



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Regional workshop on knowledge management for biodiversity for countries in Asia

Bangkok, 11–13 March 2025

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. Opening of the meeting

The Regional workshop on knowledge management for biodiversity for countries in Asia will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from Tuesday, 11 March to Thursday, 13 March.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 11 March and registration will take place at 8:00 a.m. at the entry into UN ESCAP. As it will take some extra time to enter the venue (see details below), so you are kindly requested to arrive at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday 11 March.

Workshop participants are requested to register and obtain meeting badges at the registration counter, located on the ground floor of the UNCC, on the opening day of the event. The official operating hours of the registration counter are from 08:00 to 11:00 and from 13:00 to 15:00. Participants must have a badge to enter the UN Compound.

More information about Bangkok can be found in Annex I below.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE (UNCC)
Meeting Room H1 and H2
UNESCAP, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: +(66) 0 2288 1899
Fax: +(66) 0 2280 3829
Web site: www.unescap.org

Access to the UNCC: Access the UNCC premises from the UN ESCAP main entrance and approach to UNCC Registration Counter on the ground floor of the UNCC. You will be requested to present formal identification (ID card or National Passport/UNLP) in order to issue the meeting photo-badge. To complete this process in advance, please send us as soon as possible, a head shot of yourself with your last name as file name.

The map of the venue and surrounding area can be found in Annex II.



3. Working details

Working language

The workshop will be held in English

Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be disbursed to funded participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card (Swiss Bankers card). These funded participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes on the first day of the meeting. These will be copied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA. Please note that the funds can take up to 48 hours to be loaded onto the cards.

IMPORTANT: If you were provided with a Swiss Bankers card for a previous meeting, please inform the Secretariat and bring it with you to the meeting (if it is still valid) so that it may be reused. Please make sure you remember the PIN, otherwise contact the bank to request that they reset the PIN.

Swiss Bankers Contacts:

Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services Ltd, Customer Service
(forgotten PIN numbers, card replacements or transaction claims)

Tel: +41-31 710 12 15

Email: info@swissbankers.ch

Opening hours:

Mon-Sun: 8.00-22.00 Swiss time. Closed on Swiss bank holidays.

Note that if you pay for your entry Visa, it will be reimbursed as well. Please bring a proof of payment.

Meals during the workshop

We advise all participants to BRING their OWN PROVISIONS when coming to Thailand.

As per the UN rules, no food and drinks are permitted in the meeting rooms. However, guests are allowed to bring sealable water bottles that can be refilled in water stations within the UNCC. There are several restaurant/food facilities available within the UNCC.

Food services

The UNCC has several catering facilities, which include the Rajapruek Lounge on the Ground Floor, and the International Cafeteria and the Cafe DoiTung on Level 1, where participants can enjoy meals, snacks, and refreshments during the breaks. Halal food is available at the International Cafeteria.



As single-use food and drink containers have been banned within the UNCC, when purchasing coffee/tea, meeting participants will be asked to pay a deposit of THB 100 for a cup, which will be refunded upon return of the cup.

Other details

- Free wireless internet access is available within the UNCC.
- The temperature in the UNCC is maintained at 24 °C.
- The UNCC is a smoke-free area. Smoking is permitted only in the designated area outside of the building.
- The CBD website will host all relevant information on the workshop at:
<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/KM-WS-2025-01>

4. Visa information

Citizens of several countries may enter Thailand without a visa for up to 30 days. Please check the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand to verify the need to obtain a visa and the electronic visa application form: [Thailand E-Visa](#).

Note that funded participants are reimbursed for visa fees. Please bring a proof of payment. (See DSA section below).

5. Currency

The official currency of Thailand is the Thai Baht (THB). ATMs are widely available throughout Bangkok and accept international credit and debit cards, though they may charge withdrawal fees. There are also several money exchange counters at the airport, particularly in the lower level of the Suvarnabhumi Airport. Credit and debit cards are commonly used in hotels, restaurants, and malls, but cash is still preferred at street markets and smaller shops. The current exchange rate is approximately US \$ 1 = THB 33.79.

