

Quito, January 20, 2024

In relation to the **situation** that Ecuador has experienced in recent days, as the organizing committee of the First IFSSH Mid-term Course, we would like to provide you with updated information regarding the Course.

It is important to mention that in Ecuador the armed forces can not intervene in the internal security of the country due to restrictions of the law, being restricted to act in the cities in security situations, the only way for this to happen is for the President to decree a "State of Emergency", this is one of the reasons why the president issued this decree.

On January 19, the Course Organizing Committee and our South American representative to the IFSSH Executive Committee met with the Director of Tourism of the city who told us:

1. The city has not stopped working normally.
2. All services have remained uninterrupted and active.
3. On January 18, the authorities of the Ministry of Tourism met with the Vice-Minister of Government to request that the security measures taken be adapted to each city in a targeted manner, which is being analyzed by the authorities.

Also thanks to this meeting we know that the hotels in the city maintain at the moment an occupancy between 70% and 100% confirming the **tourist activity in Quito**.

The Convention Center, the airport and all tourist sites in Quito are **operating normally**, there have been no flight cancellations and all scheduled events in the city are taking place normally except for events that expected massive attendance (more than 5000 attendees) and that would take place at times that are currently restricted (11pm to 5 am).

As the organizing committee, we have taken all the necessary **precautions** coordinating in the best way the registration, mobilization of attendees and speakers of the event as well as the presence of security personnel in the place of the course.

After talking with the hotels designated for the course, they report an occupancy directly related to the event of at least 90 rooms already booked in 4 different hotels in addition to the occupation of various accommodation sites such as Airbnb.

At the moment, approximately 90% of the speakers have **confirmed their attendance** and 124 international attendees have registered for the course, this number is in addition to the 80 slots already reserved by the sponsors for their sponsored physicians.



The **delegations confirmed** at the moment correspond to 21 different countries being the most representative Colombia, Mexico, Chile, United States, United States, Argentina, Spain, Brazil, China, Philippines, United Kingdom among others.

Regarding **travel recommendations** to the cities of Ecuador, Quito is internationally categorized as level 2 (Exercise increased caution) which means that the city where the event will take place has not changed its status in recent years.

It should be noted that there are other cities that do maintain higher risk categories, however they are located about 6 hours away from Quito.

**<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/ecuador-travel-advisory.html>**

**<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/ecuador>**

As we have shown, our city is working and our course maintains a good level of registrations and confirmed attendance.

**We look forward to seeing you at the center of the world where hand surgery will be well represented.**

**Ecuadorian Hand Surgery Society  
ECUMANO**

