



PAHO



WHO

RIMSA 17



17^a INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE

Asuncion, Paraguay | 21-22 July 2016

GUIDE PARTICIPANTS

The **Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA from its Spanish acronym)** is the only permanent regional forum during which issues are presented and proposed and actions are coordinated, with the participation of the Ministers of Agriculture and Health of all Member States of the **Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)**.

Through RIMSA, **PAHO/WHO** receives political support for its technical cooperation on veterinary public health in the field of food safety, eradication of Foot-and-mouth Disease in the Americas and prevention and control of zoonotic diseases. In addition, RIMSA also supports and articulates issues related to the animal health - human health interface, critical for the prevention and control of diseases as well as for the containment and reduction of the impact of antimicrobial resistance.

The theme of RIMSA 17 is "**One Health and Sustainable Development Goals**". that day will take place on 21-22 July 2016. Prior to RIMSA in the same place two more technical meetings will be held: **13th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication** -(COHEFA 13) on 19 July and the **7th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety** (COPAIA 7) on 20 July.

PARAGUAY

Geographical Location

Paraguay is a landlocked country located at the heart of South America. It is bordered by Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil. Its population is estimated to be around 6 million inhabitants. It is a bilingual country (both Spanish and Guarani are official languages).

ASUNCIÓN

Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, runs alongside the Bay of Asunción (Bahía de Asunción) and is close to the confluence of Paraguay and Pilcomayo Rivers.

The city is located on an undulating land identified by its "seven hills", which somehow inflict different landscapes to its diverse neighborhoods. Its altitude does not exceed 120 meters (394 feet) over the sea level and it covers an area of 117 km².

According to the last census, it has a population of 512,000 inhabitants, although together with peripheral cities (Gran Asunción) it exceeds two million people.

It was founded on August 15, 1537, and became known as the "Mother of Cities" because it was the hub from which many expeditions left to establish dozens of cities in territories that now belong to Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Before the War of the Triple Alliance (1864-1870), Asunción had an accelerated architectural progress; occupied and looted during and after the war, its development was truncated for a long period of time, which gave rise to the urban contrasts currently defining its profile.

Asunción is the city with the largest cultural activity in the country. Several museums showing the varied cultural heritage of the country can be visited in the historic center of the city, which, through different artistic expressions offer a trip through its history. The most relevant museums of the capital city are Manzana de la Rivera, El Cabildo, Casa de la Independencia, Museo de las Memorias, Museo Etnográfico Andrés Barbero, Museo del Barro, and Museo de Arte Sacro de la Fundación Latourrette Bo. Some emblematic buildings of the historical center are the Palacio de López, Panteón Nacional de los Héroes, Catedral Metropolitana, Hotel Guarani and the Teatro Municipal.

National official website of tourism: <http://www.senatur.gov.py/>

GOVERNMENT

Currently, Paraguay is a social state under the rule of law, and a representative democracy with separation of powers in three branches: the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary. The territory is divided into 17 departments ruled by a governor, a departmental board, and each district has a local government headed by a local mayor.

VENUE

Sheraton Asunción Hotel

Grand Salón - Piso 1

Avda Aviadores del Chaco, 2066 - Asunción - Paraguay

HOTEL OPTIONS

Aloft Hotel Asunción

Avenida Aviadores del Chaco 1761, Asunción - Paraguay

Telephone: +595 21 2477000

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/aloft-hotels/index.html>

Dazzler Hotel Asunción

Av. Aviadores del Chaco y Vasconcellos, 1392, Asunción - Paraguay

reservas@dazzlerasuncion.com

www.dazzlerasuncion.com

Hotel Ibis Asunción

Av. Aviadores del Chaco, 2060, Asunción - Paraguay

Tel. +595 21 620 1000

h7324-re@accor.com - Departamento de Reservas

h7324-fo@accor.com - Recepción

EVENT CONTACT

RIMSA17: rimsa17@paho.org

COHEFA13: cohefa@paho.org

COPAIA7: copaia@paho.org

PANAFTOSA: panaftosa@paho.org

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

International airport Silvio Pettirossi is the most important of Paraguay and it serves the entire country. Regarding international flights, it operates mainly with South American countries and some flights to Panama and Mexico city. The airport is located at the city of Luque, 6 km (4 miles) from Asunción downtown. Passengers can travel from the city of Asunción by bus or taxi. Estimated driving time: 20 minutes.

Boarding fee at International Airport: US\$41.00

Airport Taxes

The following taxes are charged to passengers departing from:

International Airport Silvio Pettirossi (ASU): International Flights: US\$25.

International Airport Guarani (AGT): International Flights: US\$10.

Place of Payment: Airport of departure.

