

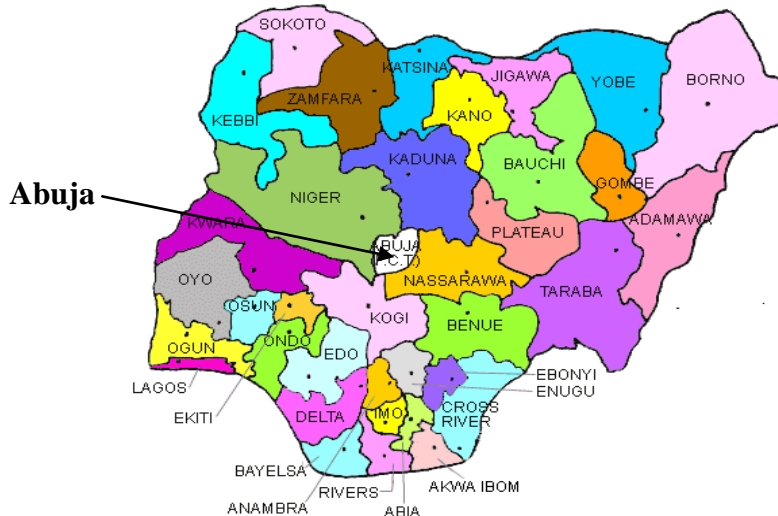
A-MRS 5th International Conference

14th – 18th December, 2009

Information Guide

The vast geographical features of Nigeria have long been an object of fascination for geographers who have spent a great deal of time studying its inherent aspects. The geography of Nigeria is replete with interesting facts and information. The actual geographical area covered by the country is 923,770 sq. km of which total land area is 910,770 sq. km. The extensive coastline of Nigeria shares an approximate area of 853 km. Nigeria is situated in the western part of Africa and is located at an latitude of 10° N, 8° E. On the northern part of the country lies Niger, onto the east is Cameroon while Atlantic Ocean is located on the south and Benin to the west.

The comprehensive geography of Nigeria has been divided into regions such as--- the south, or Guinea coastlands; the central region; and the northern part of Nigeria. The country consists of 36 states with Abuja as its current capital. It's important to note that the climatic conditions of the country vary greatly due to its close proximity to the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer. The tropical region which falls towards the southern part has temperatures of 90°F while the subtropical regions in the North experience a temperature of 60°F to 100°F. There are two main seasons prevalent in Nigeria. One is the rainy season from May to September in the northern part of Nigeria, while in the southern part it is from March to November. The dry season, exists from December till January widely known as the 'Harmattan' season in Nigeria.



The country of Nigeria is also rich in varied natural resources and some of the prominent minerals found in this region are natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, lead and zinc. The exhaustive wildlife of Nigeria attracts nature lovers from different parts of the world. The most popular animals found in the jungles (not in the cities!) of Nigeria are--- elephants, buffalos, lions, leopards, antelopes, monkeys, jackals and hyenas.

Abuja – The Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

Well known as the capital city of Nigeria, the splendid architectural landmarks of Abuja entitles it to be a hub of various multi-cultural activities. With a population of more than 1 million, it is also one of the largest cities of the country. Abuja officially became the capital of Nigeria on 12th December 1991. It is also one of the best planned cities of Africa and was developed by I.P.A (International Planning Associates), an association of three American firms. It is interesting to note that the semi lunar shape of the city is done keeping in mind its topographic conditions.

Population

Population figures in Nigeria have never been reliable. They are usually estimated, and even these can differ. I have seen an estimate of 101 million people from the ABC Country Book, 114 million from the World Bank, 127 million from the United Nations estimate, all for the year 1995.

It has one of the highest population densities in the world (at one time, it had the third highest population densities), and roughly 1 out of every 4 Africans is a Nigerian.

A-MRS Background Information

The African Materials Society (A-MRS) is based on the creation of African regional network of materials research society and so presently we have West Africa-MRS, South Africa-MRS, East Africa-MRS, and North Africa-MRS. The Central-Africa MRS is the only one that is not yet in existence.

The mode of operation of the mother society is to rotate the office of the President every 2 years between the existing regional-MRS which led to the office of the President coming to West Africa in 2000, South Africa in 2001, North Africa in 2003-2005 and East Africa in 2005-2007.

