

## INCONET-GCC WORKSHOP MUSCAT

06-07 DECEMBER 2010

### EVENT CONFIRMATION LETTER



#### Dear Participant:

We are delighted that you have agreed to accept our invitation to participate at the Round Table Workshop INCONET-GCC, which will be taking place in Muscat on December 6-7, 2010.

The knowledge, expertise and active engagement that you will be sharing, will greatly contribute to the depth and breadth of this important event. With your effective and productive cooperation, we look forward to an exciting and successful sessions. With this note, we wish to facilitate your visit to Oman and make it a memorable one! Some issues require early preparation, such as your hotel booking and, possibly, applying for a visa. Therefore, go through this note at your earliest convenience.

It is our goal to make your experience as rewarding as possible. It would be most appreciated if you could comply with the deadlines set out below, while informing us of any issues or enquiries you may have, so as to enable us to act on those well in time before the Workshop.

#### Venue & Hotel:

The event will be held in the Muscat Intercontinental Hotel, in Jabrin Ballroom located at the lower Ground Floor.

Staying in the same hotel will facilitate punctuality and easiness for you and our other honored guests. Contact information about the Hotel is as follows:

#### **Intercontinental Muscat Hotel contact information:**

[www.interconti.com/](http://www.interconti.com/)

[www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/locations/muscat](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/locations/muscat)

Front Desk: +968-24-680000, Fax: +968-24-600012. Inquiry e-mail: [muscat@icmshathotel.com](mailto:muscat@icmshathotel.com)  
 AL KHARJIYA STREET, AL SHATI AREA. P.O. BOX 398 • MUSCAT, 114 • OMAN•

**IMPORTANT:** Hotel Booking deadline is 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

If you wish to book another hotel, also close to the InterContinental Muscat, we will be more than glad to be of assistance. A list of these hotels, along with contact information, follows:

Hotel	Location	Web site	Tel +968	Rank	Remarks
Muscat Intercontinental	Shatti Qurum	<a href="http://www.interconti.com">www.interconti.com</a>	24680000	5 stars	Highly suggested- Where conference will be held
Grand Hyatt	Shatti Qurum	<a href="http://www.muscat.grand.hyatt.com">www.muscat.grand.hyatt.com</a>	24641234	5 stars	Nearby, convenient, a bit more expensive
Al Shatti Resort	Shatti Qurum	----	24605945	4 stars	
Coral Int'l Muscat	Shatti al-Qurum	<a href="http://www.coral-international.com">www.coral-international.com</a>	24692121	4 stars	
Crowne Plaza	Qurum	<a href="http://www.cpmuscat.com">www.cpmuscat.com</a>	24660660	4 stars	Nearby, convenient location
Al-Shatti Hotel	Shatti Qurum	----	24564070	4 stars	
Ramee Hotel	Qurum	<a href="http://www.ramee-group.com">www.ramee-group.com</a>	24564443	4 stars	
Park Inn Muscat	Khuwair	<a href="http://www.parkinn.com/hotel">www.parkinn.com/hotel</a>	2450 7888	4 stars	
Shati al Qurum Hotel	Shatti al-Qurm	----	+968 24696601	3 stars	

**Note:** Whereas conference lasts for two days, December 6-7, we would appreciate it if you can let us know in case you wish to extend your stay in Oman for additional days. Kindly make sure that you have made proper arrangements prior to your arrival.

## **Transportation:**

The easiest way to be transported from Muscat international Airport to the Hotel is to catch one of the official Taxi's that are available just outside the arrivals hall of the terminal building. It is recommended that you order and pay for your journey at the Taxi Counter located outside arrivals (just about twenty meters, slightly to the right as you step out).

The price of the transport from the airport to the Intercontinental Hotel or Al -Qurm city is Seven OMR only (approximately 13 EURO).

To contact the Muscat International Airport Taxi Counter

Tel: +968-24518780 / 1

E-mail: [taxi@omanairports.com](mailto:taxi@omanairports.com)

If you prefer, you can also contact Intercontinental Hotel and request that they arrange your transport from the Airport to the Hotel, which will be at a somewhat higher cost (about OMR 25).

## **Map:**

For a better view of map to the hotel and Muscat please visit the following link:

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/locations/maps-directions/muscat>

## **Climate:**

Weather during the conference period is moderate mostly warm. Temperatures vary between (27-18 C°). Clothing is advised to be formal & simple during the conference. For night time, clothing is suggested to be simple & light.

## **Visa:**

Requirements for obtaining a visa:

- 1- Citizens of GCC countries can enter the country without a visa.
- 2- Visitors carrying a passport from European countries, and also most other countries around the world, can purchase a visa without problem at Muscat International Airport. This will carry a certain cost, and it will be advisable to have sufficient cash available (6 to 10 OMR according to the period of stay). In case you choose this option, just follow the ROP website instructions and prepare the needed documents, so that arrival paperwork can be completed easily and your visa be obtained in approximately 10 minutes at the airport.

3-Please note, as a visitor carrying a passport from some other countries, you may require a visa from the Embassy of Oman, or to be sponsored by a citizen. A tourist visa can be obtained from the Embassy of Oman, with or without a sponsor, and is valid for a period of three weeks.

**N.B:** Please visit the following website to obtain your visa easily:

[http://www.rop.gov.om/visa/english/onlineservices\\_visaaapplication\\_main.aspx](http://www.rop.gov.om/visa/english/onlineservices_visaaapplication_main.aspx)

### **Conference Format:**

The conference language is English. No translation services will be available.

The event will last for two days and is divided into sessions (see the program document), including several panel sessions. A few minutes before the start of each plenary session, the Chair person will invite all speakers to take a seat on the stage. The conference will be opened by the Chair who will introduce the speakers on stage.

Speakers from each session will be on stage together, enabling interaction with each other and with the delegates.

An important part of the conference consists in parallel breakout sessions. These are to take place in the afternoon of the first day (December 6). All the attendants are expected to participate actively in questioning & discussion regarding these sessions.

When registering for the conference, kindly report your first and second preference for the parallel sessions,

Pref 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Pref 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas we will do our best to arrange for you to be participate in your preferred sessions, note that we may have to adopt a procedure of arranging with some structured distribution of participants, in case some parallel sessions would attract a disproportionately large share of the attendees.

*The first day* is devoted primarily to substantive deliberations in regard to research and innovation performance, and best practice policies. This day will feature the greatest number of participants, as it will be of relevance to a wider audience. *The second day*, by contrast, will be more procedural, as it devotes considerable attention to the advance of the INCONET-GCC project.

Background statistics and information will be circulated in advance of the event. Based on that material, and the presentations and the results of the conference, a substantive report will be issued some time after that.

### **Participant Arrival:**

You are requested to arrive at the conference room 15 minutes before the opening of the conference, in order to ensure you can have a nice & comfortable seat and so for the event not to be delayed. Similarly, each participant should be seated in time for every session in the conference.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Visa	If requested to be pre-arranged, at least 2 weeks before the Conference date (21 <sup>st</sup> of November 2010)
Hotel Booking Deadline	16 <sup>th</sup> of November 2010 (You can check the hotel website online).

We look forward to welcoming you in Muscat!

Best regards

Conference coordinator

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