


GENERAL INFORMATION

The 3rd Public and Private Joint Forum in Asian Region
17th JASIC Asia Government/Industry Meeting



Manila, Philippines
4-6 December 2012

JAPAN AUTOMOBILE STANDARDS INTERNATIONALIZATION CENTER
and
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE –
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION

The Philippines is one of the largest island groups in the world with 7,107 islands and islets lying off the southwest coast of the Asian mainland between Taiwan and Borneo. It is bounded in the west by the West Philippine Sea, in the east by the Pacific Ocean, in the south by the Sulu and Celebes Seas, and in the north by the Bashi Channel. Its strategic position finds the Philippines at the crossroads of international travel lanes.

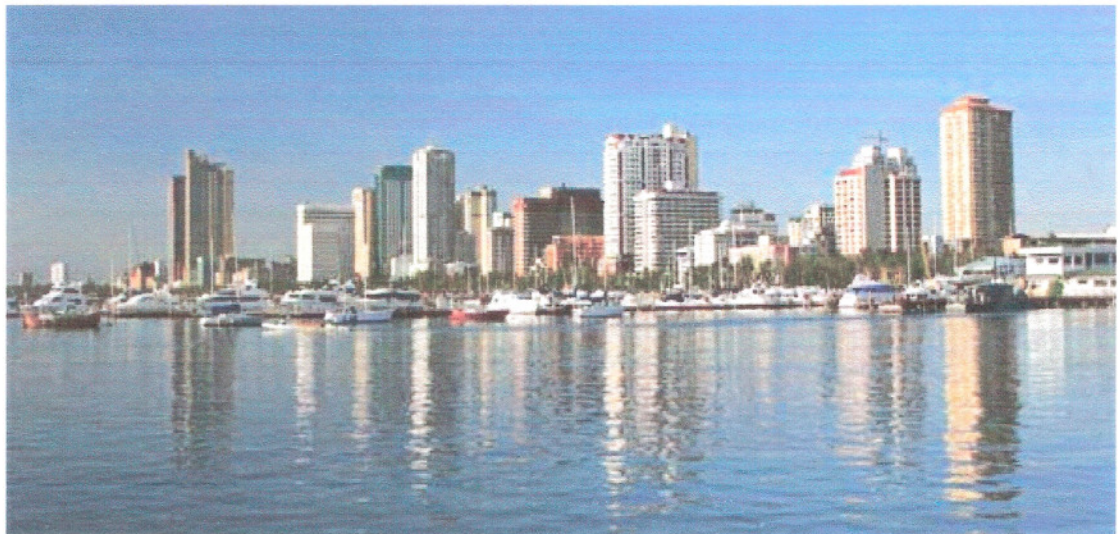
It has a total land area of 300,000 sq.km and a coastline of 34,000 km, the longest in the world.

The Philippines has three major islands – Luzon, the largest island where the capital of the Philippines is situated; Visayas, known for its fine beaches and idyllic coves; and Mindanao, whose exotic forests make it an irresistible haven for nature lovers. The land consists of coastal plains with many central peaks and mountain ranges.

The Philippines has a unique diversity of tribe, language, culture, customs and religions. It has a population of 92.1 million as of year 2010.

CAPITAL

Manila is the seat of administration and the center of commerce and industry, culture, the arts, and education. It is the largest and most important city in the Philippines. It is also one of the loveliest and most exciting cities in Asia. The city of Manila has been combined with other major cities and municipalities to form what is now popularly known as Metro Manila, which has a total area of 60 sq. km.



The skyline of the City of Manila

LANGUAGE

Two official languages - Filipino and English. Filipino which is based on Tagalog, is the national language. English is also widely used and is the medium of instruction in higher education. Eight (8) major dialects spoken by majority of the Filipinos: Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinense. Filipino is the native language which is used nationally as the language of communication among ethnic groups. Like any living language. Filipino is in a process of development through loans from Philippine languages and non-native languages for various situations, among speakers of different social backgrounds, and for topics for conversation and scholarly discourse. There are about 76 to 78 major language groups, with more than 500 dialects.