The African Materials Research Society at its last 4th African Materials Research (A-MRS) Conference held at Dar es Salaam in Tanzania between 10th and 14th of December, 2007 agreed that the headquarter of the Society should now rotate back to West Africa with Prof. O. O. Adewoye_{FAS}, the Director General of the National Agency for Science & Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) as the President for the next 2 years (2008 and 2009).

In order to make the society active and increase its' visibility during these 2 years, the secretariat has directed that the program of events for the next 2 years will entail organising workshops and training including lectures and demonstrations in each of the A-MRS regions vis, West, East, North and South African zones. The Central African zone has not been launched yet and it is hoped that before the end on the new

tenure, this will be carried out. In addition to these workshops, the 5th International Conference of the African Materials Research Society will be held in December, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria.

A-MRS Presidents, Past and Present



Prof. A. C. Beye
2001(Senegal)



Prof. Y. Ballim
2003 (S. Africa)



Prof. J. Tesha
2005/2007 (Tanzania)



Prof. O. O. Adewoye
2007/2009 (Nigeria)

Aims and Objectives

- (i) To facilitate effective partnership and collaborations among African Materials Scientists and their counterparts outside Africa.
- (ii) To support improvement of science education in Africa and finally
- (iii) To support the development of a virtual network of materials research activities in Africa.

How to reach Abuja from Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos

The easiest way of getting to Abuja from Lagos is by local flight. There is a bus shuttle between the international airport and the local airport. You do not have to pay for this service.

A representative of the National Agency for Science & Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni) will be waiting for you at the international airport in Lagos, take you to the local airport for the trip to Abuja.

On arrival in Abuja, another representative will take you to your respective hotel.

Transportation in Abuja

Taxi: The green colored taxis with white stripes on the sides can take you to any destination inside the capital including the airport. They do not have meters and the base charge is about ₦3,000 (~ \$20) but this can always be negotiated.

Car rental: The largest international car rental agencies are locally available, but it is always better to rent a car from the hotel where you are staying.

Bicycles/scooters: There are scooters for transportation in Abuja, though they are confined to the outskirts of the city. For those who are adventurous, please note that this mode of transportation is not recommended.

The Conference venue

The conference will be held at the **Sheraton Hotel & Towers**, situated at Maitama District of the Federal Capital Territory. 3 breakout rooms capable of containing comfortably 100 participants and a plenary hall for 600 participants will be at our disposal as well as a secretariat. Posters will be posted in a large hall.

Hotel Accommodation – Location & Cost

SHERATON HOTEL & TOWERS

Contact: Mrs. Aisha Onjefu, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Ladi Kwali Street, P.M.B. 143, Maitama, Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
Tel: +234(0) 9 461 2000, Fax: +234(0) 9 460 1510-1, GSM: +234 807 409 0977
E-mail: aisha.onjefu@sheraton.com, Website: www.sheraton.co/abuja



	Rate (₦)	Deposit (₦)
Classic King	39,500	50,000
Superior Room	50,000	60,000
Junior Suite	74,500	90,000
Executive Suite	105,800	130,000
Diplomatic Suite (2 bedrooms)	152,300	180,000
Ambassador Suite (2 bedrooms)	174,500	210,000
Presidential Suite (2 bedrooms)	198,800	235,000

Rates are exclusive of 5% VAT and 10% service charge

✚ TRANSCORP HILTON

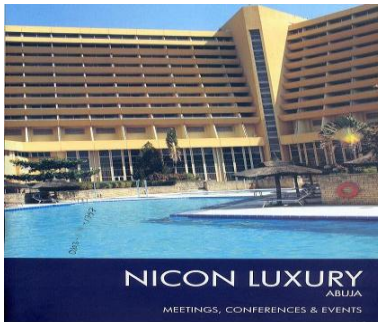
Contact: Kayode Edward Olabode, P.M.B 200, 1 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.
 Tel: +234 (0)9 461 3000, +234 (0)9 413 1811, +234 (0)803 901 3000
 Fax: +234 (0)9 461 3105, GSM: +234 (0)803 300 2528, +234 (0)702 565 9644
 E-mail: kayode.olabode@hilton.com, Website: www.hiltom.com



