

Novel Coronavirus Update (COVID-19)

Updated: 24 February 2020

As you probably have heard in the news, the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in China has been declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization (WHO).

As conference organiser, your health and safety are our priority. In Zambia, there are currently no confirmed cases of coronavirus. The Zambia government has activated contingency measures, including screening of incoming international travelers at Lusaka International Airport. The country also closely cooperates with the WHO. If you arrive in Zambia, you can expect additional precautionary measures. On arrival, you might be asked to complete a form about your recent travel history and health status. Zambia has also started to implement health checks at Lusaka International Airport.

While the WHO currently does not recommend restricting international travel, several countries and airlines have implemented precautionary measures that might affect your travel. Please make sure to regularly check your flight status and guidance from your home country regarding international travel. For the latest available on travel restrictions, please visit the International Air Transport Association (IATA) [Travel News](#) page.

To minimise the risk of contagion and in light of precautionary measures taken by airlines and governments, we reached out to the participants who are travelling from China and encouraged them to pursue alternative options to benefit from the conference. In support of this, we have provided incentives to them to enable them to do so, e.g. by being represented by staff stationed outside China or by contributing remotely. To our knowledge, all Chinese companies either cancelled their visit, or will be represented by local staff or partners, or will send people that have not been in China for 14 days or longer.

If you are worried about the coronavirus, we recommend reading the following advice from the WHO:

- [How to protect yourself against the coronavirus](#)
- [Myth busters](#)
- [Situation reports](#) (updated daily)
- [Questions and Answers](#)

We are closely monitoring the situation and will share additional updates, if needed.

Marcus Wiemann

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