



MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

15 February 2024

MBSHC CIRCULAR LETTER No 05/2024

From: Vinka KOLIC BUBIC, M.Sc., MBSHC Chair, Director of CHI
To: Members, Associate Members and Observers of the MBSHC
Subject: Announcement and Invitation to the 24th MBSHC Conference

References: A. MBSCH CL No 08/2022 Outcome of the election for the position of MBSHC Vice-Chair and host for the next MBSHC 24 Conference.
B. Article 6 of the Statutes of the MBSHC.

Dear MBSHC Colleagues,

Conference Announcements and Invitation

1. In accordance with Reference A the 24th Conference of the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission, hosted by the Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate will be held in Constanta, Romania, from the **2 to 4 July 2024**.
2. In accordance with reference B, I am pleased to formally invite you to participate in this Conference, which will be an in-person event only.

Conference Format and Programme

1. The MBSHC Working Groups and MBSHC Secretariat meetings will take place on Tuesday 2 July 2024 at the Dacia Sud Hotel, Noblesse Room.
2. The Conference plenary sessions will be held in the Dacia Sud Hotel, Noblesse Room on Wednesday 3, and Thursday 4 July 2024, two full days.
3. The Opening Ceremony will take place on morning, 3 July 2024.
4. The Provisional Conference Programme is provided in Annex A to this circular letter.

Provisional Agenda

1. A provisional Conference Agenda is provided in Annex B to this circular letter.
2. You are kindly requested to review this draft and to provide your comments and suggestions for changes.
3. Please send your proposals on provisional agenda items, by e-mail to office@hhi.hr, andrea.zloic-bojic@hhi.hr with a copy to vinka.kolic-bubic@hhi.hr, by **end of March 2024**. Please include a reason why each item needs to be addressed or amended.
4. Working Group reports and other submissions should be e-mailed by **10 May 2024** so they can be made available at the IHO website well in advance before the Conference, as well as for inclusion in the MBSHC Chair's report to the IRCC16.
5. The following documents are planned to be made available on the IHO website MBSHC Section <https://iho.int/en/mbshc24-2024-0>:
 - MBSHC23 Final Report,
 - MBSHC23 Final List of the Actions, Decisions, Recommendations,
 - Status of Actions and Recommendations from MBSHC23,
 - Status of Permanent Actions of MBSHC,
 - ICCWG ToRs and RoPs – Draft version.



HRVATSKI HIDROGRAFSKI INSTITUT
HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
HR-21000 Split, Hrvatska, Zrinsko-Frankopanska 161, p.p. 291
Tel: +385 (0)21 308 800; Fax: +385 (0)21 347 242; e-mail: office@hhi.hr

National Report

1. All members are encouraged to submit a National Report no later than **10 May 2024**. It helps to better understand the problems in the region and thereby to determine the way to solve them.
2. Please use the template/structure as documented on the IHO MBSHC [National Reports Structure](#) for both the report and the presentation.

Registration

1. All members are kindly asked to register via the Online Registration tool (MBSHC-24) on IHO website: <https://online.iho-khoa.kr/registration>. Please register no later than **15 May 2024**.
2. Early registration is critical to enable the host, Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate, to finalise the venue and associated facilities. If you experience difficulties accessing the online registration, please forward your registration details to the MBSHC Secretariat at office@hhi.hr.
3. For the administrative purpose please also register using the registration form provided in Annex C of this circular letter and forward it to the Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate at hidro@dhmfn.ro, **no later than 15 May 2024**.

Venue Information

1. The MBSHC24 will be held in Dacia Sud Hotel Complex, Noblesse Room - Mamaia <https://www.dacia-sud.ro/en/index.php>. More logistic information is attached at Annex C.

Conclusion

The Conference is the principal decision-making organ of the MBSHC (Art. 7 of the MBSHC Statutes), and it is essential that all MBSHC Member States are represented not only to review the activities of the Commission, but also to bring decisions and activities plan that will leads to achievement of common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting, and wider.

We look forward to welcoming you and would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Vinka KOLIC BUBIC, M.Sc.

