



16th Annual Meeting of the
Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)

Auckland, New Zealand, 20 - 24 January 2008



GENERAL INFORMATION

Currency

The currency unit in New Zealand is the New Zealand dollar, a decimal system with \$1 equaling 100 cents. Denominations of notes are \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5. Coins are \$2, \$1, 50 cents, 20 cents and 10 cents.

The following exchange rate examples were applicable on 28 August 2007:

100 US\$ = NZ\$135

10,000 Yen = NZ\$116

Link to www.xe.com for up-to-date information on current exchange rates.

A currency exchange is available at major airports as well as banks. Hotels and foreign exchange bureaus offer exchange services at varying rates. Credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants, cafes and hotels. The most common cards are Visa, MasterCard and Amex.

Dress Code

New Zealanders generally dress in a smart casual style for day wear, with business suits for business meetings. Formal attire, such as suits for men, cocktail dress for women, or traditional costume, is recommended for social functions.

Drinking Water

Tap water throughout New Zealand is safe to drink. Bottled water is readily available.

Electricity

Electricity is supplied throughout New Zealand at 230/240 volts, 50 hertz. Hotels provide 110 volt ac sockets (rated at 20 watts) for electric razors only. For all other equipment, an adapter/converter is necessary, unless the item has a multi-voltage option. Power outlets only accept flat three or two pin plugs.

Health and Medical Services

New Zealand has no major health risks, and the public and private medical and hospital facilities provide a high standard of treatment and service. It is important to note these services are not free to visitors, except as a result of an accident. Therefore, it is necessary to have valid health/medical insurance.

First Aid will be provided at the Meeting and emergency medical service will be provided to delegates. Depending on your country of residence, international visitors may be charged for using the public hospital system, so valid medical insurance is recommended.

For medical attention at any time, 24 hours per day, please contact the hotel reception. White Cross Accident and Medical Centre and Pharmacy, 202 Ponsonby Road, is open from 7.30am to 10.00pm daily (phone 09 376 5555).

In an emergency dial 111 for ambulance, the police or the fire department.



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Postal Service

Post Offices are generally open from Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm. The hotel reception desk will be able to assist with postal and courier services.

Shopping

Most city shops are open 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. Many stores are also open at nights and weekends. Banks are closed at weekends although most banks have ATM machines throughout the city available 24 hours per day every day. Souvenir and grocery/convenience stores tend to be open longer in the evenings.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited by law in all public buildings in New Zealand, including airports, hotels, restaurants, cafes and in the Meeting venue, except in places that have specially designated smoking areas. There are only a limited number of designated smoking guest rooms at the official hotel.

Tax GST

GST (Goods and Services Tax, currently 12.5%) applies to all goods and services provided in New Zealand, such as accommodation, food, drink, transport and tour costs and is usually shown included in the advertised price. If you are purchasing items in New Zealand to be taken overseas some stores may offer to post these items overseas and therefore you may be able to pay the cost less GST (however you do have to pay postage).

Telephone Service

Your hotel room will have local and international telephone and internet services available and the hotel charges a service fee in addition to the cost of the call. There are public telephones in the hotel lobby that can be used for both local and international calls. These phones only accept credit cards or pre-paid Telecom phone cards. Prepaid phone cards may be purchased at nearby stores. New Zealand phone numbers appear online in the White Pages (alphabetical listings: www.whitepages.co.nz) and Yellow Pages (business category listings: www.yellowpages.co.nz).

For mobile phones check with your phone company before leaving home about international mobile roaming facilities available in New Zealand