

Information Note for Participants

This information note is prepared for the participants of the following workshop:

Minamata Initial Assessment Global Inception Workshop

21 July 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

<http://mercury.unitar.org/site/event/1149>



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1. VENUE

The Minamata Initial Assessment Global Inception Workshop will be all held at:

Lit Hotel Bangkok

36/1 Kasem San 1 Alley

Bangkok 10330

Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 2309 3939

Fax: +66 (0) 2309 3838

Website: <http://www.litbangkok.com/>

2. OPENING AND REGISTRATION

The Minamata Initial Assessment Global Inception Workshop will be held on 21 July 2016. The registration will take place at the venue from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. and the workshop will officially be opened at 9:30 a.m. The workshop is scheduled to finish by 4.30 p.m.

3. PREPARATORY WORK

Participants are requested to fill out a preliminary questionnaire on the situation of the country on mercury. The questionnaire is sent by UNITAR prior to the workshop.

4. WORKING LANGUAGES

The working languages of the meeting will be English with translation in French.

5. TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT

Transport from and to Suvarnabhumi Airport:

Most international travelers will reach Bangkok through Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Participants should make their own transportation arrangements from Suvarnabhumi Airport to the hotel. Limousine, metered-taxi and bus services are readily available at the airport. Detailed information about Suvarnabhumi Airport can be found at www.airportsuvarnabhumi.com.

To avail themselves of the limousines and public metered-taxis services, it is strongly recommended that participants contact only the authorized service providers at the counters located in the airport arrival zone that will issue a ticket for the assignment of either a limousine or a public metered-taxi for transporting passengers to the desired destination. Participants may access public taxi counters by exiting gates 3 or 9 of the arrival zone in Survarnabhumi Airport. In addition to toll fees, there is a 50 Baht surcharge to be added to the meter charge from airport to the city.

6. VISAS

Participants are responsible for obtaining any necessary visa for entering Thailand as well as any transit visa. All participants must travel with passport with a minimum validity of 6 months, counted from the date of entry into the country. For information on visa requirements and immigration procedures, please consult the Thai Embassy website:

<http://www.thaiembassy.com/thailand/thailand-visa-types.php>

Upon arrival at the port of entry in Thailand, participants who are the nationals of or have traveled from/through countries or areas listed below, which have been declared yellow fever infected areas, must provide an International Health Certificate proving that they have received a yellow fever vaccination. The International Health Certificate must also be submitted together with the visa application form.

The countries/areas listed below have been declared yellow fever infected areas:

Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, and Venezuela.

7. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

UNITAR will provide accommodation to the funded participants. UNITAR has made the reservation and paid for the two nights i.e. 20 July and 21 July. The reservation is made in the following hotel:

Lit Hotel Bangkok

36/1 Kasem San 1 Alley

Bangkok 10330

Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 2309 3939

Fax: +66 (0) 2309 3838

Website: <http://www.litbangkok.com/>

Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the meeting.

8. DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES (DSA) AND FLIGHT TICKETS

Sponsored participants will receive the relevant portion of their DSA after the workshop. We request you to send us a filled vendor form (which will be provided to you) and bank statement so that we can transfer the relevant portion of the DSA directly in your account. We would also request the delegates to provide their boarding pass at the time of registration.

UNITAR will book and purchase the flight tickets for sponsored participants. Please note that UNITAR will not cover costs caused by changing or rebooking of the flights due to any reasons.

9. SITE VISIT

UNITAR is organizing a site visit on Friday, 22 July 2016. We plan to visit the recycling plant of Plus exploration (more information can be found on <http://www.plusexploration.com>).

The plant is situated in Rayong, which is around two and a half hours away from Bangkok. We will leave at 0800 on the morning of Friday, 22 July (the bus will pick us up from the Lit Hotel, Bangkok) and will return around 1600 to Bangkok.

10. ABOUT THAILAND

The Kingdom of Thailand, is a country at the centre of the Indochinese peninsula in Mainland Southeast Asia. It is bordered to the north by Myanmar and Laos, 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 the southern extremity of Myanmar. Its maritime boundaries include Vietnam in the Gulf of Thailand to the southeast, and Indonesia and India on the Andaman Sea to the southwest.

With a total area of approximately 513,000 km², Thailand is the world's 51st-largest country. It is the 20th-most-populous country in the world, with around 66 million people. The capital and largest city is Bangkok, which is Thailand's political, commercial, industrial, and cultural hub.

11. CURRENCY AND RATE OF EXCHANGE

The official currency of Thailand is the Thai Bhat (THB). The average exchange rate vis-à-vis the US Dollar is approximately 1 USD = 35.23 THB. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels and restaurants in Thailand.

12. BUSINESS HOURS

Banks and government offices are closed during the weekend. Most shops in Bangkok open from 10:00 until 20:00 or 22:00. Small shops, even in large shopping malls, usually close on Sundays, while large department stores are open seven days a week.

13. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION

Weather

The weather in Bangkok is usually warm and humid. Light tropical clothing would be appropriate.

Time Zone

Thailand is GMT + 07.00 hours.

14. ELECTRICITY

Thailand has a voltage of 220 Volts (Plug/socket: A, B, C and F). Participants may need to bring a plug adaptor.

15. HEALTH INFORMATION

As in any part of the world, it is advisable to follow your official vaccination programme. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot. Please do consult your doctor for specialist advice.

- ***Participants with a chronic illness*** should carry all necessary medication and medical items for the entire duration of the journey, in their original containers, clearly labeled.
- ***Participants are advised to seek medical/travel insurance*** with appropriate cover abroad, i.e. accident, sickness, medical repatriation and death.

16. EMERGENCY SERVICES

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 1554 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

17. SECURITY INFORMATION

Thailand has the second most dangerous roads, for fatalities, in the world. The number for the highway police is 1193. Violent crime against foreigners is increasing. The mixture of alcohol and a party atmosphere causes a lot of problems. In Thailand there are also a lot of accidents due to faulty machinery and wiring. The tourist police can be found at 1155 and the fire brigades at 199.

18. CONTACT INFORMATION

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19. DISCLAIMER

UNITAR 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.