MBSHC Chair

Director of the Hydrographic Institute of the
Republic of Croatia



Bubica

Distribution:

- MBSHC Member States and Associate Member States
- IHO Secretariat
- IHO Council Chair
- IHO Committee Chairs: IRCC, HSSC
- MBSHC Observer Organizations / Experts

Annexes:

Annex A: Provisional Conference Programme

Annex B: Provisional Conference Agenda

Annex C: Logistic Information and Registration Form (for administrative purpose only)

Time Frame	Monday 01 July 2024
20:00-22:00	Icebreaker at the 4* <i>Dacia Sud</i> restaurant (1-minute walk from <i>Dacia Sud</i> hotel) (smart casual)

Time Frame	MBSHC24 DAY 1: Tuesday 02 July 2024 MBSHC Working Groups Meetings (ICC, CB, MSDI, S-100), <i>Dacia Sud/Noblesse</i>
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:09:15	Welcoming remarks and Admin instructions
09:15-10:30	WG Morning Session 1 (inc. Arrangements for Secretariat of 24 th Conference)
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	WG Morning Session 2
12:00-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:30	WG Afternoon session 1
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-16:30	WG Afternoon Session 2 (if necessary, will be confirmed)/Industry brief – TBD (sponsor)
16:30	End of MBSHC WGs Meetings

Time Frame	MBSHC24 DAY 2: Wednesday 03 July 2024, <i>Dacia Sud/Noblesse</i> Plenary Sessions
08:30-08:45	Registration
08:45-09:00	Group Photo
09:00-10:15	Plenary Morning Session 1
10:15-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-12:00	Plenary Morning Session 2
12:00-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:30	Plenary Afternoon Session 1 / Industry brief – TBD (sponsor)
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-16:15	Plenary Afternoon Session 2
16:15	End of DAY 1
19:00-21:30	Hosted Dinner at <i>Sailors restaurant</i> (TBC) Departure for hosting dinner, tentatively at 17:00 from the hotel, with buses provided by MHD (smart casual)

Time Frame	MBSHC24 DAY 3 Thursday 04 July 2024, <i>Dacia Sud/Noblesse</i> Plenary Sessions
09:00-10:15	Plenary Morning Session 1
10:15-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-12:00	Plenary Morning Session 2 (inc. Chair/Vice-Chair HOTO)
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:00-15:00	End of the MBSHC24 Conference It can be extended to 5pm if necessary.

Annex B: Provisional Conference Agenda

1. Opening and Administrative Arrangements

1.1 Opening Address (Chair, IHM Director, IHO Director)

Docs: MBSHC24-01.1A *Welcome MBSHC24*

1.2 Administrative Arrangements

Docs: MBSHC24-01.2B *List of Participants (Chair)*
MBSHC24-01.2A *List of Documents (Chair)*

1.3 Confirmation Vice-Chair

Docs: MBSHC24-01.3A

2. Approval of the Agenda

Docs: MBSHC24-02A *Agenda and Timetable (Chair)*

3. MBSHC Administration

3.1 Chair's report

Docs: MBSHC24-03.1 *Chair's report (Chair)*

3.2 Matters arising from Minutes of 23rd MBSHC Meeting

Docs: MBSHC24-03.2A *Minutes of MBSHC23 (Chair)*
MBSHC24-03.2B *Status Report on the MBSHC23 Action List (Chair)*

A review of the MBSHC23 actions and decisions by the MBSHC Chair/MBSHC Secretariat.

4. IHO Work Programme 1 – “Corporate affairs”

4.1 General updates on IHO activities that may affect MBSHC

Docs: MBSHC24-04.1 *IHO Secretariat's Report (Secretary)*

The IHO Secretariat will report on the main activities of the IHO since the last MBSHC Conference.

4.2 Outcome of the 7th meeting of the IHO Council (C-7) and Preparation of C-8, (Chair/IHO Director)

Chair/Croatia as Member of Council supported by IHO Director will provide a verbal report with an overview on the outcome of C-7 and main milestones for the MBSHC for the preparation of C-8.

