



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

ASIAN REGIONAL INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL
COMMUNITY PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBD
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 9 - 12 July 2012

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. Opening and registration

The Asia Regional Indigenous and Local Community preparatory meeting for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from Monday, 9 to Thursday, 12 July 2012.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 9 July 2012, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

During your stay in Chiang Mai, you will be staying at the Khum Phaya Resort and Spa. The accommodation is at the same place as the meeting venue. The rooms are double and single occupancy.

The address is:

Address in English

137 Moo. 5 Tambon Nongpaklang,
Amphur Moun, Chiang Mai, 50000
Tel: +66 (0) 53-415 555, +66 (0) 87- 1915 850,
Fax: + 66 (0) 53-415598
Email: kpc@chr.co.th
Website: <http://www.centarahotelsresorts.com>



Address in Thai

137 หมู่ 5 ตำบลหนองป่าครั่ง อำเภอเมือง จังหวัดเชียงใหม่
50000 Tel: +66 (0) 53-415 555, +66 (0) 87- 1915 850
Fax: + 66 (0) 53-415598
Email: kpc@chr.co.th
Website: <http://www.centarahotelsresorts.com>



3. Working language of the meeting

The workshop will be held in English.

4. Documents

Participants will receive a CD with meeting documents and relevant documents will be available for participants of the meeting. All documents for the meeting can be found at the following link:



<https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=8J-PREPCOP11-02>

5. Duration of the workshops

- The CBD meeting will start on 9 July and end on 12 July, 2012. The fourth and final day of the CBD workshop will be an internal ILC preparatory meeting for COP-11.
- The Educational Workshop of Tebtebba that will be held back-to-back to the CBD workshop will start on 14 July and end on 18 July
- There will be a field visit to the community on 13 July 2012
- Participants participating in both meetings, should arrive on 8th July and departure on 19th July, 2012. Those attending only the CBD workshop should depart on 14th July 2012
- If you require accommodation before or after the workshop (at your own expense), please inform us in advance so that we may be able to make the necessary arrangements or you can contact the hotel on your own.

6. Booking ticket and Flight details

Kindly book the most economical and direct ticket to arrive in Chiang Mai to arrive on 8 July, 2012 and to depart on 13th of July (if you are attending only the CBD workshop) or on the 19th of July 2012 (if you are attending both the workshops).

We would appreciate if you can book your own ticket at the earliest and get your reimbursement during the meeting. **Before you confirm your ticket, kindly send us the quotation of your flight ticket (for approval) and visa cost by filling up the participants' confirmation form** that you are provided with. Kindly send the confirmation form to Shree Kumar Maharjan (shree@aippnet.org) and Cc to Ale (ale@aippnet.org). However, if you prefer AIPP to book your ticket, please send us a scanned copy of your passport as soon as possible.

Please make sure that we have your final flight itinerary on or before 1st of July 2012.

7. General information on access to Chiang Mai, Thailand

The city of Chang Mai is serviced by the Chiang Mai International Airport is located less than 10 minutes from the city centre by taxi. More information about the airport can be found at: <http://www.chiangmaiairportonline.com/>. The workshop venue is located less than 20 minutes from the city center center.

8. Hotel and Airport Transportation

The hotel will provide free shuttle service from airport-hotel-airport on your arrival and departure from Chiang Mai. Please make sure that you send your complete travel itinerary to us on or before 1st July 2012 to enable us to coordinate it properly with Khum Phaya staff for airport pickup and dropping. Chiang Mai international airport is a small airport so you should not have any problems. In case you are arriving from the domestic terminal, kindly indicate otherwise the hotel staff will miss you.

Once you have arrived in Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX) in Chiang Mai, you will collect your bags and go through the customs. In most cases, you would have gone through the immigration check in Bangkok airport before you board your flight for Chiang Mai.

When you exit from the custom (gate), kindly lookout for the staff of the hotel holding a placard “CBD/AIPP”.

In case you miss the hotel staff, you can get a taxi outside the airport. **You should change some money before you leave the airport so that you can pay for your Taxi.** The taxi stand is located at the end of the domestic terminal. As you exit, you have to turn left (from either of the international or domestic terminals) and look out for the sign hanging from the ceiling to direct you to the taxi stand. Very few taxi drivers can speak English, so you are advised to print out this travel advisory and show the address that is written in Thai to the driver (see below for map and address in Thai). The cost is fixed according to area and location. To reach the hotel will cost THB 250 (USD 9) and will take about 25 - 30 minutes.

