



**The 1st Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for
the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

4th – 5th December 2018
Jasmine City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Information for Participants

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Dear Participants,

Welcome to Thailand! Thank you for confirming your participation at the upcoming The First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee. Please read the following information carefully, as it will help you to plan your travel to Bangkok.

1. Meeting Venue

The events will be held at the Jasmine City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand (Grand Lilly Room).

Address: 2 Sukhumvit 23, Klongtoey-nue, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Thailand
Phone: +66 (0) 2 204-5888
Fax: +66 (0) 2 204-5858
E-mail: reservation@jasminecity.com
Website: www.jasminecity.com

Location Map: The hotel located 25 kilometers or 1 hours drive from Suvarnabhumi International Airport at "Asok" the heart of Sukhumvit's central business district, one of the most lively areas in Bangkok and surrounded by glass-and-steel office buildings, high-end serviced apartments, hotels, shopping malls, and plenty of restaurants. It also convenience of access through the intersection station of MRT Sukhumvit and BTS Asok station.



2. Accommodation

The organizers will take the responsibility for booking and paying for accommodation cost of the representative which cover room charge (single room) with Breakfast only. Personal expenditures i.e. minibar, telephone, laundry or for any other expenses incurred by participants.

For non-sponsored participants or participant's spouse, the expenses will be on their own responsibility. Please contact the organizers in advance for hotel booking. In case of cancellation will follow to cancellation policy of the hotel.

Hotel Facilities

The Jasmine City Hotel is a hotel in the center of Bangkok which offers premium services and facilities such as fitness center, resort style swimming pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, panoramic balcony restaurant, limousine service or fully-equipped boardrooms. For participants who prefer to stay connected, wireless internet access is available throughout the hotel with compliments.



The Jasmine City Hotel



Lobby



Panoramic Balcony Restaurant



Superior Studios Room



Executive Lounge



Spa/Sauna



Resort Style Swimming Pool



Gym

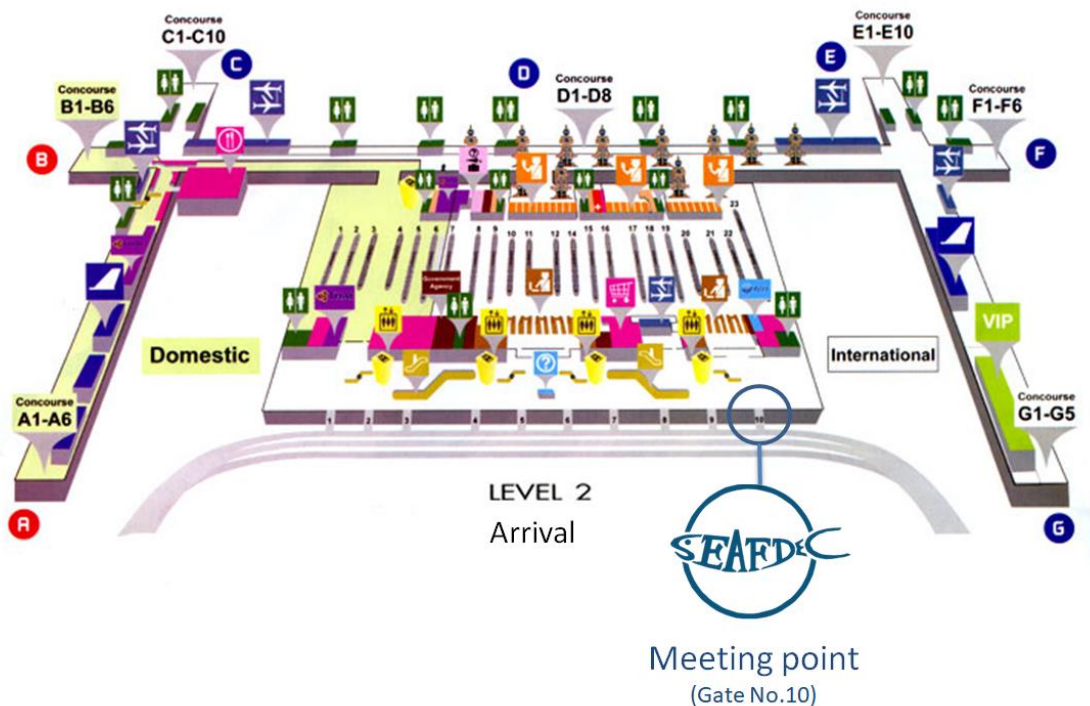


Mini Mart

3. Transportation

❖ Transportation between venue and airport

The destination airport of this meeting is “Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport” Thailand. All sponsored participants will be met and transferred by SEAFDEC upon the arrival flight. Driver of SEAFDEC/TD can be identified by SEAFDEC Logo at the Exit Gate number “10”. It takes approximately 1 hours to the venue.