6. SIM Cards

Getting a SIM card in Bangkok is simple and convenient. The top providers are AIS and True DTAC, both offering reliable 4G/5G coverage and tourist-friendly plans. You can buy SIM cards at Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports, convenience stores like 7-Eleven, or mobile shops in malls. Don't forget your passport for registration/purchase, and check for promotions before purchasing. For added convenience, eSIMs are also available, allowing you to activate a plan online before arrival, making it easier to stay connected.

7. Transportation

Upon arrival, we recommend taking an authorized airport taxi which costs around THB 300–500 (approximately USD 10–15), including airport and toll fees. You can find the official taxi stand at the airport, where staff will assist you. Using ride-hailing apps is also a convenient option.

Be prepared for heavy traffic, especially during rush hour, please allow extra travel time to arrive to venue or airport.

The Airport Rail Link is another means of going from Suvarnabhumi Airport to the rest of Bangkok. It is an express and commuter rail line that connects to the Phaya Thai BTS station and Makkasan station (Phetchaburi MRT subway) in central Bangkok. The fare for the Suvarnabhumi Airport Rail Link ranges from THB 15 to 45, depending on the distance travelled. For example, the fare from the airport to Phaya Thai Station is THB 45, while to Makkasan Station it is THB 35.

Bangkok has a diverse public transportation system, including buses, the BTS Skytrain, the MRT subway, taxis, and ride-hailing services like Grab, Line Man, and MuvMi, which will allow you to explore the city in various vehicles, including electric tuk-tuks.

8. Hotel recommendations

There is accommodation available near the workshop venue. However, we suggest the following hotels recommended by the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) that offer special rates for meeting participants:

Special discounts by hotels to ESCAP (Effective 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2025). When making your reservation, indicate that you participate in a UN meeting to get the UN discounted price.			
Hotel	Single Room + American breakfast (ABF)/pax/day*	Shuttle to UN Free of Charge (FOC)	Distance to UN
Centara Life Phra Nakhon**	USD 62	FOC (EV Tuk Tuk), drop-off only	1 km
Royal Princess	USD 77	FOC (Van shuttle)	1.6 km
The Sukosol	USD 86	FOC (at least 15 persons; group booking only)	3.5 km
Amari Watergate	USD 95	N/A	3.9 km
Pullman - King Power	USD 99	N/A	3.9 km

*The room rate is inclusive of VAT tax

** The Centara Life Phra Nakhon is not in the LTA rate.

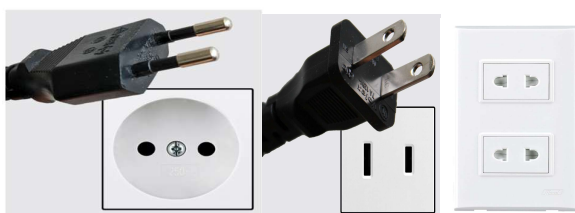
More information can be found at [Accommodation and Transportation | ESCAP](#)

9. Climate

Most of Thailand has a tropical wet and dry or savanna climate according to the Köppen climate classification, while the south and eastern tip have a tropical monsoon climate. Countrywide, temperatures normally range from an average annual high of 38 °C to a low of 19 °C. Current weather conditions can be found at: <https://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=233>

10. Electricity

The electrical currents in Thailand are 220 volts, 50 Hz. The power plugs used in the country are of the two-pin type. Most wall sockets are for the round-pin plugs (type c), although some may allow the use of plugs with flat parallel pins (type a).



11. Water

It is generally recommended to drink bottled or filtered water.

12. Sales Tax and tipping

The purchase of goods and services in Thailand is taxed at 7% sales tax (government VAT), which is already included in the total price. However, in some restaurants, a 10% service charge and 7% government VAT may be excluded from the prices shown in menus.

In Bangkok, Thailand, tipping is voluntary. Giving 10% of the total value of consumption in bars and restaurants is customary. Establishments may include this percentage in the bill or provide a service charge, but additional tips are appreciated. Health information and emergency resources

13. Health information and emergency resources

Please consult a medical professional regarding vaccination requirements for your travel. Please ensure that you have travel insurance for the duration of your stay.

Emergency medical services: 1669

It provides immediate assistance in cases of medical emergencies, accidents, or health-related incidents. The service operates 24/7, offering rapid response and dispatch of ambulances to the scene.