Below are few Pilipino greetings and their English translations:

Magandang umaga	:	Good morning
Magandang tanghali	:	Good noon
Magandang hapon	:	Good afternoon
Magandang gabi	:	Good evening
Kumusta ka?	:	How are you?
Mabuti naman	:	I am fine
Salamat	:	Thank you
Maraming salamat	:	Thank you very much
Wala pong anuman	:	You are welcome
Oo	:	Yes
Hindi	:	No
Anong pangalan mo?	:	What is your name?
Ano?	:	What?
Sino?	:	Who?
Alin?	:	Which?
Saan?	:	Where?
Bakit?	:	Why?
Kailan?	:	When?
Paano?	:	How?
Magkano?	:	How much?
Nasaan?	:	Where?

RELIGION

Roman Catholic is the predominant religion, comprising about 85 percent of the population. Muslims are concentrated at the southern end of the archipelago.

UNIT OF MEASURE

The metric system is used in most trade and legal transactions.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts a/c is the common standards. 110 volts a/c is also used, especially in major hotels.

TIME

Local time is GMT plus 8 hours.

CLIMATE

The Philippines is normally warm with abundant rainfall and gentle winds. There are three pronounced seasons: wet to rainy from June to October; cool and dry weather from November to February; and hot and dry weather from March to May.

CURRENCY

The currency in the Philippines is the Peso (PhP) and the Centavo. 100 centavos = P1. Coin denominations are:

Coin Denominations

1 centavo
5 centavos
10 centavos
25 centavos
1 peso
5 pesos
10 pesos

Bill Denominations

Php 20.00
Php 50.00
Php 100.00
Php 200.00
Php 500.00
Php 1,000.00

Foreign currency may be exchanged at your hotel, and in most of the large department stores, banks and authorized money changing shops. Exchanging money anywhere else is illegal and the laws are strictly enforced.

Most large stores, restaurants, hotels and resorts accept major credit cards including American Express, Visas and MasterCard. Traveler's checks preferably American Express is accepted at hotels and large department stores. Personal checks drawn on foreign banks are generally not accepted.

The Philippine Currency is approximately, US\$1.00 is equal to 41.94 Peso (Php) as of August 13, 2012.

CURRENCY REGULATIONS

Visitors carrying more than \$3,000 are requested to declare the amount at the Central Bank of the Philippines counter situated at the customs area. Foreign currency taken out upon departure must not exceed the amount brought in. Keep all exchange receipts for record purposes. Departing passengers may not bring out more than Php 10,000 in local currency.

AIRPORT TAX

Passenger Terminal Fee is levied on all passengers embarking for:

1. International travel : PHP 750.00
2. Domestic travel: PHP 200.00

BUSINESS HOURS

Most businesses are open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays and 8:00 AM till noon Saturdays. Banks are open from 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Mondays through Fridays. When banking in the Philippines, it is advisable to have your passport with you for identification.

VISA AND PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

As long as your country of origin is among those with which the Philippines has diplomatic relations and you have valid passports, you can stay in the Philippines for a period of 21 days., provided they hold valid tickets for their return journey to port of origin or next port of destination and their passports valid for a period of at least six (6) months beyond the contemplated period of stay. However, Immigration Officers at ports of entry may exercise their discretion to admit holders of passports valid for at least sixty (60) days beyond the intended period of stay.

Hong Kong and Taiwan passports must have special permits. Visas and permits may be obtained from the Philippine embassies and consulates. Delegation who may require a formal letter of invitation to apply for a visa should inform the organizing committee.

For more information please log to www.dfa.gov.ph

SHOPPING MALLS

Malls normally open seven days a week, from 10AM to 9PM. They accept Philippines (Peso). Most major credit cards are accepted, but visitors are always advised to check with vendor before a purchase is made.

Below are some major malls in the Philippines:

1. Mall of Asia, Pasay City
2. Robinson's Galleria Mall (connected at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria)
3. SM Mega Mall, EDSA, Mandaluyong
4. Greenhills Shopping Mall, San Juan City
5. Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati City
6. Gateway Mall, Cubao, Quezon City
7. Trinoma Mall, Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
8. SM North Edsa Mall, North Ave., Quezon City

TRANSPORTATION

The main international gateway for travelers to the Philippines is the Ninoy Aquino International Airport or NAIA, formerly known as Manila International Airport. It is the hub for all Philippine airlines. The airport is named after the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr., who was assassinated at the airport in 1983.

