



CCSCH

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

First Session
11 – 14 FEBRUARY, 2014
Kochi(Cochin), Kerala,India





"Namaskar !!!"

India the land of colours, festivals, spices and herbs extends a Warm Welcome.

The quest for spices was one of the earliest drivers of globalization and India being one of the earliest spice destinations for many centuries is working to host the Sessions of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH).

From time immemorial, the heartiness of the globe in accepting spices and culinary herbs is never debated. Stimulating the appetite of food lore through its enchanting flavour, colour and smell, these delights have much to offer the globe even beyond its culinary horizon. Receptiveness of the world to spices and culinary herbs, is very well glorified through the boom in international trade in these commodities.

The multi utility profile of these culinary amusements adds on its unswerving effect on the quality of food traded globally. The human civilization has undergone a series of dramatic changes since the discovery of spices and herbs. Today, food connoisseurs use spices to make food and drink taste great and they are cost effective. However, this was not the case in the ancient and medieval times when spices were costly and only affordable by wealthy individuals.

The prevalence of disharmony in the standards in all facets, right from farm-to table is discernible and act as a detriment to smooth trade. There are many potential impediments in facilitating fair practices in trade, thanks to the frequent revision of requirements for imports by regulators in market territories. The compulsions to cater to differing standards in different countries drives to unhealthy trade practices and deprivation of justice in terms of price realizations. Here emanates the requirement of suitable standardization for employing fair practices in spice trade without compromising consumer safety. Consequently the domain of spices and culinary herbs has now delineated towards Codex to overcome the present crisis.

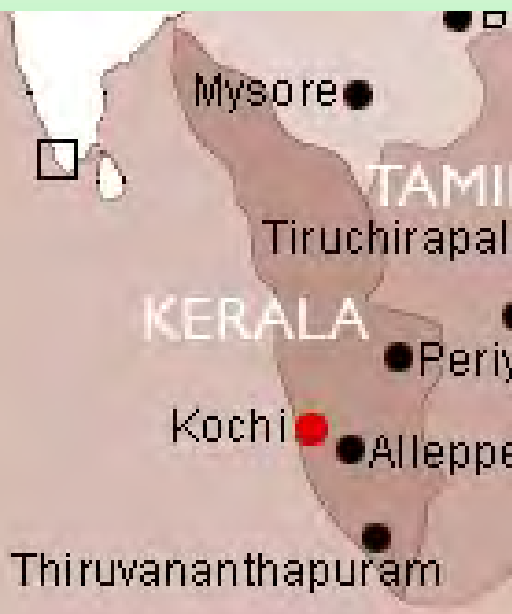
It is in this context, an exclusive Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) is

constituted under the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 36th Session held from 1st to 5th July 2013 at the FAO Headquarters, Rome. This Committee will attempt towards

contributing to gains for quality exports besides ensuring consumer safety and fair practices in trade. CCSCH has now set forth towards provision of quality spices and herbs across the globe and has the following Terms of Reference:

(a) To elaborate worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state in whole, ground, and cracked or crushed form.

(b) To consult, as necessary, with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.



Getting to the venue



The Gateway Hotel,
Marine Drive,
Cochin - 682 011,
Kerala, India.
Phone : +91 484 6673300
Fax: +91 484 6673444
Email : gateway.ernakulam@tajhotels.com
Website : www.thegatewayhotels.com

The Gateway Hotel is located at Marine Drive which is 30 Km away from the Cochin International Airport (Nedumbassery Airport). Participants are to arrange for their own transport to the meeting venue. Prepaid taxis are available at both the national and international terminals (in the same vicinity). Alternatively, hotels can be requested to provide taxis on payment. Peak hour traffic is during 8 to 10 in the morning and 5 to 7 in the evening.

Transportation

By Air: A number of domestic and international flights operate from the Cochin International Airport located at Nedumbassery. They connect the city with the other major cities not only within India, but also across the entire globe. Cochin is also connected to Singapore, Colombo and all major cities in the middle-east (Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Doha, Dubai, Kuwait, Jeddah, Muscat, and Riyadh) by direct international flights. The International and Domestic terminals are located right next to each other. Prepaid taxis are available from the airport and can be booked from within the arrival hall.

