

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Workshop on policy for agroecological transition in South-East Asia

Associated event, 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development, 2023
Thursday, 30 March 2023, 14:30-16:30 pm, and Friday 31 March 2023, 09:00 am to 15:30 pm
Royal Princess Larn Luang hotel, Bangkok

SECTION A: General Information

General

This document provides links to external and third-party website, for convenience of meeting participants, and for use at their discretion. ESCAP cannot vouch for the accuracy or correctness of the information contained therein.

The “Workshop on policy for agroecological transition in South-East Asia” will be held at Supamitr meeting room, 7th floor at [Royal Princess Larn Luang hotel](#), Bangkok on 30 and 31 March 2023. The opening will take place at 14:30 hours on 30 March 2023.

This workshop is an activity of the Agroecology and Safe Food System Transition ([ASSET](#)) Project. Government officials designated as national focal points for the Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology (LICA) and officials who are otherwise responsible for sustainable agriculture are invited to discuss and map effective policy measures and responses and strengthen institutional responses for advancing on agroecology transition. The workshop provides an opportunity to learn more about agroecology policy. Participants will contribute to scoping policy guidance for agroecology transition and making recommendations for strengthening institutional support. National Convenors for the Global Food System Summit are likely to be in Bangkok at that time and may find participation in the workshop useful.

Information and documentation will be posted at the workshop website at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/workshop-policy-agroecology-transition-south-east-asia>

Lunch will be provided on 31 March 2023, and coffee breaks on both days.

Registration

Participants are requested to register online at <https://forms.office.com/e/aq2PCdC86H> no later than **20 March 2023 (12 March, if funded by ESCAP)**.

Hotel accommodation

The meeting will be held at the [Royal Princess Hotel](#), Larn Luang, Bangkok.

Meeting participants wishing to stay at the meeting venue have two options for making a reservation at the hotel:

- Reserving online themselves OR
- Reserving via the meeting secretariat (contact escap-edd-edps@un.org). The room rate if booked via the meeting secretariat **starts from USD77 or THB2600 per night**, depending on the number of guests and the room standard.

This [list](#) provides a list of other hotel options. *N.B. ESCAP cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information or rates contained in the document. The list is meant purely for reference of meeting participants, will differ from rates that are publicly available, and should be confirm with the hotel directly or online.*

Any cancellations, postponements or other changes should be reported the meeting secretariat and directly to the hotel. Rooms not occupied may be charged to the participants as per the hotel's policies.

Before departure from Bangkok, participants should settle directly with the respective hotels all accounts, including room charges and other expenses, such as for local and long-distance telephone calls, Internet usage, business center usage, laundry, room and hotel transportation services, mini-bar items, as well as restaurant and bar services. Participants are also responsible for any charges incurred with respect to rooms remaining vacant owing to late arrival or rescheduled departure for which inadequate prior notice is given.

Arrangements for sponsored participants

Air ticket, for sponsored participants will be arranged by ESCAP through AMEX. A most economical route round-trip ticket from a country of origin to/from Bangkok, in accordance with the UN rules and regulations, will be provided. Participants will receive the electronic ticket by email. Please note that it will not be possible to change the travel details after the ticket has been issued.

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), participants whose travel is sponsored by ESCAP will be provided with daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at prevailing United Nations rates (THB 7,610 or US \$ 218/day for Bangkok). The DSA covers accommodation cost, meals and miscellaneous including visa fee, airport tax, local transportation, etc. In order to facilitate the payment of DSA, eligible participants are requested to **submit copies of their passport**,

air tickets together with **original boarding pass(es) of all incoming flights**. DSA will be distributed on the first day of the workshop, 30 March 2023.

Terminal Expenses (TE), include all expenditures for transportation between the airport or other point of arrival or departure and the hotel or other place of dwelling, including transfer of accompanied baggage and other incidental charges. For Bangkok, the amount to be given in THB currency equivalent to \$188 as per UN Regulation.

Other ASSET project or agroecology-related events at the United Nations Conference Centre in the context of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

The [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) will be organized from 27-30 March at the United Nations Conference Centre.

- Participation in the **main plenary sessions** of this intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder meeting **is closed to members of official national delegations and stakeholder representatives**.
- Participation in the **APFSD side events is however open** (see list of side events at the website – here: [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023 | ESCAP \(unescap.org\)](#))
- **On 29 March 2023**, the ASSET project (ESCAP, FAO and CIRAD) will host a **side event on Harnessing agroecology through partnerships to transform food systems** at the APFSD on 29 March 2023, in **meeting room A from 12:00 noon to 13:15 pm**
- **On 30 March 2023**, the FAO Global Hub will convene (with ESCAP and FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) a **Regional Preparatory Meeting of the 2023 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment: Transforming Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific: A Regional Stocktake**. This meeting will take place in **Conference Room 4** and will be open for the morning session only, from **9:00 am to 12 noon**. It will be mainly attended by national Food System convenors, but others are welcome.

