

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



wetlanet



International Conference Wetlands: Functioning, Management and Restoration

16 - 19 October, 2011
Albena Resort, Varna, Bulgaria



INVITATION

Dear Colleagues,

Wetlands are an important part of the world's natural environment. They are reservoirs of extraordinary diverse flora and fauna and habitats of significant importance for the main ecosystem processes. In addition, they play a major role in delivering public goods and services, such as supply of fresh water and biological resources. The aim of the WETLANET International Conference is to get together scientists and specialists working on various topics of wetlands research. We are looking forward to discuss the recent developments of the wetland studies and the opportunities for further joint research efforts in wetland functioning, management and restoration. The scope of the conference is wide and the potential participants are encouraged to represent their results and ideas for studies of various types of wetland ecosystems and their biodiversity. However, we would like to put a special emphasis on types of wetlands of major importance for the region, i.e. those in South-East Europe, Danubian floodplain, coastal marine zones of the Black Sea and other adjacent seas.

On behalf of the project WETLANET, I am pleased to invite you to participate in the International Conference "Wetlands: Functioning, Management and Restoration", October 16 - 19, 2011 at Albena Resort, Varna.

We expect the Conference will increase the knowledge on the structure and functioning of wetland ecosystems, and will contribute to policy changes in sustainable management and conservation of wetlands.

Yours sincerely,

*Dr Boyko B. Georgiev
Coordinator, WETLANET Project*

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Boyko B. Georgiev, Gergana Vasileva, Luchozar Pehlivanov, Svetla Bratanova, Nesho Chipev, Stephka Chankova, Radka Fikova, Emiliya Varadinova, Pavel Zehtindzhiev, Vulko Biserkov, Ventsislav Karamfilov, Georgi Daskalov, Vlada Peneva, Elena Semerdjieva

OFFICIAL AGENT

Company for International Meetings (CIM) Ltd.
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<http://www.cim.bg>
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e-mail: cim@cim.bg
Contact: Mrs. Elena Vladimirova

Participants are requested to contact CIM Ltd. directly for services included in the Registration form enclosed.

MEETING VENUE

The Conference will take place from 16 to 19 October 2011 in Albena Resort, 30 km far from the city of Varna. www.albena.bg

MAIN TOPICS

- Wetland ecosystems: structure, functioning, communities
- Wetland management and sustainable use
- Conservation of wetlands and coastal marine zones

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Instructions to authors:

Volume: up to 1 standard A-4 page in English, ready for printing (Microsoft Word);

Margins: top, left and right - 2 cm, bottom - 2.5 cm.;

Font: Times New Roman or Courier; font size - 12 pt, single spacing;

Title: in bold type, capital letters, Times New Roman, font size - 16 pt.;

Name of authors: font size - 14 pt;

Affiliations: Include data for the authors at the end as follows:

* title, name, family name

* organization /company

* address for contact

* telephone, fax number, e-mail.

The abstracts should be submitted as an e-mail attachment. Abstracts send by fax will not be accepted.

Please, submit your abstract to:

Mrs. Elena Semerdjieva

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS

E-mail: library@ecolab.bas.bg

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the conference is **English**. All papers presentations and discussions will be in English.

REGISTRATION

All participants are kindly asked to register by making the necessary payment of the Registration fee and sending the enclosed Registration form not later than 31 August 2011 to CIM by e-mail: cim@cim.bg or by fax: + 359 2 980 60 74.

The Registration desk for the conference will operate from 10 a.m. on 16 October till the end of the conference.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Welcome cocktail, 16 October, 19:00 h

/included in registration fees/

Tour of Varna with a wine tasting, 17 October, 16:00 - 20:00 h

Price per person: 35 Euro

Varna, Bulgaria's Black Sea Capital is one of the cradles of European culture. The city was founded in the 6th c. BC and houses many Roman and Byzantine remains. It is a large port, cultural, commercial and tourist centre. The tour includes a nice guided walk around the city, souvenirs shopping and wine tasting of intriguing Bulgarian wines with a wine expert.

