

Important Arrival Reminders for APRU-MH20 International Delegates

Dear Delegates,

As you prepare for your trip to the Philippines for the APRU-MH20 this 26-29 November 2025 at the U.P. Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Metro Manila, please take note of the following practical reminders for a smooth arrival:

1. **Pre-book your Hotel.** Please secure your accommodation early as November is a busy travel and holiday period in Metro Manila. You may refer to our suggested list of hotels in this [link to accommodation recommendations](#) on the website.
2. **Immigration Requirements | eTravel / eGov.** You must complete the electronic travel declaration via the official eTravel portal: etravel.gov.ph. We highly recommend doing this in advance due to possible internet challenges upon arrival in Manila.
 - Registration is FREE and you may complete it within 72 hours before your arrival.
 - Show the generated QR code (on your phone or printed) at immigration and upon customs control.
3. **Local Transport | Grab and Green GSM.** We recommend downloading both [Grab](#) or the [Green GSM](#) for convenient ride-hailing in Manila. While Grab offers wider coverage across Metro Manila, Green GSM provides the option to book more sustainable transport solutions, though its service availability is currently limited, and restrictions for arrival pick-up at the airport for Green GSM seem to be imposed. Nevertheless, having both apps ready will ensure smoother travel throughout your stay.
 - On iOS: Go to the App Store → search "Grab" or "Green GSM".
 - On Android: Go to Google Play Store → search "Grab" or "Green GSM"
 - Airport to Hotel and vice versa: Set your hotel in BGC as the drop-off point in the app. The transport app will compute the route and fare based on your selection.
 - NAIA Terminal Pick-Up Points for Grab: Depending on which terminal you arrive at, you may refer to the [Grab pick-up zones](#).
 - Going to the Event Venue. Refer to the [website](#) for instructions or use the Google Map pin of the University of the Philippines BGC -
📍 University of the Philippines Bonifacio Global City

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4. **Staying Connected.** eSIM Option (buying online). To stay connected on arrival, you can purchase a Globe 5G eSIM via Klook. Other options are available including local SIMs (Globe/Smart) and Free Wi-Fi (though performance of this service may vary). Please take note that local SIMs MIGHT need to be registered under your name by the local cellular providers, using your passport. You might have to wait about 10-15 minutes.
 - For eSIM via Klook: Go to the Klook app → search “eSIM Philippines” → Select your data plan → activate using the QR code provided → install before arrival → once in the Philippines, turn on data roaming and set the eSIM as your data line.
 - For Local SIMs (Globe / Smart): Find available airport counters selling prepaid SIM cards upon arrival at the NAIA Airport.
 - For free Wi-Fi: Search for the open wifi available upon arrival at the airport. Please note that an available cellphone number or email to receive an OTP may be requested by this free wifi service.
5. **Currency & Payments.** Local currency is Philippine Peso (PHP).
 - Currency exchange counters are available at all NAIA terminals after baggage claim and customs. We recommend exchanging a small amount upon arrival so you have cash on hand.
 - Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in major establishments, but it is still advisable to carry cash for smaller vendors and local transport. Grab and GreenGSM accept only local currency for cash transactions.
 - ATMs are also available in all NAIA terminals should you need to withdraw cash.
 - **Those who are paying the REGISTRATION FEE (US\$ 175) ONSITE, please remember to pay CASH only in US currency (US\$).**
6. **Weather & Clothing.** November in Manila is warm but more comfortable than the summer months. Light clothing is ideal, though a light jacket/scarf may help in air-conditioned venues.



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7. Safety & General Tips. Other safety reminders are also provided below.

- Use only registered Grab, Green GSM vehicles, or reputable taxis, for transportation.
- Keep your belongings secure at all times, especially in crowded areas.
- Carry an umbrella or raincoat for sudden showers and sun protection for warm weather especially if you prefer to walk around BGC.
- Drinking bottled or filtered water is recommended.
- Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in busy markets or tourist areas.
- Keep emergency contact numbers handy, including your hotel and local authorities.

8. Sustainable Travel Tips. Other practical, culturally sensitive, and easy to follow tips:

- Opt for eSIMs to reduce plastic waste and avoid disposable SIMs.
- Choose electric or hybrid ride-hailing options (like Green GSM) whenever available.
- Bring a reusable water bottle; many hotels and venues offer filtered water stations.
- Carry reusable bags and/or utensils to reduce single-use plastics, especially when buying snacks or pasalubong.
- Support local businesses. Choose locally owned cafés, markets, and craft shops to reduce carbon footprint and support communities.
- Conserve energy in your hotel. Turn off lights, aircon, and unplug devices when not needed.
- Walk for short distances when the environment feels safe and comfortable.
- Choose eco-friendly souvenirs such as local crafts from sustainable materials instead of mass-produced items.

9. Time Zone. The Philippines operates on GMT+8. Please adjust your schedule accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming you to BGC this November. If you need any help before or during your trip, please feel free to reach out to the APRU 2025 Committee.

Warm regards,

APRU 2025 Program Committee



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