Emergency Line: 191

This is Thailand's national emergency hotline, connecting callers to the Royal Thai Police for immediate assistance 24/7. Additional emergency contact numbers in Bangkok include:

- Tourist Police: 1155 (available 24/7 with English-speaking officers)
- Ambulance and Medical Emergency Services: 1669
- Fire Brigade: 199
- Highway Police: 1193
- Disaster Prevention and Mitigation: 1784
- Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Hotline: 1555
- Anti-Human Trafficking Division: 1191
- Crime Suppression Division: 1195

Hospitals

Nearby Hospitals in Case of Emergency (Listed from South to North near the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok)

- Vajira Hospital – Samsen Road, Dusit District (1.5 km from the venue)
- Mission Hospital (Bangkok Adventist Hospital) – Phitsanulok Road, Dusit District (2 km from the venue)
- Vichaiyut Hospital - 114/4 Setsiri Rd. Phyathai Samsen-nai, Bangkok, 10400 (4 km from the venue)
- Ramathibodi Hospital - 270 Rama VI Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok, 10400 (3 km from the venue)
- King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital – Rama IV Road, Pathum Wan District (4 km from the venue)
- Bumrungrad International Hospital - 33/3 Soi Sukhumvit 19, Khlong Toei Nuea, Bangkok City, 10110 (7 km from the venue)

Local contacts

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14. Disclaimer

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

Annex I – Information on Bangkok

Location, population and distribution

Thailand's time zone is GMT+7.

Bangkok is the capital city of Thailand. It is located in the central part of the country, on the delta of the Chao Phraya River, about 40 km from the Gulf of Thailand. The city covers an area of 1,565 km² and has a population of approximately 11.2 million (2024 estimate).



Photo: Getty Images Pro via Canva.com

Language

The official language of Thailand is Thai, but in Bangkok, English is spoken by many residents, particularly in tourist hotspots, hotels, and restaurants. While English is more widely understood in the capital than in other regions, communication may still be difficult in local markets, public transport, and smaller shops. It is recommended to use a translation app while conversing with local residents. In addition, to enhance your experience and make conversations smoother, we suggest learning a few basic Thai phrases. If you're interested, [this video](#) provides some useful expressions for everyday situations.

Security

As a major city, Bangkok has some security risks. Keep your valuables secure and avoid using your phone while walking in crowded areas. When taking a taxi, use ride-hailing apps or ask your hotel to book one instead of hailing one on the street. Stay aware of your surroundings, and if you need help, ask locals or hotel staff for guidance.

Recommendations of the city

What to do

Bangkok offers a vibrant mix of attractions for visitors. The historic Rattanakosin district is home to some of the city's most renowned landmarks. The Grand Palace stands as a spectacular architectural marvel that once served as the royal residence. Within its grounds lies Wat Phra Kaew, which houses the revered Emerald Buddha statue. Wat Pho is famed for its massive reclining Buddha and its traditional Thai massage school, while Wat Arun, with its magnificent spires, offers stunning views of the Chao Phraya River.

For history and art lovers, the Museum Siam and Bangkok National Museum feature a diverse collection of Thai artefacts. The Chatuchak Weekend Market is a must-visit for its vast array of stalls selling everything from clothes to antiques. Sukhumvit and Siam districts are hotspots for modern shopping and nightlife, while Chinatown captivates visitors with its vibrant street food scene and rich cultural atmosphere.

- Wat Pho: One of Bangkok's most famous temples, Wat Pho is home to a 46-meter-long reclining Buddha covered in gold leaf. The temple is also a renowned centre for traditional Thai massage.
- The Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew: Located in the heart of Bangkok, the Grand Palace has been the official residence of Thai kings since 1782. Within its complex lies Wat Phra Kaew, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, considered the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand.
- Museum Siam: a discovery museum that is located at Sanam Chai Road in Bangkok. It was created to teach the national identity and history of the people of Thailand and their relationships with neighbouring cultures. The motto of the museum is “Play + Learn” = Plearn, which means 'joyously' in Thai. Through a series of interactive exhibits, the museum shows the development of Thailand from the past to the present.
- Bangkok National Museum: Situated near the Grand Palace, it is one of the largest museums in Southeast Asia. It offers a fascinating journey through Thailand's rich history with a vast collection of artefacts, traditional art, and historical exhibits housed in a former royal palace.
- Wat Arun: Known as the Temple of Dawn, this temple is distinguished by its stunning riverside location and beautifully decorated spires. Climbing its steep steps provides a breathtaking view of the Chao Phraya River.
- The Grand Palace: This magnificent complex was once the residence of Thai kings and remains one of Bangkok's most iconic landmarks, featuring exquisite architecture and beautifully landscaped grounds

