ITU/NBTC/ADB Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Universal Access and Service and Broadband Deployment 2015

Within the Framework of

25th – 27th March 2015
Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1.   Venue

The ICTD-ASP 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Universal Access and Service and Broadband Deployment will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25th – 27th March 2015, at:

Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel
8/2 Rangnam Road, Phayathai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
http://www.pullmanbangkokkingpower.com
Tel: +66(0) 2680 9999
Fax: +66(0) 2680 9998

2.   Visa and Immigration Requirements

To enter Thailand, all participants must possess a valid passport or accepted travel document. Participants who require a visa should apply for a visa at a Royal Thai Embassy or a Royal Thai Consulate-General in their respective country well in advance of their departure. For nationals of some countries, it may take up to two weeks for visa processing. As visa requirements change from time to time, please check with your nearest Royal Thai Embassy/Consulate-General for your visa requirements. You are also advised to visit http://www.mfa.go.th for more information on visas and travel documents.

The following is the list of countries and territories entitled for visa exemption and visa on arrival to Thailand:

Summary of Countries and Territories entitled for Visa Exemption and Visa on Arrival to Thailand

Ordinary Passport							Diplomatic/Official Passport		
Nationals of the following countries may apply for Visa on Arrival	Nationals of the following countries may enter Thailand without a visa						Nationals of the following countries may enter Thailand without a visa		
	Tourist Visa Exemption Scheme			Bilateral Agreement			Bilateral Agreement		
Period of stay	Period of stay			Period of stay			Period of stay		
15 days	** 30 days		90 days	14 days	30 days	90 days	30 days	90 days	
Andorra	Australia	Oman	* Brazil	Cambodia	Hong Kong	Argentina	Cambodia	Argentina	The Philippines
Bulgaria	Austria	The Philippines	* Korea (ROK)		Laos	Brazil	China	Austria	Poland
Bhutan	Belgium	Poland	* Peru		Macau	Chile	Hong Kong	Belgium	Romania
China	Bahrain	Portugal			Mongolia	Korea (ROK)	Laos	Bhutan	Russia
Cyprus	Brunei	Qatar			Russia	Peru	Macau	Brazil	Singapore
Czech Republic	Canada	Singapore			Vietnam		Mongolia	Chile	Slovakia
Estonia	Czech Republic	Slovak					Myanmar	Costa Rica	South Africa
Ethiopia	Denmark	Slovenia					Oman	Croatia	Spain
Hungary	Finland	Spain					Vietnam	Czech Republic	(Diplomatic only)
India	France	South Africa						Estonia	Switzerland
Kazakhstan	Germany	Sweden						(Diplomatic only)	Tunisia
Latvia	Greece	Switzerland						France	Turkey
Liechtenstein	Hong Kong	Turkey						(Diplomatic only)	Ukraine
Lithuania	Hungary	UAE						Germany	Uruguay
Maldives	Iceland	UK						Hungary	
Malta	Indonesia	USA						India	
Mauritius	Ireland	Vietnam						Israel	
Oman	Israel							Italy	
Poland	Italy							Japan	
Romania	Japan							Korea (ROK)	
Russia	Kuwait							Liechtenstein	
San Marino	Liechtenstein							Luxembourg	
Saudi Arabia	Luxembourg							Malaysia	
Slovakia	Malaysia							Mexico	
Slovenia	Monaco							The Netherlands	
Taiwan	The Netherlands							Nepal	
Ukraine	New Zealand							Panama	
Uzbekistan	Norway							Peru	

Remarks:

* Nationals of Brazil, Republic of Korea and Peru are entitled for tourist visa exemption scheme. Meanwhile, Thailand also holds bilateral agreements on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, official and ordinary passports for a visit of not exceeding 90 days with Brazil, Republic of Korea and Peru.

** If such nationals enter the Kingdom at the immigration checkpoints which border neighboring countries, they will be allowed to stay for 15 days each time, except Malaysian nationals who cross the borderline from Malaysia whose granted period of stay will not exceed 30 days each time. In addition, such nationals who hold diplomatic and official passports are also practically exempted from visa for tourism.

<u>VISA ON ARRIVAL</u>

Nationals of 28 countries and territories (pls. see the name list in the table) holding a valid ordinary passport may be granted a visa for a stay not exceeding 15 days, upon arrival, by the Thai immigration authority at Suvarnabhumi Airport, provided the requirements noted below are met:

- The applicant must be in possession of a passport with a validity of at least six months or an appropriate travel document recognized by the Government of Thailand

- The applicant must possess means of living expenses at the amount of 1,000 Baht per person and 20,000 Baht per family accordingly. (show of cash or other monetary instruments will be requested at the checkpoint)

- The applicant must be in possession of a full paid and confirmed onward or return air ticket which is usable within 15 days after the date of entry

- The applicant must submit the application form duly filled out and to which his/her recent photograph (4x6 cm) is attached. The application form is available at the Visa-on-Arrival Counter at Suvarnabhumi Airport

3.   Weather

The weather in Bangkok is usually warm and humid. Light tropical clothing would be appropriate. The conference rooms where the meetings are to be held are air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 23-24 degrees Celsius (73-75 degrees Fahrenheit).