4.3 IHO Strategic Plan

4.4 Information Management (IHO web site, ENC Catalogue, INTToGIS III, etc.)

The IHO Secretariat will report on the updates regarding the IHO Information Management System,

4.5 Cooperation with International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Docs: MBSHC24-04.5 *IMO Activities that may affect MBSHC (IMO)*

4.6 Cooperation with the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM)

Docs: MBSHC24-04.6 *CIESM Activities that may affect MBSHC (CIESM)*

4.7 Cooperation with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Docs: MBSHC24-04.7 *IOC general activities that may affect MBSHC and NEAMTWS developments (IOC)*

4.8 Cooperation with International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

Docs: MBSHC24-04.8 *IALA Activities that may affect MBSHC (IALA)*

5. IHO Work Programme 2 – “Hydrographic Services and Standards”

The MBSHC Chair and MSx,y,z, supported by the IHO Secretariat will provide a short overview of HSSC activities and report on the outcomes of the last HSSC16 meeting.

6. IHO Work Programme 3 – “Inter-Regional Coordination and Support”

6.1 Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)

Docs: MBSHC24-06.1B *Overview of MBSHC report to IRCC16 (Chair)*
MBSHC24-06.1A *IRCC16 Main Outcome that may affect MBSHC (IRCC Chair, supported by IHO secretariat)*

6.2 Cooperation with Member States

6.2.1 IHO Membership

The IHO Secretariat will provide an overview on the status of IHO Membership within the region.

6.2.2 National Reports

Docs: MBSHC24-06.2.2.X *National Report*

Each Member State will be invited to provide a ~ 5 minutes verbal or ppt presentation emphasizing on the main inputs of its national report, and highlight actions to be considered by MBSHC, if any.

6.2.3 National Reports - Associate Members

Docs: MBSHC24-06.2.3.X *National Report*

6.2.4 Black and Azov Seas Working Group – BASWG

Docs: MBSHC24-06.2.4 *Report of BASWG (Chair)*

The BASWG Chair (Turkey) will report on the activities of BASWG since MBSHC23.

6.3 WEND Principles and Governance

6.3.1 Activities of WENDWG

Docs: MBSHC24-06.3.1 *WENDWG14 Outcome, and Actions and Decisions that may affect MBSHC*

Greece supported by IHO Secretariat or IRCC Chair will report on the outcomes of the 14th WENDWG meeting that was held in, USA, in February 2024.

6.3.2 Status of S-100 Coordination in the Region

Docs: MBSHC24-06.3.2

The MBSHC S-100WG Chair (France) will report on the activities of S-100WG since MBSHC23.

6.4 Coordination of Global Surveying and Charting

6.4.1 Hydrographic survey status in the MBSHC area

Docs: MBSHC24-06.4.1 *Report of on hydrographic surveys in the Region*

6.4.2 Region F ICCWG Activities-MEDINTCHART Catalogue (INT Charts and ENCs)

Docs: MBSHC24-06.4.2 *Report of ICCWG Coordinator*

The ICCWG Coordinator (Greece) will provide the recommendations and the outcome from the ICCWG8 meeting alongside MBSHC24, for MBSHC decision-making.

Transfer of the ICCWG coordinator role to Turkey.

6.5 Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

Docs: MBSHC24-06.5 *Report of NAVAREA III Coordinator*

The NAVAREA III Coordinator will report on the MSI activities and developments within the MBSHC region.

6.6 Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

Docs: MBSHC24-06.6 *Report of MSDIWG Coordinator*

Italy, supported by other MBSHC Members of the MSDIWG, will report on the activities of the MSDIWG.

6.7 Capacity Building

6.7.1 Capacity Building activities within MBSHC

Docs: MBSHC24-06.7.1 *MBSHC Report to CBSC17*

The Regional CB Coordinator (Turkey) will report on the outcomes of CBSC122 and the past CB activities within the MBSHC region.

6.7.2 MBSHC (Three-year) and Capacity Building Work Plan for 2025

Docs: MBSHC24-06.7.2 *(3-year) MBSHC CB Plan for 2025*

The Regional CB Coordinator (Turkey) will present the 3 years CB work plan for the 2025-2027 period.