Accessing the United Nations Conference Centre

- Attending any **APFSD side event** at the UNCC will require registration here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/> to be able to access to the UNCC. The registration for accessing the UNCC is scheduled to close on 13 March 2023.
- There will be **complementary shuttles from the Royal Princess Hotel** to the UNCC and back daily, in the morning and the afternoon.
- A **special complementary shuttle will be arranged on 30 March 2023** from the UNCC to the Royal Princess Hotel to enable those participating in the Regional

Stocktake, to easily join the start of the workshop. The shuttle will leave the UNCC at 2:00 pm that day.

Meeting documents

Considering the carbon footprint involved in producing papers and printing documents, it is strongly recommended to utilize soft copies at the maximum extent. If hard copies are needed, participants are requested to bring with them their own copies of the meeting documents distributed by the event organizer prior to the session.

Travel Information

Travel Advisory

Visitors are advised to be respectful of Thai customs at all times. Please note that Thailand has laws against making negative comments about the institution of the monarchy. Such laws are strictly enforced and are applicable to spoken, written, gestures and electronic communication, including social media.

Transport from and to Airport

Participants need to make their own transportation arrangements from Suvarnabhumi International Airport or Don Mueang International Airport to their respective hotels. For the Airport Rail Link, an express and commuter rail connecting to Makkasan Station (MRT subway Petchaburi Station) and Phayathai Station (BTS Skytrain), passengers should go to Level B. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.srtet.co.th/index.php/en/>

Electric taxis (EVSociety/VIP) are currently available at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The counter is located next to the main taxi area. The service is available 24 hours and can be pre-booked via:

Line ID: @evsociety

Phone: +66 2039 8888

Email: taxivip@evsociety.co.th

EV Society Facebook

Metered-taxi and bus services are readily available at the airport. More information is available at <https://www.bangkokairportonline.com>

To use the airport limousine service, participants should only contact the authorized officials at the counters located in the airport arrival zone. These officials will issue a ticket for the assignment of a limousine for transporting passengers to the desired destination, upon request. The Suvarnabhumi International Airport limousine service counters are located on Level 2 at Baggage Claim and Arrival Hall exits, channels A, B and C.

For public taxis, participants are advised to proceed to the Level 1 of the Passenger Terminal, between exit doors 4 and 7, outdoor area, where they will find automatic dispensing machines from which they can collect a queuing ticket for a public taxi. In addition to toll fees, there is a THB 50 surcharge to be added to the meter charge from the airport to the city. Please refer to the airport website noted above for details.

SECTION B: Health/Vaccination

Health and vaccination

Upon arrival at the port of entry in Thailand, participants who are nationals of or have traveled from/through countries listed below, which have been declared Yellow Fever infected areas, must provide an International Health Certificate proving that they have received a valid Yellow Fever vaccination at the Health Control Office upon arrival before proceeding to immigration. A valid vaccination certificate means that the vaccine was administered at least 10 days prior to travel to the affected country. The International Health Certificate must also be submitted together with the visa application form.

The countries/areas listed below have been declared yellow fever infected areas (Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand](#) dated 03 November 2022):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Angola | 24. Guyana |
| 2. Argentina | 25. Kenya |
| 3. Benin | 26. Liberia |
| 4. Bolivia | 27. Mali |
| 5. Brazil | 28. Mauritania |
| 6. Burkina Faso | 29. Niger |
| 7. Burundi | 30. Nigeria |
| 8. Cameroon | 31. Panama |
| 9. Central African Republic | 32. Paraguay |
| 10. Chad | 33. Peru |
| 11. Colombia | 34. Rwanda |
| 12. Congo | 35. Sao Tome & Principe |
| 13. Republic of the Congo | 36. Senegal |
| 14. Cote d'Ivoire | 37. Sierra Leone |
| 15. Ecuador | 38. Somalia |
| 16. Equatorial Guinea | 39. Sudan |
| 17. Ethiopia | 40. Suriname |
| 18. French Guiana | 41. Tanzania |
| 19. Gabon | 42. Togo |
| 20. Gambia | 43. Trinidad & Tobago |
| 21. Ghana | 44. Uganda |
| 22. Guinea | 45. Venezuela |
| 23. Guinea-Bissau | |

Zika virus

Zika is endemic in Thailand and cases have been reported amongst tourists. All travelers are advised to protect themselves from mosquito bites while in Thailand. Given possible transmission of the disease to unborn babies, pregnant women should consider postponing travel to Thailand or talk to their doctor about the implications of traveling to Thailand during this time.

In addition to the above, Medical Services Division at UNHQs advises that pregnant UN personnel should not undertake duty travel or be relocated to countries/areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur. Women who are seeking pregnancy should obtain individual advice from their medical practitioner on risk management regarding their plans to travel into a Zika-affected area. [For further information, please refer to the Zika virus FAQ.](#)

Information on other non-vaccine preventable diseases to watch out for while in Thailand can be found here: [Thailand - Traveler view | Travelers' Health | CDC.](#)

Air pollution

Bangkok, like many metropolitan Asian cities in the world, is periodically affected by high levels of air pollution, with haze and high concentrations of PM2.5 particularly of concern for sensitive groups.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand advises tourists to monitor Bangkok's air pollution and take precautions when necessary. People who have existing asthma or are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution should consult their treating physician as to whether a trip to Bangkok is advisable at this time. Information on the Air pollution can be found [Air4Thai website](#), maintained by the government of Thailand with daily information on air pollution.

