



WORKSHOP ON
Assessing the Potential Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on
Sustainable Development Goals in Asian Economies

Bangkok, 25-26 September 2019

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

A. General

1. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in association with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will be holding the above-mentioned workshop in Conference Room 3 of the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok on 25 (*whole day*) and 26 (*morning only*) September 2019. The tentative agenda of the workshop is attached as annex 1 to the present note.
2. The address of the UNCC is:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
The United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Telephone numbers: (+ 662) 288 1723
Facsimile numbers: (+ 662) 288 3050

ESCAP opening hours

3. The UNCC is opened every day Monday to Friday from 07.30 hours to 17.00 hours, except for official ESCAP holidays.

Registration and identification badges

4. Participants are requested to register and obtain a visitor's badge on the first day of the workshop, i.e. Wednesday 25 September 2019. This is done at the Registration Counter located on the ground floor of the UNCC between 08.00 hours and 09.00 hours. This procedure is important for security reason and will also ensure that all participants' names appear on the list of participants.
5. For identification and security reasons, *all participants are requested to wear their badges at all times when on the United Nations compound, and also during the workshop and at social functions.*

B. Conduct of the workshop

6. The workshop will be officially opened at 09.00 hours on 25 September 2019 by Mr. Weimin Ren, Director, Transport Division, ESCAP and Mr. Namsuk Kim, Projects Coordinator, DESA in Conference Room 3 of the UNCC where all subsequent sessions will also be held.

Working language

7. The working language of the workshop will be English with simultaneous interpretation in Thai language.

Interventions by participants

8. Individual microphones are provided at each seat in the conference room. All the microphones are automatically operated. Before speaking, participants are requested to press the button on their microphones until the red light is on. At the end of each intervention, participants are requested to press the button again until the red light is off.

C. Miscellaneous

Accessibility support for persons with disabilities

9. For persons with diverse disabilities, whether visual, physical, brain lesions, hearing or speech impairments, a set of assistive devices are available upon request in a designated area at the Accessibility Centre located on the first floor of the UNCC. For more information please email escap-conference-management@un.org or call +66 2 2881601.

Internet

10. Free wireless internet access is available throughout the ESCAP compound and UNCC.

Medical services

11. First-aid and emergency medical services are available during weekdays at the Medical Centre located behind the post office on the ground floor of the UNCC. The ESCAP doctor is available from 07.30 hours to 12.00 hours and from 12.45 hours to 15.45 hours. Appointment should be made through the nurse at extension 1352.

Postal services

12. Postal services are available at the Post Office located on the ground floor of the UNCC. The post office is opened from Monday to Friday (except on official public holidays) from 08.00 hours to 16.00 hours. Services for overseas telephone calls and fax transmission are also available at the post Office at government regulated rates.

Catering services

13. Catering services are available at the cafeteria, which is located on the first floor of the UNCC, from 11.00 to 14.00 hours for lunch. The Rajapruek Lounge, on the ground floor of UNCC, is open from 07.00 to 17.00 hours on Monday through Thursday, and from 07.00 to 19.00 hours on Friday. The canteen, on the ground floor of the Service Building, is open from 07.00 to 13.00 hours. In addition, a Coffee Corner, which serves sandwiches, pastries, coffee, tea and soft drinks, is located on level 1, UNCC and is open from 07.00 to 17.00 hours.

Banking services

14. Banking services are available at the Siam Commercial Bank, United Nations Branch, located on the first floor of the Service Building, from 08.30 to 15.30 hours during weekdays. (telephone extension 2168).

Smoking

15. The entire UNCC is a smoke-free area. Smoking is permitted only in the garden area outside the Rajapruok lounge located on the ground floor of the UNCC.

Weather

16. The weather in Bangkok in September is warm and humid with temperatures ranging between 25°C and 32°C. Tropical showers can be expected during the period. The conference room where the workshop is to be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 21-25.5 °C (70-78 degrees Fahrenheit).