❖ Transportation of Bangkok

Bangkok has numerous transport options available, including BTS Skytrain, MRT Subway, buses, taxis, motorbike taxis, tuk-tuks, songthaews, express boats and klong boats. But Bangkok is also one of the world’s most congested cities, with severe traffic problems that can make it a challenge to get around the city during peak rush hours. While you’re staying, understanding the traffic is key to getting around quickly.

Traffic is fairly heavy in Bangkok throughout the day, but it’s at its worst from 7:30 to 9:30 in the morning and 5:00 to 7:30 in the evening. Outside of these hours, traffic in central Bangkok is still fairly bad. However, big traffic jams are usually limited to a few roads and popular intersections. Unfortunately, Sukhumvit Road is almost always congested during daytime hours and the early evening. Since most of Sukhumvit Road is covered by the BTS Skytrain, you will always save time by taking the BTS which is 300 meters or 5 minute walk from the hotel instead of catching a taxi.

Location nearby attraction map:



* adjust by original picture from:www.grandswissbangkok.com/en/images/grand-swiss-map.jpg

4. Language

The Meeting will be conducted in English and all the Meeting documents will be mainly in English. For the outside, the official language of Bangkok is Thai and it is widely spoken throughout Thailand. As Bangkok is a major tourist destination, most people in Bangkok can speak and understand English, especially those in the service industry. The English spoken by the locals might be broken or a mixture of the two languages. But it won't be too difficult to comprehend. Other languages frequently heard on the streets of Bangkok are Chinese and Teochew, Lao, Burmese, Japanese, German, French, Malay, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil and several variations and dialects of these.

Most restaurants and stores have signs and other information written in both English and Thai, sometimes with pictorial depictions that you can point to. If you are not familiar with the language, ask someone to write out the name in Thai characters, so that you can show it to the taxi driver or someone when asking for directions.

Some useful words and phrases in Thai:

Hello – Sawadee (khrup/kha)

How are you? – Sa bai dee mai (khrup/kha)

Goodbye! – La gorn (khrup/kha)

Yes – Chai (khrup/kha)

No – Mai (khrup/kha)

Maybe – Aaj ja

Thank you – khop khun (khrup/kha)

Sorry/excuse me – Khor thoad (khrup/kha)

I Don't Understand – Mai Khao Jai (khrup/kha)

Where is the restroom – Hong nam yoo tee nai (khrup/kha)?

Never mind- Mai pen rai

Not Spicy – Mai phet

Really Spicy – Phet mak

Delicious- Aroy

That's expensive! – Paeng mak (khrup/kha)!

How much does this cost? – Ra ka tao rai (khrup/kha)?

Can you give me a discount please? – Ga ru na lot ra ka hai noi (khrup/kha)?

(one to ten) – Neung, Song, Saam, See, Haa, Hook, Jet, Paat, Gaow, Sip

The Tip: If you are male, you end sentences with the word “khrup” similarly if you are female, you end your sentences with the word “kha”. This is used to make your sentence or question polite and respectful.

5. Mobile phones

There are three large operators of Thai telecommunication company sell SIM cards with pre-charged airtime. Participants can purchase their own local SIM cards from these recognized mobile operators upon arrival at Suvarnabhumi airport in Bangkok. There you can compare prices and promotions or visit each website in following (click on the logo):



Before you purchase any SIM card, make sure that the network you are choosing is compatible with your devices. Most old networks mainly on 2G are about to decommissioned soon. These frequencies are used for 3G and 4G/LTE. Thailand has started mandatory SIM card registration and now you need to provide your ID or passport at the points of purchase.

Adding credit or airtime is quite easy in Thailand. A few physical places where you can top-up: 7-Eleven, Family Mart, BigC, Tesco, phone kiosks and the outlets of the operators.

