



Workshop on sharing best practices with conducting technology needs assessments

27-29 June 2007
Bangkok, Thailand

Information for participants

CONFERENCE VENUE

Arnoma Hotel, 99 Rajdamri Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand. Tel. +66 02 2553444, Fax +66 02 6553444, E-mail: arnoma@arnoma.com (<http://www.arnoma.com/01location/index.htm>). For further information and room booking please visit the hotel link: <http://www.arnoma.com/index.htm>

LOCATION

Arnoma hotel is located in the centre middle of Bangkok and is surrounded by major shopping areas, business and entertainment districts, in walking distance to Sky Train (BTS) & Underground (MRT) services, one block from the Erawan Shrine and has an easy access to the Expressway to/from Bangkok's International Airport (40 minutes only).

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Participants are requested to register and obtain meeting badges at the Registration Counter, located on the Arnoma Hotel, between 8:00 - 9:00 hours on Wednesday, 27 June 2007. Only the names of participants duly registered will be included in the list of participants.

For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their meeting badges at all times during the meeting, at social functions and in the Arnoma Hotel.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

The UNFCCC Secretariat is organizing this meeting jointly with the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). For substantive information concerning the meeting, please contact Mr. Florin Vladu, e-mail: fvladu@unfccc.int, for logistical information please contact Ms. Gabriele Gerdom, e-mail: ggerdom@unfccc.int.

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Participants are responsible for their own hotel bookings. We would like to encourage all participants, if possible, to try to book your room in the Arnoma Hotel. The room rate is 75 USD++ for a single room including breakfast. Please make an on-line booking provided by the hotel for making your reservation. While making your reservation, please indicate that you are a participant of the UNFCCC workshop on best practice with conducting technology needs assessments to be convened at the hotel from 27-29 June 2007.



Foreign exchange

Participants may bring with them into Thailand unrestricted sums of foreign currency in the form of traveller's cheques, drafts, letter of credit or other banking instruments which may be exchanged for Thai currency at the prevailing exchange rates.

Participants may be required to declare the amount of traveller's cheques or currency in their possession on arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Exchange facilities are available at hotels as well as at the Siam Commercial Bank, United Nations Branch, located on the first floor of the Service Building (telephone extensions 2168 and 2169). It is open from 08:30 to 15:30 hours, from Monday to Friday. According to current exchange rates, 1.00 US\$ is approximately equivalent to 35.00 Thai Baht.

TRAVEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS (WHERE APPLICABLE)

For funded participants: Participants will be informed by Katrin Lucas from the travel unit (KLucas@unfccc.int) when and where to pick up their tickets.

All other participants are responsible to making their own travel arrangements.

The secretariat will not assume responsibility for participant expenses not expressly covered, including the following:

- All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for visa, medical examination, inoculations and other such miscellaneous items and internal travel to and from the airport of arrival and departure in the home country;
- Salary and related allowances for the participants during the period of the meeting;
- Costs incurred by participants in respect of travel insurance, accident insurance, medical bills or hospitalization fees in connection with attending the meeting;
- Compensation in the event of death or disability of participants in connection with attending the meeting;
- Any loss of or damage to personal property of participants while attending the meeting or losses or damages claimed by third parties as a result of any negligence on the part of the participants;
- Any other expenses of a personal nature, not directly related to the purpose of the meeting.

Participants are advised to ensure that their return bookings are confirmed soon after their arrival in Bangkok. A travel agent is located on the first floor of the Service Building (in the UN compound) next to Siam Commercial Bank, extensions 2820, 2821, and 2828.

PAYMENT DAILY SUBSIDENCE ALLOWANCES (DSA) FOR FUNDED PARTICIPANTS:

Participants eligible for funding by UNFCCC will receive their DSA in Bangkok. The DSA rate for Bangkok is 210 USD per day. Please bring you passport, flight ticket and boarding passes with you to the meeting. These documents need to be copied in order to make the DSA payment.



