

1. Information on Kunming

General Description of Kunming

Kunming is the capital and largest city of Yunnan Province in Southwest China. It is the political, economic, communications and cultural centre of Yunnan. Located at an elevation of 1,950 meters on the Yungui Plateau with low latitude and high elevation, Kunming has one of the mildest climates in China. The weather never gets very hot in summer. With its perpetual spring-like weather which provides the ideal climate for plants and flowers, Kunming is known as the "City of Eternal Spring". The city is covered with blossoms and lush vegetation all-year round.

Its economic importance derives from its geographical position. It is positioned near the border with Southeastern Asian countries, serving as a transportation hub in Southwest China, linking by rail to Vietnam and by road to Burma and Laos. This positioning also makes it an important trade center in this region of the nation. Kunming has been designated a special tourism center and as such sports a proliferation of high-rises and luxury hotels.

Arrival in Kunming

*Taxi

Taxi service is available at the Kunming Changshui International Airport the whole day. The fare from the airport to the conference venue is about 25 USD, or RMB 150 Yuan including the highway fee of 10 Yuan/car. Please do ask for a receipt from the driver. Payment should be made in RMB cash. You can use the ATM or bank offices at the airport to get change. It is not customary to tip drivers. Please pay strictly according to the meter in the taxi, plus 3 Yuan for fuel consumption tax.

*Conference shuttle bus

Local conference committee will arrange shuttle bus from airport to conference venue.

Weather

Located at an elevation of 1,950 meters on the Yungui Plateau with low latitude and high elevation, Kunming has one of the mildest climates in China, characterized by short, cool dry winters with mild days and crisp nights, and long, warm and humid summers, but much cooler than the lowlands. The weather never gets very hot in summer; the temperature has exceeded 30 °C only on a handful of occasions. With its perpetual spring-like weather which provides the ideal climate for plants and flowers, Kunming is known as the "City of Eternal Spring". The city is covered with blossoms and lush vegetation all-year round. The period from May to October is the rainy season and the rest of the year is dry. The city has a mean annual rainfall of 1,010 millimeters, with an annual sunshine period of 2,250 hours and an annual frost-free period of 230 days. Extreme temperatures in the city have ranged from -7.8 °C to 32.2 °C.

Customs

Information about Chinese customs is available from your local Chinese Embassy or Consulate or your travel agency.

Insurance

The Conference Organizers recommends participants to possess travel, property medical or other necessary insurances before coming to China. The AOSWA 2013 Conference Organizers cannot be held responsible for the costs resulting from personal accidents or property loss during the Congress.

Currency Exchange

The currency in circulation in China is the Chinese Yuan, or RMB Yuan, which is not a free convertible currency. There are also certain rules on restriction of foreign exchange which should be available in the information of Chinese Customs on entry and exit. The international standard abbreviation sign of RMB Yuan is CNY. 1 CNY consists of 10 Jiao (dimes) or 100 fen (cents). The denominations of the Chinese Yuan in bank notes are 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100. Participants can exchange major free convertible foreign currencies for RMB Yuan at airports, major hotels and banks in China. Currently, 1 USD can be exchanged for about 6.3 CNY. All currency exchange receipts should be saved in case participants want to exchange RMB back to their own currency. Banks may demand to see the original exchange receipt.

Credit Cards & ATM

Major credit cards are acceptable in the conference hotels (and other hotels) and in most department stores. ATMs of major banks are widely spread all over the major cities and can be used in drawing RMB yuan with your credit card/debit card. Please check with your bank as to the bank charges.

Food

Kunming's cuisine combines fresh ingredients afforded by the moderate climate with mild herbs and spices giving its cooked dishes sufficient flavor but lacking the pungency associated with food from other regions of the country. The city's climate fosters the growth of literally hundreds of species of mushroom which are consequently a predominant feature of many dishes.

