



FOURTH CIRCULAR – STARS2017 / SMFNS2017

Havana, 24 January, 2017

Dear Colleague

Please find below important information related to the meetings STARS 2017 and SMFNS 2017 to be held in Havana and Varadero, Cuba, from 7 to 13 of May, 2017.

Travel Requirements:

A valid passport is required for travelers intending to visit Cuba. The passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected departure from Cuba. A tourist card (or visa) is also required. It is generally provided by tour operators or airlines, or can be obtained from a Cuban consulate in your home country. It can also be purchased at certain airports.

Health Insurance:

Since May 1, 2010, travelers must present proof of health insurance in order to enter Cuba. Upon arrival, travelers may be required to present an insurance policy, insurance certificate, or medical assistance card valid for the period of their stay in the country. Those who do not have proof of insurance, coverage may be required to obtain health insurance from a Cuban insurance company at their arrival. All health insurance policies are recognized, except those issued by U.S. insurance companies, as they cannot provide coverage in Cuba.

Currency and Payments:

The national currency in Cuba is the Cuban Peso (CUP). However, all payments in the establishments operating in foreign exchange in Cuba are made with the Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC). You will not be able, in general, to use your debit bank card to make cash withdrawals or to make payments. Therefore, we recommend bringing along cash and exchanging it when you arrive in Cuba. You can exchange foreign currencies for CUC at banks, official cash exchange offices ("Casas de Cambio" by Cadeca) or at your hotel according to the daily rate. Some banks, like Banco Metropolitano S.A., have better exchange rates. Visa and MasterCard credit cards not issued by US banks are widely accepted, however American Express and Diners' Club credit cards are not accepted at all. You may be able to make cash withdrawals from some bank ATMs using your Visa credit card. You can use other credit cards to pay in stores and hotels or to make cash withdrawals in banks as long as you have your passport with you as identification. All transactions conducted with credit cards are subject to a 3% tax.

Financial Support:

In view of our limited financial resources, we strongly recommend that participants request financial support from their research institutions or any other agency for promotion of research.



Accommodation Package Options:

The conference accommodation (including the Airport/Hotel/Airport and Havana/Varadero/Havana transportation) is organized by Gaviota Tours S.A., the official travel agency of the events:

Agencia de Viajes Gaviota Tours S.A.
Phone: +53 7 204 78 16 Fax: +53 7 204 4111

Participants must make their own hotel room's reservation directly with **Mr. Liuver Ramírez Laurencio**. Please send an e-mail message to Mr. Ramírez (comercial8.ventas@gaviotatours.cu) informing the period in which you intend to stay in Cuba, if you want to stay in single or double room, and if you plan to travel with a companion or not. If you want to stay for a longer period in Cuba and visit other places, please tell Mr. Ramírez. He will then organize the extension of your stay in Cuba. The packages offered on the website

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/542644/page/7361-accommodation>

can be adapted to suit your stay in Cuba. Please inform Mr. Ramírez about your specific needs. (All prices are in Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC) per person.) Payment must be done upon arrival to the hotel. Visa and MasterCard credit cards not issued by US banks are accepted (subject to a 3% tax). You may also pay in cash (only in CUC).

Proceedings:

As is customary, we intend to publish proceedings of the contributions presented during the events. Soon we have more specific information regarding the publication of the proceedings of the meetings. Once we have this information we will inform the participants. In the links below you can access previous versions of the proceedings of STARS 2017 and SMFNS 2017: [STARS2011SMFNS](#) [STARS2013SMFNS](#) [STARS2015SMFNS](#)

We would be much honored to have your participation in the events STARS 2017 and SMFNS 2017. For more information about the events (Overview, Conference Venues, Timetable, Registration, Participant List, Travel Information, Accommodation, Latest News), please visit our website: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/542644/>

Best Regards
The Organizing Committee
STARS 2017 / SMFNS 2017