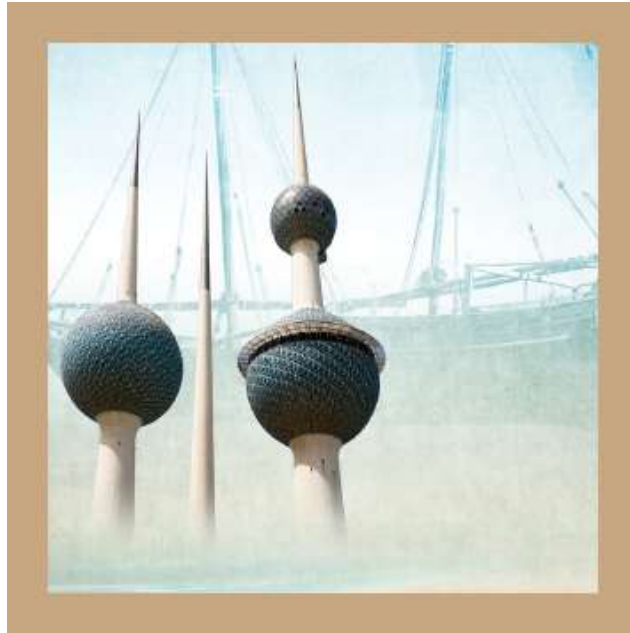




**WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
Sixty-second session, Kuwait
5-8 October 2015**

Information Bulletin 1



Introduction

Kuwait is situated in south-western Asia with Iraq to the north and west and Saudi Arabia to the south. It covers 17 818 km² in area and has just over 4 million inhabitants. The name 'Kuwait' derives from the Arabic word 'kut' which means fortress, and is believed to refer to a fortress that originally stood near the coast. Because of its location Kuwait is considered to be a natural gateway to the north-eastern Arabian Peninsula, a position which has long gained it significant trade. Kuwait is characterized by the simplicity of its topography, an undulating desert that gradually rises in height from sea level in the east towards the west and south-west. It includes nine islands within its borders. Summer is hot and dry with frequent dust storms, while winter is warm with occasional rain.



The State of Kuwait is a democratic constitutional monarchy. Following independence in 1961, it promulgated its constitution in 1962. It has a parliamentary system represented by a 50 member national assembly. When it was first established its inhabitants depended on sea trading and activities such as pearl fishing. Following the discovery of oil, Kuwait came to depend largely on oil exports, and to a lesser extent on tourism, trade and industry.

The capital of Kuwait is Kuwait City, which is served by the transport hubs of Kuwait International Airport and Shuweik Port. In its pre-oil period, most of Kuwait's inhabitants lived in the town, which was surrounded by the customary wall and gates so well known in Arab countries in the past. From a very small town surrounded by the first wall built in 1760, the city gradually developed and increased in size. Two further walls were built in 1814 and 1920 to accommodate the growing city. The third and final wall was demolished in 1957 but the area it had enclosed was now known as the capital city. The city includes many landmarks, including commercial centres and official state and government buildings and palaces, such as Liberation Tower, the Kuwait Towers, the National Kuwaiti Assembly, Al-Seif Palace, the Palace of Justice, the Grand Mosque and the National Library of Kuwait.

The venue of the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean is the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel. This hotel is located in Kuwait City downtown, around 25 km from the airport (20 min by car).

Date and location

The 62nd session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean is scheduled to take place in Sheraton Kuwait Hotel, Kuwait City, Kuwait, from Monday 5 October to Thursday 8 October 2015, inclusive.



Address

Fahd Al Salem Street

P.O.Box 5902 Safat

13060 Kuwait

Tel : +965 183 5555 - 2242 2055

Fax : +965 2244 8032/4

Web: www.sheratonkuwait.com

On 5 October 2015, at 09.00, the pre-RC technical meetings will take place in the Diamond Ballroom, followed by the inaugural session of the Regional Committee, in the same hall, at 19:00.

Registration for participation

The registration form for participation in the 62nd session of the Regional Committee is attached as Annex A. Each participant should complete the form and return it to the WHO Secretariat not later than 31 August 2015.

Membership and attendance

The Regional Committee shall consist of representatives one each from the Member States forming the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization. The representatives may be accompanied by alternates and advisers (Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure).

The Regional Director, in consultation with the Regional Committee, may invite States not members of the Committee to participate without vote in the sessions of the Committee. The Regional Director, in consultation with the Regional Committee, may also invite nongovernmental organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Committee (Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure).

Credentials

The Member States shall communicate to the Regional Director, **not less than 15 days** before the date fixed for the opening of the session of the Committee, the name of their representatives, including all alternates and advisers. Similarly organizations and States invited to be represented at the session shall communicate the names of the persons by whom they will be represented. The credentials of representatives and names of alternates, advisers and observers shall be submitted to the Regional Director if possible not less than two days before the opening of the session of the Regional Committee. Such credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health or any other appropriate authority (Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure).