Where to eat

Thailand is renowned for its rich culinary heritage, offering an unforgettable experience for food lovers. Whether you are exploring bustling street markets or dining in a high-end restaurant, Thai cuisine promises a perfect balance of flavours—spicy, sweet, sour, salty, and umami. Here's a guide to must-try Thai dishes: Pad Thai (Thai-Style Stir-Fried Noodles), Tom Yum Goong (Spicy Shrimp Soup), Som Tam (Green Papaya Spicy Salad), Massaman Curry, Khao Pad (Thai Fried Rice), Mango Sticky Rice, and Thai iced tea (cha yen).

- Methavalai Sorndaeng: Located near the historic Democracy Monument, Methavalai Sorndaeng offers an elegant dining experience with live traditional Thai music, white tablecloth settings, and a nostalgic ambiance that transports diners back in time. The restaurant is particularly known for its commitment to using fresh, high-quality ingredients and preparing dishes with meticulous attention to detail. Price per dish is USD 10–15.
- Thipsamai Padthai Pratu Phi: Established in 1939, this legendary eatery in Bangkok has earned a reputation for serving some of the most authentic and flavourful Pad Thai in Thailand. Recognised by locals and tourists alike, Thipsamai consistently draws long queues of food lovers eager to taste its signature dish. Price per dish is USD 4–10.
- Krua Apsorn @Dinso: A hidden gem for authentic Thai cuisine. Known for its simple yet flavourful dishes, this casual eatery has earned a loyal following among locals, food critics, and even members of the Thai royal family. Despite its humble setting, Krua Apsorn consistently delivers some of the best traditional Thai dishes in the city. Price per dish is USD 4–10.
- Ann Tha Din Daeng: A local favourite for Thai street seafood. Known for its richly seasoned, home-style dishes, this local eatery is a go-to spot for both Bangkok residents and food-savvy travellers. Located in the Din Daeng district, this restaurant has built a reputation for serving some of the best traditional Thai comfort food at affordable prices of USD 10–20 per dish.
- Kalpapruek: A blend of tradition and modern Thai cuisine. Kalpapruek is a well-known Thai restaurant that masterfully combines traditional flavours with a modern twist. With multiple branches in Bangkok, including locations in high-end shopping malls and business districts, Kalpapruek is a favourite among locals and visitors seeking elegant yet comforting Thai cuisine with affordable prices of USD 5–50 per dish.
- NAAM 1608: A riverside culinary experience. Located along the banks of the Chao Phraya River,

NAAM 1608 offers a refined Thai dining experience with breathtaking river views. Combining authentic Thai flavours with a modern presentation, this restaurant is a perfect choice for those looking to enjoy elegant cuisine in a scenic, tranquil setting. The name "NAAM" (meaning water in Thai) and "1608" (symbolising the historical essence of the river's rich past) reflect the restaurant's deep connection to Thailand's cultural and culinary heritage. Price per dish is USD 10–15.

Halal Restaurants

- **Nuatair**: A renowned Halal-certified steakhouse in Bangkok, celebrated for its premium beef dishes and diverse menu offerings from rice to noodles and steaks, has many branches across Bangkok. The name "Nuatair," which translates to "The Essence of Beef" or "The Real Deal" in Thai, reflects the restaurant's commitment to deliver authentic and high-quality beef experiences. Price per dish is USD 5–15.
- **Usman Thai Muslim Food**: Authentic halal Thai cuisine in Bangkok. For travellers seeking authentic Thai food with halal certification, Usman Thai Muslim Food is a must-visit restaurant in Bangkok's Sukhumvit area. Known for its home-style Thai Muslim dishes, this eatery offers a wide variety of flavourful and traditional meals, making it a favourite among locals, Muslim travellers, and food enthusiasts alike. Price per dish is USD 5–15.
- **Yana Restaurant**: Halal Thai and International cuisine in the MBK Center. Located in the popular MBK Center, Yana Restaurant is a well-known halal-certified eatery in Bangkok that serves a mix of authentic Thai and international dishes. With its affordable prices, convenient location, and Muslim-friendly menu, Yana is a top choice for travellers looking for delicious halal food in the heart of the city. Price per dish is USD 5–15.

