



PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC/RESEARCH LIBRARIANS, INC.

Rm. 301, THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING, T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA

MANILA 1000, PHILIPPINES

www.paarl.org.ph

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16 July 2017

Dear PAARL Members/Colleagues:

The Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) cordially invites library directors, librarians, information professionals, LIS teachers and all interested to participate in this year's **Definitely Dubai!** benchmarking tour and international conference with the theme: **Cross-Institutional Collaborations: Challenges and Opportunities**, to be held on October 22-27, 2017.

The progressive city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, has been chosen as the destination for the benchmarking tour/conference because of its modern libraries which are at par with the best libraries in other parts of the world.

The objectives of this benchmarking tour and conference are as follows:

1. To promote the concept of cross-institutional collaboration.
2. To provide a venue for libraries/librarians to network.
3. To establish international partners/linkages.
4. To learn from best practices and experiences of other institutions.
5. To learn how to further develop, nurture, and expand existing partnerships or collaborative projects/programs.

CPD points are being applied for this activity.

Interested parties are requested to register at: <http://bit.ly/PAARLbenchmarking2017>

Attached are the details on fees, terms/schedule of payment, booking conditions, inclusions and tour itinerary, for your reference.

The conference program will be sent to all registered participants as soon as the list of paper presentations is finalized.

Very truly yours,

Melquiades I. Alipo-on

Chair, Benchmarking Tour, 2017



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FEES

To cover the cost of the tour and conference, participants will be charged as follows:

Particulars	Fees*	Payment Terms
Early bird discount	USD1,420.00 (Php71,000.00)	Limited to 5 slots only; first come-first served. Full payment should be received on or before August 15, 2017.
Minimum of 20 to 30 persons joining the tour	USD1540.00 (Php77,000.00)	Refer to Terms/Schedule of Payment
Minimum of 31 persons joining the tour	USD1500.00 (Php75,000.00)	Refer to Terms/Schedule of Payment

*Dollar rate is fixed. Peso equivalent is subject to change based on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of payment (conversion rate used: USD1.00 = Php50.00)

TERMS/SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

Particulars	Amount*	Deadline	Remarks
Confirmation deposit	USD500.00 (Php25,000.00)	August 15, 2017	Non-refundable
2 nd payment	USD300.00 (Php15,000.00)	August 30, 2017	
3 rd payment	USD300.00 (Php15,000.00)	September 15, 2017	
4 th payment	USD474.00 (Php19,250.00)	October 5, 2017	

*Based on 20 minimum participants. Adjustments will be made based on the final number of participants joining the tour and the prevailing exchange rate at the time of payment (conversion rate used: USD1.00 = Php50.00)

Please deposit payment to any of the following:

Account Name: **Sunbee Tours & Travel**

Account Number:

BPI Dollar Account: 2044-0150-16

BDO Peso Account: 1760-2036-00

Please send scanned copy of your deposit slip to: sunbee_tours@yahoo.com copy furnished Mr. Mel Alipo-on, Chair, PAARL Benchmarking at malipoonlibrarydirector@yahoo.com.

BOOKING CONDITIONS



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1. Confirmation deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE but transferable to another party provided transfer is done prior to ticket issuance which is before September 15, 2017.
2. 50% cancellation charges will be imposed for those cancelling 60 days prior to departure
3. 100% cancellation charges will be imposed for those cancelling 30 days prior to departure
4. By paying the above fees, it is understood that the participant agrees to the booking conditions.

INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip airfare MNL-DBX-MNL via Emirate Airlines
- Visa and visa processing fee
- Roundtrip airport-hotel-airport transfers with meet and assist
- 5 days/4 nights hotel accommodation on TWIN sharing at Arabian Park Hotel or similar 3-star hotel
- Meals:
 - Day 1: Lunch, Dhow Dinner Cruise
 - Day 2: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - Day 3: Breakfast, Lunch, Safari Barbecue Dinner with Belly Dancing Show
 - Day 4: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - Day 5: Breakfast, Dinner
- Guided tours as specified
- English speaking guide and tour escort
- Tips for driver and guide

TOUR ITINERARY (Tentative)

PAARL has prepared the following informative and exciting activities for the participants of this tour and conference:

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Activity/Destination</i>	<i>Details</i>
22 Oct 2017	Depart Manila Lunch Hotel check-in	Fortune Pearl Hotel (3-star), Omar Bin Al Khatab Road, Dubai, UAE
	Dubai Miracle Garden	On twin sharing Guinness record holder for having the largest vertical garden. Features more than 45 million blooming flowers in stunning designs, awesome shapes and structures.
	Cultural tour - Dhow Dinner Cruise	Enjoy a wonderful evening aboard a dhow and get to experience genuine Arabian hospitality. A delightful international buffet cuisine awaits the guests.
23 Oct 2017	Conference	Paper presentations on the theme



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<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Activity/Destination</i>	<i>Details</i>
24 Oct 2017	Library benchmarking tour	Whole day; venue TBA One library (TBA)
	Library benchmarking tour	Three to four libraries (TBA)
	Cultural tour - Desert Safari tour	Delight in a two-hour dune driving, stopping at the highest dune for a photo with the spectacular view of the sunset as backdrop. Also visit the Camel Breeding Farm and have Arabian coffee and dates. In the evening, enjoy a sizzling buffet of BBQ dinner and salad and take pleasure in tasting Arabic bread being baked in front of you. Experience a belly dancing show while having a cup of coffee/tea.
26 Oct 2017	Cultural tour – Abu Dhabi	Admire the skills and dexterity of local ladies making traditional handicrafts at the Women’s Handicraft Center. Proceed to Al Husn Palace, the oldest building in Abu Dhabi, which was built in the 18 th century. Learn about ‘black gold’ (oil) at the Petroleum Exhibition Center.
	Cultural tour – Dubai City	Places to visit: Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah, AL Fahidi Port Enjoy an awesome view of Dubai at the Burj Al Khalifa Observation Deck
	Full day free time	
27 Oct 2017	Hotel check-out	Check out time is 12:00 noon
	Depart Dubai	