Almost all modes of transportation which includes For Hire vehicles ply the streets of Metro Manila. Fares for hire vehicles are fixed by the government and are reviewed regularly and meters and tickets are calibrated to reflect the current approved fares.

Modes of Transportations:

1. **Car rentals** – Car rentals are available at airports, hotels and travel and tour agencies and from other local car rental companies.
2. **Taxis** - plug-down rate for an air-conditioned taxi is P40 and an additional P3.50 for every 300 meters or a 2 minutes waiting time. There are yellow taxis available at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport but they are more expensive, flag-down rate is P70 for the first 500 meters and an additional P4 for every 300 meters. There are taxi stands in most hotels, shopping malls and other public areas in Metro Manila but most taxis can be hailed on major streets.

For more information about airport taxis you can visit this website:

<http://www.v2.callataxi.com.ph/category/airport-service-taxi/>

3. **Buses** – Air conditioned and non-air conditioned buses ply the major thorough fares in Metro Manila. These buses have specific origin and destinations that traverse the major arteries in Metro manila such as EDSA. Fares are very inexpensive and air conditioned buses are quite comfortable.
4. **Jeepneys** – Jeepneys are made of reconditioned diesel engines from Japan with a locally fabricated chassis and body. These are the gaily decorated in colorful and imaginative designs only the Filipinos could imagine and execute. It is the most affordable means of public transport in the Philippines and fares are very cheap and affordable.
5. **LRT and MRT** – These are the Light Rail Transport and Metro Manila Rail Transit System, therapid transit system in Metro Manila that offer the fastest and cheapest transport from one point of Metro Manila to another.
6. **Kalesas or karitelas** – kalesas are horse drawn carriages that can be found in Manila such as the Chinatown district of Ongpin, Divisoria, and Binondo; Rizal Park and Intramuros.



Yellow Taxi



Regular Taxi



Air-conditioned Bus



Non Air-conditioned Bus



Jeepney



Kalesa



MRT



LRT

RAIL SYSTEM IN METRO MANILA



MRT Schedule	:	5:30 am – 11:00pm
LRT 1 Schedule	:	5:00 am – 9:30pm
LRT 2 Schedule	:	5:00 am – 9:30pm

HOTEL ACCOMODATION

The hotel recommended by the organizing committee is the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria Hotel. It is situated along Ortigas Avenue cor. Asian Development Bank Avenue, Quezon City and 15 km away from Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). It is directly connected to Robinsons Galleria Mall and at the centre of Ortigas business district. SM Megamall is just more or less 300 meters away from this Hotel.

For more information and reservation we suggest you to book your room at the Hotel, through the following personnel of Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria Hotel;

Ms. Ching De Castro

Manager

Crowne Meetings & Events

Contact No. 63-2-634-9965

Fax No. 63-2-636-0041

E-Mail: ching.decastro@ihg.com

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Sales and Marketing

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Fax No. 63-2-6360041

E-mail: janice.tiambeng@ihg.com

Website: <http://www.crowneplaza.com>

Please don't hesitate to contact the following person if you have any questions.

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SOME BEAUTIFUL & INTERESTING TOURIST SPOTS



Rizal Park - also known as **Luneta Park** or colloquially Luneta is a historical urban park located in the heart of the city of Manila, Philippines, adjacent to the old walled city of Manila, now Intramuros. Since the Spanish Colonial Era, the park has been a favorite spot for unwinding, socializing, an urban oasis for family picnics on Sundays and holidays. It is one of the major tourist attractions of Manila.



The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is located about 50 kilometres (30 mi) north of the city centre of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. The river is also called **Puerto Princesa Underground River**. The national park is located in the Saint Paul Mountain Range on the northern coast of the island. It is bordered by St. Paul Bay to the north and the Babuyan River to the east.