Insurance and emergency medical service

Delegates are strongly encouraged to subscribe to a travel or health insurance which is valid in the Kingdom of Thailand, in order to cover any medical bills or hospitalization fees.

SECTION C: Visa and Entry Requirements, Travel/Hotel Information and Foreign currency declaration

Visa and Entry Requirements

Visa Requirements

Participants are **REQUIRED** to obtain an appropriate entry visa from the Royal Thai Embassy or the Royal Thai Consulate-General before entering Thailand, EXCEPT for those nationals listed at [List of Countries entitled for Visa Exemption and Visa on Arrival.](#)

Please note that participants holding UN Laissez-Passer (UNLP) travelling on official business to Thailand are also **REQUIRED** to obtain an appropriate visa before entering.

To apply for an appropriate entry visa to Thailand, participants are required to contact their nearest Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate-General for the most updated information regarding visa application procedures and required documents. The list of Royal Thai Embassy/Consulate-General can be found at <https://www.thaiembassy.org>.

Participants who wish to apply for a visa outside their country of residence or reside in a country where there is no Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate, should check with the meeting organizer for the location where it is possible for them to apply for a Thai visa. Please note that certain nationalities, for security reasons, are not allowed to apply for a visa except at the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate-General which has jurisdiction over the concerned territory.

Participants who may need further assistance from ESCAP on their visa application should contact the meeting organizer, well in advance, for necessary action.

Participants who wish to apply for a visa on arrival at Suvarnabhumi International Airport or Don Muang International Airport should follow the below requirements:

1. The applicant must possess a passport from the list of countries whose nationals are eligible to apply for visa on arrival ([List of countries entitled for Visa on Arrival](#)) with the validity of more than 30 days, at least one completely blank page, and be in possession of a valid return ticket with date of departure within 15 days of the date of entry.
2. The applicant must fill out an application form, which is available at the Visa-on-Arrival counter at the airport, supply one recent passport-sized photograph and a fee of Thai Baht (THB) 2,000.
3. An online application is available at [Visa On Arrival \(immigration.go.th\)](#). Upon presentation of printed Transaction Reference Number (TRN) the applicant could obtain the visa at the Visa-on-Arrival counter at the airport before proceeding for immigration procedures.
4. The applicant must provide proof of means of living expenses at the amount of THB 10,000 per person or THB 20,000 per family.

NOTE: The information provided above is accurate as of October 2022.

Entry Requirements (as of 10 January 2023)

Thai Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) issued "Public Health Measures for Foreign Travellers Entering Thailand", which is effective from 10 January 2023 until further notice, as per the following:

1. Proof of vaccination is NO longer required.
2. Travellers from the listed countries requiring negative RT-PCR test results before departure from Thailand should have health insurance covering at least US\$10,000 for COVID-19 treatment that covers the duration of stay in Thailand plus 7 additional days.
 - Those with business arrangements, including flight crews and students, may have an official letter from the host or other form of insurance to cover such need.
 - The quarantine officer will randomly check the proof of insurance of travellers from the listed countries. If that travellers does not have proof of insurance, the traveller will have to purchase health insurance before immigration.

3. Holders of Thai passports and transit/transfer passengers are exempted from the health insurance checks.
4. The airlines must adhere to related regulation and comply with the guidance as appropriate such as asking passengers to wear mask at all times except during meals or emergency situations.
5. Any passenger having symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival shall be recommended to get a COVID-19 test at arrival.

The DDC has included **China Mainland and India** in its list of countries that require all travellers showing negative RT-PCR test results before departure from Thailand. Travellers can contact the DDC Hotline 1442 or visit <https://ddc.moph.go.th/index.php> for more information.

Transport to attend meetings

Participants need to make their own transport arrangements to and from the venue. Metered taxis are readily available in the city and you may also book your transportation via applications such as Grab and Volt.

Weather

The weather in Bangkok is usually warm and humid. Light tropical clothing would be appropriate. The conference and meeting rooms at the venue are air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 23-25 degrees Celsius (73-75 degrees Fahrenheit).

Electric plug and socket

The electric power in Thailand is 230V running at 50Hz and the plug types used are either Type A, Type B, or Type C. A hybrid socket is almost universally found, which accepts a combination of the above plug types.

Delegates are strongly encouraged to carry their own adapters for use with laptops and other electrical appliances as the Secretariat will not be able to provide these. In case of need, adapters can be purchased from shops in the city dealing in electronic and electrical items.

Foreign currency declaration

Any person who brings or takes an aggregate amount of foreign currency exceeding USD 20,000 or its equivalent into or out of the Kingdom of Thailand shall declare such amount of foreign currency to a Customs Official. Failure to make such a declaration or making any false declaration to a Customs official is a criminal offence. For reference, participants may use – at their discretion – online currency conversion tool, such as <https://freecurrencyrates.com> for indicative currency conversion rates.