



Office of Insurance Commission

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the Government of Japan
and
the Office of Insurance Commission of Thailand*

2nd. Conference of the OECD International Network on the Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes

Bangkok, 24-25 September, 2009

Information Note for Participants

The 2nd Conference of the OECD International Network on the Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes will be held on 24-25 September, 2009 at the InterContinental Hotel in Bangkok. It is sponsored by the Office of Insurance Commission (OIC) of Thailand and the Government of Japan.

Registration

Please note that participation is by invitation only. Delegates must register for this conference. To do so, please send your registration form by **Friday, 24 July, 2009** to:

Ms. Lillie KEE, OECD
E-mail: lillie.kee@oecd.org
Tel: +33 1 45 24 88 27
Fax: +33 1 45 24 18 33

Visa for Thailand and Insurance

You are advised to contact your local Thai embassy or consulate to verify if you require a visa to enter Thailand. If participants require an official invitation letter for visa purposes, please contact Ms. Chamanun Netrabukkana of the Office of Insurance Commission (OIC) of Thailand, by **31 July 2009** at the latest:

Ms. Chamanun Netrabukkana,
International Affairs Department
Office of Insurance Commission, Thailand
(Logistics and Visa enquiries)
Tel: + 66 2 547 4568
Fax: + 66 2 547 4571
E-mail: OIC_Thailand@oic.or.th



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Participants are advised to have adequate medical and travel insurance to cover their visit to Thailand.

Conference venue

The conference will be held at the:

InterContinental Hotel & Resorts, Bangkok

973, Ploenchit Road,

Patumwan,

Bangkok,

10330 Thailand

Tel: + 66 (0) 2 6560444

Fax: +66 (0) 2 6560555

E-mail: rsvngroupco@ihgbangkok.com

Website: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/locations/overview/bangkok>

Accommodation

We have obtained a negotiated conference rate with the Hotel InterContinental Bangkok for participants of the conference. Please note that each participant is responsible for the reservation and payment of his/her own accommodation.

The negotiated rate for conference participants is 5,000 Baht net per room and per night for a Standard Single Room (equivalent to approximately 147 USD per room, per night). The rate includes 17.7 % tax, service charge and international buffet breakfast. (Further details are included on the Hotel Reservation Form).

If you choose to stay at the Hotel InterContinental Bangkok, please complete the Hotel Reservation Form and **send it directly to the Hotel InterContinental Bangkok** as indicated to obtain the negotiated rate. It is important to make your reservations by **Thursday, 3rd September, 2009 at the latest**, as the number of rooms blocked for this conference is limited and after this date, the special rate for conference participants will no longer be available.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Cancellation policy

Please note that **very strict cancellation** policy will be applied by the hotel i.e. **any cancellation, early departure or “no shows” that occur within 72 hours prior to the arrival date will be charged the full length of the stay booked** to the participants credit card.

Check-in and Check-out time:

Please note that Check-in time is 2.00 pm. Room assignments prior to 2.00 pm are subject to availability.

Check-out time is 12.00 noon. Please kindly note that **participants who do not vacate their rooms at or before noon will be charged a “day use” rate** (subject to room availability), **to their individual account**, unless prior arrangements had been made with the Hotel's Management.

We have also obtained a negotiated conference rate with the **Holiday Inn Bangkok** for participants of the conference. However, please kindly note that the number of rooms blocked in this hotel is **extremely limited**. Should you wish to stay at this hotel, it is necessary for you to make your reservation as soon as possible. After the blocked number of rooms are filled, the special rate for conference participants will no longer be available and you will be instructed by the hotel to make your reservation at the Hotel InterContinental Bangkok.



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The negotiated rate for conference participants is 3,800 Baht net per room and per night for a Standard Single Room (equivalent to approximately 112 USD per room, per night). The rate includes 17.7 % tax, service charge and international buffet breakfast. (Further details are included on the Hotel Reservation Form).

Holiday Inn, Bangkok

971, Ploenchit Road,
Patumwan,
Bangkok,
10330 Thailand
Tel: + 66 (0) 2 656 1555
Fax: +66 (0) 2 656 1666
E-mail: rsvngroupcohi@ihgbangkok.com

Website:

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/925/en/hotel/bkkpc?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/hi/925/en/availsearch&ias=y>

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Cancellation policy

Please note that **very strict cancellation policy** will be applied by the hotel i.e. **any cancellation, early departure or “no shows”** that occur **within 72 hours prior to the arrival date** will be **charged the full length of the stay booked** to the participants credit card.

Check-in and Check-out time:

Please note that Check-in time is 2.00 pm. Room assignments prior to 2.00 pm are subject to availability.