Immigration and entry requirements

Nationals of the following 41 countries and 2 special administrative regions who hold ordinary passports may enter and stay in Thailand for a maximum period of 30 days or 90 days without a visa (see the lists below). However, if the duration of their stay is expected to exceed the maximum period, an appropriate entry visa must be obtained in advance from Thai diplomatic or consular missions. Yellow fever vaccinations are required for participants from countries where yellow fever is endemic. Participants are recommended to have had vaccinations against food-borne diseases such as, hepatitis A, tetanus and typhoid.

Maximum stay periods without visas

30 Days (37 Countries with 2 Special Administrative Region)

1	Austria	21	Macao, China*
2	Australia	22	Malaysia
3	Bahrain	23	Netherlands
4	Belgium	24	New Zealand
5	Brunei Darussalam	25	Norway
6	Canada	26	Oman
7	Denmark	27	Philippines
8	Finland	28	Portugal
9	France	29	Qatar
10	Germany	30	Singapore
11	Greece	31	South Africa
12	Hong Kong, China*	32	Spain
13	Indonesia	33	Sweden
14	Ireland	34	Switzerland
15	Israel	35	Turkey
16	Italy	36	United Arab Emirates
17	Japan	37	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
18	Kuwait		
19	Luxembourg	38	United States of America
20	Lao People's Democratic Republic	39	Viet Nam

* Special Administrative Region

90 Days (4 Countries)

1	Brazil	3	Republic of Korea
2	Chile	4	Peru

In addition to the above, nationals holding valid diplomatic or official passport of the following countries may enter and stay in Thailand for the period specified in each visa waiver agreement between Thailand and the country concerned.

30 Days (Diplomatic Passport only)



1 Cambodia

30 Days (Diplomatic or Official Passport)

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 China | 4 Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| 2 Mongolia | 5 Viet Nam |
| 3 Myanmar | |

90 days (Diplomatic or Official Passport)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Austria | 17 Mexico |
| 2 Argentina | 18 Nepal |
| 3 Belgium | 19 Netherlands |
| 4 Brazil | 20 Peru |
| 5 Bhutan | 21 Philippines |
| 6 Chile | 22 Poland |
| 7 Croatia | 23 Oman |
| 8 Czech Republic | 24 Romania |
| 9 Germany | 25 Russia |
| 10 Hungary | 26 Republic of Korea |
| 11 Israel | 27 Singapore |
| 12 Italy | 28 South Africa |
| 13 India | 29 Switzerland |
| 14 Japan | 30 Slovak Republic |
| 15 Luxembourg | 31 Tunisia |
| 16 Malaysia | 32 Turkey |

Nationals of the following 13 countries may apply and be granted by the Thai immigration authority at Suvarnabhumi Airport, a visa for a stay not exceeding 15 days upon arrival, conditional on meeting certain requirements.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Bhutan | 8 Maldives |
| 2 China | 9 Mauritius |
| 3 Cyprus | 10 Poland |
| 4 Czech Republic | 11 Russia |
| 5 Hungary | 12 Saudi Arabia |
| 6 India | 13 Ukraine |
| 7 Kazakhstan | |

The requirements are:

- The applicants must be in possession of a valid passport or an appropriate travel document recognized by the Government of Thailand.
- The applicants must be in possession of an air ticket valid for return journey within 15 days.



- The applicants must provide two passport-size photographs and a visa fee of approximately Baht 1,000.00

Participants from countries other than those listed above **are requested to obtain the appropriate entry visa from the Thai diplomatic or consular missions at the point of origin or en route prior to entering Thailand.**

Holders of a United Nations laissez-passer **are required to bring their national passports with them.** If they are not nationals of countries that are eligible for waiver of visa, they shall obtain appropriate entry visa prior to entering Thailand.

For further information on visa for Thailand please also visit the following website:
<http://www.mfa.go.th/web/12.php>.

