

# COCTI

CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS (COCTI)  
CONFÉRENCE DES INSTITUTIONS CATHOLIQUES DE THÉOLOGIE (CICT)  
CONFERENCIA DE LAS INSTITUCIONES CATÓLICAS DE TEOLOGÍA (CICT)

**Note:** The following is being sent in three languages, English, French and Spanish. Print it out and keep it safely for ready reference.

## **COCTI (CICT) 12<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011 JNANA-DEEPA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE, INDIA**

**DOING THEOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM**

**1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER EVENING TO 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER EVENING 2011**

### **WELCOME AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **I. WELCOME**

*Svagatam!* Welcome! Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (The Light of Wisdom University), Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Ramwadi, Nagar Road, Pune 411014, India, extends to you a warm and cordial welcome! A brand new building with attached bathrooms has been built. Both food, including continental food, and comfortable accommodation will be provided on campus. Pune has a salubrious climate and the weather will be pleasant at the beginning of November; no rain is expected in November.

The chief officer (e.g., Dean or Head of Department) of the eligible faculties/departments of theology/religious studies, or another member delegated by the chief officer may attend the COCTI General Assembly, with or without presenting a Paper.

There will be an opportunity, during break times and/or meal times, to discuss topics like Indian Christian Theology, Inculturation, Indian Christian Spirituality, etc. with the professors of our institution, all of whom are highly qualified.

We would also encourage especially those who are coming from outside India to make use of the opportunity, if time and money permits, to also do some travelling, experiencing this vast and ancient land, which is the cradle of many religions, languages and cultures and which has so much to offer for the enrichment of the soul, the mind and the heart. We ourselves are organizing an optional post-assembly guided trip to the world-famous Ajanta and Ellora caves and other places worth seeing in the region. Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism are represented in exquisite carved-out sculptures and paintings in the caves. Other places include a replica of the Taj Mahal, etc.

#### **II. INFORMATION**

**Duration of the General Assembly:** The plan is to begin the General Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011, with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 6 p.m., with the Bishop of the Diocese as the Main

Celebrant. After the Mass, we shall have the Inauguration of the General Assembly, followed by cocktails and supper. The General Assembly will end on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011 evening, with cocktails around 8 p.m., followed by supper.

**Registration and Accommodation:** The Registration Fee is 100 (one hundred) Euros; and the Accommodation Fee is 60 (sixty) Euros per night. All the meals, i.e., breakfast, lunch and supper, and snacks and beverages, including cocktails, for all the days of the General Assembly, plus a banquet one evening are all included. Good food and pure water are guaranteed. We will also put up a cultural programme for you one evening. Simultaneous translation in English, Spanish and French will be made available. Internet service will also be available free of charge.

The accommodation, food and other facilities on the campus are really good. But if you wish to stay in a hotel in Pune, feel free to do so. However, apart from the expense, it will also be less convenient than staying on campus. If you are looking for a high-class hotel, you could try the five-star Hotel Hyatt, which is just outside our campus.

There is no reason to fear that you will fall ill on our campus. However, as a reassurance, we would like to inform you that we have a nurse on the campus and her service will be available. We suppose you will bring along whatever medication you are taking. Still, if you need to buy medicines, they can be bought at a nearby pharmacist, but be sure to get the generic name or the scientific names of the ingredients of your medicines: brand names differ from country to country and place to place.

**Optional Tour to Ajanta-Ellora Caves and environs:** The optional tour to Ajanta-Ellora caves and environs will begin on 5<sup>th</sup> November early morning with a bus ride of nine hours to Aurangabad, where you will spend two nights in a good hotel and the bus will also take you to the places of interest during the two days that you will be there. The bus ride from Aurangabad to Ajanta is about three hours. However, the bus will be comfortable, so all will be well and things will be done in a somewhat leisurely way (for instance, instead of rushing and returning in two days, you will be returning in three days). You will return to Pune on 7<sup>th</sup> November evening around 8 p.m. for supper at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth. The cost of the trip is 325 (three hundred and twenty-five) Euros, and will cover the travel, toll fees, parking fees, hotel accommodation, guide fees, entry fees and other government charges, as well as incidental expenses. You have only to take care of your food, purchasing whatever you wish from good restaurants. You will be happy to know that, even though you may leave your luggage in the rooms on the campus, there will be **no charge** for the rooms during the days you are on this excursion, i.e., from 5<sup>th</sup> November morning to 7<sup>th</sup> November evening.