Check-out time is 12.00 noon. Please kindly note that **participants who do not vacate their rooms at or before noon will be charged a “day use” rate** (subject to room availability), **to their individual account**, unless prior arrangements had been made with the Hotel's Management.

If you choose not to stay at a designated hotel, please kindly inform Ms. Lillie KEE, OECD (E-mail: lillie.kee@oecd.org, Fax: +33 1 4524 1833) of the hotel where you will be staying.

Airport transfers to and from the hotel

The distance between the Suvarnabhumi International Airport and the Hotel InterContinental Bangkok is approximately 30km. Travel time by car is approximately 45 minutes.

Hotel limousine service:

Airport transportation between the airport and the hotel can be arranged by the InterContinental Hotel by means of **the Hotel Reservation Form**. The cost is 2,600 Baht net per car, per trip (equivalent to approximately 55 USD), payable to the hotel upon check-out by each individual guest. Each car holds up to three passengers. You will be met by representative from the hotel (an Airport Concierge) holding a sign indicating the hotel's name.

To get to the Airport Concierge Meeting Point from the Arrival Terminal at Level 2, proceed towards Exit B after customs clearance and make a right turn. The exact location is opposite Gate No. 5. For guests arriving from Exit C, please make a right turn and meet with the Airport Concierge at the corner opposite to Gate No. 9.

If an airport representative could not be located, please contact the Airport Information Counter to make an announcement or call Telephone: 02 656 0444, extension Concierge, for assistance.



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Information on how to get to the Hotel InterContinental Bangkok can be found on:

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/locations/maps-directions/bangkok>

Other means of airport transfer:

Airport limousine transfer service operated by the Airport Authority (AOT) is available for an additional fee. The cost is 1,100 Baht net/per trip/per car (car type: Toyota Camry, toll way fee included). To use this service, please contact the counters located in the Baggage Reclaim Hall and Passenger Arrival Hall on the 2nd Floor. Telephone: 66 2 134 3030 (24 hours service).

Airport taxis can be found outside the terminal building. The minimum charge is 50 Baht plus meter cost, toll ways and expressways fees excluded. The approximate cost of the trip from the airport to the InterContinental hotel is around 500-600 Baht.

Airport Express buses operate between 05.00 am - midnight daily. The Airport Express Bus Counter is located at Door 8 on the 1st floor of the Passenger building. Cost is 150 Baht per person/one way.

Means of transport in Bangkok

Taxis

A properly licensed taxi in Bangkok is recognisable by the yellow-and-black number plates and the 'Taxi-meter' sign on top of the vehicle.

Fare: starting at 35 Baht

Bangkok Mass Transit System (BTS) SkyTrain and MRT subway

You may wish to use BTS SkyTrain and MRT subway as an alternative means of transport to travel in and around Bangkok.

The BTS Skytrain is a convenient way to get around Bangkok. There are currently two routes, the Sukhumvit Line and the Silom Line. They cover much of the central city and its many commercial, residential and tourist areas, with extensions planned to outlying areas. The fare is based on the distance travelled.

Frequency:

The trains run daily between 6.00 am and 12.00 midnight with frequent service throughout the day, increased during rush hours.

For further details, please see: <http://www.bts.co.th/en/index.asp>

The MRT subway system operates from 6.00 am – midnight daily.

Frequency:

- Less than 5 minutes during the peak hours 6.00 am – 9.00 am and 4.30 pm – 07.30 pm.

- Less than 10 minutes during the off-peak hours.

For further details, please see: <http://www.bangkokmetro.co.th/map.aspx?Menu=8&Lang=En>

Procedural arrangements

Please note that the conference will begin at 9.00 am on Thursday 24 September, 2009. Participants are requested to arrive from **8.30 am on the first day** of the meeting for registration. Pre-registration will be available at the Conference venue from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 23 September.



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Working language

The working language of the conference will be English.

Documentation and website

If you have been asked to contribute a paper or presentation to the conference or wish to submit any relevant background materials, please send your material (as a Word document or PPT attachment by email), to:

Mrs. Morven Alexander-Drane, OECD (email: morven.alexander@oecd.org) by Wednesday 9 September, 2009 at the latest.

Documentation will be posted on the OECD website as they become available, as reference for all participants, at: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/catrisks>

Please kindly note that unless otherwise advised, your presentation will be posted on the OECD website.

You will receive a set of documents upon registration for the conference.

Presentations

Facilities for PowerPoint presentations will be available in the meeting room.

Meals and Social Events

Lunch for all participants will be provided on both days of the conference.

