



VENUE

The joint ECHOGrid and EUCHINAGrid conference will take place at the Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences No. 6 South Kexueyuan RD. Haidian District, Beijing <http://www.ict.ac.cn>

INFORMATION ON THE CITY

Beijing is the capital of the most populated country in the world, the People's Republic of China. It was also the seat of the Ming and Qing dynasty emperors until the republic was established in 1911. As such it is rich in historical sites and important government institutions. The city is well known for its flat and regular buildings. There is only one hill to be found within the city limits in Jingshan Park to the north of the famous Forbidden City. Like the configuration of the Forbidden City, Beijing has concentric "ring roads", which are actually rectangular, that wind around the metropolis. Participants are strongly encouraged to spend few days visiting this splendid city.

AIRPORT

Beijing Capital International Airport. Most of the International airlines flight directly from Europe to Beijing, including Air China, British Airways, Aeroflot, Lufthansa, KLM and Air France. The average cost is € 1.500,00 including taxes.

PASSPORT and VISA

A valid passport is required to travel to China. Most travellers will need a visa. In most cases, this should be obtained from a Chinese embassy or consulate before departure, therefore please check with the Chinese Embassy in your own Country. Please note that travelling to Hong Kong and Macau have different visa requirements. See relevant guides for more information. As of 2005, nationals of Singapore, Brunei and Japan do not need a visa to visit China for a stay of up to 15 days, regardless of the reason for visiting. Travel Permit, a wallet sized ID card allowing multiple entries for 10 years. Getting a tourist visa is easy for most passports as you do not need an invitation, whereas this is a requirement for business or working visas. The usual tourist single-entry visa is valid for thirty days and must be used within three months after it has been issued.

TAXIS

China enjoys adequate taxi service. In most cities, taxis tend to be a small local-made car painted in either **red or yellow**. In large cities, there are luxurious sedans at a higher rate. Taxi fares vary from city to city but they are always clearly marked on the taxi window.

Please bear in mind that most taxi drivers **do not understand English at all**. Non-Chinese speaking visitors are advised to have their destinations written down in Chinese and show the address to the cab driver to avoid difficult situations. Please print and use the maps available on the conference web pages.

CURRENCY

The official currency of the People's Republic of China is the renminbi, often abbreviated RMB. The official base unit of this currency is the yuan, international currency code CNY.

Please remember to keep all your exchange receipts as you will need them to exchange RMB back into the original currency.

CLIMATE

China lies mainly in the temperate and subtropical zones. Generally, its southern part (East China, South China and Southwest china) is warm, humid, and rainy; its northern part (North China, Northeast China, and northwest China) is dry and windy. In spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) you will need a lined jacket or woollen sweater over light clothes. In summer (June to August) cool cotton garments are recommended. Late spring and late summer are often rainy especially in the southern part of China.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is 220 volts/50 hz. Most buildings have universal outlets that can handle a wide variety of plug shapes.

CALLING

Code + 86. Telephone service is more of a mixed bag. Calling outside the country is often difficult, and usually impossible without a calling card, which can often only be bought locally.

TIME ZONE

UTC +8 - CET +6