### **Transportation:**

**(1) Direct flight to Pune:** There are direct flights between Frankfurt and Pune by Lufthansa, but not every day, so check the dates with your travel agent: it is a relatively small plane, hence it is good to book your ticket in advance. For those who can come from or via Frankfurt, this would be the most convenient. From the airport to our campus (which is only about 5 minutes away by vehicle from the airport), you should take a prepaid taxi or a pre-paid rickshaw (a three-wheeler vehicle, smaller in size and cheaper, but in which you cannot carry much luggage). The prepaid taxi or rickshaw booth is just near the place where you exit from the airport. You pay there and get a receipt, and you do not have to pay the driver anything, not even a tip. The address you should give is the following: Papal Seminary (this is one of the houses on our campus), Ramwadi, Nagar Road, OPPOSITE JEEWAN JYOT HOSPITAL, Pune 411014.

The entrance gate of Papal Seminary is opposite the Jeewan Jyot Hospital. You will easily see the name "Papal Seminary" on the arch of the gate. There is a road divider, so the vehicle has to go a little ahead, make a U-turn and then enter the gate of Papal Seminary. After entering through the gate, drive down the avenue and you will see a sign "Papal Seminary" with an arrow. Follow the arrow to the right and in a couple of moments you will be at the reception of Papal Seminary. From there people will direct you to the campus building in which you will be staying.

**(2) Flights to Mumbai (earlier called Bombay):** There are plenty of flights by different airlines between Mumbai and various cities in different parts of the world. Pune is about a four-hour drive from the Mumbai airport. You can also take a flight from Mumbai to Pune but, in many cases, the connecting times are not convenient and you may end up waiting for several hours in Mumbai. Instead of this, it would be better to just take an airport shuttle service vehicle from the airport, which will bring you not only to Pune, but to our campus itself. A reliable airport shuttle service is called “K. K. Travels”. Once you know your airline, flight number and scheduled time of arrival, you can send them an e-mail giving this information and they will book you for an appropriate time of departure by the vehicle from the airport. You pay just before you enter the vehicle or in the vehicle. The present cost is Indian Rupees 650 and you will get a receipt for it. (There is no charge for the luggage.) It is a shared vehicle, but comfortable and air conditioned. When you emerge from the airport, look for a man with a placard showing “K. K. Travels”. Approach the man and you will find your name written on the placard. He may ask you to wait a while, since he may be also waiting for other passengers. Once four passengers are assembled, you will be led to a waiting vehicle to take you to Pune. (When you book your vehicle to come to Pune, you can also, at the same time, book your vehicle to return to Mumbai airport.). Here is the e-mail address of K. K. Travels: [kktravels@kktravels.com](mailto:kktravels@kktravels.com) The website is [kktravels.com](http://kktravels.com)

Have our address and directions ready for the driver on a slip of paper. The most practical is to give the address of Papal Seminary (one of the houses on the campus), viz., Papal Seminary, Ramwadi, Nagar Road, OPPOSITE JEEWAN JYOT HOSPITAL, Pune 411014.

The entrance gate of Papal Seminary is opposite the Jeewan Jyot Hospital. You will easily see the name “Papal Seminary” on the arch of the gate. There is a road divider, so the vehicle has to go a little ahead, make a U-turn and then enter the gate of Papal Seminary. After entering through the gate, drive down the avenue and you will see a sign “Papal Seminary” with an arrow. Follow the arrow to the right and in a couple of moments you will be at the reception of Papal Seminary. From there people will direct you to the campus building in which you will be staying.

**Correspondence:** All correspondence is to be made by e-mail. Attached files should be either in Word 2003 format or Word 2007 format only.