6. Registration

The registration desk will be open at **08:30** am in front of the Grand Lilly room which is located on L floor of Business building. There are outdoor (covered) walkway connected between the consists of hotel building and business building on L floor and ground floor. Please provide your **name card** and your **boarding pass** to the Secretariat upon registration.

The official opening for the Meeting will take place at 09:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 4th December 2018. The formal sessions of the meeting will be held from 09:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 01:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on first day. Then start from 02:00 p.m. to 05:00 p.m. after the Technical Site Visits on second day. For more information, please refer to the provisional agenda and time table which is attached as document number SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF/FR-PSC.1/INF.2b

7. IT Services

The meeting room is equipped with Wi-Fi. Technical support is available through the Secretary of the meeting desk. Technical support for presentations must be arranged in advance with the Project Co-ordinating Unit (PCU) support team.

Participants can stay connected while travelling on the bus and during the technical site visits via access the exclusive network in following:

Network name: Fisheries Refugia
Password: refugia2018

The presentation and documents of the meeting will be uploaded to SCS:USB flash drive and share to all participants. You can see some photos in Fisheries *Refugia* official Facebook. (Please visit: web.facebook.com/fisheriesrefugia)



8. Currency and DSA

The official currency of Thailand is the Thai Baht. The commercial rate is subject to change daily (currently estimated at around USD1 ~ THB33). There are banks and currency exchange kiosks located at the airport, but you may exchange from the hotel cashier and exchange counter/shop around the hotel as well.

All major credit cards are widely accepted at banks, hotels, restaurants and shopping centers. Participants are advised to exchange some local currency prior to your departure, or at the airport upon your arrival.

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) and Terminal expenses, including taxi from home to airport will be provided to all sponsored participants in Thai Baht on the first date of the meeting.

9. Weather

Bangkok has a tropical monsoon climate and generally remains hot and humid throughout the year. During this cool season on November to February when the northeast monsoon is blowing cool, dry air that serves as a respite from the heat. Temperatures will swing between low 20s in the morning and occasional high 30s Celsius in day time. Furthermore, you can expect a lot of clear blue skies. Bangkok at its best.

Since the meeting room is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 23-24 degrees Celsius (73-75 degrees Fahrenheit). The dress code for the meeting is not specific, smart casual, light tropical clothing, shawl or any that would be appropriate.

The most recent weather forecast for Bangkok maybe accessed at Thai Meteorological Department website: www.tmd.go.th/en/province.php?id=37

10. Technical Site Visits

There are two places on schedule of morning session on second day, both located in Samut Prakan province which is a big province that place next to Bangkok at the mouth of the Chao Phraya River. The geography is all flatland and plains with the Chao Phraya River running through the city on its way to the Gulf of Thailand. Its coast is 47.5 kilometers long. Samut Prakan, Thailand, is known as the province of industry, fishing, and agriculture. (source: [TAT](#))

1. SEAFDEC/TD and PCU office

The Training Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC/TD) was created by the SEAFDEC Council during its Inaugural Meeting in 1968 in Bangkok, Thailand and was formally established in 1970 with the objectives to develop modern fishery technologies for the better use of marine fish resources and to reduce manpower shortages in marine capture fisheries in Southeast Asia. Under the vision "To be a leader in tropical marine captures fisheries working towards sustainable development that is self-sustained with global collaborative network." (source: [SEAFDEC/TD](#))

