

# Visa, Travel and Hotel Reservations

## Visa Information

International attendees who wish to enter the United States may need to first obtain a visa. Typically, those attending the Conference will need to obtain a nonimmigrant visa for a temporary stay. The visitor visa is a nonimmigrant visa for persons desiring to enter the United States for business or pleasure. Please visit the United States Department of State website for more information.

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables citizens of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. These countries include: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

A letter of invitation does NOT guarantee the issuance of a visa. The decision to issue a visa is within the sole judgment of your local Embassy or Consulate. However, **if you submit the following documents to the Embassy/Consulate, it would very likely facilitate the issuance of a visa:**

1. An invitation letter issued by our conference
2. A notice from the hotel that you have reserved hotel rooms (If the Visa is not granted, you can cancel the reservation without charges)
3. A notice from our conference that you have paid the registration fee (If the Visa is not granted, you can cancel the registration and receive a refund. Please check the important dates listed in other related documents)
4. A notice from a travel agency that you have booked two-way tickets (Please check to be sure that if the Visa is not granted, you may cancel the tickets without penalty.)

## Travel

Most international attendees coming to Houston arrive through the George Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston (IAH), while domestic attendees may choose another closer airport, William P. Hobby Airport which are used by six airlines including Southwest Airlines, AirTran Airways, American Eagle Airlines, Expressjet Airlines, Delta Airlines, and JetBlue Airways. There are both bus services and taxi services between the airports and the hotel. From the George Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston (IAH), you can ride on Bus102 at Terminal C of the airport and transfer to Bus18 at McKinneyStress/WalkerStress, then you get off the bus (#18) at the stop (Kirby Dr. / South-Loop #610). From William P. Hobby Airport, taxi service is the best choice because the bus stop is not located at the airport terminal. Please always tell your taxi driver or bus driver, your destination is Crowne Plaza Hotel – close to Reliant Stadium and South Loop #610 at 8686 Kirby Drive, Houston, TX 77054.

## Hotel Reservations

You can reserve rooms at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Reliant Center/Medical Center, the Conference headquarters, at the reduced group rate of \$99/night/room. To reserve a room at the Hotel, call the hotel reservations center at 1-800-227-6963 (toll-free) or 713-748-3221. To qualify for the group rate, mention that you are attending the "International Environmental Conference." Attendees can access the conference website at <http://www.aasci.org/conference/env/2014/hotel.html> and follow the instructions to make an online reservation. There is no need to type in a "group code", the group code for our 2014 conference will already be typed in for you when you get to this reservation page. US Government attendees will have to call the hotel to receive the government per diem rates. If you have any questions on the reservations, please call the hotel or contact us at [env-conference@aasci.org](mailto:env-conference@aasci.org) for reservation help.

## Location of the Conference Headquarters

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Reliant Center/ Medical Center  
8686 Kirby Drive  
Houston, Texas 77054, USA  
Toll-free phone: 1-800-227-6963  
Phone: 1-713-748-3221