By Rail: Trains running from the main railway stations in Kochi, namely Ernakulam Junction (South), and Ernakulam Town (North) connects to all major cities of India.

By Road: Kochi is situated at a distance of approximately 565 km from Bangalore, 223 km from Coimbatore, and 694 km from Chennai. An extensive network of National/ State highways and local roads link Kochi to rest of the country. Private and public transport services are also available from all major cities of India.

Kochi has safe and reliable taxi service for both short and long distance trips. Auto-rickshaws (Autos) are fairly cheaper than taxi cars and they are the most convenient mode of transport.

Registration Desk

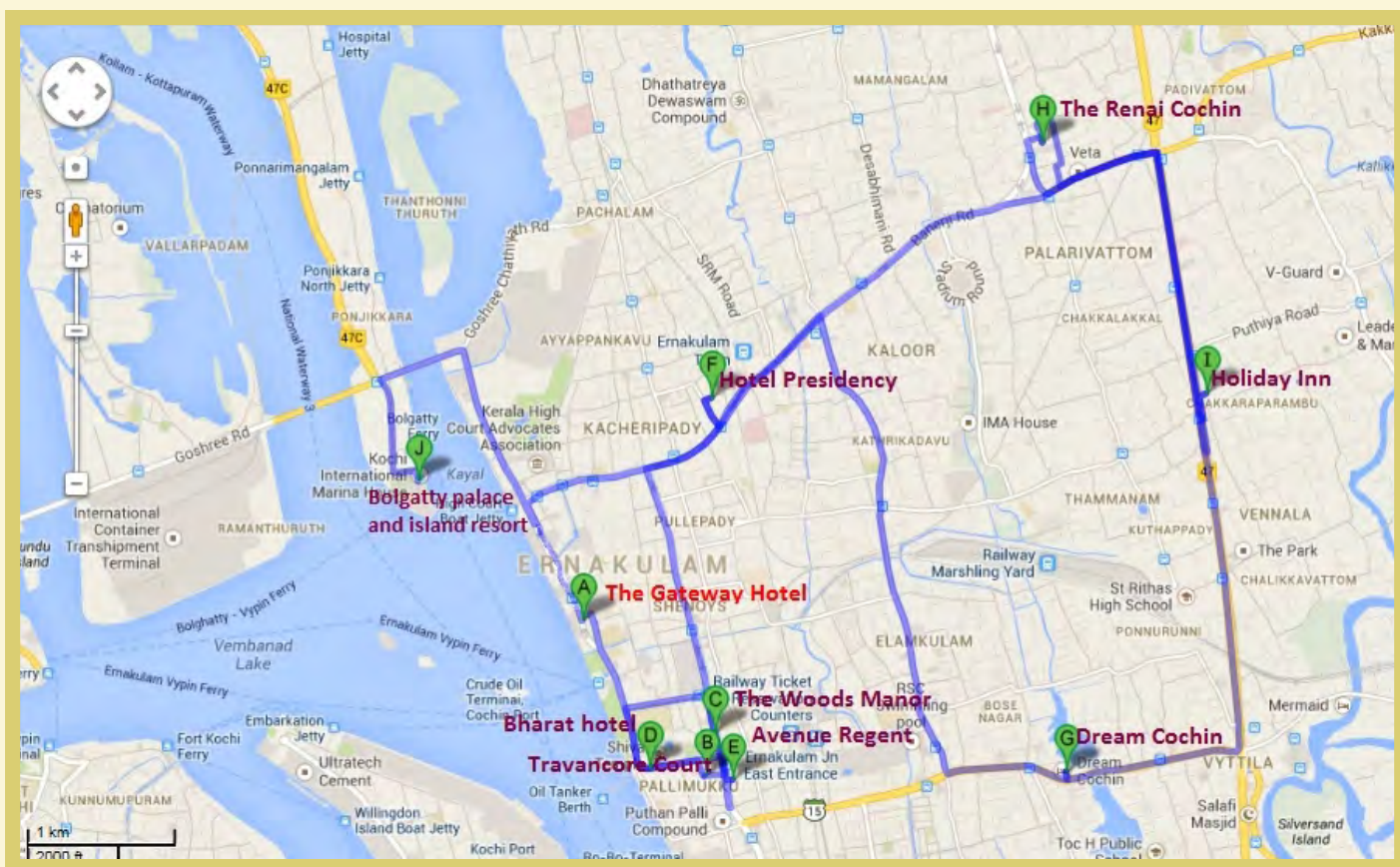
The Registration Desk at the Waterfront Hall of the Gateway Hotel will provide information and assistance to all the participants. Registration facilities will be open on Monday, 10 February 2014 from 15:00 to 20:00 and on Tuesday 11 February 2014 from 08:00 hours. Upon receipt of the completed registration form, a badge will be given to the participant. Participants are kindly requested to wear their name badges at all functions during the meeting. Delegates can register online at www.ccsch.in

