



PRESS INVITATION

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP 13) 6 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2017

ORDOS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTER ORDOS, INNER MONGOLIA, CHINA

The thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Venue of the session

COP 13 will be held at the following conference location:
Ordos International Conference and Exhibition Center
Crossing of Ordos Street and Wurendu W Rd.
Kangbashi District, Ordos, Inner Mongolia
People's Republic of China
Tel.: + 86 0477 859 3595
Fax: + 86 0477 859 3535

The session will open on Wednesday, 6 September 2017. Working hours will normally be from 10:00hrs to 13:00hrs and from 15:00hrs to 18:00hrs.

Requirements for Media Participation

To attend the Conference, all the media representatives are required to register. Early registration for foreign journalists provides early clearance from the Secretariat to attend the meeting and is helpful for those needing visas or to fundraise to attend the Conference to report on the event. It also speeds up the on-site registration when you arrive.

Registration will be done in two steps. First, journalists not based in PRC need an advance clearance. The clearance serves as an invitation letter. The following documentation is required to obtain this document:

- A letter of introduction from the bureau chief on a letterhead of the media house or publisher you will represent
- A copy of the passport (for foreigners) or other government approved photo identification card (for journalists based in the People's Republic of China)
- A recent passport-size colour photograph not larger than 35 x 45 mm
- A **valid** press card
- Duly filled online accreditation form



The online accreditation is available via the UNCCD COP 13 webpage:
<<http://www2.unccd.int/convention/conference-parties-cop/cop13-towards-new-generation>>.

Second, all journalists are required to register online for COP13. Online registration for representatives from the media will be available from 1 July to 25 August 2017 on this webpage:<
<https://reg.unog.ch/event/21246/>>

Additional information regarding visa requests, travel, accommodation and other logistical matters is available on the host Government's website at: <<http://www.unccdordos.org/>> and in the document *Information for participants* at :
<<http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/COP13/inf1eng.pdf>>

A list of hotels for participants to book directly is provided on the UNCCD website at:
<<http://en.goordos.com/index.html>> or the home page <http://www.unccdordos.org/>.

Media Visas & Equipment

A visa is required for all foreign journalists entering the People's Republic of China to report on the Conference. Journalists, reporters and other media, including journalists travelling as part of their government delegations are advised to apply for their visas early. Media visas take 30 days to process. Journalists are also advised that they are required to register, in advance, the equipment they will bring along. For more information about visas, go to: <
<http://ipc.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wgizhzn/t716849.htm>>.

The "*Information for participants*" has more details concerning visas issued under bilateral agreements, where citizens of some countries (List of Agreements on Mutual Visa Exemption between the P.R. China and Foreign Countries)¹ holding appropriate passports may enter China without a visa.

Holders of ordinary passports may submit their application to the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre.² A list of the Chinese diplomatic and consular missions is available at <www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/>.

Registration

In light of the visa application process, online pre-registration will take place from **1 July to 25 August 2017**. Once the request for online registration has been cleared, the UNCCD secretariat will validate and send a confirmation of pre-registration to COP 13 to the participants by e-mail.

Pre-registered journalists will be able to finalize their registration on-site and collect their badges at the Conference Center from 3 to 15 September 2017 during the registration hours. To collect

¹ <<http://cs.mfa.gov.cn/wgrlh/bgzl/P020140328398504621618.pdf>>.

² Please check the following link: <www.visaforchina.org/>.



their badges applicants must present the original documentation they submitted electronically. A photo will be taken on site.

Onsite registration for journalists will start on Sunday, 3 September 2017 at 09:00 to 12:30 pm and from 14:00hrs to 17:00hrs, and continue throughout the session's working days on Monday, 4 September to Friday, 15 September 2017 from 08:00 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 17:00. Any changes to the opening hours of the registration desk will be communicated in the Official Journal of the session. Those applying on site must submit all the required documents in original, except the photo, which will be taken onsite.

Identity badges must be worn at all times while on the Conference premises. Access to the session venue is permitted only upon presentation of a valid badge.

Press Facilities and Working Modalities

Access to the meeting rooms and venues depends on the accreditation form under which one participates. A dedicated working space exclusively for the press and media will be provided at the conference venue. However, media representatives need to bring their own working tools.

At least three official press conferences are envisioned: at the start, in the middle and at the end of the Conference. A media kit on the Conference will be issued by **Monday, 21 August 2017**.

For information about accreditation, participation or other media-related inquiries, contact:

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