Working languages

The working languages of the Committee are Arabic, English and French. Statements made in any of these languages will be interpreted simultaneously into the other two languages.

Agenda and other documents

The Provisional Agenda for this Regional Committee (Document EM/RC62/1) is attached as Annex B. Further official documentation of the session will be available in Arabic, English and French on the home page of the session (<http://www.emro.who.int/rc62>) from early September 2015. Documents will not be dispatched by post. Furthermore, participants are kindly requested to bring all documents to the session, as only a limited number of hard copies will be available.

Submissions by delegations

It would be appreciated if delegations wishing to propose draft resolutions to be distributed to the Regional Committee could hand them in to the Secretariat **at least 2 days before** the proposal is discussed, to allow time for translation, reproduction in the working languages and circulation to delegations.

Travel arrangements

Delegates/participants should make their own travel arrangements for both outward and return journeys. It is important to mention that WHO/EMRO has made a deal with Star Alliance member airlines, to offer a single meeting agreement to corporate customers, which includes a discount on the published international fares for RC62 travellers.

Discounts on Business Class are as follows:

- For C and J class: 20% discount
- For other business classes: 10%

Discounts on Economy Class are as follows:

- For Y and B class: 15% discount
- For K, M, H, Q classes: 10%

To benefit from above discounts, travellers should book through the WHO travel agent (EXCEL Travel):

Email excel-travel@eg.hrgworldwide.com

Contact Person: Ms Caroline Kamal/Manager
Mobile: +20122 366 1441

Settlement of ticket price will be through credit card.

Travelers are strongly advised to have their return flights confirmed before departing for Kuwait, as onward reservations and deviations may be difficult to obtain at short notice. The Secretariat will provide assistance with travel arrangements during the session, if needed.

Arrival in Kuwait

Upon arrival at Kuwait International Airport, transport to the hotel will be made available, provided participants have supplied their travel details on time. In order to facilitate the process, please return Annex A, completed with flight details and transportation requirements.

The journey time by car from the airport to the hotel is around 20 minutes.

Entry visa to Kuwait

Representatives and other participants should obtain a visa for Kuwait prior to departure from their home countries. For this reason, the Regional Office in Cairo has made arrangement with the Ministry of Health in Kuwait to provide all participants with an "entry visa certificate". To benefit from this arrangement, representatives and participants are requested to provide the Regional Office in Cairo with a clear copy of national passport, **before the strict deadline of 31 August 2015.**

Privileges and immunities

All Members officially attending the Regional Committee in Kuwait, as well as their alternates and advisers, will enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to Representatives at meetings convened by UN Specialized Agencies, which are set out in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.

Health requirements on arrival/departure

According to the WHO International Travel and Health Requirements, the Government of Kuwait does not require any vaccination certificates from international travellers except for those coming from yellow fever-infected areas. However, also check with the travel agent or airline concerned regarding any recent developments in health requirements.

Insurance

The Secretariat cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to the private property of participants and accompanying persons, either during or indirectly arising from attendance at the sixty-second session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. Participants should make their own arrangements with respect to health and travel insurance.

Accommodation

Hotel accommodation has been arranged at Sheraton Kuwait Hotel and at Four Points Hotel (managed by Sheraton Kuwait).

Hotel rates are included in the booking request (Annex A). Participants should complete the form and return it to the WHO Secretariat **not later than 31 August 2015**.

Hotel bookings will be arranged as and when requests are received and participants will be advised by return about action taken. It is important that requests for hotel accommodation are complete, with the exact duration of stay and number of room bookings to be made, as well as whether each room or suite should be for single or double occupancy.

Please note that the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean cannot guarantee accommodation and rates for requests received after 31 August 2015.

Transportation

Transport will be provided on arrival and departure and for any official functions which are held away from the hotel, noting that transportation will only be made available to and from the venue of the 62nd Regional Committee, namely the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel (and the Four Points Hotel).

Banking facilities

The current exchange rate is KWD 0.303 to US\$ 1 which is subject to change should there be a revision in rates. Foreign currency can be exchanged at the hotel or at any bank in Kuwait or authorized dealers. The hotel bank is open 24 hours. Major credit cards are accepted in most establishments.

Climate

In October the weather is expected to be hot during the day and warm in the evening. Temperatures during this time of the year range between a maximum of 32°C and a minimum of 20°C.

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Sixty-second session
Kuwait, State of Kuwait, 5-8 October 2015**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill in the appropriate details and choices for accommodation and transportation and e-mail to emrgoasu@who.int with cc to jaffalj@who.int, or by fax to +202 26702492-4. The form should be received by WHO by 31 August 2015 latest.