D. Contacts:

17. Information related to the workshop may be obtained from:

For substantive issues:

Ms. Lin Yang, Programme Officer, UN DESA, +1 917 367 5544 / lin.yang2@un.org

For international travel arrangements:

Ms. Wen Shi, Programme Management Assistant, UN DESA, +1 917-367-6257 / wen.shi@un.org

For accommodation and workshop arrangements:

Ms. Su-Arjar Lewchalermvongs, Project Assistant, + 66-2-288 1428 / lewchalermvongs@un.org

Ms. Wanna Kunsabfueng, Project Assistant, + 66-2-288 2540 / kunsabfueng@un.org

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Further information for international participants only

E. Travel to and stay in Bangkok

Immigration requirements

18. **International participants are responsible for checking visa requirements and making all related arrangements themselves** from an official mission of the Royal Thai Government in their home country or in a third country prior to their arrival at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok. Information relating to current visa requirements can be obtained at all embassies or diplomatic missions of the Royal Thai Government or via: <http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/services/4908>.

All participants are advised to consult with the nearest diplomatic mission/embassy of Thailand regarding the latest applicable immigration requirement ***prior to their journey.***

Arrival at the airport

19. Participants should make their own transportation arrangements from Suvarnabhumi International Airport to the Royal Princess Hotel (see paragraph on accommodation). Limousine services, public taxis (with a sign marked Taxi-Meter on the roof) and bus services are readily available at the airport. More detailed information about Suvarnabhumi airport can be found at <http://www.airportsuvarnabhumi.com/>.
20. Limousine services and public taxis are booked at specific counters. Counters for officially-licensed limousine services are located in the luggage pickup area of the arrival terminal. The fixed-charge payment is made at the counter where a staff will assign a vehicle.

Counters for public taxis are located on level 1 (ground level) of the airport and are in the form of automated taxi kiosks. Upon touch-screen activation, the kiosk will issue a paper slip indicating a row number where the assigned vehicle and its driver are waiting. The paper slip also indicates the car registration number and the driver's name. It is recommended that passengers keep the paper slip until arrival at their destination. Fares for meter-taxis are charged according to the distance travelled and as shown on the meter with an additional 50 Baht surcharge for airport pickup. Additional toll fees will be charged if Expressway is used. ***It is strongly recommended that participants decline offers from private individuals.*** For ease of communication with taxi drivers, the name and address of the Royal Princess Hotel is indicated below in both English and Thai languages. A map is attached as annex 2 to the present note.

Accommodation

21. All international participants have been booked to stay at the Royal Princess Hotel Larn Luang (<http://www.royalprincesslarnluang.com/>). The address of the hotel is:

In English language

Royal Princess Hotel
269 Larn Luang Road
Bangkok
Tel. (662) 2813088

In Thai language

โรงแรม รอยัล ปรีนเซส
269 ถนนหลานหลวง กรุงเทพฯ
โทร (662) 281 3088

Local transportation

22. The Royal Princess Hotel provides free transportation for the participants once in the morning to come to ESCAP and once in the afternoon to return to the hotel. The pick-up times will be according to the schedule of each day. Participants are invited to contact the reception to inquire about the exact time of departure. In the afternoon, pick-up will be at the end of each afternoon session outside the UNCC at ground floor level.

Participants can also choose to come to ESCAP using local transportation. Public taxis are numerous and can be picked up outside the hotels. Please note that the Royal Princess Hotel is within walking distance of ESCAP (10 to 15 minutes).

Financial and administrative arrangements (only if applicable)

23. Participants whose travel is sponsored by DESA will be provided with Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) and Terminal Expense. 75% DSA will be issued prior to departure via wire-transfer to the bank account provided in the Funds Transfer Form signed by the participant. The balance of 25% of the DSA and Terminal Expense will be remitted upon return and submission of the boarding passes. Participants must retain their **boarding passes** for submission to UNDESA (Please send the scanned version to Ms. Wen Shi wen.shi@un.org).

Note: For the participant whose DSA is issued by UNDP local office, 75% DSA will be issued prior to departure at UNDP office and the balance of 25% of the DSA and TE will be disbursed upon return and submission claim to UNDP office. UNDP will provide instructions as to how submission of claim can be done.

DESA will not assume responsibility for any other expenditures, including the following:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) salary and related allowances for the participants during the period of the workshop;
- (iii) cost incurred by participants in respect of travel insurance, accident insurance, medical bills or hospitalization fees in connection with attending the workshop;
- (iv) compensation in the event of death or disability of participants in connection with attending the workshop;
- (v) any loss of or damage to personal property of participants while attending the workshop or losses or damages claimed by third parties as a result of any negligence on the part of the participants;
- (vi) any other expenses of a personal nature not directly related to the purpose of the workshop.

Reconfirmation of flights / airport tax

24. Most airlines no longer require that return flights be re-confirmed. However, ESCAP staff servicing the workshop can assist participants who may have to re-confirm their return flights.

Foreign exchange

25. Participants may bring into Thailand some foreign currency for a total amount of up to US\$20,000 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.

26. Exchange facilities are available at the Royal Princess Hotel. Numerous currency exchange points are located around the city. Currencies can also be changed at the Siam Commercial Bank located on the first floor of the Service Building. The bank is opened from Monday to Friday (except on official public holidays) from 08.30 hours to 15.30 hours.

Annex 1

Tentative programme

DAY 1	
Registration	
08:30-09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration
Session 1: Opening	
09:00 – 09:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Weimin Ren, Director, ESCAP - Dr. Namsuk Kim, Projects Coordinator, DESA - Representative of Thailand National Economic and Social Development Council (tbc)
Session 2: Linking BRI and SDGs	
09:20 -10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded DESA World Economic Forecasting Model (WEFM) – Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA • ESCAP’s activities on sustainable connectivity in relation to BRI - Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina, Chief, ESCAP • Climate, land-use, energy and water systems (CLEWs) model - Ms. Uyanga Gankhuyag, Programme Specialist, UNDP-BRH • Discussions – Moderated by Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break
Session 3: BRI and SDGs in Thailand	
11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG progress and BRI in Thailand - Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, DESA consultant • Simulations for BRI and SDGs in Thailand – Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA • National policy on BRI and SDGs – NESDC (tbc) • Discussions – Moderated by NESDC (tbc)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch (group photo)
Session 4: BRI and SDGs in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar	
14:00 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR - Mr. Vanxay Sayavong, DESA consultant • Cambodia - Mr. Runsinarith Phim, DESA consultant • Myanmar - DESA consultant (tbc) • Simulations for BRI and SDGs in all three countries – Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA • Discussions – Moderated by Ms. Lin Yang, Programme Officer, DESA
15:30-15:50	Coffee Break

Session 5: BRI and SDGs in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka	
15:50-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh - Mr. Mahtab Uddin, DESA consultant • Simulations for BRI and SDGs in Bangladesh – Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA • Sri Lanka - Ms. Ganga Tilakaratna, DESA consultant • Discussions – Moderated by Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA
DAY 2	
Session 6: BRI and SDGs in Mongolia, Central Asia and Georgia	
09:00 –10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mongolia – Dr. Enkh-Amgalan Byambajav, DESA consultant • Georgia – Dr. Giorgi Abashishvili, DESA consultant • Central Asia – Ms. Lin Yang, DESA • Simulations for BRI and SDGs in Central Asia – Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA • Discussions – Moderated by Ms. Lin Yang, DESA
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break
Session 7: Moving forward	
11:00–12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation plan of DESA projects – Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA • ESCAP presentation (tbc) • Discussions – Moderated by Dr. Namsuk Kim, DESA

Annex 2

Royal Princess Hotel



โรงแรมรอยัลพริ้นเซส หลานหลวง กรุงเทพฯ (โทร. 0 2281 3088)
 269 ถ.หลานหลวง ป้อมปราบศัตรูพ่าย กรุงเทพฯ 10100

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