The Registration Form and E-mail indicating details of payment made should both be sent to the following e-mail address: [jdvcoctiregistr@gmail.com](mailto:jdvcoctiregistr@gmail.com)

For all other correspondence use one of the following three e-mail addresses, one in English, one in French and one in Spanish: use the e-mail address according to the language you feel most comfortable with. The three language e-mails are:

- (1) English: [jdvcocti.english@gmail.com](mailto:jdvcocti.english@gmail.com)
- (2) French: [jdvcocti.francais@gmail.com](mailto:jdvcocti.francais@gmail.com)
- (3) Spanish: [jdvcocti.espanol@gmail.com](mailto:jdvcocti.espanol@gmail.com)

### **VISA FOR INDIA – VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Most countries will require a visa to visit India. If you follow the instructions below, you should not have a problem:

(1) **DO NOT APPLY FOR A CONFERENCE VISA.** OTHERWISE YOU WILL HAVE NO END OF PROBLEMS AND WILL NOT GET YOUR VISA. APPLY FOR A TOURIST VISA AND DO NOT MENTION THAT YOU ARE COMING TO INDIA FOR A CONFERENCE. In any case, ours is a General Assembly, not a conference in the normal sense of the word, where only papers are presented. The Government irrationally fears that anyone coming for a conference on theology or

religion is coming to convert Indians to Christianity. So never mention conference in your application nor at the immigration centre at the airport where you arrive. You are coming as a tourist. **Do not apply for any other visa than a Tourist Visa, and you will not have any problems.**

(2) For places you plan to visit, write: Mumbai, Pune, Ajanta-Ellora (and/or any other places you wish to mention).

(3) For purpose/object of visit to India, write: to see India, OR to get acquainted with the art and cultures of India.

(4) You may have to give a reference address in India: If you are flying to Mumbai, you can mention the following address (it is the address of our Jesuit provincialate): Vinayalaya, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai, 400093, India. If a phone number is asked for, write 91-22-26871975 (this is the phone number of this house, Vinayalaya).

If you are flying directly to Pune, you can write: Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Ramwadi, Nagar Road, Pune 411014, India OR Papal Seminary, Ramwadi, Nagar Road, Pune 411014, India OR De Nobili College, Ramwadi, Nagar Road, Pune 411014, India (These are some of the institutions/houses on our campus.) If you need to put a phone number, write: 91-20-41036111 (the office number of Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth); OR 91-20-41036244 (the receptionist number of Papal Seminary) OR 91-20-41036333 (the receptionist number of De Nobili College).

(5) If you are a priest, do not reveal that you are a priest. If your passport has “priest” written on it, then you would have to reveal that you are a priest. In this case, your visa will take longer to obtain, but there should not be a problem. Your documents will be sent to India, processed here, and then sent back to the Embassy or Consulate in your country.

(6) In general it is best to avoid mention of “Catholic”, “Christian”, “Theology”, “Religion” or similar words. So, for instance, for Profession/Occupation, you can write Professor/Lecturer, etc. but avoid writing Professor of Theology or Systematic Theology or Religious Sciences, etc. Similarly, for your employer, it is better not to include the word “Catholic”. If you put the name of your institution and it contains the word “Catholic” (e.g., Institut Catholique de Paris), you have no other option but to include the word “Catholique” (you will still get your visa); however, if your institution is named Universidad Catolica Portuguesa, you could simply write Universidad Portuguesa. But, if you wish, you could include the word “Catholic” all the same. Still, it is better to be cautious.

(7) Note that you are NOT travelling on behalf of a Company.

(8) Period of Visa. Note that the validity of the Indian visa is generally counted from the day it is issued and not from the day you enter India, so plan accordingly.

### **III. REGISTRATION FORM**

**See the separate attached file entitled “COCTI Registration Form (English)”. After paying the registration fee, the accommodation fee and, if opted for, also the Ajanta-Ellora and Environs fee by electronic bank transfer, send an e-mail giving the requisite information about the payment (the details are given on the Registration Form).**

**Payment is to be made in Euros only and only by Electronic Bank Transfer. Thanks for your understanding.**

**After downloading the Registration Form, COPY AND PASTE IT AGAIN IN YOUR COMPUTER AS A NEW DOCUMENT. Then, fill out the Form and send it to us as an attached**

**file, saving it as a separate file and giving it a new name, viz., “Registration Form of (here write your full name).” Send the filled out Registration Form and the separate e-mail, with the requisite payment details to the following address: [jdvcoctiregistr@gmail.com](mailto:jdvcoctiregistr@gmail.com)**

*If you have any questions or need any clarifications or help, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us (by writing to the appropriate language e-mail). We are here to serve and want you to feel welcome and at home. India is known for its great hospitality.*