Other recommendations

- **Lumphini Park**: Lumphini Park is Bangkok's largest green space, offering a tranquil escape from the bustling city. It's ideal for walking, jogging, and outdoor activities. The park also features a large lake where visitors can rent paddleboats. It is a popular spot for community events and outdoor fitness classes.
- **Benjakitti Park**: Known for its picturesque lake and lush greenery, Benjakitti Park provides excellent paths for walking, jogging, and cycling. It offers a serene environment with panoramic views of the city skyline and is connected to Lumphini Park by a scenic elevated walkway.
- **Chatuchak Park**: Adjacent to the famous Chatuchak Market, this park is a popular spot for relaxation and recreational activities. With beautiful gardens and shaded walkways, it's perfect for picnics and leisurely strolls.
- **Khaosan Road**: This bustling street is a popular hub for tourists and backpackers. It offers a vibrant mix of street food, bars, and nightlife venues. By day, it's a great place to shop for souvenirs and experience local culture, while by night it transforms into a lively party scene.
- **Shopping**: Bangkok is a shopping paradise, offering everything from high-end luxury brands to local artisanal products. Key shopping centres near the Sukhumvit and Siam districts include Siam Paragon, CentralWorld, and EmQuartier. The Chatuchak Weekend Market is a must-visit for unique finds and street shopping.

Near Bangkok

In case you have more time to explore, there are some interesting sites near Bangkok that are worth visiting

Nature

- **Khao Yai National Park**: Approximately 180 km northeast of Bangkok, Khao Yai is Thailand's first national park and a UNESCO World Heritage site. It boasts diverse ecosystems, including dense forests, grasslands, and waterfalls. Wildlife enthusiasts can spot elephants, gibbons, and various bird species. The park is also known for its scenic hiking trails and viewpoints.
- **Sai Yok National Park**: Located about 200 km west of Bangkok in Kanchanaburi Province, Sai Yok is renowned for its waterfalls, caves, and historical sites related to the Death Railway from World

War II. The park's lush landscapes along the Khwae Noi River make it a popular spot for rafting and wildlife observation.

- Erawan National Park: Also situated in Kanchanaburi Province, around 190 km from Bangkok, Erawan is famous for the seven-tiered Erawan Waterfall, which is said to resemble the three-headed elephant of Hindu mythology. Visitors can enjoy hiking trails, explore caves, and swim in emerald green ponds.
- Kui Buri National Park: Approximately 290 km southwest of Bangkok, Kui Buri is one of the best places in Thailand to see wild elephants in their natural habitat. Guided tours increase the chances of wildlife sightings, including gaurs and various bird species.
- Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park: About 240 km south of Bangkok, this coastal park features limestone hills, mangrove swamps, and beaches. The name translates to "Mountain of Three Hundred Peaks," reflecting its rugged terrain. Notable attractions include the Phraya Nakhon Cave with its iconic pavilion and the Thung Sam Roi Yot Freshwater Marsh.

