Hotel Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the conference fee and is arranged by participants. For reservations kindly contact the hotel of your choice. We suggest that reservations are made as soon as possible since rooms may not be available when approaching the conference date.

Conference Venue

Sofitel Hotel Rio de Janeiro
Avenida Atlantica, 4240 Copacabana
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
+55 21 252 51232 - +55 21 252 51200
E-mail: reservas.sofitelrio@sofitel.com

Other Hotels

For an updated list of hotels offering special rates and conditions for participants to the Global Conference, please contact us or visit our webpage: www.worldbank.org/paymentsystems/rio.

Registration Fee

The fee to attend the conference is US$1,300. The fee includes participation to all sessions of the Financial Infrastructure Week, breakfasts, lunches and coffee breaks all days, participation to a reception on Wednesday, March 16. The fee does not include travel or accommodation expenses. Registration to the conference is not guaranteed until the payment of the fee has been received.

Payment Instructions

World Bank and IFC staff please use Learning Management System (LMS) to pay the registration fee

Credit Cards: Visa or MasterCard only. Kindly indicate credit card information in registration form.

Check: Please make check payable to “International Finance Corporation” and mail to:

Mrs. Rose Vo
Mail Stop F4K-409
FPDPR, World Bank
2121 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC, 20433

Wire Transfer: Please wire funds to:

Bank: Bank-Fund Staff FCU
Address: 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20433, USA
Account Name: International Finance Corporation
Account Number: 218310 S8.3
Routing Code: ABA No. 2540-7417-0
Reference: Your name and country

For questions concerning this Conference, please contact:

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Financial infrastructure is the underlying foundation of a country’s financial system. It is comprised of all institutions, information, technologies, rules and standards which enable financial intermediation. The quality of a country’s financial infrastructure determines the efficiency of intermediation, the ability of lenders to evaluate risk and of borrowers to obtain credit, insurance, and other financial products at competitive terms. For instance the efficient and smooth functioning of the payment, remittance and securities settlement systems facilitates the discharge of financial obligations and the safe transfer of funds across distances and institutions. In the case of credit reporting, a robust information system reduces information asymmetries between lenders and borrowers, permitting more efficient allocation of financial credit.

The World Bank Group is a leader in financial infrastructure development in emerging markets, including payment systems and remittances, credit reporting and secured lending. The three programs have organized a number of events and conferences to raise awareness and disseminate best practices in their respective arenas. For the first time, the World Bank Group convenes a Financial Infrastructure Week which comprises a combination of plenary sessions and dedicated workshops in the three streams.

Payment systems remain a ‘top of mind’ issue for financial sector policymakers due to recognition of their critical role in supporting systemic stability, economic development and growth. Inefficiencies and high transaction costs in payment and other settlement systems represent a tax on individuals, enterprises, and economies as a whole.

The Payment Systems Development Group of the World Bank has been active in over 100 countries, through a variety of instruments, including supporting comprehensive reform programs in countries; developing reform strategies; providing technical advice; and managing multi-country and regional initiatives that position the Bank at the center of a network of 150+ relevant institutions in the field of payment systems. Moreover, the World Bank is intensifying its commitment to promote and disseminate the policy and research debate on these and other topics within the scope of financial infrastructure.

In the context of the Financial Infrastructure Week, the World Bank Group is organizing the fourth global conference for payment system specialists. This year’s conference “Expanding the Horizons of Payment Systems Development” has two main objectives:

- Discuss those topics currently at the heart of the international debate, also in anticipation of the review of existing standards for payment and securities settlement systems; and,
- Challenge the international payment systems community on whether new approaches are necessary to better address current weaknesses.

The conference will take place in March 14-17, 2011 at the Sofitel Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The conference will gather senior representatives from central banks, securities regulators, commercial banks, non bank financial institutions, payments operators, and multilateral institutions. Speakers will include senior payments systems experts with extensive reform experience (from multilateral institutions, regulatory authorities, and financial institutions), and leading scholars with experience in applied research. The conference aims to:

- Review current practices in reforming payment, remittance and securities settlement systems worldwide in light of recent events in the global financial market;
- Offer tools to help policymakers design and manage the reform effort;
- Address the role of payment systems and services for promoting inclusive finance, including the role of international remittances.

The Global Conference will provide simultaneous interpretation for Portuguese and Spanish and, in case of sufficient demand from participants, in Arabic, French, and Russian.

We cordially invite you to attend. To register, or for more information, please contact Mr. Marco Nicolì at mnicoli1@worldbank.org or +1 202 473 4453. For more information, agenda, and latest updates on the conference visit www.worldbank.org/paymentsystems/rio.