

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.49

54th Annual and Associated Meetings, Shimonoseki, Japan, April/May 2002

Please find enclosed, information on the following:

- Dates
- Hotel booking arrangements
- Delegation offices
- General information (including visa requirements)

1. Dates

Scientific Committee:		
Antarctic Minke Whale Assessment Group		Thursday 25 - Friday 26 April 2002
Full Scientific Committee		Saturday 27 April - Thursday 9 May 2002
Commission sub-groups:		Sunday 12 May to Saturday 18 May 2002
Commission Plenary:		Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2002

2. Hotel booking Arrangements

Arrangements for booking hotels in Shimonoseki are once again being handled by MKI Travel and Conference Management Inc., of Ottawa. Information on the hotels is available on the MKI website at

www.mkitravel.com/conference/iwc54

Attached to this circular (and included as hard copy of the postal version) are brief descriptions of the hotels and a booking form. Alternatively, a secure form through which bookings may be made online will also be available on the MKI website later in January.

3. Delegation offices

Information from the Government of Japan on arrangements for booking delegation offices/hospitality rooms at the Kaikyo Messe will be available shortly.

Alternatively, some of the hotels also have rooms suitable for the purpose. Any enquiries should be directed to Heather Kenyon at MKI.

MKI's address and contact details are:

MKI Travel & Conference Management Inc.
2121 Carling Ave, Suite 202, Carlingwood Mall, Ottawa, Ontario,
CANADA K2A 1H2

Telephone: +1(613) 237-9110 or 1 800 267 9676 (within North America)

Fax: +1(613) 233-7813

e-mail: iwc@mkitravel.com

www.mkitravel.com

4. General information

The sheet attached provides information on passport and visa requirements, customs, insurance, climate, currency exchange, traveller's cheques and credit cards, tipping, electrical appliances, shopping and the Golden Week holiday.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Please indicate your order of preference on the application form. If your desired hotel is fully booked,
we will reserve your order of preference.

No.	Name of Hotel (check-In / out times)	Room type (size in sqm)	Bed size (cmXcm)	Room Rate (Taxes not included)	Address Phone/FAX Access to the Site
(1)	Shimonoseki Grand Hotel 13:00/11:00	Single (17)	195X125	JPY9.900	31-2 Nanbucho, Shimonosekishi 750-0006 +81-832-31-5000 / +81-832-35-0039 15 min. walk
		Double (23)	200X140	JPY12.100 (Single occupancy)	
				JPY15,400 (Double occupancy)	
		Twin (25)	195X125	JPY13.200 (Single occupancy)	
				JPY16.500 (Double occupancy)	
		Deluxe Twin (52)	195X125	JPY35.200	
Royal Sweet (186)	195X125	JPY220.000			
(2)	Plaza Hotel Shimonoseki 14:00/11:00	Single (14)	195X120	JPY5.800	11-10 Hananochi, Shimonosekishi 750-0014 +81-832-23-3333 / +81-832-23-3757 10 min. walk
		Deluxe Single (23)	195X140	JPY6.800	
		Twin (26)	195X120	JPY8.300 (Single occupancy)	
				JPY11,600 (Double occupancy)	
		Deluxe Twin (35)	195X120	JPY12,800 (Single occupancy)	
				JPY17,600 (Double occupancy)	
		Kings Double (35)	195X180	JPY12,800 (Single occupancy)	
				JPY17,600 (Double occupancy)	
(3)	Tokyo Dai-ichi Hotel Shimonoseki 15:00/12:00	Single (14)	200X120	JPY7.000	6-2 Akamacho, Shimonosekishi 750-0007 +81-832-23-7111 / +81-832-33-33-1133 10 min by bus-25 min walk
		Twin (16)	200X120	JPY12.500	
(4)	Via Inn Shimonoseki 15:00 / 10:00	Single (12)	197X123	JPY6.800	4-2-33 Takesakicho, Shimonosekishi 750-0025 +81-832-22-6111 / +81-832-24-3261 5 min. on foot
(5)	Washington Hotel Plaza 14:00/10:00	Single (13)	195X120	JPY6.191	1-4-1 Yamatocho, Shimonosekishi 750-0067 +81-832-61-0410 / +81-832-61-0430 15 min. on foot
		Twin (18)	195X100	JPY14,286	
(6)	Shimonoseki Tokyu Inn 15:00/10:00	Sing Ie (13)	195X122	JPY6.000	4-4-1 Takesakicho, Shimonosekishi 750-0025 +81-832-33-0109 / +81-832-23-0285 5 min. walk
		Twin (16)	195X98	JPY10,000	
(7)	Shimonoseki Station Hotel 1500/10:00	Sing Ie (13)	200X100	JPY5,500	2-8-11 Takesakischo, Shimonosekishi 750-0025 +81-832-32-3511 / +81-832-32-0255 8 min. walk
		Twin A (14)	200X100	JPY8,800	
		Twin B (16)	200X100	JPY9.300	
		Double (14)	200X190	JPY5,800 (Single occupancy)	
				JPY8.100 (Double occupancy)	
		Japanese R (16)	-	JPY9.300 (Double occupancy)	