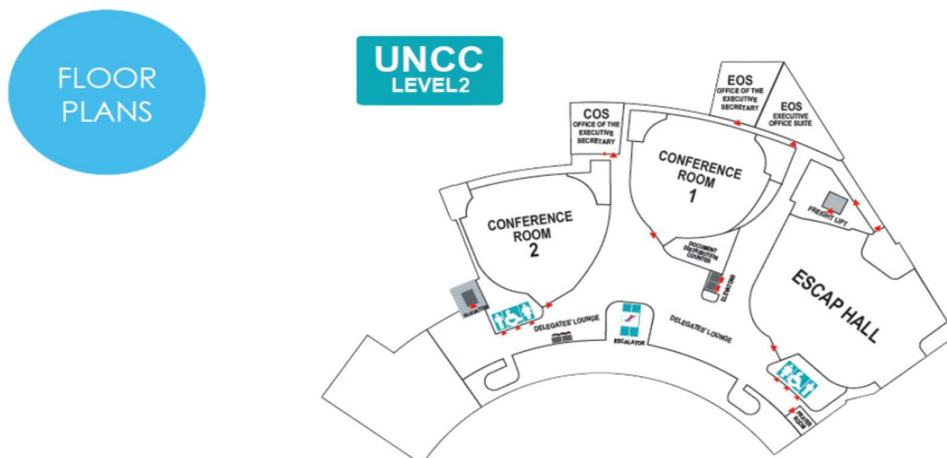
Culture

- Ayutthaya Historical Park: Approximately 80 km north of Bangkok, this UNESCO World Heritage site encompasses the ruins of Ayutthaya, the second capital of the Siamese Kingdom. Founded in 1350, it flourished from the 14th to the 18th centuries and was known for its impressive temples and palaces.
- Sukhothai Historical Park: Located about 430 km north of Bangkok, this UNESCO World Heritage site preserves the remains of Sukhothai, the first capital of Thailand, established in the 13th century. The park contains numerous well-preserved temples and monuments that reflect the early Thai architectural style.
- Amphawa Floating Market: Located about 90 km southwest of Bangkok, this traditional market offers a glimpse into Thailand's riverside trading culture. Wooden houses line the canal, and vendors sell goods from boats, preserving a way of life that has existed for centuries.

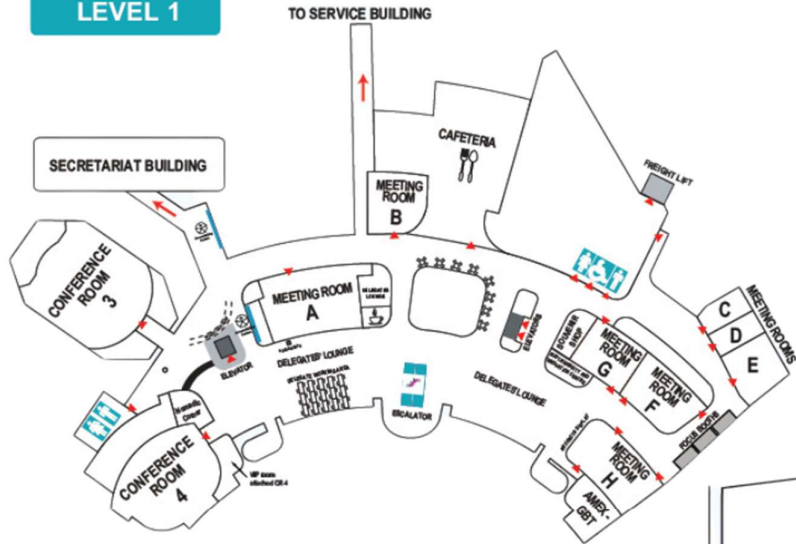
Annex II - Workshop venue and surrounding area



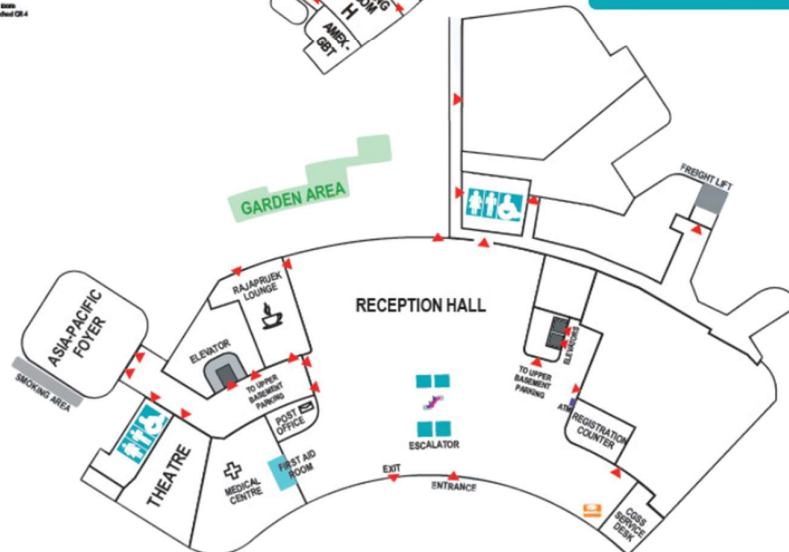
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), is located in the heart of Bangkok's historic Dusit quarter at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC). This facility serves as an ideal place to carry out meetings, events, and educational activities as its location offers a professional and international environment. It features multiple conference rooms, advanced audiovisual equipment, dining facilities, and ample parking space. For this event, the main working area will be **Meeting Room H1 and H2, UNCC Level 1**.