MEDICAL SERVICES

First-aid and medical services are available at the Medical Centre, fourth floor, Service Building, during weekdays. The ESCAP doctor is available from 07:30 to 15:45 hours with lunch break from 12:00 to 12:45 hours. Appointment should be made through the nurse at extensions 1352 and 1761. The United Nations buildings are smoke-free areas. Participants are allowed to smoke only in the designated areas outside buildings.

POSTAL SERVICES

Postal services are available at the Post and Telegraphic Office, UN Branch, ground floor, UNCC. It is open from 08:00 to 16:00 hours, Monday to Friday at extensions 1260 and 2114, except for official holidays.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORKSHOP

Note that the workshop will include several interactive activities, including facilitated breakout sessions and a hands-on training on preparing project proposals using the UNFCCC Practitioner's Guide, that would require some preparation before coming to the workshop. The agenda of the workshop, reference materials, workbooks, guiding questions and the background paper on best practices with conducting technology needs assessments (TNAs) will be posted on TT:CLEAR at <http://ttclear.unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/index.jsp?mainFrame=../html/WshpBangkok.html>. The TNA studies completed to date are available at <http://ttclear.unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/index.jsp?mainFrame=../html/TNAStudies.html>.

Participants will be also invited to answer to a survey questionnaire aiming at identifying problems encountered in conducting TNAs and in reporting and implementing their results. Your participation in this survey will be highly appreciated.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON BANGKOK

Bangkok: Bangkok or Krung Thep which means the City of Angels was constructed in 1782 or 224 years ago. Presently, Bangkok has approximately 10 million population and it is considered one of the biggest city in the world.

Attractions: Cultural Heritage, the Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Temple of the Dawn, Chao Phraya River and Canals (once Venice of the East), shopping paradise, excellent seafood and local dishes, superb seaside resorts and good accommodation, extensive tours all over the country, Thai boxing, Thai classical dances, golfing, and other entertainments.

Shopping: Thailand has a variety of shopping experiences from street markets to malls. Tourists have historically always preferred markets and bazaars to the other forms of shopping. The Chatuchak weekend market is one of the largest shopping destinations in Bangkok. Water markets are gradually disappearing but remain strong tourist attractions as many tours are offered through the canals the market is located on. The huge new shopping complex known as Siam Paragon and CentralWorld on Rama I road in Bangkok's city center is one of the biggest and most luxurious malls in south east Asia; it truly is a Asian marvel. The Emporium, on Sukhumvit Road, is the center of fashion, style, and Siam Square is a very common hang-out place for teenagers, as there is a game floor, a food floor with different types of cuisine, and a cinema. Bangkok also includes over 15 world class malls situated around Bangkok mostly centered around Sukhumvit Road.

Transportation:

River and canals network

An elaborate network of canals, known as 'khlongs', gave the city the nickname "Venice of the East" at a time when most transportation was done by boat. Today nearly all of the canals have been filled in and converted into traffic-filled streets. However, many khlongs do still exist with people living along them and markets often being operated along the banks as well. However most of the khlongs are severely polluted with sewage and nearly everything else.[4] A notable khlong market is the floating market in Taling Chan district. Through downtown Bangkok runs the Khlong Saen Saeb, which has a canal-boat service, the most extensive of which is the Chao Phraya Express boat run by the Chao Phraya Express Boat Co.,Ltd. There are as many as 30 stops along the both banks of the Saen Saeb khlong. However there are limitations as the further north the boat gets the farther apart are the stations and this impedes the ability of this water taxi to work as a true mass transit system.

Roads

Several elevated highways, newly rebuilt intersections, and many partially-finished road and rail projects dot the landscape around Greater Bangkok, but have done little to overcome the notorious traffic jams on Bangkok's surface roads as private vehicle usage continues to outstrip infrastructure development. Many city residents complain they spend more than half their waking day on the dusty streets on an open-air city bus. Bangkok could be known as one of the worst traffic cities in the world but it has built an expressway or second level road on almost every road in the city center, and there continues to be plans for new expressways monthly. The government has also tried many times to improve the state of the traffic in the city center, which can sometimes take 1 hour just to move 1 kilometer.

