



JOINT CONFERENCE ON REMITTANCES

12-13 September 2005

ADB, Manila, Philippines

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY FOR SPEAKERS

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

For accommodation arrangements, conference speakers may directly make reservations with EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, or at any other hotel of their choice. It is strongly recommended, however, for conference speakers to book at EDSA Shangri-La for ease of transfer to and from the conference venue. Please be advised to inform the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel representative that the subject booking is in connection with the Joint Conference on Remittance 2005 which is being co-organized by the ADB, to avail of the special rates. For bookings at EDSA Shangri-La, 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)

If hotel reservation assistance is required, please contact Ms. Precious Leaño of the Conference Management Secretariat, through e-mail address precious@eon.com.ph or through fax number (632) 8926769.

Other hotel options 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 speakers are advised to make their reservations as early as possible to be assured of room availability.

Those who will opt to reserve rooms directly with the hotel are requested to inform the Conference Management Secretariat, through Ms. Leaño, upon confirmation of their booking arrangements.

Travel / Entry Arrangements

Conference speakers 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 Hong Kong 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

Airport courtesies will be accorded to all conference speakers. Speakers are requested to inform the Conference Management Secretariat of their flight arrival/departure details to facilitate immigration and customs assistance upon arrival. An International Organizations Reception Desk (commonly called "ADB Counter") is also available at the arrival lobby of Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Terminal 1.

Speakers arriving via Philippine Airlines flights will be deplaning at the Centennial Terminal or Terminal 2 of the international airport. In the absence of an ADB Counter at Terminal 2, a representative of the Reception Desk may meet the speaker for arrival assistance, upon request through the Conference Management Secretariat.

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 speakers are advised to reserve Php 550 (approx. USD 10) for the terminal fee 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 be cross-checked with another Identification Document from the participant/speaker for each entry. Passports and driver's licenses are documents which may be presented in this regard.

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](#)

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

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