4.   Foreign Currency Declaration

The unit of Thai currency is Thai Baht (THB). The exchange rate as of January 20, 2015, is THB 32.5579 to 1 USD.

Under Thai law, any person who brings or takes an aggregate amount of foreign currency exceeding 20,000 United States dollars or its equivalent into or out of the Kingdom of Thailand shall declare the amount of foreign currency to a Customs Officer. Failure to make such a declaration or making any false declaration to a Customs Officer is a criminal offence.
Currency exchange facilities are available at hotels.

5.   Travel Insurance

Participants are reminded that it is advisable to obtain travel insurance. Such insurance should cover payment for your medical care in the case of hospitalization as well as the cost of repatriation to your home country if that should become necessary. The Organizers do not take responsibility for any individual, medical, travel or personal insurance. Participants are advised to secure their own insurance policies as necessary.

6.   Official Hotel for the Forum

The following hotel has been designated as official hotel for the ICTD-ASP 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Universal Access and Service and Broadband Deployment.

Official Hotel	Location	Room Type	Price per room per night (Thai Baht)	
			Single	**Twin**
Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel	8/2 Rangnam Road, Phayathai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand	Superior	3,055 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	3,269 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)

More information, please contact:
Ms. Orawan Jirathanasin
Sales Manager
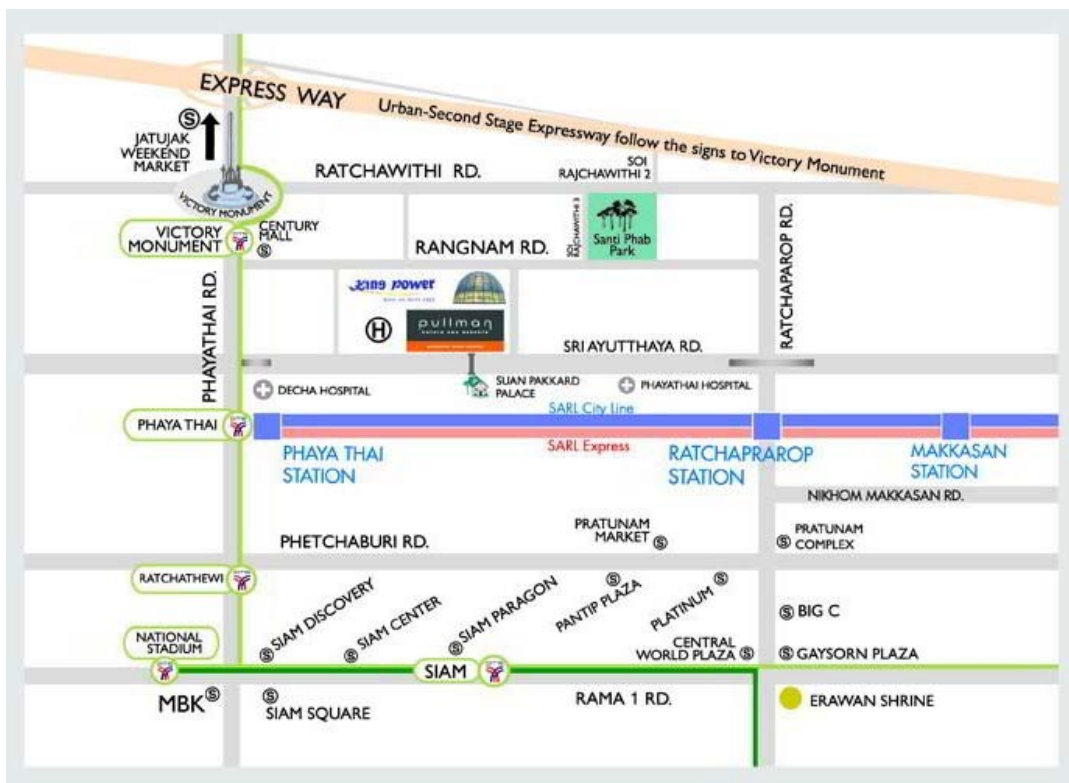Tel: +66 (0) 2680 9999 ext. 2529
Mobile: +66 (0) 81375 1888
Fax: +66 (0) 2642 7326
Email: sales@pullmanbangkokkingpower.com
Reservation centre event email: rsvnmgr@pullmanbangkokkingpower.com
Address: 8/2 Rangnam Road, Phayathai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, THAILAND

In addition, the following hotels are suggested as alternative accommodation, at participants'option. The prices listed below are offered by hotels; however, they are subject to availability and can be changed without prior notice. Participants may contact booking agency or hotels directly for room reservation.