Rail systems

Skytrain approaching Sala Daeng Station In 1999 an elevated two-line 'Skytrain' (officially called BTS) metro system was opened. The remains of a failed elevated railroad project (the Hopewell project) can still be seen all the way from the main railroad station out towards the Don Mueang airport. Due to the Asian financial crisis the construction was halted and the concrete pillars were left unused. Locals call them "Hopehenge," Hopeless, or Stonehenge.

After much reluctance and commotion of being unable to deal with possible floods and damp soil, the subway was finally opened for use in July 2004. The MRT subway system connected the northern train station of Bang Sue to the Hua Lamphong central railway station near the city center, while also going through the eastern part of the city. It connects to the BTS system at BTS Stations Mo Chit, Asok, and Sala Daeng. Many stations have various designs and concepts with many to install retail shops to draw more commuters, the Hua Lamphong station under the Central Rail Station also houses the Rail Museum of Thailand.

Political bickering and profiteering also has stalled many promised and planned urban rail projects including Skytrain and subway extensions, and projects that are completed often are very much delayed.



A new high-speed elevated railroad called the Suvarnabhumi Express, currently under construction, will link the city with the new Suvarnabhumi Airport. The announced opening date is late 2007, but it is expected this will be delayed. The Airport Express railway is to be operated by The State Railway of Thailand. It will provide a 28.5 km link between the new airport and the City Air Terminal (CAT) at Makkasan with connections to the BTS at Phaya Thai and MRT at Petchburi. There are plans to extend the line to Don Mueang and Rangsit.

Due to completion within the early stages of 2007, the BTS Silom line extension to Wongwian Yai as well as the Sukhumvit line to Sumrong. Plans have already been approved for a further extension from Wong Wian Yai to Bangwah (4.5 km), Sumrong to Samut Prakarn (8 km), Mochit to Saphan Mai (11.9 km) and the National Stadium to Phran Nok (7.7 km) extension of the Silom line which will include 5 underground stations in the Rattanakosin area. The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) have also been given the green light to complete the Dark Red and Light Green lines. Alongside, MRT have also begun construction on 2 new lines, the Purple line from Bang Yai to Bang Sue, the blue line from Hua Lampong to Bang Khae and Ta Pra. Much of this is in a government effort to reduce Bangkokians from relying on personal vehicles and the hope of linking the city within 10 years by a ring road of rail systems.

For intercity travel by train, most passengers begin their trips at Hua Lamphong at the southern end of the Metro. Here, trains connect Bangkok to Malaysia to the south, Chiang Mai and beyond to the north, and Nong Khai and beyond to the northeast.

Bus service

Virtually all cities and provinces are easily reached by bus from Bangkok. For destinations in the southwest and the west, buses leave from the Southern Bus Terminal, west of the city in the Thonburi area which is usually not detailed in tourist maps. For destinations in the southeast, such as Pattaya, Ko Samet and Ko Chang, buses leave from the Eastern Bus Terminal, at Ekkamai, the third-eastern-most stop on the Skytrain. For all destinations north and northeast, the Northern Bus Terminal at Mo Chit, which can be reached by both the Skytrain and Metro, is the place to start. Long distance bus service has become safer as drivers are changed and most no longer take methamphetamines including Ya Baa to stay awake, which often caused excessive speeding and passing on dangerous undivided roads.

Time zone:	Standard time zone: UTC/GMT +7 hours; no daylight saving time
Currency:	1 USD = 33.40 Baht 1 Euro = 46.07 Baht
International country code:	++ 66 (Thailand), area code: 2
Power voltage:	220 V, 50 Hz.
Average temperature:	High temperature in June is 33.1°C (91.6 °F), low temperature is 25.4 °C (77.7 °F)

Please note that this is a raining season of Thailand. Therefore, do not forget to bring your umbrella.

For more information on Bangkok you may want to visit the following links: <http://www.sawasdee.com>, <http://www.bangkoksite.com/>, <http://www.bangkok.com/>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangkok>, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/thailand/bangkok>.