If you have any problem at the airport and need some help please contact:

- Ale (Thai and English): 0866 701 725
- Shree (English): 0896319859

9. Visa information

Thailand requires that your passport be valid for 6 months following the date of your arrival in Thailand. Even if you do not require visa to enter Thailand, you are advised to bring along with you the invitation letter. There are cases of hassles while getting through the immigration in the airport.

Except for ASEAN Members, all foreign visitors entering Thailand must be in possession of a valid visa. Visa on arrival is applicable to certain countries (19). If you plan to apply for visa on arrival, kindly check the official website of the Royal Embassy of Thailand of your country and see if your country is listed under the countries eligible for visa on arrival. Visa on arrival is available in the Immigration Section of the Suvarnabhumi Airport (Bangkok). **Please make sure that you have two passport photos and the required documents as listed by the Royal Thai Embassy.** The visa fee on arrival is THB 1,900 which is equivalent to US \$64 approximately. However, kindly note that the rate can change without prior notice.

Please follow the link below to access detailed information on the visa requirements:
<http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2637.php>

10. Travel Insurance and Health requirements

Travel and health insurance is strongly recommended for all overseas travelers. Travelers should check with their insurer to make sure that their policy meets their needs. In particular, travelers intending to drive motor vehicles or ride motor cycles should confirm their policy provides coverage in the event of an accident. Travelers should also be aware that some insurance companies may not pay claims which arise when travelers have disregarded the Government's travel advice.

The International travel, health and vaccination requirements for travel to Chiang Mai can be obtained from the World Health Organization (WHO) web site at: <https://extranet.who.int/ihrportal/report.aspx?id=65>

Travellers to Chiang Mai require a yellow fever vaccination certificate for travellers over 1 year of age and Malaria prevention medication.

For more information, please consult a medical professional with regard to the vaccination requirements for your travel.

8. Hotel information

A block booking has been made on behalf of all participants at Khum Phaya Resort and Spa. Participants planning to arrive earlier for personal reasons should contact the hotel directly.

The hotel booking includes a single room, breakfast, lunch, tea/coffee, snacks twice a day and free internet access. More information on the hotel is listed below:

Khum Phaya Resort and Spa

137 Moo. 5 Tambon Nongpaklang,
Amphur Moun, Chiang Mai, 50000
Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 53-415 555, +66 (0) 87- 1915 850,

Fax: + 66 (0) 53-415598

All charges such as drinks from the mini-bar, laundry, massage, phone calls, etc. are to be <u>borne by individuals</u>	
The hotel will provide toiletries (toothbrush, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, towel etc) and indoor slippers	
If you wish to stay longer, participants are requested to contact the hotel directly for the extension of your stay	
Air-conditioning	Non – smoking room
Bath robes and slippers	Mini bar and Refrigerator
Room service	Direct Dial Phone
Radio	International Cable Television
Hair Dryer	Tea and Coffee Making set
2 bottles of drinking water	

Internet and Communications in hotel

Free wireless Internet is available in the rooms and the meeting room. You can also buy a SIM card for your mobile phone in Thailand at low cost.

9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA) and Meals

Breakfast, lunch and tea/coffee and snacks will be provided during the workshop period. The residual DSA will be paid to the sponsored participants starting the first day of the meeting for dinner and incidentals plus one additional day of DSA to cover other travel expenses.

Thai and Western meals will be served. There are also a few restaurants and places for eating out near by the hotel. Big C extra, a supermarket is just 5 minutes walk from the hotel. You can go there for shopping and meals in the food court area inside the supermarket.

10. Reimbursement

Participants who are receiving financial support from the organizers are expected to buy a roundtrip economy-class air ticket directly to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Apart from the airfare we will also reimburse airport tax, visa fee, transit cost (meals and modest accommodation) and transportation.

You are requested to bring the original receipts/invoices to get reimbursement here in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Kindly submit the receipts to the organizer at the registration table and take note that you will not be reimbursed for items without original receipts/invoices.

11. Official language in Chiang Mai, Thailand

The official language of the country is Thai and no foreign languages are commonly spoken. English can be managed by a few people.

12. Weather and time zone information

July is a rainy season in Thailand so you can expect rain during the workshop. The temperature would be between 29 - 35 °C. You are advised to bring with you light clothing and also umbrella or rain cloths. Current weather conditions in Chiang Mai and time zone (UTC/GMT +7 hours) can be found at:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=1955>

and

<http://www.worldweather.org/089/c00567.htm>

13. Electricity

The electric current in use throughout Thailand is 220 volts at 50Hz. Electrical sockets are typically three or two-pin (see image below). It is possible to purchase adaptors locally.