Smoking Policy

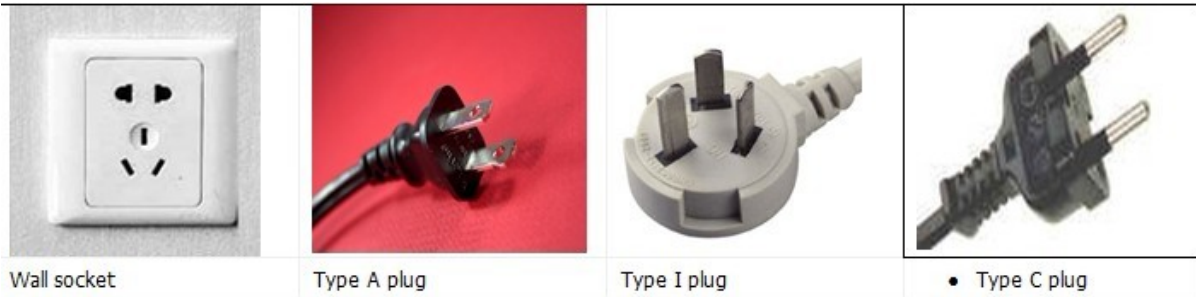
Please note that smoking is prohibited within the conference premises. Smoking is also banned in public areas like airports, hospitals and restaurants.

Water

It is recommended not to drink tap water. If you want to drink cold water, it is better to order or buy bottled water, mineral or distilled. Avoiding the ice cubes being made from tap water is also recommended. Upon request, hotels will provide containers of hot or chilled drinking water in the sleeping rooms at no extra cost. Hotels will also provide an electrically heated kettle to boil water from the tap in your room. The boiled water can then be stored in a vacuum thermos for drinking. Some hotels also provide a special tap in the lavatory that delivers a flow of purified water for drinking or taking medications. This advice also applies to your pre-conference or post-conference travel in others cities in China.

Voltage, Socket and Plugs

The electrical current in China is 220-volts, 50Hz A/C. Hotels generally provide wall sockets in every room, accommodating both the standard “Flat blade attachment plug (Type A)” and common “Oblique flat blades with ground (inverted V) plug (Type I)” as well as the not-so-common “Round pin attachment plug (Type C)” as shown in following photographs.



Conference Working Language

The Conference working language is English.

Projectors

Overhead projectors and computer-aided projectors (for Microsoft PowerPoint presentations only) will be available. Mac computers will not be available for PowerPoint presentations. Mac users can connect to the computer-aided projectors if they bring their own computer and connecting cord.

Duplication, Recording

Without permission from authors, taking photographs, audio-taping, video-recording, digital taping and any other form of duplication are strictly prohibited in the session rooms and poster areas.

Cell Phones

Participants are kindly requested to turn off their cell phones or keep the cell phones in vibration state when entering the meeting rooms and in the poster areas.

Children

For safety reasons children under the age of 12 are not permitted in poster zones, or conference rooms.

Hotlines

Phone Number

110 Police

114 Local Telephone Number Inquiry

116 Domestic Long Distance Inquiry

117 Time Inquiry

119 Fire

120 Ambulance

121 Weather Forecast

122 Traffic Police

Telephone Codes

Telephone Code for China: 0086

Area Code for Kunming: 0871

2. Conference Venue & Hotel

Hotel: Dianchi Garden Hotel & Spa

Address: Dianchi Road (Inside the National Tourism Resort)

Area: Dianchi Lake Scenic Area

Located on the banks of Dianchi Lake, the Dianchi Garden Hotel and Spa (Dianchi Wenquan Huayuan Jiudian) is neighbors with the Yunnan Nationalities Villages, and looks out over picturesque West Mountain. With its unique garden setting and low rise, colonial style buildings, this is one of the most unique hotels in Kunming.

All rooms are tastefully decorated and equipped with all-modern facilities including satellite TVs, mini-bars and Internet access. A business center and a huge conference hall seating up to 400 are available. On-site restaurants serve Chinese and Western cuisines.