The price includes bus transportation, professional guide, wine tasting.

Official dinner, 18 October, 19:00 h

/included in registration fees/

Tour to Durankulak and Balchik, 19 October, 09:00 - 17:00 h

/included in registration fees/

Durankulak Lake is included in the Ramsar List since 1984. It is freshwater to brackish lake in NE Bulgaria. The most important habitats are open waters, sand dunes and areas covered with aquatic vegetation. The lake is situated along the migration route Via Pontica and close to the Danube Delta. It is one of the most important resting sites for aquatic birds during migrations and the most important wintering site for the Red-Breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) on a global scale.

The small town of **Balchik** is situated 10 km to the north Albena. The Thracians founded it in the centuries BC, later Greek colonists came and settled on the coast too. In the 1st century AD Roman writer Publii Ovidii Nason sent "Greetings to white stonewalls of Dionysus's city". Much later in the very beginning of 20th century Romanian Queen Maria fall in love with this area and built here a romantic palace, summer residence with wonderful garden which nowadays owns second biggest cactus collection in the world.

HOTEL BOOKING

Rooms at preferential prices are provided for the participants in Flamingo Grand Hotel (5 stars).

/ See the rates in the Registration form enclosed/.

Full prepayment of accommodation is required prior to 16 September 2011.

Room rates are only valid for reservations and payment made with CIM.

TRANSFERS

Varna Airport is situated in 30 km from Albena Resort /the meeting venue/. Arrival and departure transfers will be arranged for all participants upon preliminary request at the price of 24 Euro per person in one direction. Precise travel details should be given to CIM at least two weeks prior to arrival. In case of "last minute" changes in your travel arrangements, please inform CIM by e-mail or fax. For safe and comfortable trip to Albena Resort it is advisable to use CIM transfer services. Taxis are also available at the Varna Airport.

PAYMENT

Full prepayment of registration fee, hotel accommodation, transfers and tours should be made to CIM Ltd. in advance in Euro or BGN, according to the official rate of BNB (1 Euro=1,95583 BGN) by one of the following methods:

- **Bank transfer** to the bank account of the Company for International Meetings Ltd. / See section *Payment in the enclosed Registration form/*
- **Credit card** - by completing Credit card authorization Form.

Original invoices for payments will be received on spot at the CIM Registration desk.

Confirmation letter

A letter of confirmation will be sent to participants upon receipt of Registration Form and payment.

PRIVACY & CANCELLATION POLICY

The Company for International Meetings (CIM) Ltd. will use your personal information you have submitted only to process your registration and booking. CIM Ltd. takes the privacy of your personal data very seriously.

Cancellation period	Cancellation fee
Before 16.09.2011	30 € administrative charges
From 17.09 to 30.09.2011	50 % of the amount prepaid
After 30.09.2011	No refunds

KEY ADDRESSES

Concerning scientific program and abstracts:

Organizing Committee

WETLANET International Conference
Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
2 Gagarin Street, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria
E-mail: library@ecolab.bas.bg

Concerning hotel accommodation, transfers, social & tourist programs and payment:

Official Agent

Company for International Meetings (CIM) Ltd.
18, Christo Belchev St., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Phone: (+359 2) 980 69 94, 980 89 61
Fax: (+359 2) 980 60 74
E-mail: cim@cim.bg

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for registration	31 August 2011
Deadline for payment of early registration fee:	16 September 2011
Deadline for submission of abstracts:	16 September 2011
Deadline for payment of hotel accommodation:	16 September 2011
Conference dates:	16 -19 October 2011

For up-to-date information about the conference, please visit:
<http://www.wetlanet.org>; <http://www.iber.bas.bg>

For useful information about Bulgaria, please visit:
www.bulgariatravel.org; <http://www.mfa.bg/en/>