All participants are invited to a dinner co-hosted by the OIC and the OECD on the evening of Thursday, 24 September. The venue and time will be confirmed in due course.

The organisers regret that no programme can be arranged for spouses/partners.

Dress code

Business attire.

Tourism:

The Hotel InterContinental Bangkok will be pleased to assist participants with tourism enquiries and booking of excursions. Please either contact the hotel concierge or the Travel Desk which is located in the hotel lobby.

Travel desk:

Name of Operator: World Travel Service

Working hours: 7.00 am – 9.00 pm

Telephone: 66 2 656 0664

Website: www.wts-thailand.com

Hotel Concierge:

InterContinental: E-mail: conciiergeic@ihgbangkok.com

Holiday Inn: E-mail: conciiergehi@ihgbangkok.com



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General Information of about Thailand

Location: Thailand is situated in the heart of the Southeast Asian mainland, covering an area of 513,115 sq.km. and extends about 1,620 kilometres from north to south and 775 kilometres from east to west. Thailand borders the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Union of Myanmar to the North, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Gulf of Thailand to the East, the Union of Myanmar and the Indian Ocean to the West, and Malaysia to the south.

Capital: Bangkok

Major Cities: North: Chiangmai, South: Songkla, Central region: Ayutthaya and Chonburi, North Eastern: Nakhon Ratchasima and Khon Kaen.

Climate: Thailand is a warm and rather humid tropical country with monsoonal climate. Temperatures are highest in March and April with average temperature of 28 degree Celsius to 38 degrees Celsius and humidity averaging between 82.8 percent to 73 percent.

Electricity: 220 volts 50 cycles throughout the country

Currency: The Baht is the standard currency unit.

1 Baht = 100 satangs

Bank Notes: 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000 baht

Coins: 1, 5, and 10 baht

Health and Medical Facilities: Bangkok has numerous clinics and hospitals catering to a variety of needs. Major public and private hospitals are equipped with the latest medical technology and internationally qualified specialists. Almost all pharmaceuticals are widely available. **Drinking of tap water should be avoided.**

Telephone Services: Direct Assistance: 1133 (Bangkok) and 183 (upcountry), Long Distance Service: 100, IDD: 001+country code+area code+phone number

Emergency Calls:

Mobile Police: 191

Fire Brigade: 199

Ambulance (Bangkok): +66 (0) 2252 2171 5

Tourist Information (TAT Head Office): +66 (0) 2250 5500

Tourist Information (Airport Office): Terminal I : 0 2523 8972-3 , Terminal II : 0 2535 2669

Tourist Police: 1155

Tourist Service Centre: 1155

Major attractions in Bangkok:

The Grand Palace: The Grand Palace and Wat Pra Kaeo is the city landmark on a huge compound. The Grand Palace has an area of about 1.5 square kilometers and includes the Royal Chapel, the Royal Collection of Weapons, the Coin Pavillion, and a small museum containing artifacts from the Grand Palace.

Wat Pho: This is possibly the most interesting temple in Thailand as it combines history, medical science and is a center for meditation and traditional massage training. Its official name is Wat Phrachetuphon Vimong Mangkararam Ratchaworamahawihan, although it is commonly called Wat Po. Founded during the 16th century, Wat Pho is most famous for the golden reclining Buddha that measures 46 metres and has feet inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Wat Pho has gained international recognition as a meditation centre and for the traditional Thai massage that is both practiced and taught here.



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Vimanmek Palace: Located behind the National Assembly, this palace is believed to be the world largest building made entirely of golden teak. The building was originally constructed on Srichang Island in the Gulf of Siam by King Rama V (King Chulalongkorn). In 1901, the building was moved to its present site which was Bangkok suburbs at that time. Today, Vimanmek Mansion serves as a museum and it displays a vast collection of historical and valuable artifacts from the reign of King Rama V.

Chatuchack Weekend Market: Situated on Phahom Yothin Road in the south side of Chatuchack Park, this market offers an enormous variety of goods, from second-hand books, handicrafts and products from all regions of Thailand, silk and antiques to fresh products, accessories, ceramics, plants, and even pets in this market of around 14 hectares, there are approximately 15,000 stalls.

Shopping: There are many shopping malls located in Pathumwan junction and Ratchadamri and Ratchaprasong intersection such as MBK, Siam Square, Siam Center, Siam Discovery Center, Central World Plaza, Central Chidlom, Kasorn Plaza, etc.

For further information, please see <http://www.tat.or.th>

Further enquiries:

For further information or enquiries, please contact the following OECD staff:

Issues regarding the agenda:

Mr. Alberto MONTI
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Mr. Tim Bishop,
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Logistical matters:

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