Accommodation

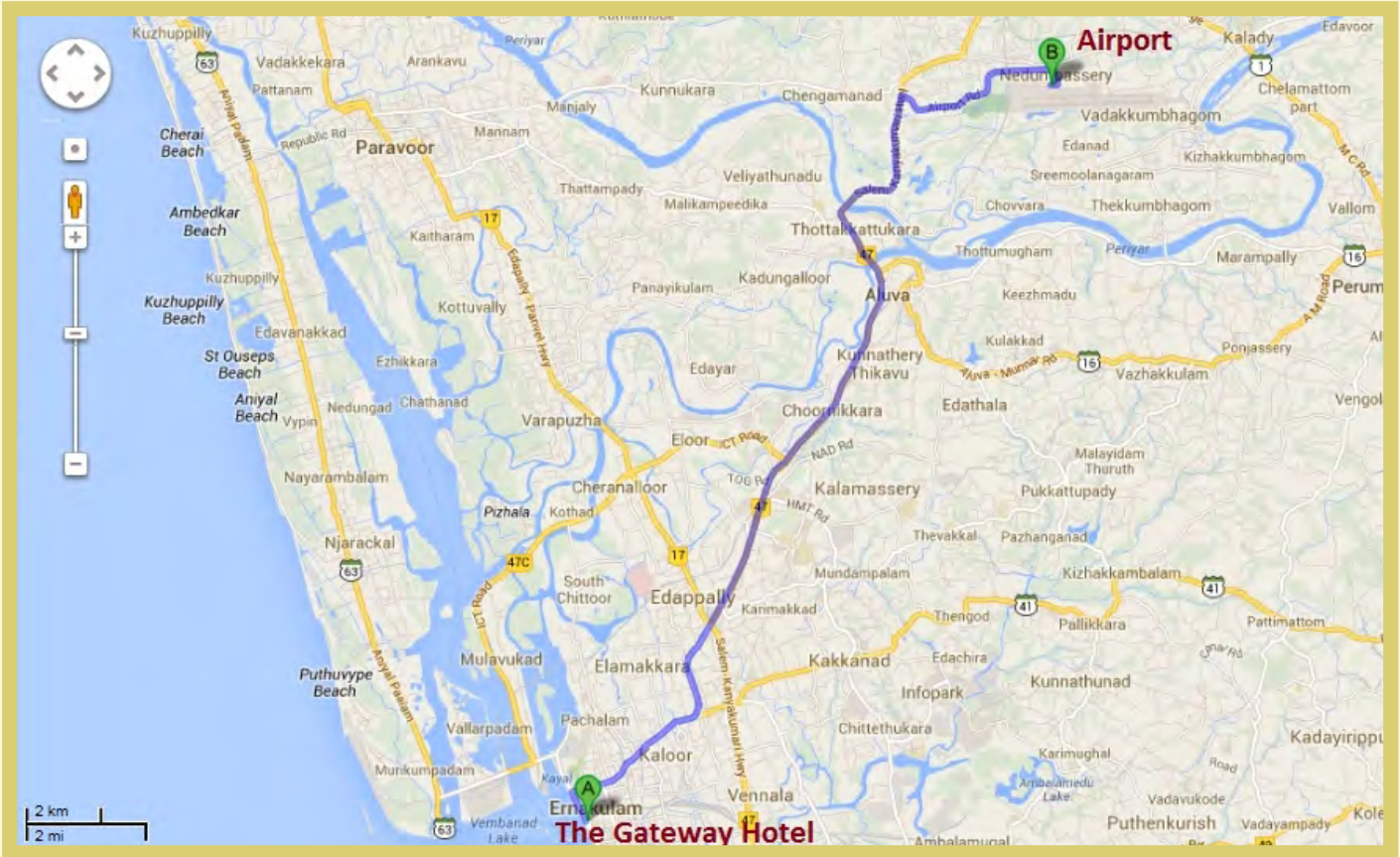
Booking of rooms by citing of CCSCH is necessary to avail the discounted rates. The other hotels located nearby the meeting venue are listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel	Contact details	Distance from Venue By Road	Special Tariff# Valid till 11 January, 2014 (including breakfast)			
				Deluxe Room		Suite Room	
				Single	Double	Single	Double
A	The Gateway Hotel ***** www.thegatewayhotels.com	gateway.ernakulam@tajhotels.com	VENUE HOTEL	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 7000/- (sea view)	Rs. 14000/-	
B	Travancore Court ***** www.travancorecourt.com	mail@travancorecourt.com	1.4 Kms	Rs. 2400/-	Rs. 2750/-	Rs. 3500/-	Rs. 4000/-
C	The Woods Manor ***** www.thewoodsmanor.com	sales@thewoodsmanor.com	1.5 Kms	Rs. 2400/-	Rs 3000/-	Rs 4400/-	Rs 5700/- (Kerala Suite)
D	Bharat Hotel www.bharathotel.com	reservations@bharathotel.in	1.5 Kms	Rs 2200/-	Rs 3000/-	Rs 2800/-	Rs 3700/-
E	Avenue Regent ***** www.avenuehotels.in	smkt@avenuehotels.in	1.8 Kms	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 3500/-	-	-
F	Hotel Presidency ***** www.presidencyhotel.com	sales@presidencyhotel.com	2.6 Kms	Rs 2000/-	Rs 2000/-	Rs 4500/-	Rs 4500/-
G	Dream Cochin ***** www.dreamcochin.com	prajilal@dreamcochin.com	3.0 Kms	-	-	Rs 3750/-	Rs 4250/-
H	The Renai Cochin ***** www.renaicochin.in	banquet@pghr.in	4.0 Kms	Rs 1900/-	Rs 2400/-	Rs 6000/-	-
I	Holiday Inn Cochin ***** www.holidayinn.com	soma.mathew@ihg.com	5.0 Kms	Rs 5000/-	Rs 5500/-	Rs 9000/-	
J	Bolgatty Palace & Island Resort ***** www.bolgattypalacekochi.com	bolgattyislandresortkochi@ktdc.com	6.0 Kms	Rs. 2900/-	Rs. 3900/-	Rs. 4010/-	Rs. 5520/-