In 2010, a group of environmentalists and geologists discovered that the underground river has a second floor, which means that there are small waterfalls inside the cave. They also found a huge cave dome, measuring 300 meters above the underground river, incredible rock formations, large bats, a deep water hole in the river, more river channels, another deep cave, marine creatures, and more. Deeper areas of the underground river are almost impossible to expedite due to oxygen deprivation

On January 28, 2012, the New Seven Wonders of Nature Foundation in Zurich, Switzerland **officially confirmed that Puerto Princesa Underground River is one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature.**



The Chocolate Hills is a famous tourist attraction of Bohol. They are featured in the provincial flag and seal to symbolize the abundance of natural attractions in the province. They are in the Philippine Tourism Authority's list of tourist destinations in the Philippines; they have been declared the country's third National Geological Monument and proposed for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Chocolate Hills form a rolling terrain of haystack hills – mounds of a generally conical and almost symmetrical shape. Estimated to be from 1,268 to about 1,776 individual mounds, these cone-shaped or dome-shaped hills are actually made of grass-covered limestone. The domes vary

in sizes from 30 to 50 meters (98 to 160 ft) high with the largest being 120 metres (390 ft) in height. Bohol's "main attraction", these unique mound-shaped hills are scattered by the hundreds throughout the towns of Carmen, Batuan and Sagbayanin Bohol.

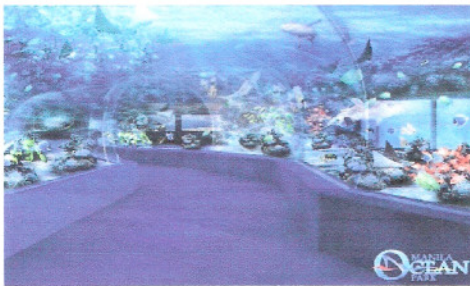
During the dry season, the grass-covered hills dry up and turn chocolate brown. This transforms the area into seemingly endless rows of "chocolate kisses". The branded confection is the inspiration behind the name, Chocolate Hills.



Mayon Volcano, also known as **Mount Mayon**, is renowned as the "perfect cone" because of its almost symmetric conical shape, Mayon forms the northern boundary of Legazpi City, the largest city in terms of population in the Bicol Region. The mountain is a national park and a protected landscape in the country proclaimed as Mayon Volcano Natural Park in the year 2000.



Bangui Wind Farm is a wind farm in Bangui, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. The wind farm uses 20 units of 70-metre (230 ft) high Vestas V82 1.65 MW wind turbines, arranged on a single row stretching along a nine-kilometer shoreline off Bangui Bay, facing the West Philippine Sea.



The Manila Ocean Park, the PhP1-billion marine park constructed by Singaporean and Malaysian investors at the back of Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park, opened on February 2008.

The marine park's oceanarium features 20,000 exotic and colorful fishes, most of which are endemic to the Philippines












Taal Volcano is a complex volcano located on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Historical eruptions are concentrated on Volcano Island, an island near the middle of Lake Taal. The lake partially fills Taal Caldera, which was formed by powerful prehistoric eruptions between 140,000 to 5,380 BP.^[1] Viewed from Tagaytay Ridge, Taal Volcano and Lake presents one of the most picturesque and attractive views in the Philippines.^[2] It is located about 50 km (31 mi) south of the capital of the country, the city of Manila.

“IT’S MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES”

THE DOTC AND ITS SECTORAL ATTACHED AGENCIES

	<p>Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.dotc.gov.ph</p>
	<p>Metro Rail Transit (MRT) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.dotcmrt3.weebly.com/</p>
	<p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.lto.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.ltfrib.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.coastguard.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Office for Transportation Security (OTS) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.ots.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippine (CAAP) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.caap.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.miaa.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.cab.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.mactan-cebuairport.com.ph/</p>
	<p>Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation (PADC) <i>Web site:</i> http://www.padc.com.ph/</p>

	<p>Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) Web site: http://www.padc.com.ph/</p>
	<p>Office of Transport Cooperatives (OTC)</p>
	<p>Philippine National Railways (PNR) Web site: http://www.pnr.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) Web site: http://www.lrta.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>North Luzon Railways Corporation (NLRC/Northrail) Web site: http://www.northrail.com.ph/</p>
	<p>Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Web site: http://www.ppa.com.ph/</p>
	<p>Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Web site: http://www.marina.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Cebu Ports Authority (CPA) Web site: http://www.cpa.gov.ph/</p>
	<p>Philippines Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) Web site: http://www.pmma.edu.ph/</p>