



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL
ASIA (SPECA)

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING "SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SPECA COUNTRIES"

and

THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON
KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 11 June 2014)

INFORMATION NOTICE

I. INTRODUCTION

This document provides some details regarding the SPECA events jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of Turkmenistan¹.

II. VENUE

The SPECA events will take place on 11 June 2014 in the conference room of the **Hotel Sofitel Oguzkent Ashgabat******* (Bitarap Turkmenistan Avenue, Ashgabat).

III. ORGANIZATION

Registration of participants will start at 08:30 on 11 June 2014. The High-level meeting will be held from 09:00 until 13.45 and the sixth session of the SPECA PWG on KBD will be held from 15:00 until 18:00 on 11 June 2014.

IV. CONFERENCE FEE

No conference fee is charged for participation. Travel and accommodation expenses are borne by the participants.

¹ Delegates are also invited to participate in the opening of the annual International Scientific Conference "Science, technology and innovative technologies in the prosperous epoch of the powerful state" on 12 June 2014.

V. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

For all participants coming from abroad, visa support will be provided by the Organizers. All participants need to submit a colour copy of the passport not later than **27 May 2014**. The copy should be readable and include the page indicating the expiry date. Participants will receive a digital copy of the letter of invitation for visa purposes by e-mail or fax. To obtain a visa, the participants will have to print and provide it to passport control authorities at the Ashgabat international airport upon arrival.

VI. REGISTRATION IN TURKMENISTAN

Participants planning to stay in Turkmenistan for more than three days (five days, if traveling on a UN passport) are required to **register in the country**. The Organizers will provide assistance in this regard. Participants will also be provided with a specific form, 2 copies of which should be completed. While registering on 11 June 2014, the participants should submit to the Organizers: 2 copies of the specific form, 2 passport size photos, 2 colour photocopies of their passport and the original passport. Passports will be returned as soon as the procedure of registration in Turkmenistan is completed.

VII. ACCOMMODATION

A suitable number of rooms (US\$ 72 per night) are pre-booked at the **Grand Turkmen Hotel****** (address: Gorogly Street 50, tel.: +993 12 92 05 55). Payments: Visa credit cards or USD dollars.

Each participant is expected to cover the cost of his or her own board and accommodation.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

A **shuttle service** between the airport and the hotel and between the hotel and the meetings' venue will be arranged by the Organizers.

IX. DOCUMENTATION

Documents for the High-level meeting and the sixth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development can be found at the UNECE website at the following address: www.unece.org/speca.

A limited number of copies of documents will be available in the meeting room during the SPECA meetings.

X. INTERPRETATION AND VISUAL AIDS

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian as well as facilities for computer-aided presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) will be provided.

XI. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the SPECA events can be obtained from:

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Currency and Exchange Offices

Turkmenistan's official currency is Turkmenistan manat (TMT). The current exchange rate is 1 USD = 2.84 TMT. It is a fixed exchange rate that is applied by all exchange offices. Payments can be made only in manats and exchange offices are common in Ashgabat. There is an exchange office at the airport, accepting US dollars, euros and British pounds. There are no ATMs on international circuits and credit cards are accepted in major hotels only.

Weather

Turkmenistan has a sharply continental climate. In June, the average temperature in Ashgabat ranges between 21 and 39° C.