Excluding the tax of 19.92%



Adopted from Google maps



Adopted from Google maps



Local Currency

India's official currency is the Indian Rupee. (Exchange rate as on 21st September 2013:1 US Dollar = ₹ 62.7/-). Money changing facilities are available with banks in airport and the city (Federal Bank and State Bank of Travancore) and at authorized dealers in the city, which can be accessed from the link below:

<http://www.asklaila.com/search/Ernakulam-Cochin/-/Currency%20Exchange/?searchNearby=false>

ATMs are available at the Airport as well as near the Venue Hotel. International credit cum debit cards are accepted at most of the shops. Please keep in mind that only cash is accepted at traditional markets or at street food carts.

Visa Requirements

Foreign nationals travelling to India are required to possess a valid passport of their country and a valid Indian visa. However, nationals of Nepal and Bhutan do not require visas to enter India. Nationals of Maldives do not require visa for entry in India for a period up to 90 days (a separate visa regime exists for diplomatic/ official passport holders).

For further details, visit the following link:

<http://www.passportindia.gov.in/AppOnlineProject/welcomeLink>

Electrical system

India uses 230 volts, 50 Hz alternating current as the power source. The two pin plug is also called the Europlug. It has two round 4 mm (0.157 in) pins. The three pin plug is rated at 6A / 250V. It has three round pins in a triangular pattern.

Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided in four languages; Arabic, English, French and Spanish during the opening and plenary sessions.

Working Documents

All the working documents related to CCSCH will be uploaded into the Codex website www.codexalimentarius.org. Participants are kindly requested to bring with them to the meeting all documents which have been distributed. Conference Room Documents (CRD) will be available on the document desk at the meeting hall. Working documents are also available at FTP server.

Reception

A welcome dinner for all the delegates and observers is scheduled on 11 February 2014 at 19:30 hours in the Venue Hotel. Working lunches will be provided on 11 February 2014 and 12 February 2014 in the Venue Hotel.

Internet Facilities

Wi – Fi facility will be provided in the meeting hall (Water front hall) and work stations.

Cellular network Connections

Delegates can avail temporary local cellular connections from various service providers on production of attested copy as well as original ID proof, address proof to indicate the citizenship of the respective country and two passport size photographs. Telephone access code for Cochin is +91-484.

Correspondence

All correspondence concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

CCSCH Secretariat,
Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India),
'Sugandha Bhavan', N.H. By Pass, Palarivattom.P.O, Cochin – 682025, Kerala, India
Email: ccsch@indianspices.com, Tele & Fax: +91 484 2333606, Website: www.ccsch.in

For direct contact

Dr. P.S. Sreekantan Thampi, Organising Secretary,
Tel: +91 484 2333606, Mobile: +91 9447435059, Email: ccschthampi@gmail.com

Emergency Contacts

Police	100
Fire Services	101
Ambulance Services	<p>Indira Gandhi Co-operative Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Kadavanthra, Cochin-Ernakulam, Kerala. Phone: 0484-2319334.</p> <p>Specialists Hospital Near Town Railway station Kaloor, Cochin-Ernakulam, Kerala. Phone: 0484-2395066.</p> <p>Lions Club Ambulance, Sudheendra Hospital Chitoor Road, Kacherippady, Cochin-Ernakulam, Kerala. Phone: 0484-2354139.</p>
Hospitals	<p>Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre Amrita Lane, Elamakkara P.O. Ponekkara, Kochi. Phone : 0484-2802000,2801234 Website : www.aimshospital.org</p> <p>Ernakulam Medical Centre Palarivattom, N.H.- 47. Kochi. Phone : 0484-2807101</p> <p>Lakeshore Hospital NH 47 Bypass, Maradu, Nettoor P.O Kochi. Phone : 0484-2701032/2701033 Website: www.lakeshorehospital.com</p> <p>Medical Trust Hospital MG Road, Cochin Phone : 0484 2358001, 2358032- 34</p> <p>PVS Memorial Hospital Ltd Kaloor, Kochi -17. Phone : 0484-2345451</p> <p>Specialists Hospital Cochin-Ernakulam, Kerala. Phone: 0484-2395066.</p> <p>Lakshmi Hospital Diwan's Road, Kochi – 16. Phone : 0484-2382114</p>

General Information

“God’s own country”, Kerala, offers you a unique experience with its equable climate and its mesmerizing greenery. A long shoreline with serene beaches and silent stretches of backwaters add to the beauty of Kerala, known for its plantations and paddy fields. Kochi attracts people with its enthralling art forms, colorful festivals, historic and cultural monuments, exotic cuisine especially of sea food.... making it a hotspot for tourism.

I. Places of Interests in and around Cochin:

Visit the historical sites in Mattancherry/ Fort Kochi - Jew Town, Jewish Synagogue, St. Francis Church, Santa Cruz Basilica, Vasco House, Dutch Palace, Fort Kochi beach, Chinese fishing nets and watch the sunset.



The classical dance form of Kerala, “Mohiniyattam”, which literally means “Dance of the Enchantress”, will be a visual treat for those who love dance forms. In addition, the classical dance-drama form of Kerala, Kathakali, which means a story play or a dance drama will be a great experience for an evening.



Swim at Cherai beach and take a walk in the fishing villages, paddy fields and coconut groves and sip the juice of a tender coconut.



