet in rooms.
Hotel Riu	Tatiana Angulo <a href="mailto:tangulo@riu.com">tangulo@riu.com</a>	---	Deluxe Room \$129.00	Executive Room \$159.00	10%	All prices apply on single/double occupation. Includes International Breakfast Buffet and wireless Internet.
Four Point Sheraton	Ruth Riasco <a href="mailto:rriasco@fourpointspanama.com">rriasco@fourpointspanama.com</a>	EVENTO ICPEN	\$100.00	\$100.00	10%	Deluxe single room with Queen size bed and Double room with 2 double beds. Including breakfast buffet & wifi.
Hotel Courtyard by Marriot	Ashley Aguilar <a href="mailto:panama@courtyard.com">panama@courtyard.com</a>	----	\$219.00	\$219.00	10%	King size bed, breakfast buffet, internet, use of business centre & community desk.

Wyndham Garden	Victoria De La Cruz <a href="mailto:vdelacruz@wyndham.com">vdelacruz@wyndham.com</a>	1166713	\$80.00	\$80.00	10%	Single with King bed studio type & Double room with 2 queen beds. Includes breakfast buffet & Wifi.
The Saba Hotel, Vía Argentina	Giselle Valdivieso <a href="mailto:inglle@thesabahotel.com">inglle@thesabahotel.com</a> / <a href="mailto:fd@thesabahotel.com">fd@thesabahotel.com</a>	ACODECO	\$104.50	\$115.50	incluido	Single room with 1 double bed & Double room with 1 double bed and 1 3/4 bed. Includes wifi, bussiness centre, breakfast buffet and local calls. <i>Halal Occupation &amp; Food.</i>

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

## PANAMA GENERAL INTEREST INFORMATION

### Official Currency

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

### Weather

Panama City only has two seasons: dry and rainy seasons. October is on rainy season, when the weather is hot and humid. .

### Entry Requirements

As follows, we have: A- List of countries that require an Authorized Entry Visa, which have to be submitted and processed with two (2) months anticipation; B- List of countries that require a Stamped Visa; and C- List of countries that do not require an Entry Visa for the Republic of Panama:

#### **A. COUNTRIES THAT REQUIRE AN AUTHORIZED ENTRY VISA**

The participants from countries that require an authorization to obtain an authorized entry visa, will have to fill out a form for Visa Request from this link:

<http://www.migracion.gob.pa/Archivos%20en%20pdf/FORMULARIOS/visa-turista.pdf> and send it to us fully completed with copy of his/her passport to: [panama@acodeco.gob.pa](mailto:panama@acodeco.gob.pa)

All documents will be then send to the National Immigration Service for processing, which will decide the granting of the Entry Visa or ask for new requirements.

Afghanistan	Chad	Iran	Morocco	Democratic People's Rep. of Korea	Turkmenistan
Albania	Djibouti	Iraq	Mauritania	Rwanda	Uganda
Algeria	Egypt	Jordan	Mozambique	Senegal	Uzbekistan
Azerbaijan	Eritrea	Kazakhstan		Sierra Leone	Yemen
Bahrain	Ethiopia		Nepal	Syria	Zambia
Bangladesh	Gambia	Kyrgystan	Niger	Somalia	
Benín	Guinea	Laos	Nigeria	Sri Lanka	
Burkina Faso	Guinea Bissau	Lesotho	Oman	Sudán	
Burma	Equatorial Guinea	Lebanon	Pakistan	Suriname	
Burundi	Haiti	Liberia	Palestine	Tanzania	

Côte d'Ivoire	India	Libya	Dem. Rep. of Congo	Tajikistan
Cuba	Indonesia	Mali	People's Rep. of China	Tunisia

For more information on the required documents for entry to our country, please Access to <http://www.migracion.gob.pa>. and also, verify the list of embassies and consulates in Panama on the web at <http://www.mire.gob.pa> .

## **B. COUNTRIES THAT REQUIRE STAMPED VISA**

Participants from countries that require a Stamped Visa must approach the nearest Panamanian Consulate in their country. There, the necessary information and documents will be provided to process their visas.

Cameroon
Russian Federation
Ghana
Malawi
Central African Republic
Rep.of the Congo
Dominican Republic
Swaziland
Togo
Zimbabwe
Philippines

## **C. COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE VISA.**

The following countries do not require an entry visa to Panama:

Germany	Brunei	Estonia	Kiribati	Norway	Sao Tomé y Príncipe
Andorra	Bulgaria	Fiji	Kuwait	New Zealand	Serbia
Angola	Cape Verde	Finland	Latvia	Netherlands	Seychelles
Antigua and Barbuda	Cambodia	France	Liechtenstein	Palau	Singapore
Saudi Arabia	Canada	Gabon	Lithuania	Papua New Guinea	St. Lucia
Argentina	Chile	Georgia	Luxembourg	Paraguay	South Africa

Armenia	Cyprus	Grenada	Macedonia	Peru	Sweden
Australia	Colombia	Guatemala	Madagascar	Poland	Switzerland
Austria	Rep.of South Korea	Guyana	Malaysia	Portugal	Thailand
Bahamas	Costa Rica	Honduras	Maldives	Qatar	Taiwan
Barbados	Croatia	Hungary	Malta	United Kingdom	Tonga
Belgium	Denmark	Ireland	Mexico	Czech Rep.	Trinidad and Tobago
Belize	Dominica	Iceland	Micronesia	Hellenic Rep.	Turkey
Bhutan	Ecuador	Comoro Islands	Moldova	Sahrawi Rep.	Tuvalu
Belarus	El Salvador	Marshall Island	Monaco	Romania	Ukraine
BNO (British National Overseas)	United Arab Emirates	Solomon Island	Mongolia	Samoa	Uruguay
Bolivia	Slovak Rep.	Israel	Montenegro	Saint Kitts & Nevis	Vanuatu
Bosnia – Herzegovina	Slovenia	Italy	Namibia	San Marino	Venezuela
Botswana	Spain	Jamaica	Nauru	St. Vicente & the Granadines	Vietnam
Comoras	Kenya	United States of America	Mauritius	Nicaragua	Japan
Brazil					

### 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 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 some countries require the yellow fever vaccine and its proof is required to entry the 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 AC of 110 volt current is used.