14. Currency and Credit Cards

- The currency of Thailand is the Baht. The exchange rate is US \$1 = Thai Baht 31.80 (as of 21 June 2012). Since the exchange rate fluctuates daily, participants should check the latest rate on this **web site: www.xe.com/ucc/**. There are exchange facilities at the airport, opposite the international arrival lounge. There are also ATMs and foreign currency exchange near the hotel.
- Major Banks (i.e. Bangkok Bank) around Chiang Mai accept credit cards and it is possible for those with the appropriate cards to withdraw cash from ATMs.
- Banks are open between 8:50 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Western Union is open on seven days a week.

15. Contact information

If you need further information on local logistic matters (Chiang Mai Thailand), you can contact the following:

- Mr. Shree Kumar Maharjan (English Speaker): Mobile: +66 (0) 896319859, shree@aippnet.org
- Mr. Gam (English Speaker) Mobile: + 66 (0) 85 132 7998, shimray@aippnet.org
- Mr. Ale (Thai and English) Mobile: + 66 (0) 866 701 725, ale@aippnet.org
- AIPP Secretariat: Tel: +66 (0) 53 380 168

16. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibilities for medical, accident and travel insurances, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other losses that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants will secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

17. Security and Safety Issues

All participants are advised to take care of their personal belongings when walking or travelling in the city. Please inform the organizers when leaving the training venue. It is also important that participants keep their travel documents in a safe place at all times when inside and outside the workshop venue. Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you here in Chiang Mai.

General Information about Thailand

The **Kingdom of Thailand** is an independent country that lies in the heart of Southeast Asia. It is bordered to the north by Laos and Myanmar, to the east by Laos and Cambodia, to the south by the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia, and to the west by the Andaman Sea and Myanmar. Its maritime boundaries include Vietnam in the Gulf of Thailand to the southeast and Indonesia and India in the Andaman Sea to the southwest. The capital and largest city of Thailand is Bangkok. It is also the country's centre of political, commercial, industrial and cultural activities. Thailand is the world's 50st-largest country in terms of total area (slightly smaller than Yemen and slightly larger than Spain), with a surface area of approximately 513,000 km² (198,000 sq mi), and the 21st most-populous country, with approximately 63 million people. About 75% of the population is ethnically Thai, 14% is of Chinese origin, and 3% is ethnically Malay; the rest belong to minority groups including Mons, Khmers and various hill tribes. The country's official language is Thai. About 95% of the population is Buddhist. Thailand is one of the most devoutly Buddhist countries in the world. The national religion is Theravada Buddhism which is practiced by more than 95% of all Thais. The cultures and traditions in Thailand are significantly influenced by those of India, China and many western countries. Thailand is a constitutional monarchy with King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the ninth king of the House of Chakri, as the ruling monarch. The King has reigned for more than half a century, making him the longest reigning Thai monarch and the longest reigning current monarch in the world. The King is recognized as the Head of State, the Head of the Armed Forces, the Upholder of the Buddhist religion, and Defender of the Faith. Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia that has never been colonized by a European power. During the Second World War, the country was however occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army. Thailand experienced rapid economic growth between 1985 and 1995 and today is a newly-industrialized country with an emphasis in exports and a flourishing tourism industry, thanks to various world-famous tourist destinations such as Pattaya, Bangkok, and Phuket.

Information about Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai, also sometimes written as "Chiengmai", is the largest and most culturally significant city in northern Thailand, and is the capital of Chiang Mai Province. It is located some 700 km (435 mi) north of Bangkok, among some of the highest mountains in the country. The city stands on the Ping river, a major tributary of the Chao Phraya river. In recent years, Chiang Mai has become an increasingly modern city; and although it lacks the cosmopolitan nature of Bangkok, it has many attractions for the thousands of foreign visitors who come each year. Chiang Mai's historic importance is derived from its strategic location on an ancient trade route. Long before the modern influx of foreign visitors, the city served as a major centre for handcrafted goods, umbrellas, jewellery (particularly silver) and woodcarving.

While officially the city (*thesaban nakhon*) of Chiang Mai only covers most parts of the Mueang Chiang Mai district with a population of 150,000, the urban sprawl of the city now extends into several neighboring districts. This Chiang Mai Metropolitan Area has a population of nearly one million people, more than half the total of Chiang Mai Province.

The city itself is subdivided into four wards (*khwaeng*): Nakhon Ping, Srivijaya, Mengrai, and Kavila. The first three are on the west bank while Kavila is located on the east bank of the Ping River. Nakhon Ping district covers the north side of the city. Srivijaya, Mengrai, and Kavila cover the west, south, and east side respectively. The central part (the old walled town) is covered mostly by Srivijaya and partly by Nakhon Ping and Mengrai wards.