Transportation from hotel to airport

International airport Silvio Pettirossi, in Asunción, Paraguay, offers transfer to hotels and the service can be requested at the airport terminal. Transfer fees vary from US\$ 20 to US\$ 40. You can also book your transfer to the airport at your place of accommodation.

Aeropuerto Internacional Silvio Pettirossi es el más importante de Paraguay y sirve

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

It is advisable to contact the embassy of the destination country for information about requirements.

SAFETY

Safety level is 2 (Low). Most common crimes are thefts and electronic fraud.

Safety recommendations: basic precautions that would apply to any large city are recommended.

Carry your belongings safely and be careful with your personal effects such as handbags, identification, passports and travel documents, wallet, photo/video cameras, and always keep them in sight.

Caution is also recommended when withdrawing money from bank machines (ATM). Use the hotel safety box to keep your valuable objects.

- It is advisable to use only authorized taxis, which can be requested at the hotel.

- Ask for information at the hotel about safe neighborhoods and places before visiting them.

- Always take your identification cards with you.

- All foreigners are subject to existing rules and laws in the city.

- Identity documents and driver license should be carried when driving.

- Water to drink: Running water is drinkable

- Electricity / voltage: 220 volts y 50 cycles

TAXES

10% VAT in hotels, restaurants and transfers.

Automatic teller machines: Cirrus, Maestro, Plus. Cash advances using international credit cards.

Accepted credit cards: MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Diners.

ECONOMY

The country has experienced an outstanding economic development in the last decade, which becomes evident in the development of building, vial, and urban infrastructures underway in the country's main cities.

National official currency is the Guarani, which has a fluctuating daily exchange rate, although it has been for many years now around 5600 Guaranis per dollar.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

It is advisable to exchange currency in formal facilities such as banks or foreign exchange offices, either at the airport terminal or in the city.

USEFUL TELEPHONES

- Emergences: 141 ó +59521 290336

- Police: 911 ó +59521 411 111

- Medical Emergencies: +59521 204800

- Ambulance: +59521 204799

- Fire Police: 131 ó +59521 498777

- Volunteer Fire: 132 ó +59521 480000

- International Airport Silvio Pettirossi: +59521 646094

- National Emergency Secretariat: + 595 21 440 997/8

- Taxi Radio: +59521 550116 ó +59521 311080

LANGUAGE

Spanish and Guaraní

CLIMATE

Average temperature: 25° to 35° in summer and 10° to 20° in winter.

HANDICRAFTS

Paraguayan handicrafts are of two different types: indigenous crafts, and those assimilated from settlers. In the first case, pieces are characterized by the use of natural elements (feathers, furs, roots, leaves, reed woven fabrics, wood and clay). In the second case, fibers, metals, wood and machinery (cotton and wool thread, woven fabrics, processed leather, stone and carved wood, metalwork, pottery, and ceramics) prevail. The most typical items are the ñandutí, the ao poí, ponchos, hammocks, linen, gold and silver filigree, images and musical instruments.

Sale of crafts in downtown:

- Turista Róga: Palma 468. (+595 21 494 110)

- La Recova: Colón e/ Pte. Franco and Benjamín Constant.

- Plaza de la Libertad: Chile e/ Oliva y Estrella.

TYPICAL FOOD

Paraguayan food is based on agricultural and livestock products. The most well-known products are the chipá, Paraguayan soup, the chipá candóí, the mbejú, the chipá guasú, and the kaburé. Meat is used to prepare so'ó mbichy, chactaca, chipá so'ó, soyo, bife pupú, locro and other typical dishes. Paraguayan typical food is the product of using native products and other introduced and acclimated by Spaniards (such as vegetables, rice and meat). The use of the country natural resources and the heritage of Guaraní culture, combined, in turn, with European culture, have resulted in a unique gastronomy in Paraguay, compared to that of the rest of America and the Mercosur itself.

THE TERERÉ

Yerba mate is consumed in three different ways in Paraguay: "mate", "mate cocido" and "tereré" (a cold or frozen infusion prepared with smashed medicinal herbs). Some researchers found that the mate and the tereré were consumed before Spanish colonization. Tereré broke the traditional patterns of consumption in such a way that portable thermos are manufactured that allow having the appropriate equipment to enjoy tereré at any time and place.

MUSIC

The music that mostly identifies the country is the Paraguayan polka. Neighboring regions of bordering countries share the fondness for the chamamé, rasquido doble (guitar strum) and valseado (local version of waltzes). The guarania is a rhythm created by José Asunción Flores in 1925. The most well known Paraguayan guaranias are 'Recuerdo de Ypacaraí' and 'Mis noches sin ti', both authored by the maestro Demetrio Ortiz.

The so-called Hispanic-Guarani baroque was developed during the colonial period of the Jesuit missions. Agustín Pío Barrios is considered the most prominent composer of Paraguayan musical history.