For recreation, there is a massage and sauna center, golf, a tennis court, a spa and a swimming pool.

	Location	Distance from hotel
Airport	Changshui Airport	30 km
Downtown	Nanping Pedestrian Street	8 km
Railway Station	Kunming Railway Station	10 km
Downtown	Dongfeng Square	8 km



3. Visa Application

Attendees from most countries will be required to obtain a visa to enter the People's Republic of China; Attendees can apply for a Chinese visa through a travel agency or directly at the nearest Chinese embassy.

If attendees apply for a tourist visa, which will allow you attend the conference and sight-seei, an official visa invitation letter will not be needed from BISMIS. No visa is required for ordinary passport holders from Singapore, Brunei and Japan to visit China for up to 15 days for business, sightseeing, visiting relatives and friends or transit.

Once you have paid for the AOSWA workshop registration, we will issue you an official invitation letter with CAS seal (also called Authorised Notification Form for Visa Applicationto) to assist you to obtain a visa to China. You can use the letter to get a visa in the nearest Chinese Embassy/Consulate.

4. Tours Information

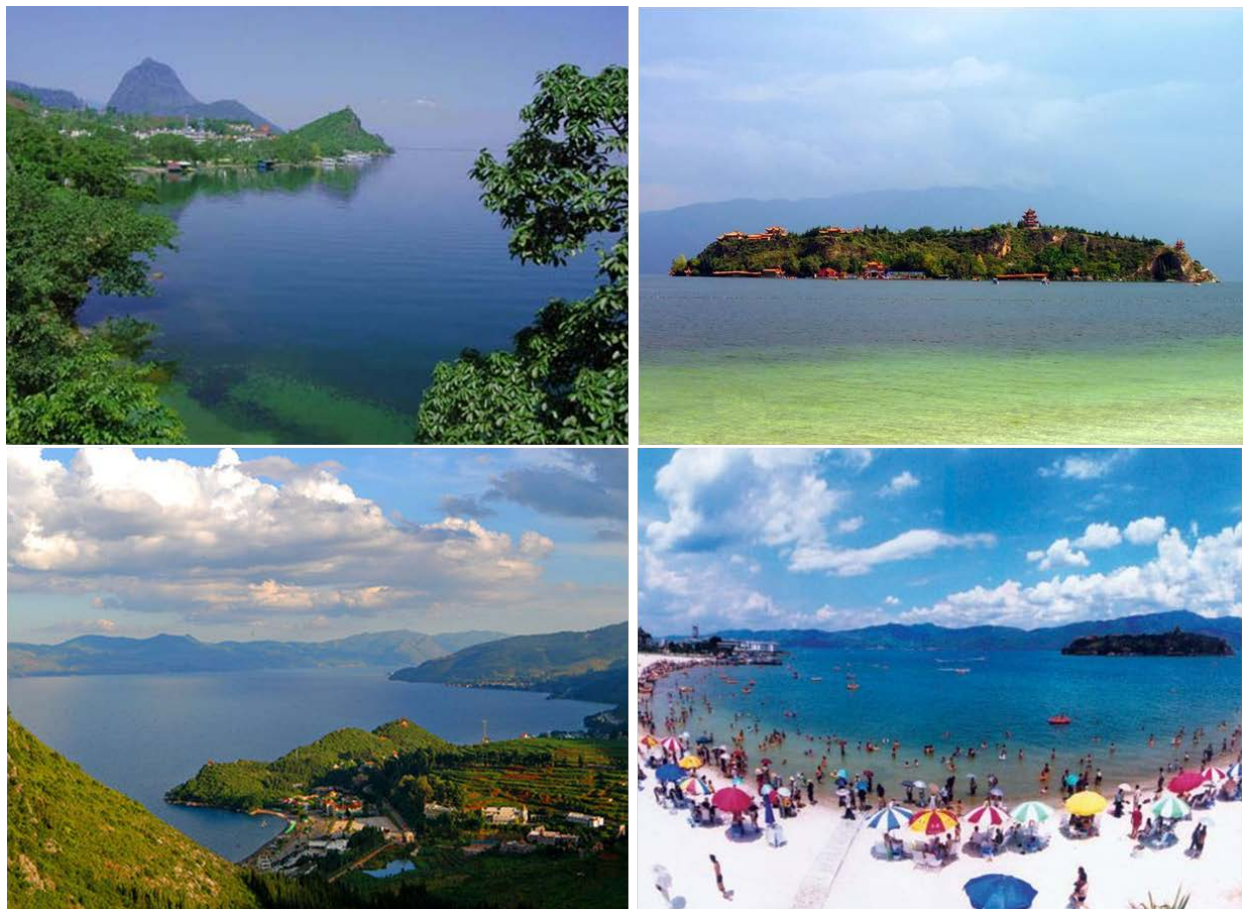
1. Fuxian Lake

Fu Xian Lake is located in the boundary area of the Cheng jiang county Jiang Chuan county, and HuaNing county. Which is a about 70kms from kunMing.

Fuxian lake has a shape of inverted gourd, it covers an area of 212 square kms, which is the 3rd largest lake in Yunnan. You know, the largest lake in Yunnan is the Dianchi lake and the 2nd largest one is Erhai lake.

With the deepest point of the 157.8 meters and the average depth of 87 meters, so Fuxian Lake ranks is the 1st in Yunnan and the 2nd in china in terms of depth, it is second only to the deepest lake in china---the volcanic crater lake of Changbai mountain in northeast china. Its total water capacity is 18.9 billion cubic meters which is 12 times of dianchi lake and 6 times of Erhai lake on this point Fuxian lake ranks the top in Yunnan. The lake is a half-closed plateau lake, so the water supplement of the lake comes from the surrounding Streams/Rivers underground springs and rainfall. The lake is so clear that the deepest visibility can reach 12.5 meters. Thus the water quality of Fuxian Lake ranks the 1st in Yunnan and it is also one of the clearest inland fresh lakes in china.