1. Personal data

Name:	Nationality:
Title:	
Representing Country/Organization:	
Phone:	E-mail:

2. Hotel booking at Sheraton Kuwait Hotel and/or Four Points Hotel (Managed by Sheraton)

Please select your preferred accommodation from the listed room categories. Rates are in Kuwaiti Dinars and exclusive of 15% service charge. Rooms and suites are on bed only basis (without breakfast).

Type of room (in Sheraton Kuwait Hotel)	Rate Single (KWD)	selection
Single Standard	80	
Twin/Double room	90	
Deluxe room	140	
Executive Suite (1 bedroom suite)	220	

Above rates are per room per night on bed only basis, please add 15% service charge

Type of room (in Sheraton Kuwait Towers)	Rate Single (KWD)	selection
Single Standard	90	
Twin/Double room	100	
Deluxe room	150	
Executive Suite (1 bedroom suite)	230	
Diplomatic Suite	500	
French Suite	800	

Above rates are per room per night on bed only basis, please add 15% service charge

Type of room (in Sheraton Kuwait Saint Regis Tower)	Rate Single (KWD)	selection
Single Standard	90	
Twin/Double room	100	
Executive Suite (1 bedroom suite)	240	
Presidential Suite	1000	
Royal Suite	1250	
Amiri Suite	1300	

Above rates are per room per night on bed only basis, please add 15% service charge

Type of room (in Four Points Hotel)	Rate Single (KWD)	selection
Classic Standard Single room	70	
Twin/Double room	80	
Deluxe room (Single)	75	
Deluxe room (Double)	85	
Superior room (Single)	110	
Superior room (Double)	120	

Above rates are per room per night on bed only basis, please add 15% service charge

Type of room (in Four Points Hotel in Business Floors)	Rate Single (KWD)	selection
Classic Standard Single Room	80	
Twin/Double room	90	
Club Deluxe room (Single)	85	
Club Deluxe room (Double)	95	
Preferred room (Single)	85	
Preferred room (Double)	95	
Junior Suite	140	
Business Suite	250	
Ambassador Suite	950	

Above rates are per room per night on bed only basis, please add 15% service charge

3. Transport

If you are flying from/to Kuwait International Airport and would like transport to the hotel on arrival and/or to the airport on departure, please indicate your flight details:

Transport needed on arrival <input type="checkbox"/>		Transport needed on departure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Date		Date	
Flight no.		Flight no.	
Time		Time	

4. Assistance with visa on arrival

Should you need assistance with entry visa to Kuwait,
Please check the box and attach a clear copy of your passport.

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Sixty-second Session
Kuwait, 5-8 October 2015**

**EM/RC62/1
7 June 2015**

Draft Provisional Agenda

1. **Opening of the Session**
 - (a) Election of Officers
 - (b) Adoption of the Agenda EM/RC62/1
2. **(a) Annual Report of the Regional Director 2014** EM/RC62/2
Progress reports on:
 - (b) Eradication of poliomyelitis EM/RC62/INF.DOC.1
 - (c) Emergency preparedness and response EM/RC62/INF.DOC.2
 - (d) Implementation of the United Nations political declaration on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases EM/RC62/INF.DOC.3
 - (e) National core capacities for implementation of the International Health Regulations: meeting the 2016 deadline EM/RC62/INF.DOC.4
 - (f) Universal health coverage EM/RC62/INF.DOC.5
 - (g) Regional strategy on health and the environment 2014-2019 EM/RC62/INF.DOC.6
 - (h) Saving the lives of mothers and children EM/RC62/INF.DOC.7
 - (i) Regional strategy for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems 2014-2019 EM/RC62/INF.DOC.8
 - (j) Implementation of WHO reform EM/RC62/INF.DOC.9
3. **Technical Discussions**
 - (a) Global health security, with special emphasis on MERS-Cov and H5N1 EM/RC62/Tech.Disc.1
 - (b) From the Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals in the post-2015 development agenda EM/RC62/Tech.Disc.2
4. **Technical Papers**
 - (a) Review of medical education: challenges, opportunities and the EM/RC62/3

way forward

(b) Scaling up mental health care: a framework for action EM/RC62/4

5. **World Health Assembly and Executive Board**

(a) Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 136th and 137th Sessions EM/RC62/5

(b) Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 138th Session of the WHO Executive Board EM/RC62/5-Annex 1

(c) Global vaccine action plan EM/RC62/6

6. Report of the third meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Regional Director EM/RC62/INF.DOC.10

7. **Awards**

(a) Award of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship EM/RC62/INF.DOC.11

(b) Award of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region EM/RC62/INF.DOC.12

(c) Award of the Down Syndrome Research Prize EM/RC62/INF.DOC.13

8. Place and date of future sessions of the Regional Committee EM/RC62/INF.DOC.14

9. Other business

10. Closing session