Room Type	Rate (₦)	Deposit (₦)
Classic Room	34,385	50,000
Superior Room	48,000	60,000
Business Suite	60,500	90,000
Executive Suite	66,875	130,000
Ambassador Suite	187,500	210,000
Presidential Suite	306,250	235,000
Rates are exclusive of 5% VAT and 10% service charge		
Use a conversion rate of ₦140 = \$1		
About 10 minutes drive from Sheraton Hotel & Towers		

✚ NICON LUXURY

Contact: Olushola Ibiyemi, Nicon Luxury Abuja, Plot 903, Tafawa Balewa Way, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria. Tel: +234 (0)9 234 2002, +234 (0)9 461 9000 Ext. 15037, Mobile: +234 (0)803 429 0211 +234 (0)802 282 8945, Fax: +234 (0) 9 461 9009, E-mail: shola.ibiyemi@niconluxury.com
 Website: www.niconluxury.com



Room Type	Rate (₦)	Deposit (₦)
Classic Room	34,385	50,000
Superior Room	48,000	60,000
Business Suite	60,500	90,000
Executive Suite	66,875	130,000
Ambassador Suite	187,500	210,000
Presidential Suite	306,250	235,000
Rates are exclusive of 5% VAT and 10% service charge		
Use a conversion rate of ₦140 = \$1		
About 10 minutes drive from Sheraton Hotel & Towers		

✚ ROCKVIEW HOTELS

Contact: Ebele Oguadinma C, Plot 194/196, Cad Zone A3, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Box 5879 Garki Abuja. Classic Tel: +234 (9) 4138722-38, Fax: +234 (9) 4138768, 4136720, Royale Tel: +234 (9) 4130041-50, 4130093-102, 4130168-75, Royale Fax: +234 (9) 4612829, 4612830, E-mail: reservationroyale@rockviewhotels.com, ebychrist@yahoo.com, sales@rockviewhotels.com, Website: <http://www.rockviewhotels.com>



Room Type	Rate (₦)	Deposit (₦)
Classic Room	34,385	50,000
Superior Room	48,000	60,000
Business Suite	60,500	90,000
Executive Suite	66,875	130,000
Ambassador Suite	187,500	210,000
Presidential Suite	306,250	235,000
Rates are exclusive of 5% VAT and 10% service charge		
About 10 minutes drive from Sheraton Hotel & Towers		

REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL

Contact: Precious Ojiaku, Plot 779, Cadastral Zone A0, Central Area Abuja, P.M.B 140, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.
Tel: +234 (9) 2346611, 2349183, Fax: +234 (9) 2340744, GSM: +234 803 648 7377, E-mail: preciousojiaku@yahoo.com,
Website: www.reizcontinentalhotel.com



Room Type	Rate (₦)	Deposit (₦)
Standard	19,780	26,000
Deluxe	24,150	29,000
Executive	25,990	33,000
Penthouse	38,410	45,000
Continental Suite	46,920	52,000
Rates are inclusive of 5% VAT and 10% service charge		
About 10 minutes drive from Sheraton Hotel & Towers		

Exchange Rate

The common currencies accepted in the Nigerian bureau de change and banks are the US dollar, British pounds and Euro. The exchange rate of Nigerian naira to these currencies can vary at any time, but the average rates are the following;

US\$1 = ₦140,

£1 = ₦245 and

₹1 = ₦207.

Insurance, Safety and Health hazards

Nigerians are peaceful and tolerant. The crime rate in Abuja is very low or non-existent. However, as in every tourist capital, one must be aware of pick-pockets. It is recommended to take anti-malaria pills and not to drink tap water. For any additional health precautions and vaccinations, please consult with the health authorities of your home-country.

Visas

Visas are required by almost all nationals. Best is to obtain the visa at your country of departure. Let us know in time if you have problems concerning visa. To locate the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in your country, please visit the following website;

<http://www.onlinenigeria.com/embassies/>

Contact Information

Send your enquiries to

- (i) "africa_mrs@yahoo.com"
- or
- (ii) "ayfasasi@yahoo.co.uk"