

Empirical Software Engineering International Week

October 19-23, 2015 - Beijing, China

Cheat Sheet

The Empirical Software Engineering International Week will be an exciting combination of conferences, meetings, workshops, and tutorials in beautiful Beijing, China. To facilitate your stay, we provide a small “travellers cheat sheet” with some small, yet important things to remember, before your departure to and during your stay in Beijing.

We hope to see you soon and wish you a safe trip and stay!
The Publicity Co-Chairs

Important contacts

Beijing Friendship Hotel	+86 010 68498888
ESEM Organising Chair	Junchao Xiao (xiaojunchao@itechs.iscas.ac.cn)
Emergency Call Number	110 (free call, may be used for all emergencies)
<small>Space left blank for further contacts</small>	

Before your departure to Beijing

- Credit cards are usually not widely accepted, so we recommend changing some cash in advance. Please also remember to check whether you might need to activate your credit card before departure. By the way, the official name of the Chinese currency is *Renminbi* (RMB), but it is usually referred to as *yuan*.
- The temperature in Beijing during ESEIW is approx. 25°C / 77°F on average. We therefore recommend packing some summer clothing, but please keeping in mind that the nights can be rather cool.
- Please check the visa procedures (prerequisites and necessary documents as well as the average duration of the procedure) as early as possible. In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact eseiw_registration@itechs.iscas.ac.cn
- If you plan to use services like Google Docs, Dropbox, or micro blogs like Twitter, please make sure whether you need a VPN, which you might want to install and set up before approaching China. +++ In any case, please check and stick to the local, legal constraints regarding the use of such and related services! +++
- To get around in Beijing, we recommend using maps on your mobile devices. Some services, for example Google maps, offer the possibility to download the maps (offline maps), but please remember to download them before departure.
- Print (public) transportation maps. Some train stations might only have signs in Chinese so that you will potentially need to orient yourself via the colour codes explained in available maps.

Do's and Don'ts during your stay

Do...

- ... plan for some sight-seeing time. Beijing is an impressive and wonderful city that deserves exploring. This needs, of course, more time than we usually have at our disposal, so please carefully plan for it.
- ... upon your arrival at the hotel, ask the receptionist for a business card / directions to the hotel written in Chinese in case you need to explain it to a taxi driver (who might not speak English).
- ... when greeting people,
 - address them by their title or by Mr. or Mrs. plus the family name.
 - a handshake is the most common form of greeting, or just a nod.
- ... remove your shoes when entering a Chinese (private) home or a temple.
- ... present things to people with both hands to show that what you're offering is the fullest extent of yourself.
- ... show that you're thankful if someone gives you a gift, then set it aside to open later, to avoid appearing greedy.
- ... be grateful for the great work our student volunteers do (at every conference).
- ... be prepared for random people approaching you and asking to practice their English.
- ... eat what your host offers and orders, including alcohol (except, of course, you don't consume alcoholic beverages in general); it might be considered rude to refuse.
- ... eat all of the rice in your bowl – some locals could consider leaving even a single grain behind as bad luck. Others, however, could consider leaving a bit on the plate as a demonstration of the generosity of the host. So, there might be a trade-off necessary or we simply got it wrong. Maybe you just copy what the one next to you does and hope for the best. If it goes wrong, you can still blame your neighbour.

Don't...

- ... write things in red ink. It could be interpreted as a symbol for protest or severe criticism. So, if you chose to correct some exams or theses in your spare time, please do yourself and your students a favour and use some friendly colours.
- ... use selfie-sticks. Not because they might be considered rude, but simply because we think you might hurt someone (or yourself). Safety first!
- ... ask people for a p-value. Every time you talk about the p-value at ESEIW, no matter where it takes place, an empirical angel loses its wings.
- ... get irritated when being asked very personal questions, e.g. regarding marital status, family, age, job or income, because this might be custom habit to seek a common ground.
- ... leave your chopsticks upright in your bowl or tap your bowl with them.
- ... touch (hug, back slap) people you are not really familiar with.
- ... (expect to have to) tip as it is not expected in situations you might be used to (restaurants, taxi rides, etc.).
- ... be late; it is considered very impolite.
- ... expect much activity by the publicity chairs during the event. However, we still try our best to preschedule some posts, e.g. tweets, about information known in advance to keep those not being able to attend the events updated.

Sources with further reading

Lonely Planet: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/china/travel-tips-and-articles/1252>

China highlights: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/guidebook/etiquette.htm>