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## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

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**WIPO/TK/MCT/11/INF/2 PROV.  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
DATE: JUNE 3, 2011**

# **Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development: Documentation and Registration of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions**

*organized by*  
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

*and*

the Public Authority for Craft Industries (PACI), the Sultanate of Oman

**Muscat, Oman, June 26 to 28, 2011**

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

*prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO*

## 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM AND RELATED EVENTS

### Organizers

An International Symposium on the “Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development: Documentation and Registration of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions” is being organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in cooperation with the Public Authority for Craft Industries (PACI), in Muscat, Oman, from June 26 to 28, 2011.

### Objectives

The objective of the symposium is to offer an international platform for experts to discuss and exchange experiences on the role and implications of documentation and registration in relation to the intellectual property (IP) protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). The experts will (a) share and examine the experiences of national, regional and international registration and documentation systems, and (b) explore models for the use of documentation, databases, registries, inventories and other information systems for the defensive and/or positive protection of TK and TCEs against misappropriation and misuse.

### Venue and Dates

The Symposium will be held from June 26 to 28, 2011, at the following hotel in Muscat:

Crowne Plaza  
1730 Qurum Street  
Muscat 112, Oman  
(0)2466 0660  
Web address: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/mschc>

### Opening Ceremony

The Symposium will be inaugurated at 9.00 hrs on Sunday, June 26, 2011, by a VIP from the Government of Oman, and Mr. Wend Wendland, Director, Traditional Knowledge Division, World Intellectual Property Organization.

### Working Language

The working languages for the Symposium are English and Arabic. Working documents will also be in English and Arabic. All documents will be made available on the WIPO website at [http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2011/wipo\\_tk\\_mct\\_11/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2011/wipo_tk_mct_11/index.html).

### Working Sessions

The Symposium will have five sessions as mentioned in the provisional program.

### Equipment for Presentations

A projector with a computer with MS-PowerPoint™ will be available in the conference room in the hotel.

### Social Events

All participants and speakers are cordially invited by PACI to a dinner planned in the evening of June 26. Details will be announced in due course.

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

### Nomination by Governments

International participants, whose travel and subsistence expenses are borne by WIPO, should be nominated by their governments, with duly filled-out and signed official participation forms sent to WIPO.

### Oman Entry Visa

All international participants and speakers from outside Oman are required to obtain their Oman entry visas at the Embassies or Consulates of Oman in their respective countries.

In case of difficulty, the contact person to facilitate visa requests for Oman is:

Mr. Ismail Alomar or Mr. Salim Rashdie  
Public Authority for Craft Industries (PACI)  
PO Box 818, Postal Code 130  
Al-Azaiba  
Sultanate of Oman  
Tel: (+ 968) 245 25 805 or 807  
Fax: (+ 968) 245 25 830  
Mobile: (+968) 993 35 353  
Email: *alomar\_008@hotmail.com* or *salim3\_9@yahoo.com*

Mr. Ismail Alomar should be provided with the following details with respect to clearance of Oman entry visas: Name; Father's/husband's name; Date of birth; Place of birth; Nationality and passport number; Date of Issue; Place of issue; Date of Expiry; and Address. A copy of the same should be sent to the WIPO contact person, Ms. Shizette Parker (*shizette.parker@wipo.int*).

Should there be no Embassy or Consulate of Oman in a particular country, any participant or speaker is requested to inform Mr. Ismail Alomar with a copy to the WIPO official without delay of his/her passport details (as outlined above) to ensure that the visa is arranged before traveling.

### Ticket Arrangements

For each international participant whose travel and subsistence expenses are borne by WIPO, a round-trip economy-class air ticket between his/her home and Muscat by the most direct and economical route will be provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in their country, on behalf of WIPO. Participants should arrive in Muscat on June 25, 2011, and depart from Muscat on June 29, 2011, or the nearest possible date.

For invited international speakers, whose participation is funded by WIPO, separate ticket arrangements will be made.

### Daily Subsistence Allowance and Terminal Expenses for Duly Nominated Participants

WIPO will request the respective UNDP Office, which makes the air ticket arrangements, to pay the duly nominated sponsored international participants from outside Oman a special daily subsistence allowance (DSA) on its behalf, based on the United Nations DSA rate applicable to Muscat. In addition to the above DSA, a lump-sum payment will be made through the UNDP Office to cover terminal expenses, i.e., expenses for local transportation between cities and airports, airport taxes, and any other miscellaneous expense items concerning their travel.

Any other expenses incurred by the participants during the official period of the Symposium for any reasons, except unavoidable flight arrangements, shall be borne by the participants.

#### On-site Registration

Participants are requested to register online for the Symposium at

[http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/registration/form.jsp?meeting\\_id=22484](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/registration/form.jsp?meeting_id=22484)

Arrangements will be made for delivery of badges and documents before the start of the Symposium on June 26, 2011.

### 3. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

For participants and speakers from outside Oman, reservation of single-rooms has been made at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Muscat for the period June 25 (check-in from 2 p.m. onwards) to June 29 (check-out till 12 noon).

Crown Plaza Hotel  
1730 Qurum Street  
Muscat 112, Oman  
Hotel Front Desk: 968-24-660660  
Hotel Fax: 968-24-660600  
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/mschc>

Participants are required to make their own hotel room reservation, indicating clearly that the reservation is made in relation to the WIPO-PACI International Symposium, in order to benefit from the discount rate.

All participants and international speakers are required to settle their own hotel bills (including accommodation, services, etc.) themselves. For payment to the hotel, all major credit cards will be accepted.

Each participant is requested to inform Mr. Ismail Alomar, as soon as possible, of his/her itinerary, i.e., check-in and check-out dates and the flight numbers and expected times of arrival and departure, as well as his/her name, title and name of country, with a copy to WIPO contact person Ms. Shizette Parker.

#### On Arrival at the Airport

On arrival at the Muscat International Airport, PACI will arrange shared transport for participants, based on the arrival information communicated.

### 4. WIPO OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Further information about the Symposium may be requested from:

Ms. Brigitte Vézina  
Legal Officer  
Traditional Knowledge Division  
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-338 8475  
Fax: +41-22-733 8120  
E-mail: [brigitte.vezina@wipo.int](mailto:brigitte.vezina@wipo.int)

Mrs. Martine Coppola  
Administrative Assistant  
Traditional Knowledge Division  
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-338 8141  
Fax: +41-22-733 8120  
E-mail: [martine.coppola@wipo.int](mailto:martine.coppola@wipo.int)

Ms. Shizette Parker  
Secretary  
Traditional Knowledge Division  
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-338 7431  
Fax: +41-22-733 8120  
E-mail: [shizette.parker@wipo.int](mailto:shizette.parker@wipo.int)

## 5. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

### Climate

In June, Muscat is hot, with average temperatures ranging from 30 to 40 degrees Celsius.

### Local Time and Electricity

The local time for Muscat is UTC + 4 hours. The electric power provided in Oman is 220V-240V, 50Hz. The plug type used is Type British BS-1363.

### Currency

Oman's local currency is the Omani Rial (OMR). The exchange rate is approximately 1 rial = 2.60 U.S. dollars (subject to change). Currency exchange counters are available at the airport before exiting the Customs area but there are also several money changers in the city and at the hotel.

### For More Information on Muscat

For more information about Muscat, participants may wish to visit the Oman Tourism official website (<http://www.omantourism.gov.om/wps/portal/mot>).

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