6.8 Disaster Response

Docs: MBSHC24-06.8 *MBSHC DRF Updates (Chair)*

6.9 IHO-EU Network WG

Docs: MBSHC24-06.9 *IENWG Updates (Greece)*

Greece will report on the IENWG activities since the last conference.

6.10 GEBCO/Seabed 2030 Project/Crowd-Source Bathymetry Activities

Docs: MBSHC24-06.10.A *GEBCO/Seabed 2030 Project presentation*

Docs: MBSHC24-06.10.B *CSBWG presentation*

The CSB-GEBCO-Seabed 2030 Coordinator (Lebanon) will report on GEBCO Seabed2030 and CSBWG activities.

6.11 Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RENCs) Operations

Docs: MBSHC24-06.11.A *PRIMAR presentation*

Docs: MBSHC24-06.11.B *IC-ENC presentation*

IC-ENC and PRIMAR will provide a joint presentation of their activities since MBSHC23, and of the evolution of their strategies, if any.

6.12 Industry and other organizations presentations (TBC)

7. Any Other Business

8. Closure

8.1 Review of Actions, Decisions and Recommendations

8.2 Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

8.3 Designation/Transfer of the Chairmanship

8.4 Closing Remarks (End of Conference)

Annex C Logistic Information



LOGISTICS INFORMATION MBSHC24 01-05.07.2024, Constanta, Romania

MBSHC24 VENUE

The MBSHC24 meeting will be held on 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July 2024 and will be hosted by Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate (RMHD) at Noblesse, partner of Dacia Sud hotel, Constanta.

RMHD, as the meeting organizer is pleased to provide you with the following logistic information and to invite you to contact us if you need any additional information.



ACCOMMODATION

In the timeframe of the conference, Constanta is in the middle of the summer season and hotel prices are quite high. Due to the location of the meeting venue (Noblesse) in Mamaia/Constanta, we managed to secure special rates at **DACIA SUD HOTEL (4 stars)** and **we recommend you to book your stay here** in order to avoid the stress of traffic jams and unwind in the comfort of this hotel while others navigate the chaos.

The room prices for this hotel are:

Double room - 490 lei/night (about **100 euros/night**) –32 rooms available

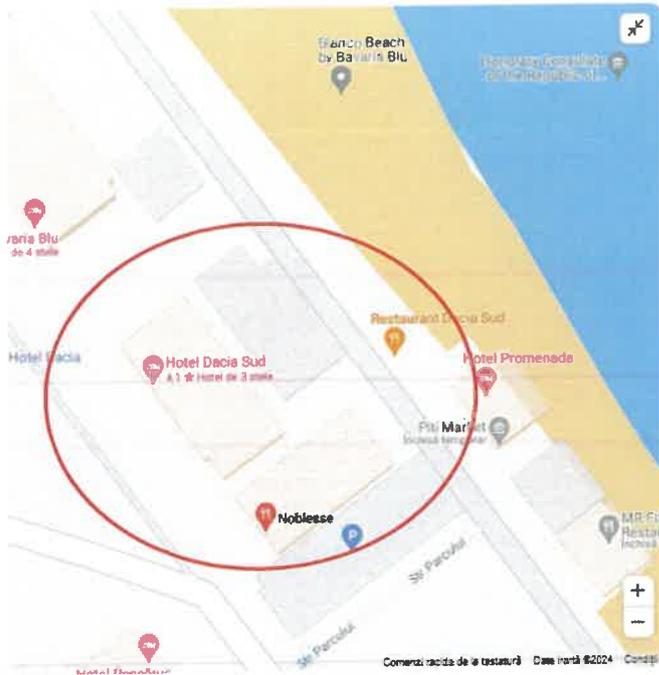
Suite – 590 lei/night (about **120 euros/night**) –23 rooms available

Apartment – 690 lei/night (about **140 euros/night**) –15 apartments available

Note: room prices are per one person/room, breakfast included. For a second person, the price for room increases with 30 euro/night, breakfast included.