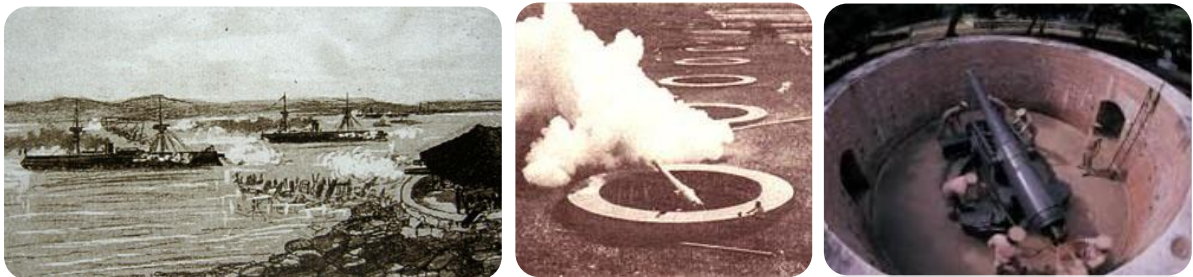


2. Phra Chulachomklao Fort

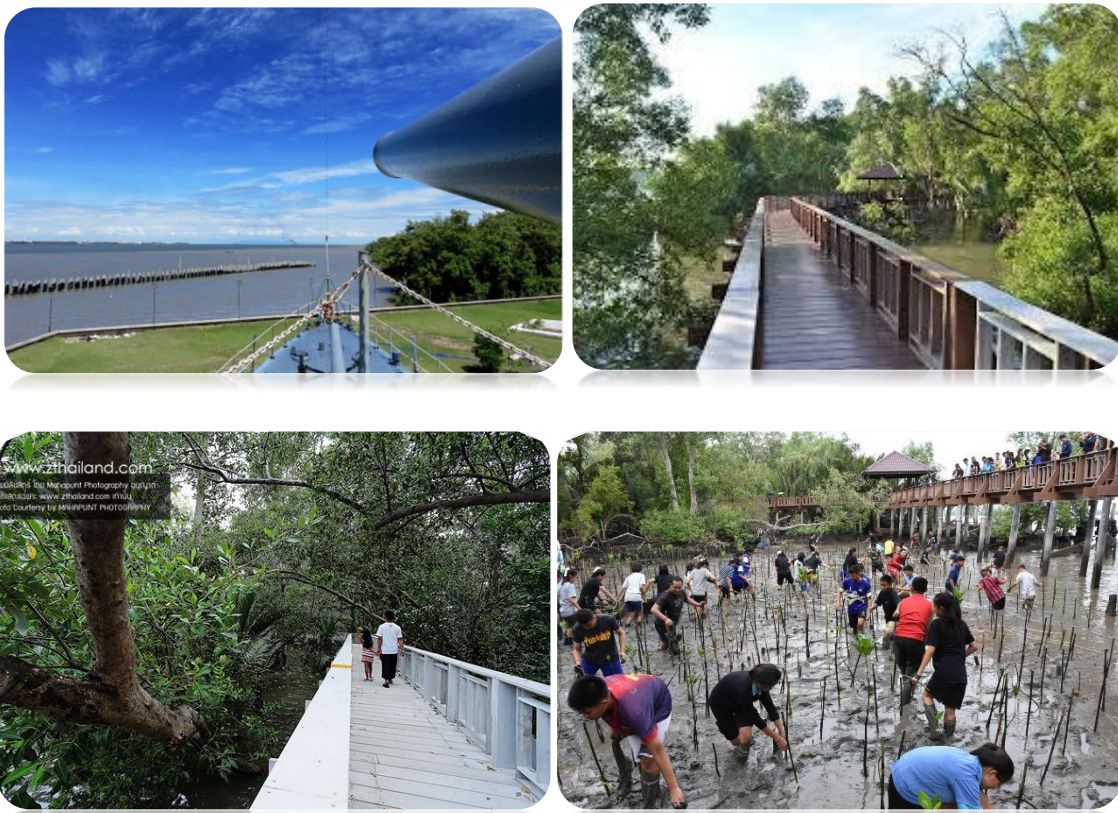
Phra Chulachomklao Fort is 3 km forward from SEAFDEC/TD located on the river mouth of the Chao Phraya River surrounded by conserved mangroves forests.



History: It was built in the reign of King Rama V to protect the country from an invasion of European countries during the time of colonization. This fort was used to fight against the enemies in The Franco-Siamese War in 1893 when Kingdom of Siam was facing the invasion of two powerful countries; England and France. In this historical attraction, you could visit a statue of King Chulalongkorn which is very magnificent in his marines' uniform of a commander with a sword in his hand. Under the statue is a museum telling the history of Phra Chulachomklao Fort and Franco-Siamese War in 1893. (source: TAT) The open-air museum nearby is The HTMS Maeklong commissioned in 1937 and was in service for 60 years, including duty as a royal ship for King Rama IX. Visitors can visit the ship, historical park and exhibition of outdoor weapons. The highlight of the fort is the seven Armstrong BL 6 inch guns on hydro-pneumatic disappearing carriages.



