



First Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Meeting of the GPA

26 – 30 November 2001

Montreal, Canada

GPA IGR Newsletter #4 – 16 November 2001

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- 1) **Status of IGR Preparation and Participation**

The stage is set and preparations for the IGR are essentially complete. The GPA Coordination Office, along with the Canadian host team, is very busy with last minute details and the usual “hiccups” that are to be expected in organizing an event of this magnitude.

We are pleased to report that participation at the GPA IGR is well on-track to exceed initial expectations. Government participation will surpass that of the GPA Washington meeting in 1995. As a number of countries are still finalizing their delegation lists, participation should increase in the remaining days leading up to the IGR. We are also pleased that there will be significant representation from all GPA stakeholders, including Intergovernmental Organizations, UN Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the media and the private sector.

As of 15 November, we have received notice that well over 100 States will attend, with approximately 30 Ministerial level delegates planning to participate.

It is not too late for you to confirm your participation! You can help to facilitate planning and preparation by completing the Pre-Registration form, which is available for download at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/participants.htm>.



2) Visas and Security

All persons planning to attend the GPA IGR and/or the International Environmental Governance (IEG) meeting should already have applied for any necessary travel documents, such as a visa to enter Canada. Please consult with the appropriate Canadian Embassy, High Commission, or Consulate for further information about applying for a visa. Further information about entering Canada is available on the “Citizenship and Immigration Canada” Web site at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.html>.

Due to strict security conditions now in place, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Conference facility will be accessible only to registered participants. At registration, all participants will be asked to show their passport in order to receive their name badge and registration package. A passport or other acceptable photo identification may also be required upon each re-entry to the ICAO building, so please carry these documents with you and keep them easily accessible. The official name badge must be visible at all times while in the ICAO facility. Delegates may be required to pass through a metal detector and articles may be placed in an x-ray machine. Your understanding and cooperation regarding these enhanced security measures would be appreciated.



3) Reminder About Documents

All delegates are kindly reminded to bring their copies of the working documents with them to the meeting, as there will only be very limited quantities available on-site. All of the working documents, and most of the information documents, are available for downloading or viewing online at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/prepatorydocs.htm>.

4) National, Regional, and NGO Reports

Many countries, regions and NGOs have contributed reports on their GPA relevant activities and experiences. The aim of these reports is to facilitate an exchange of experiences on the implementation of the GPA. The GPA Coordination Office is very pleased that so many stakeholders have chosen to share their information with the wider GPA community. At time of writing, there are 52 country reports, 10 regional reports, and 5 NGO reports all available for viewing online at:

National: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/Reports/national.htm>

Regional: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/Reports/regional.htm>

NGOs: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/Reports/ngo.htm>

5) Pre-Registration and Hotels

For registrations received after 16 November which include requests for financial assistance, please be advised that funding will not be available prior to the IGR meeting. Late registering participants who may qualify for assistance are asked to urgently contact the GPA Coordination Office for instructions. Please note that at this late date, the GPA Coordination Office cannot guarantee that there will be funding available.

Also, for those participants who have not yet confirmed your hotel accommodations, reservations cannot be guaranteed as the GPA IGR block bookings have been released back to the hotels. Tourism Montreal will still endeavor to place all GPA IGR participants in suitable hotels at the best possible price. Participants without arrangements are therefore encouraged to complete the Hotel Reservation Form, which is available for download at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/participants.htm>, and to send the completed form to Tourism Montreal at fax number 514-844-6771.

6) Information for Media

The GPA IGR Web site now has updated information that is of interest to members of the media – other followers of the GPA may also find interesting and useful background information. The site contains a registration and accreditation form and information, the media accreditation and registration policy, and a number of background documents such as a media advisory, and press releases about the GPA, key issues and the GPA Coordination Office. Please visit <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/media.htm> to view or download these documents and forms.



7) Contacting the GPA Coordination Office

Our contact information:

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Visit the GPA Clearing-House Mechanism at:

www.gpa.unep.org

and the GPA IGR site at:

www.gpa.unep.org/igr