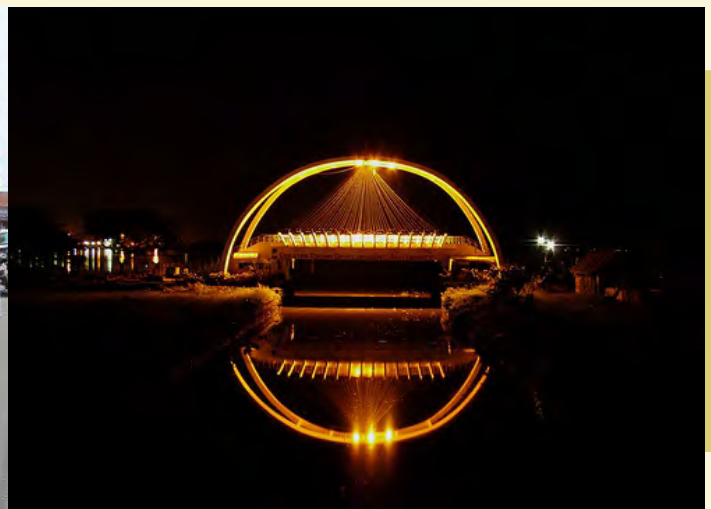


Visit museums and art galleries - Museum of Kerala History, Gallery of Contemporary Art, Hill Palace Museum and Chaithram Art Gallery.



Shop for curios, handicrafts and clothes along MG Road, Broadway or Jew Town (Mattancherry). Modern shopping malls sell exquisite traditional to designer products.

Notable is the Spice India Signature Stall at the Lulu Mall, Edapally, about 5 km from the Venue Hotel towards Airport.



Take a brief boat-ride along the scenic backwaters of Cochin. For extended period, hire a “Kettuvallom” (houseboat) and spend a few nights on board slowly travelling up the tranquil backwaters and having freshly cooked meals prepared with freshly caught fish.





Spend a few days in the hill resorts at Thekkady, another scenic tourist spot of Kerala is situated 185 km east of Cochin International Airport. The Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary is famous for its dense evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests and savanna grass lands. It is home to herds of

elephants, sambar, tigers, gaur, lion-tailed Macaques and Nilgiri Langurs. A boat ride through the man-made lake in the heart of the sanctuary provides a unique opportunity to observe these animals in their natural surroundings.

Munnar, about 140 kms on the National Highway 49, Munnar is a hill station ideal for a relaxing holiday away from the tropical lowlands. The tea gardens and cardamom plantations give Munnar a beautiful look. Anamudi, the highest peak in South India is in these hills. The Munnar - Kodaikanal (another hill station) road is believed to be the steepest and most adventurous road in South-East Asia.



Wildlife/bird spotting is possible at Mangalavanam, Kodanad, Kumarakom, Thattekad or Thekkady.

Thattekad bird sanctuary is located in Kothamangalam, about 60 kms from Cochin, on the northern banks of the Periyar River and is a tropical evergreen forest in the foothills of the Western Ghats. At the height of 35-523 metre above the sea level, this marvelous bird sanctuary is situated at Njayqapilli peak. 13 km north east of Kothamangalam, Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary is a home to some of the rarest and most exotic species of birds in India.





Tree house or “Erumadam” in Malayalam is a house built on tall trees. All treehouses are very ecofriendly and gives a wonderful opportunity to experience the beauty of nature... Constructed using eco friendly products like bamboo,coir,hay etc.etc...!!

II. Cuisine

The best of Kerala cuisine includes a multitude of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes prepared using fish, poultry and red meat. Spices, an inseparable part of all the Kerala dishes, is a common feature of all the Indian food as well and the culinary expertise of Keralites is evident in all our dishes.

The details of various restaurants in Cochin can be accessed through the link given below.

http://kochi.burrrp.com/~q_Restaurants/n_Ernakulam



III. Language

People generally speak English, Hindi and Malayalam.

IV. Weather

During February, Kochi has warm sunny days and nights. The temperature varies between 25 to 33°C.

V. Time zone

Kochi is in the Indian Standard time zone (IST). GMT + 5.30 hours. There is no daylight saving.

