

# First Announcement

## International workshop for the implementation of biometeorological and bioclimatic forecasts in Latin America and the Caribbean



November 25 to 28, 2015  
Cuban Meteorological Society, Havana, Cuba

With the Collaboration of:



Havana, December 10 of 2014

Dear Colleagues,

The Cuban Meteorological Society and the International Society of Biometeorology, with the participation of national and international organizations, have been working in the organization of an international workshop for the implementation of biometeorological and bioclimatic forecasts in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in the city of Havana, Cuba, among November 25 to 27 of 2015. The workshop will be an adequate preamble for the celebration of the VIII Cuban Congress of Meteorology among December 1 to 4, 2015.

The Workshop will address the feasibility for development and apply regional bioclimatic and biometeorological forecasts in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. The ultimate goals are to promote the joint offer of biometeorological and climate services in selected national health services and institutions, oriented to develop case studies, the validation of the service outputs within the medical community and to implement best practices in managing efficiently and seamlessly the interaction among the involved parties: international organizations (WMO/WHO/PAHO), NMHSs and the general public.

The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- Review the status of bioclimatic watches, biometeorological forecasts and the monitoring of meteor-tropic effects at regional and national level.
- Address the need for bioclimatic watches and biometeorological forecasts in the region,
- Recommend best practices and best strategies for the region towards the users of health watch and warning services.
- Develop an action plan to implement bioclimatic watches and biometeorological forecasts at national and regional level,
- Recommend a follow-up mechanism on the implementation of climate watches, biometeorological forecasts and the monitoring of meteor-tropic effects.

The Workshop Program is under development, considering the broad spectrum of biometeorological forecasts and climate service for human health. The interaction between representatives of multiple disciplines will permit the interdisciplinary approach to the final proposals, trying to consider the new challenges and scenarios derived from climate variability and weather impacts on humans. Special focus will be given to improve communication between specialist from the medical, epidemiological, climatic, geographical and meteorological communities in the region. The workshop sessions will be conducted in Spanish with simultaneous translation to English.

The building of the Cuban Society of Meteorology will receive the workshop participants. The main staff of the society will guarantee all the necessary conditions for the workshop success and fruitful discussions, and the city of Havana will offer to the participants his cultural diversity, beautiful places and squares, open spaces near the sea and the warm hospitality of the Cuban people, according with our friendship tradition.

Your participation will be significant for the workshop success and the future actions to be taken.

The Organizing Committee  
**Local Organizing Committee**

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### **Date and Place**

The Workshop will be held from 25 to 28 November 2015 at the building of the Cuban Society of Meteorology in Havana, Cuba, located at 23 Ave. and B street, Vedado, Havana.

### **Visa/Entry requirement**

All visitors to Cuba are required to have valid passports and tourist visa. Participants are kindly requested to inquire about visa requirements from the nearest Embassy/Consulate of Cuba in their respective countries. If required, the host can provide a letter of invitation in support of the visa application; participants are requested to directly contact the host for this purpose.

### **Registration of participants**

Registration of participants will start on Wednesday, 25 November 2015 from 08:30 AM at the main office of the Cuban Society of Meteorology. Participants will receive identification cards and workshop documents at the time of registration.

### **Opening/Closure**

The meeting will open on Wednesday, 25 November 2015 at 09:30 AM. At 19:00 on the same day, all participants are invited to a social activity (welcome reception). The meeting will end on Friday, 27 November 2015 at 16:00. Excursions to beautiful places near Havana may be organized, previous reservation, on Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Documents for the Meeting**

It is planned to distribute most of the documents to participants prior to the meeting by e-mail. Any late documents will be made available at the time of the meeting.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation at an agreed special rate of USD 70 (single room) or USD 90 (double room), with breakfast included, has been arranged for all participants at the Havana LibreTryp hotel, located in the known intersection of 23<sup>th</sup> Ave. and L street, Vedado, Havana, close to the office of the Cuban Meteorological Society.

In order to take advantage of the special rate, participants must confirm attendance by the **second week of November 2015 at the latest** (even if final travel itinerary is not available yet), so that the Local Organizing Committee can send a required letter to the hotel .Each participant will pay his/her hotel room upon check out. Morning and afternoon coffee/tea during the workshop sessions are provided free of charge.

### **Transportation to Cuba and between Airport – Hotel**

The participants and their companions, traveling to Cuba by COPA Airlines will receive a discount of 10 % in the air fares. Kindly take note that the hotel does not provide free transportation to the airport. Taxis are available any time at the Havana´s airport.

### **Currency**

The official currencies of Cuba are the Convertible Peso (CUC) and the Cuban Peso (CUP). Foreign currency can be exchanged at local banks and exchange offices in downtown Havana, however, this is only available in working hours (8 AM to 6 PM). The usual rate is 1USD = 0.91895 CUC and 1CUC = 24 CUP.

### **Contact details for the Venue**

As workshop venue will be arranged the SOMETCUBA building. The place is located to a walking distance from the hotel, but public busses and taxis are also available for the workshop participants.

### **Internet**

The hotel can provide internet connection and 24-hour free wireless access to the internet in each room and common areas, participants can also use computers at SOMETCUBA where internet access is free of charge.

### **Local Weather and Clothing**

Information on the climate of Havana for November is given below

Mean Maximum temperature	27.8°C
Mean temperature	24.6°C
Mean Minimum temperature	21.4°C
Mean Humidity	81 %
Mean monthly Precipitation	61.4 mm

Casual and light attire will be appropriate.

### **Optional tours**

Optional tours to beautiful places near Havana city will be available for the participants and their companions, previous reservation in the Havana Tour office at the hotel.