Environment: The elevated mangrove walk in the fort is relaxing and scenic. There are shaded places for you to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Moreover, this place also being the big open-air class room for students and people who come to learn about the mangrove forest. In Samut Prakan, many mangroves were destroyed to make room for shrimp farms, factories and housing estates. A direct consequence of this is land erosion. The worst example of this is Khun Samut Chin community that have had to move their village several kilometers inland. Local government tried to stop this erosion by erecting concrete pillars to act as tide breaks. But these are not only very costly but have also proven to be destructive to neighboring stretches of coastline that are not protected. In recent years, different methods have started to be used. There are a combination of bamboo sticks and the planting of mangrove saplings. The conservation and restoration of mangrove methods are implemented by many organizations to local communities and schools including the establishments of Mangrove Forest Natural Resource Study Center in many villages. Local people were given the information about essential of mangrove eco-system, reasons we should care about mangroves, and invest in protecting them for sustainable use.



Technical information of mangrove forests in Samut Prakan province: According to report of Department of Marine and Coastal Resources ([DMCR](#)) in 2012, dominant species in this area are 2 family, 2 genus, and 4 species including 1) *Avicennia marina*, 2) *Avicennia alba*, and 3) *Avicennia officinalis* in Family Avicenniaceae and 4) *Rhizophora apiculata* in Family Rhizophoraceae. The average density is 225.26 trees/rai. Tree's average diameter 11.12 centimeters, average high 7.36 meters, Shannon-Wiener diversity index is 0.1688, species richness (Margalef's index) 1.0996, species evenness (Pielou's evenness) is 0.2803, and the highest important value index species is *Avicennia alba* equal 182.56 then *Avicennia officinalis* is 61.72. In Samut Prakan mangrove forests, there are at least 16 birds, 13 insects, plenty of mangrove benthic organism with density of 70 ind/sq.m., as well as numerous species of fish.

11. Others information

11.1 Meals

The organizers are sponsoring a lunch and two coffee breaks per day for the duration of the events. Unless otherwise indicated, participants are responsible for their own dinner.

All the participants invited to join us at the reception party on the first night that will take place at the famous Thai restaurant “Wanakarm” with a beautiful garden and a fountain outside is located 350 meters or 5 minutes from the hotel.



And lunch out at “Club stern Mae Klong Luang Restaurant” after the technical site visit activities on second day. A Thai/Seafood restaurant operate by Royal Thai Naval Welfare Shop located at Phra Chulachomklao Fort with mangrove forests and mouth of Chao Phraya River view.



11.2 Visa Requirements

It is the responsibility of participants to establish visa requirements for Thailand and any transit countries as may be necessary, including the securing of such visas. There is no VISA requirement for all ASEAN Member States.

Each participant should ensure that his/her passport is valid for at least 6 months from his/her travel dates. If a visa to Thailand is needed, the application process should begin immediately. Please contact the Royal Thai Embassy or Thai Consulate in your country or check: <http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/services/123> for more information on visa requirements and applications.

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.

11.3 Time Zone

Bangkok Standard Time (CST) is 7 hours ahead to the Universal Time Coordinated (UTC).

11.4 Electricity

The electrical currents in Thailand are 220 volts with the following the electrical outlets. Please bring a suitable adaptor if needed.

Two pin flat (US Type) and Round (European type)



11.5 Health

All participants are required to obtain medical insurance for the duration of the event prior to your departure. For more health information for travelers to Thailand, please click on [this link](#) to read the CDC website. The government of Thailand requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever.

In case you have an urgent need for medical treatment during the workshop or meeting, please contact the hotel's information desk (available for 24 hours). The hotel has a first-aid kit available for basic medical care.

Important phone numbers include:

Emergency Services	Telephone
Tourist Police	1155
Police (General Emergency Call)	191
Ambulance and Rescue	1554
Fire	199
National Disaster Warning Centre	1860
Crime	1195
Medical Emergency Call	1669
Private Air Ambulance (Siam Air Care)	02 586 7654

12. Local Contact Point

Should you have any questions or require any assistance during the event, please feel free to contact:

Ms. Nathacha Sornvaree

Secretary of the Project Coordinator Unit

SEAFDEC/Training Department

P.O Box 97 Phrasamut-chedi, Samutprakarn 10290, Thailand.

Tel: +66 (0) 2425-6166 (Direct Line)

Mobile: +66 (0) 81-451-4925

Fax: +66 (0) 2425-6100

E-mail: natha@seafdec.org

*The meeting organizers disclaim 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.***

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable event in Bangkok!



Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon
Project Director,
SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Fisheries *Refugia*