The main scenic spots around Fuxian Lake include luchong village and Yusun Hill in the west, the hot water pond in the east, Jinsha Bathing beach in the north. Haimen river and Gushan island in the south.



2. The Stone Forest

The Stone Forest lies about 80 miles to the southeast of Kunming. A geological phenomenon, the Stone Forest was a vast expanse of sea during the Paleozoic era—some 270 million years ago. Later, the movement of tectonic plates altered the earth's crust, causing the sea to recede and its limestone bottom to appear, thereby forming land. Due to the constant seeping of rain through the cracks in the limestone, some of the stone formation dissolved and the fissures broadened, producing a group of great sculptures of different shapes, all molded by nature.

In the midst of the forest, there is a huge rock screen on which two words—Stone Forest—are engraved in official script (in a calligraphic style typical of the Han Dynasty, 206 B.C.-220 A.D.). Among the scenic sights is the "Sword Peak Pond" with jadeite-colored water so clear that one can see the bottom of the pond. Other astonishing sights include "Figure of Ashima," "Shi Ba Xiang Song" (its name originating in the Chinese love story, "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai"), and "Lotus Peak."

The splendor of the Stone Forest is enhanced by the local customs of the native Sani people (who are part of the Yi minority). Sani people are industrious and hospitable—and unconstrained. Sani women are expert at spinning, weaving, and embroidering. They like to wear rainbow-colored headgear and bright-colored dresses. The young people especially are very good singers and dancers. Every day at sunset, under the moonlight, boys and girls gather at the village platform. While the boys play the three-stringed plucked instruments, the girls clap their hands and dance the strong-rhythmed traditional "A'Xi (Ah-shi) Dance in the Moon" with great enthusiasm. If you happen to witness the event, you will be invited to join in the festivity.

