



JOINT CONFERENCE ON REMITTANCES

12-13 September 2005

ADB, Manila, Philippines

**“Remittances and Poverty Reduction:
Learning From Regional Experiences and Perspectives”**

CONFERENCE ADVISORY FOR PARTICIPANTS

Overview of the Conference

The conference aims to provide a forum that will allow key stakeholders to actively share best practices and experiences in the area of remittances, generate ideas to enable overseas workers to remit funds with greater ease and reliability, and to promote the use of such funds for poverty reduction and development initiatives. It is the first such event to be jointly held by the ADB, UNDP and the IDB, as a means to promoting dialogue, exchanging perspectives, and sharing key learning experiences on an inter-regional basis.

Session topics include:

- Understanding Remittances
- Regional Characteristics of Remittances
- Remittances and Anti-Money Laundering Efforts
- Remittance Intermediation and Technology
- Securitization of Remittances
- Channeling Funds to Rural Areas Through Microfinance
- Financial Literacy and Philippine Government Support to Migrant Filipinos
- Housing
- Social Impacts of Remittances

Profile of Participants

Conference participants will include representatives from international organizations, Central Banks, the banking sector, money transfer and remittance agencies, credit institutions, government financial institutions, academic and research institutions, non-government organizations, and other private and government sector agencies that share a common interest and stake in the improvement of remittance policies and procedures, and in the promotion of best practices in remittances.

Date and Venue

The conference will be held on September 12 to 13, 2005 at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters in Manila, Philippines. The ADB Headquarters is located at 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

Accommodation

Participants are advised to make their own accommodation arrangements. Participants are encouraged to book their accommodations at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, given its proximity to the conference venue and the preferred rates offered to conference participants. Shuttle service to and from the conference venue will also be available for free at the hotel

(morning and afternoon). Airport transfers are also available upon request with applicable hotel tariffs. Participants are advised to inform the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel representative that they are making the subject booking in connection with the Joint Conference on Remittance 2005 which is being co-organized by the ADB, to avail of the special rates.

For hotel bookings, please contact:

Ms. Doris Tiu, Senior Account Manager

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

Tel. No.: (632) 633-8888; 636-9050

Fax No.: (632) 631-1063

<http://www.shangri-la.com/manila/edsashangri-la/en/index.aspx>

Hotel Rates: Tower Superior, Double Occupancy at USD 115 net (with breakfast)

Tower Superior, Single Occupancy at USD 105 net (with breakfast)

Other hotel options for participants are as follows:

Hotel	Rates	Contact Person
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila 1 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City	De Luxe Room – USD 85 net Studio Suite – USD 95 net	Leslie Soriano Sales Manager Tel. No. (632) 633-7222
	Airport transfer – PhP 1,275/way http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/6c/1/en/hd/mnlgl	
Discovery Suites 25 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Junior Suite – USD 95 One Bedroom Suite – USD 100	Ellen Monastrial Account Executive Tel. No. (632) 683- 8204, 635-2222
	Airport transfer – PhP900/way http://www.discoverysuites.com/main.htm	
The Richmond Hotel 21 San Miguel Avenue cor. Lourdes St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Superior Room – USD 80	Sheila Castro Sales Manager Tel. No. (632) 638-7777
	Airport transfer – PhP 990/way http://www.richmondhotel.com/	
The Linden Suites 37 San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Superior Room – USD 70	Kathleen Ramos Account Manager Tel. No. (632) 638-7878
	Airport transfer – PhP 1,200/way http://www.lindensuites.com	

*Rates are subject to change without prior notice. Cost for airport transfers range from US\$17 - US\$23.

Conference participants are advised to make their reservations as early as possible to be assured of room availability. Participants are also advised to inform the Conference Management Secretariat, Attention: Precious Leaño, through e-mail address precious@eon.com.ph or through fax number (632) 8926769, upon confirmation of their booking arrangements.

Travel / Entry Arrangements

Conference delegates are expected to make their own flight arrangements.

Except for stateless persons and those from countries with which the Philippines has no diplomatic relations, visitors are allowed to enter the country without visas for a stay not exceeding twenty-one (21) days, provided that they hold tickets for their return journey and passports valid for at least six (6) months beyond the period of stay. For visits longer than 21 days, a temporary visitor's visa must be secured from the Philippine embassy or consulate in your country.

Nationals of the People's Republic of China, Cambodia, North Korea, Tonga, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, Palestinians, and holders of Belize passports need to secure appropriate

visas. Holders of Hongkong and Taiwan passports need to secure special entry permits. Visas and special permits may be obtained from the appropriate Philippine embassies or consulates. A directory of Philippine embassies and consulates may be accessed at www.dfa.gov.ph

For more information on Philippine visa requirements and other general information on the Philippines, please visit:

<http://www.dfa.gov.ph/consular/visa.htm> or <http://www.gov.ph/aboutphil/vinfo.asp>

Airport Arrival and Departure Information

Participants arriving through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, terminal 1, are advised to proceed to the International Organization Reception Desk (commonly called "ADB Counter") located at the Arrival lobby of the Terminal 1 Building, for advisory assistance on transportation services.

Participants arriving via Philippine Airlines flights will be deplaning at the Centennial Terminal or Terminal 2 of the international airport. A Public Affairs Assistance Counter is available at the Arrival Lobby for Transportation Advisory Assistance.

For airport transfers, metered or accredited fixed rates taxi services are available at the International Airport. The conference venue and the hotels listed above are located at the Ortigas Center business district, which is approximately 13 kilometers from the international airport.

Conference participants are advised to reserve Php 550 (approx. USD 10) for the terminal fee at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon departure.

All arriving passengers will be subjected to immigration and customs screening. Please consult the www.immigration.gov.ph for details on immigration and customs regulations.

Identification Document

Participants are requested to bring an **Identification Document (With Photo)** for access to ADB. Conference Identification Cards will be issued, but these will not substitute for the Photo Identification Document for purposes of gaining entry into ADB. Passports and driver's licenses are documents which may be presented in this regard.

Registration Procedures

Interested participants are advised to register by accomplishing the attached registration form and submitting this to the contact details indicated below.

Confirmation notices and further information will be issued upon receipt of registration.

For additional information, please get in touch with the Conference Secretariat.

For all inquiries and correspondence, please contact:

The Conference Management Secretariat

[EON Corporate Communications Network](http://www.eon.com.ph)

Attn: Ms Alicia de Sagun / Rina Bernabe / Mika Palileo

Email alicia@eon.com.ph; rina@eon.com.ph; mika@eon.com.ph

Tel. No. (632) 893-5642 or (632) 893-5690

Fax No. (632) 892-6769