UNCC
LEVEL 1



UNCC
GROUND FLOOR

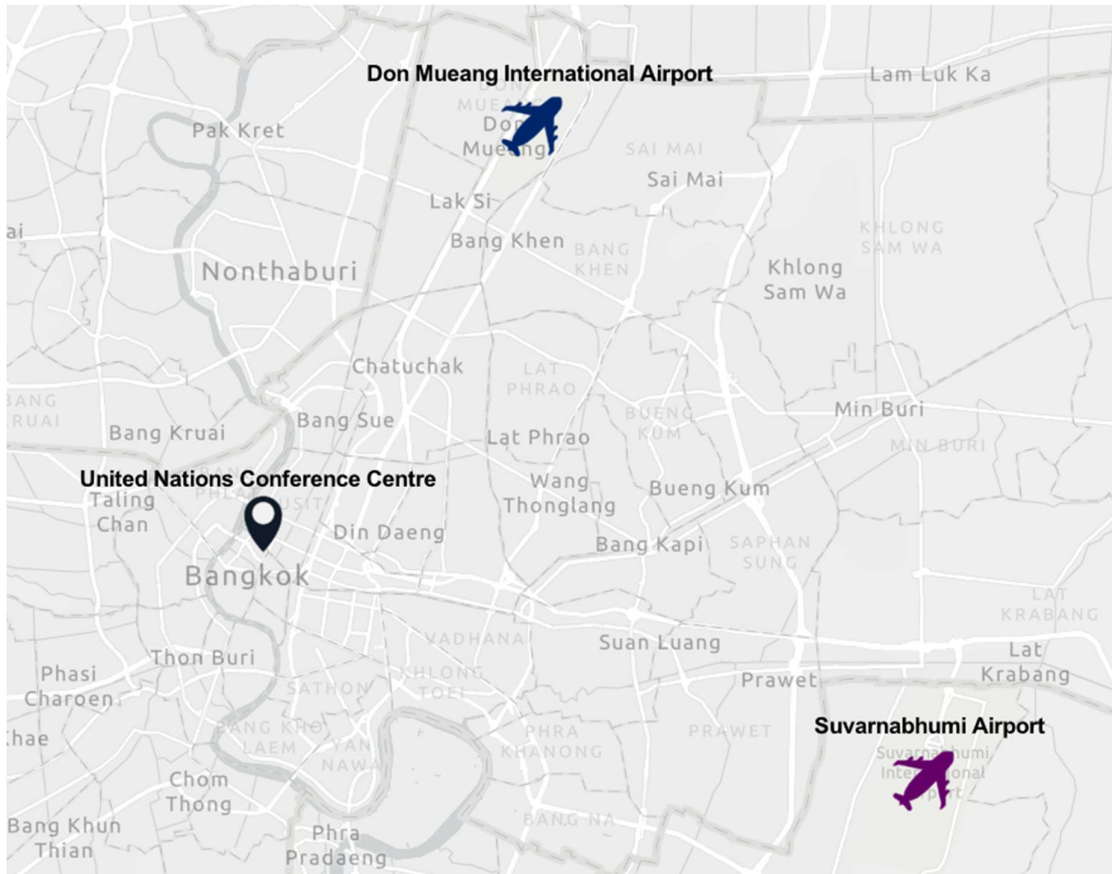


MEETING ROOM H

City Map

Explore the Workshop Venue, Airports, Recommended Accommodations and Places to Visit here:
[Interactive City Map](#)

Map of the Airports from the Workshop Venue



Map of the Recommended Accommodations from the Workshop Venue