If you choose this hotel, please complete the hotel registration form attached and send it to RMHD's POC at hidro@dhmfn.ro

Location Map



USE OF COMPUTERS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

The use of portable devices and phones at this meeting is authorized. In the conference room, portable computers may be operated, and a number of power supplies will be available around the table. Wireless internet access will also be available in the conference room.

The presentation files must be e-mailed to the Secretary prior to the deadline for transfer to the assigned conference room.

DOCUMENTS

Papers may be left in the conference room during breaks, however, at the end of the day, all notes, documents, briefcases, and personal items must be removed.

REFRESHMENTS

Complimentary refreshments including tea, coffee and light snacks will be available during meeting breaks throughout the day. Lunch will be served daily on the meeting premises from 12:00 to 13:15.

There will be an informal ice breaker on Monday the July 1st at Dacia Sud restaurant and a hosted dinner on Thursday the 3rd of July at Sailors restaurant, Eforie. For reservation purposes, please indicate if you wish to attend this, and other social events, by indicating YES or NO on the delegate response form. Those who will come accompanied, please inform us.

Participants are asked to provide any dietary restrictions or allergy concerns when confirming attendance.

Contact details

The POC for logistical, visa and accommodation assistance is Mrs Paula PARASCHIV, coordinator of International Affairs Office, Maritime Hydrographic Directorate, hidro@dhmfn.ro

Phone: +40241654040 interior 114

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. You will most likely land at **Bucharest “Henri Coanda” International Airport**, located in Otopeni (OTP). The distance from Bucharest to Constanța is 240 km and the two cities are connected by the A2 highway.

Ways to travel to Constanta from Bucharest:

A. Trains. Travel by train from Otopeni to Constanta is possible with the train from the airport but all routes will go through Bucharest North train station, where there will be an exchange for another train. The national train company (CFR) has a working website (Romanian and English), which provides the schedule for its routes and also possibility to purchase tickets online. Website: <https://www.cfrcalatori.ro/en/>

B. Civil transport companies, that operates the transfer from the airport to Constanța (mention your hotel), at a price around 160 – 180 LEI (aprox. 40 EUR). There are several companies (the most used are Kirvad, ALT Transport, Direct Aeroport) with regular ride, every 1 - 2 hours. All available companies and routes are available through a common online platform (website: <https://www.autogari.ro/>) or individual sites, that will allow reservations and payment for the tickets (purchasing round trips with the same company will come with a discount). The site services are available in English, but if you encounter any problem send your flight details (your time of arrival, flight number and place of departure) to the host nation POC, in order to make the reservation for you. Payment can be made online (through the link provided after the reservation is confirmed), in LEI or EURO, or at the airport (only cash accepted).

Company websites:

- a. KIRVAD: <https://kirvad.ro/en/>
- b. ALT TRANSPORT: <https://alt-transportpersoane.ro/en/airport-transfer-constantia-otopeni/>
- c. Direct Aeroport: <https://direct-aeroport.ro/index-en.html>

C. Rent a car.

Company websites:

<https://www.europcar.ro/>

<https://www.avis.ro/>

<https://www.hertz.ro/>

<https://www.rentalcars.com/>

https://www.sixt.ro/php/reservation?language=en_GB&prpd=Y&pccstatsugg=Romania&sxamc=Google|Search&fir=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIqrTu8IjO_AIVrgqiAx1DIQAXEAAAYASAAEgLqCvD_BwE&exactag_uk=05a4e5b0b39b4f508cfe693662b0810c

!!NOTE: the choice of travel means from Bucharest will depend on personal preferences and available time and resources. Travel by train or bus is affordable and safe. Rental cars are more comfortable, but might pose an issue in the crowded traffic of Constanta or Bucharest.

1. You can also travel to **“Mihail Kogălniceanu” International Airport** (near Constanta, approximately 25 km) but this is a smaller airport. The best flight connection to Kogalniceanu Airport is through Istanbul Airport. Because there are few buses and no trains to Constanta, we recommend ride-sharing.