GENERAL INFORMATION

PASSPORT AND VISA

Every foreign visitor entering Japan must have a valid passport. Visitors from countries whose citizens must have visas should apply to a Japanese consular office or diplomatic mission in their respective country.

For further details, please contact your travel agent or the local consular office in your country.

List of countries that have visa exemption arrangements with Japan

AREA	COUNTRY
Asia	Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan
North America	Canada, U.S.A.
Latin America and Caribbean	Mexico, Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Rep., El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Suriname, Uruguay, Barbados, Peru
Europe	Austria, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Andorra, Czech Rep., Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Poland
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand
Middle East	Israel, Turkey, Iran
Africa	Lesotho, Mauritius, Tunisia

* As of Oct. 2001

CUSTOMS

Japanese Customs are fairly lenient and allow Duty-free imports of items for personal use as follows: 3 bottles of liquor; 400 cigarettes or 100 cigars; 2 ounces of perfume; gifts and souvenirs other than the above whose total market value does not exceed JPY 200,000. Strictly prohibited are firearms and other types of weapons, and narcotics.

INSURANCE

Delegates are encouraged to obtain travel insurance (medical, personal accident, and luggage) in their home country prior to departure.

CLIMATE

The temperature in Shimonoseki during the period of the Meeting ranges between 16° and 23°. It is generally fine in April and May. Average rainfall is around 150 mm. Normally, the rainy season starts from June.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Only Japanese yen (¥) is acceptable at regular stores and restaurants. You can buy Japanese yen at foreign exchange banks and other authorized money exchangers on presentation of your passport. However, since there are not many places where you can buy Japanese Yen in Shimonoseki, it is recommended to bring a certain amount of Yen when entering Shimonoseki.

There are seven banks where one can exchange widely utilized currency.

Two temporary bureau de change will be established in Kaikyo Messe.

TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES AND CREDIT CARDS

Traveller's cheques are not accepted in Shimonoseki except at banks. It is recommended that visitors exchange traveller's cheques with cash Yen at an international airport (Narita, Kansai, and Fukuoka) upon arrival and before travelling on to Shimonoseki.

VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club, and American Express are widely accepted at hotels, department stores, shops, restaurants and nightclubs. It is not possible to withdraw Japanese Yen in cash at Japanese banks using your cash card issued by banks in your country.

There is a ATM machine at Kaikyo Messe and two machines in Shimonoseki which accepts widely known cards such as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, etc. However, these machines require relatively high commission since transactions pass through a intermediate financial institution.

TIPPING

In Japan, tips are not necessary anywhere, even at hotels and restaurants.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Japan operates on 100 volts for electrical appliances. The frequency is 50 Hz in eastern Japan including Tokyo and 60 Hz in western Japan including Shimonoseki, Kyoto and Osaka.

SHOPPING

The business hours of most department stores are 10:00 to 19:00. They are open on Sundays and national holidays, but close on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday. Business hours for retail shops differ from each other, most operate from 10:00 to 20:00, and are open on Sundays and national holidays.

GOLDEN WEEK

The 'Golden Week' is from April 27th to 6th May. It does not affect shops, restaurants and staff (technicians) relating to running of the meeting, but transport (especially flights) will be busier than usual and almost all banks will be closed April 27, 28, 29 and 3 to 6 May.