# **Participant Guide**

The 16th Meeting of Rabies Program Directors of the Americas (REDIPRA16) will be held in the city of Antigua Guatemala from 29-30 November 2017. Prior to REDIPRA16, on 28 November, the pre-REDIPRA International Seminar will be held with the theme: "Rabies: Unfinished Challenges - An Unfinished Process".

# **VENUE OF MEETINGS**

The meetings will be held in the Landívar Mayor room of the Porta Hotel Antigua, in Antigua Guatemala, 8 Calle Poniente #1 Phone: 1 877 765 0919 / +502 7931 0600 E-mail: info@portahotels.com

### **SERVICES**

For **REDIPRA16** and the **pre-REDIPRA seminar**, participants will have translation services in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

# **DOCUMENTS**

The documents of the meetings will be available at the end of the event page: www.panaftosa.org/redipra16

# TRANSPORTATION OF LA AURORA (GUA) INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

All participants of the REDIPRA16 will enter the country through the protocol halls of the airport and soon they will have transportation service to transfer them to Antigua Guatemala. They are recommended to hire the shuttle service or taxis, which are arranged inside the airport, since these services are accredited.

You can find a collective shuttle, which must be identified and registered by the INGUAT (Guatemalan Tourism Institute) - The value of the trip is US\$ 10, or take a private taxi that costs approximately US\$ 35.

# **COUNTRY ENTRY PROCEDURES**

The issuance of entry visas is the exclusive competence and sovereignty of each nation. Every country uses different criteria and requirements for the entry and stay of foreigners in their territories, and there is no interference of foreign authorities in this matter. It should be remembered that the required requirements may vary depending on the purpose of the trip.

The classification for purposes of exemption and compulsory visa for entry to the national territory has been changing due to matters of national interest, in accordance with the bilateral and multilateral agreements signed, in accordance with the Guatemalan migration policy and the policies that are promoted with the Central American region.

Consult the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala.

www.minex.gob.gt/Visor\_Pagina.aspx?PaginaID=153

### **CUSTOMS**

The elements that can be entered without having to be declared are quite similar to any other international destination, being accepted without problems articles of personal use, in quantities that do not presume that they are imported or exported for commercial purposes.

#### **GUATEMALA**

The Republic of Guatemala is located in the north of Central America, bordering Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Belize. It is the most populous Central American country with more than 16 million inhabitants. It has a unique and diverse culture that is the product of both its Mayan heritage and Spanish influence during the colonial period. The official language is Spanish, although 22 Mayan languages are spoken in the country, which are officially recognized by the State.

Guatemala is the heart of the Mayan world; has the greatest Mayan archaeological evidence within its territory, the greater ethnic, plurilingual and multicultural diversity of Mayan roots in a small geographic space. This amazing culture has left some of the most impressive Mayan ruins in Latin America. The temples of Tikal can be easily visited from the Flores Island. And it has many archaeological sites like Yaxhá, Quiriguá, Iximché and others that are easily accessible.

It is a country of great natural beauty. Despite its relatively small territory, Guatemala has a wide variety of climates. There are 14 different eco-regions made up of volcanoes, lakes, rivers, beaches and jungles. We cannot speak of the Guatemalan landscape without mentioning its greater beauty, Lake Atitlan, is a spectacular lake surrounded by three imposing volcanoes and twelve villages that have fascinated travelers for centuries.

And of course, Guatemala City, a place where you can find a mixture of colonial and modern architecture. Most of the headquarters of many companies and the governmental powers of the country are located there. Guatemala City has an active cultural life; there you can find many museums, restaurants, shopping centers, cultural and business centers. Guatemala is a country with beautiful landscapes, great cultural diversity, endless historical and cultural attractions, modern cities and friendly and welcoming people.

# **ANTIGUA GUATEMALA**

Antigua Guatemala is a beautiful colonial city that belongs to the department of Sacatepéquez. It is located approximately 45 km west of the capital of the Republic of Guatemala. It is surrounded by three impressive volcanoes and is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the country.

The city was the second capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala between 1541 and 1776. During its development it was one of the most important cities of the Spanish Indies, since the general culture was developed: the academy, the art, the catechesis, manual works such as handicrafts, woodwork, pottery and blacksmithing, construction, etc.

During the time of the colony it was known as "Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala", whose official and historical name is Muy Noble y Muy Leal ciudad de Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala. In 1776 the capital had to be transferred to the present capital of the Republic, the city of Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción, after the earthquakes of Santa Marta ruined the city for the third time in the same century. As a result, the abandoned city began to be called Antigua Guatemala, as it is now known.

It was designated in 1979 as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Today it is an important tourist destination due to its well preserved and colorful colonial architecture, as well as a large number of ruins of Catholic churches and convents, which were demolished by the earthquakes, which were later restored and open to the public; many of them are now museums. The city offers a beautiful craft market, one of the best cafes in Guatemala and the world and a wide range of gastronomic offerings. It has activities and

tourist attractions for all public and is the headquarters of many national and international events such as: weddings, seminars, conferences, labor meetings, etc.

# **WEATHER**

There is a great diversity of climates in Guatemala. The climate in the central plateau is quite temperate. The climate of the coastal regions is of more tropical characteristics; the Atlantic coast is more humid than the Pacific. The rainy season occurs between May and November. The average temperature is 20 ° C.

# **GUATEMALA CURRENCY**

The Quetzal (Q) is the current monetary unit of legal use in Guatemala. The Quetzal is divided into 100 cents. US\$ 1 equals Q. 7.30.

# **ELECTRICITY**

In Guatemala the common voltage is 120V. The frequency is 60 Hz. The plugs and sockets are of type A / B / G / I.

#### **CONTACT US**

Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

(PANAFTOSA /VPH-PAHO / WHO) Ana Cristina Silva Phone: +55 (21) 981565757E-mail: redipra@paho.org

# PANAFTOSA / Veterinary Public Health-PAHO/WHO Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

Av. Governador Leonel de Moura Brizola, 7778 - São Bento - Duque de Caxias - Rio de Janeiro - Brazil - CEP 25045-002

Phone.: (+5521) 3661 9000 - Fax: (+5521) 3661 9001 - email: panaftosa@paho.org

www.paho.org/panafosa - Facebook/kmcpanaftosa - Twitter/panaftosa\_inf