INNER-CITY TRAVEL

A. Ride-sharing. There are several car sharing options available through their associated mobile applications (Bolt or Uber), which have proved a reliable alternative to taxis or buses.

B. Taxis. For personal travel inside the city there are several taxi companies which are fairly cheap, just be sure the price on the door of the car is written in green lettering. Town regulations permit cab companies to have different fairs, but they are obligated to make it visible on the outside of the car in orange or red lettering.

C. Public transportation. Public transportation is fairly cheap and covers most of the inner-city.

DRESS CODE

- a. For the meeting - business casual
- b. For the Icebreaker - casual
- c. For the hosted dinner - casual

LOCAL CURRENCY

Local currency in Romania is LEI (used also RON). If you are paying with cash, all shops, taxi, restaurants, etc. accept only LEI. You can find exchange offices in the airport (not so good exchange rate), at all the banks and in the city (good exchange rate). Romanian LEI can also be withdrawn from the ATM.

Usually, all the shops will have POS machines for card pay, since they are bound by the law, but there might be situations where cash will be needed, so it is advised to have also a reserve.

Some taxis will have card pay, but not all, so it's best to have both options available.

For ridesharing cars, you pay in the app so you do not need cash.

1 EURO is approximately 4.97 LEI

1 DOLLAR is approximately 4.60 LEI

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Depending on your nationality, the purpose and duration of your visit, you may require a visa to visit Romania. We urge you to check visa requirements at your earliest convenience. If you require any assistance, or a letter of invitation, please refer to the following website:

<https://www.mae.ro/en/node/2084#null>

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CONSTANTA

Constanța, historically known as Tomis is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania. It was founded around 600 BC. The city is located in the Dobrogea region of Romania, on the Black Sea coast. As of the 2021 census, Constanța has a population of 263.688, making it the fourth most populous city in Romania.

In Constanta, the month of July is characterized by rapidly rising daily temperatures, with daily highs of 28-30°C, and 22-26°C over the night, rarely exceeding 30°C or dropping below 20°C.

HOTEL DACIA SUD
REGISTRATION FORM

24th Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) July 01-05, 2024

Special accommodation rates at the Hotel Dacia Sud Mamaia have been negotiated for the duration of MBSHC24 from 01 until 05 of July 2024.

<https://www.dacia-sud.ro/en/>

All the reservations can be made up to **May 15th, 2024**

Please send this registration form to Paula PARASCHIV at hidro@dhmfn.ro.

Check In time is 15:00 p.m. Check out time is 12.00 p.m.

The following options are available:

Rooms Type (breakfast included)	Price
Double (1 pax)	100 euros/ night
Double (2 pax)	130 euros/ night
Suite (1 pax)	120 euros/ night
Suite (2 pax)	150 euros/ night
Apartment (1 pax)	140 euros/ night
Apartment (2 pax)	170 euros/ night

Arrival date:

Departure date:

Room Type:

Surname/ Last name	
Name/ First name	
Name of accompanying (if any)	
Nationality	
Passport number or ID (for EU citizens) And Date of Issue and Place	
Organization	
Address	
E-mail	
Phone	
Special dietary	
Additional information	

Date	Signature
------	-----------



**24th Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)
01-05.07.2024, Constanta, Romania**

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM

IMPORTANT Note: Please complete the information requested in this form, and forward it to the Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate **no later than the 15th of May 2024.**

RMHD Contact Information:

Email: hidro@dhmfn.ro
Phone: +40241654040

**Member State /
Organization**

Personal details

Head or Member of delegation.....
Rank or Title
Name/ First name
Surname/ Last name:
Position / Job title / Role
Nationality
Address
E-mail
Phone
Passport NO
(and date of Issue)

Accommodation (for administrative purpose): Participants are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements if they choose different from our recommendation.

Arrival date: Departure date:

Hotel:

Social Events

Icebreaker: July 1st, 2024, Yes _____ No _____

Official dinner: July 3rd, 2024, Yes _____ No _____

Accompanying person at official dinner Yes _____ No _____

Special Dietary.....

Comments or additional information:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Date: