

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Governing Council
Fifth session
16 – 17 November 2009
Phuket, Thailand

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Venue and Opening Session

1. The fifth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) is scheduled to be held on 16 and 17 November 2009 at the Club Andaman Beach Resort in Phuket, Thailand.
2. The inaugural session will be convened at 0900 hours on Monday, 16 November in Andaman Ballroom, 1st floor of the Club Andaman Beach Resort, where all subsequent sessions will also be held.

Registration and identification badges

3. Participants are requested to register and obtain meeting badges at the Registration Desk, located on Andaman Ballroom, 1st floor, Club Andaman Beach Resort, between 0800 and 0845 hours on 16 November.
4. For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear the meeting badges at all times during the meeting and at social functions.

Visa requirements

(a) **Visa Exemption for Maximum 30 Days**

5. According to the Immigration Bureau of Thailand, nationals of the following countries or areas may enter and stay in Thailand for a maximum period of 30 days without a visa. However, if the duration of stay is expected to exceed 30 days, an appropriate entry visa must be obtained in advance from Thai diplomatic or consular missions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Austria | 23. Malaysia |
| 2. Australia | 24. Monaco |
| 3. Bahrain | 25. Mongolia |
| 4. Belgium | 26. Netherlands |
| 5. Brunei Darussalam | 27. New Zealand |
| 6. Canada | 28. Norway |
| 7. Denmark | 29. Oman |
| 8. Finland | 30. Philippines |
| 9. France | 31. Portugal |
| 10. Germany | 32. Qatar |
| 11. Greece | 33. Russian Federation |
| 12. Hong Kong, China | 34. Singapore |
| 13. Iceland | 35. South Africa |
| 14. Indonesia | 36. Spain |
| 15. Ireland | 37. Sweden |
| 16. Israel | 38. Switzerland |
| 17. Italy | 39. Turkey |
| 18. Japan | 40. United Arab Emirates |
| 19. Kuwait | 41. United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 20. Luxembourg | 42. United States of America |
| 21. Lao People's Democratic
Republic | 43. Viet Nam |

22. Macao, China

(b) **Visa Exemption for Maximum 90 days**

6. Nationals of the following countries may enter and stay in Thailand for a maximum period of 90 days without a visa. However, if the duration of stay is expected to exceed 90 days, an appropriate entry visa must be obtained in advance from Thai diplomatic or consular missions.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. Argentina | 4. Republic of Korea |
| 2. Brazil | 5. Peru |
| 3. Chile | |

(c) **Visa Exemption for Maximum 30 Days for Diplomatic/Official Passport Holders**

7. Nationals of the following countries holding a valid diplomatic or official passport may enter and stay in Thailand for 30 days as specified in the relevant visa waiver agreements between Thailand and the countries concerned:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Cambodia | 4. Mongolia |
| 2. China, People's Republic of | 5. Myanmar |
| 3. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 6. Viet Nam |

(d) **Visa Exemption for Maximum 90 Days for Diplomatic/Official Passport Holders**

8. Nationals of the following countries holding a valid diplomatic or official passport may enter and stay in Thailand for 90 days as specified in the relevant visa waiver agreements between Thailand and the countries concerned:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Argentina | 20. Nepal |
| 2. Austria | 21. Netherlands |
| 3. Belgium | 22. Oman |
| 4. Bhutan | 23. Panama |
| 5. Brazil | 24. Peru |
| 6. Chile | 25. Philippines |
| 7. Costa Rica | 26. Poland |
| 8. Croatia | 27. Republic of Korea |
| 9. Czech Republic | 28. Romania |
| 10. Germany | 29. Russian Federation |
| 11. Hungary | 30. Singapore |
| 12. India | 31. South Africa |
| 13. Israel | 32. Switzerland |
| 14. Italy | 33. Slovakia |
| 15. Japan | 34. Tunisia |
| 16. Liechtenstein | 35. Turkey |
| 17. Luxemburg | 36. Ukraine |
| 18. Malaysia | 37. Uruguay |
| 19. Mexico | |

(e) **Visa on Arrival for Maximum 15 Days**

9. Nationals of the following countries holding a valid ordinary passport may be granted upon arrival, by the Thai immigration authority at Suvarnabhumi Airport, a visa for a stay not exceeding 15 days, conditional on meeting requirements noted below:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bhutan | 10. Liechtenstein |
| 2. China, People's Republic of | 11. Lithuania |
| 3. Cyprus | 12. Maldives |

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 4. Czech Republic | 13. Mauritius |
| 5. Estonia | 14. Poland |
| 6. Hungary | 15. Saudi Arabia |
| 7. India | 16. Slovenia |
| 8. Kazakhstan | 17. Slovakia |
| 9. Latvia | 18. Ukraine |

These requirements are as follows:

(a) The applicant must be in possession of a valid passport with at least six month validity or an appropriate travel document recognized by the Government of Thailand;

(b) The applicant must be in possession of a confirmed onward or return air ticket which is usable within 15 days since the date of entry;

(c) The applicant must provide two passport-size photographs and must fill in the application form (TM.88) which is available at the visa-on-arrival counter at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The form together with the application fee of Baht 1,000 must be handed in at the visa-on-arrival counter. The fee is payable in Thai Baht only. Currency exchange service is available at the bank counter near the visa-on-arrival counter.

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

Holders of United Nations Laissez-Passer (UNLP)

11. Holders of United Nations laissez-passers (UNLP) travelling from countries where there is no Thai Embassy or Consulate must submit to the ESCAP Protocol Office (escap-protocol@un.org), at least two weeks prior to their departure date, the following information: full name, occupation, and itinerary as well as copies of their UNLP and national passports with expiry date of at least six months beyond the date of arrival in Thailand. The above information is required in order to process a request for visa waiver to enter Thailand for a period of stay not exceeding 15 days. UNLP holders from such countries are also required to bring their national passports for the journey to Thailand.

12. Furthermore, in line with security procedures for UN staff, travel notification through ISECT is required, prior to any official travel to a No-Phase area. Upon notification of travel on ISECT, UN staff members will automatically receive the updated Security Advice for UN visitors to Thailand.

The information provided above is accurate as of the date of issuance of this note. All participants are advised to consult with the diplomatic mission/embassy of Thailand in their respective country regarding the latest applicable immigration requirement prior to their departure.

Weather

13. The weather in Phuket is usually warm and humid. Light tropical clothing would be appropriate. The average temperature during the November is around 73F to 75F (20C to 25C). The conference rooms where the meetings are to be held are air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 20-25 degrees Celsius (73-75 degrees Fahrenheit), often necessitating the use of a jacket

Foreign exchange

14. Any person who brings or takes an aggregate amount of foreign currency exceeding US\$ 20,000 or its equivalent into or out of the Kingdom of Thailand shall declare the amount of foreign currency to a Customs Officer. Failure to declare upon bringing foreign currency that exceeds the amount restricted by law or its equivalent into or out of the Kingdom of Thailand or making any false declaration to a Customs Officer is a criminal offence.

15. Exchange facilities are normally available at hotels as well as at the commercial banks located in Phuket. It is open from 0830 to 1530 hours, without lunch break, from Monday to Friday. The exchange rate in September is around Thai Baht 34 to 1 US Dollar.

Addresses and telephone numbers of the secretariats of SIAP, ESCAP and NSO Thailand

16. The addresses of the secretariats of SIAP, ESCAP and National Statistical Office of Thailand are as follows:

Ms Davaasuren Chultemjamts
Director
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)
JETRO-IDE Building
2-2 Wakaba 3-chome, Mihama-ku
Chiba-shi, Chiba 261-8787, Japan
Telephone numbers: +81-43-299-9782; 299-9796
Facsimile numbers: +81-43-299-9780; 299-2521
E-mail address: staff@unsiap.or.jp

Mr Artur Andrysiak (Focal Point in ESCAP)
Statistician
Statistics Division
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
The United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Telephone number: +66-22881615
Facsimile numbers: +66-22881082
Email Address: stat.unescap@un.org

Ms. Chalermkwun Chiemprachanarakorn
International Statistical Affairs
NSO Thailand
Larn Luang Rd. Bangkok 10100 Thailand
Telephone number: +66-22810333 ext. 1040
Facsimile numbers: +66-22813814
Email Address: kwunny@nso.go.th

When dialing from within Thailand add "0" in front of the numbers. Thailand does not have area codes.

Travel and hotel arrangements

17. All expenses relating to participants' attendance in this meeting will have to be borne by the respective participating governments/agencies. Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Phuket. Secretariat of the meeting 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 meeting;
- (iii) Costs incurred by participants in respect of travel insurance, accident insurance, medical bills or hospitalization fees in connection with attending the meeting;
- (iv) Compensation in the event of death or disability of participants in connection with attending the meeting;

- (v) 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; and
- (vi) Any other expenses of a personal nature, not directly related to the purpose of the meeting.

18. Block bookings have been made for participants at the Club Andaman Beach Resort, venue of the meeting. The address and special discounted room rates are as follows:

Club Andaman Beach Resort
2 Hadpatong Road
Patong Beach
Phuket 83150 Thailand
Telephone numbers: +66-76-340530
Facsimile numbers: +66-76-340527
Single room daily rate @ Baht 2,100/- including breakfast
Twin room daily rate @ Baht 2,300/- including breakfast

19. To facilitate hotel reservation, participants are requested to send the completed attendance information form at least 2 weeks in advance to NSO Thailand and SIAP.

Arrival at Phuket airport

20. Taxi services are available at the airport to the Club, which costs approximately Baht 800 each.

Lunch

21. As it is very inconvenient to access to eating places other than restaurants at Club Andaman Beach Resort, NSO Thailand has arranged with the Club Andaman to provide a reasonable meeting lunch package for the participants for their comfort and easy management of the meeting organizers. The western buffet style lunch package is Baht 600 per lunch/per person. Participants are kindly requested to make payment of Baht 1,200 (for lunch on 16 and 17 November) to the Secretariat of NSO Thailand upon registration. Those who do not wish to take lunch at Club Andaman on the second day of the meeting (17 November) are requested to indicate their decision in advance on the attendance information form.

Working language of the meeting

22. The meeting will be conducted in English and all documentation will be in English.

Meeting documents

23. Since the number of copies of meeting documents is limited, participants are requested to bring with them to Phuket all documents that have been distributed to them in advance.

Papers/literature for distribution

24. Participants wishing to circulate any papers or literature at the meeting are requested to bring sufficient copies for distribution at the meeting.

Electrical Systems in Thailand

25. The standard voltage in Thailand is 220 VAC at 50 Hz. Plugs are Type A (flat blade attachment plug) and Type C (round pin attachment plug).

7. IF MAKING OWN LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IN PHUKET, PLEASE INDICATE:

Address in Phuket:

8. PLEASE ARRANGE LUNCH AT CLUB ANDAMAN BEACH RESORT FOR THE DATE(S)
INDICATED BELOW:

- 16 November 2009 only
 16 & 17 November 2009

Please send this attendance information to both addresses listed below:

[NSO Thailand]

Ms Chalermkwun Chiemprachanarakorn
International Statistical Affairs
National Statistical Office Thailand
Min. of Information, Communication and Technology
Larn Luang Road, Bangkok 10100, Thailand
Fax no.: +66 2 281 3814
e-mail: kwunny@nso.go.th

[SIAP]

Ms Davaasuren Chultemjamts
Director
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
3-2-2 Wakaba, Mihama-ku
Chiba-shi, Chiba 261-8787, Japan
Fax no.: +81 43 299 2521
e-mail: staff@unsiap.or.jp