Alternative Hotel	Room Type	Price per room per night (Thai Baht)	
		Single	**Twin**
The Sukosol Hotel, http://www.thesukosol.com/			
477 Si Ayuthaya Road, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400	Deluxe	3,500 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	3,500 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
	Premier Deluxe	4,300 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	4,500 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
	Club Siam Deluxe	5,300 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	5,500 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
	Club Siam Suite	8,500 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	9,000 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
Royal View Resort, http://www.royalviewresort.com/			
27/3 Soi Chaisamorpoom (Rachawithi 3), Rangnam Road, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400	Superior	2,400 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	2,400 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
	Deluxe	2,600 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	2,600 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
	Mini Suite	2,800 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	2,800 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)
Bizotel, http://www.bizotelbkk.com/			
104/40 Rangnam Road, Phayathai Bangkok 10400	Superior	1,700 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)	1,700 (with breakfast, inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% Value Added Tax)

7.   Transport from and to Airport

Participants should make their own transportation arrangements from Suvarnabhumi Airport to their respective hotels. Limousine, metered-taxi and bus services are readily available at the airport. Detailed information about Suvarnabhumi Airport can be found at www.airportsuvarnabhumi.com.

Please note that the Don Muang Airport, the former Bangkok International Airport, currently handles domestic flights and some low-cost international flights.

For your general information, the following transportation is available from Suvarnabhumi International Airport:

1. Public Meter Taxi, is located on 1st floor of the Passenger Terminal, Gate 4 and 7. Fare shown on meter, plus Baht 50 surcharge for boarding at the airport.

2. Airport Limousine Service, the limousine service to various destinations in the city, is located at the arrival floor of the airport.

3. Hotel Limousine Services

   For instance,

   - Toyota Camry: THB 1,850 nett/car/way (maximum of 3 persons with luggage)
   - BMW Series 5: THB 2,150 nett/car/way (maximum of 3 persons with luggage)
   - Toyota Commuter Van: THB 2,650 nett/van/way (maximum of 7 persons with luggage)

For participants wishing to avail themselves of the limousine and public metered-taxi services indicated above, it is strongly recommended that they approach only the authorized representatives at the counters located in the airport arrival zone. Upon request, a ticket will be issued for the assignment of either a limousine or a public metered taxi to transport passengers to the desired destination. Participants may access public taxi counters by exiting Gates 4 or 7 of the Passenger Terminal at Suvarnabhumi Airport. In addition to toll fees, there is a 50 baht surcharge to be added to the meter charge from airport to the city.

There are good public transportation facilities at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand. For more information, please visit website: http://www.bangkokairportonline.com/.

8. Travelling within Bangkok

Although traffic can be heavy at times, getting around Bangkok is relatively easy thanks to a well-integrated and inexpensive transport system of public buses, taxis, limousines, motorcycle taxis, tuk-tuks and mass transit.

- **Taxis**: a large number of taxis ply Bangkok's streets 24-7. Look for the Taxi Meter sign on top and make sure the cabbie turns on the meter. Fares begin at 35 baht (roughly US$ 1) and increase according to distance traveled.

- **Mass Transit**: the city's mass transit system consists of an elevated and underground rail service through the downtown area, providing links to city hotels, shopping malls, entertainment areas, business districts and the river. Both are air-conditioned, with signage and directions in Thai and English, and operate from 6am to midnight daily. Both systems are linked with change-over stations at three locations. As yet there is no common ticket.

- **BTS Skytrain**: elevated electric trains transport Bangkok's commuters in wide air-conditioned carriages, running every 3-5 minutes at peak times and slightly longer off-peak, providing a quick, reliable and efficient service. The Skytrain has two routes, the Sukhumvit Line and Silom Line, with a changeover station at Siam Square. Fares are based on distance traveled.

- **MRT Subway**: the underground rail system complements the BTS Skytrain in moving commuters around central Bangkok through a special tunnel system. Lifts and escalators provide access to the trains. The MRT system has 18 stations running from Hua Lamphong railway station to the northern bus terminal at Mor Chit.

9. Communications

The Country Code for Thailand is +66
The City Code for Bangkok is +66(0)2

Area Codes in Thailand are referred to as STD codes. STD codes for some cities are:
Bangkok: (0)2

Dialing Thailand: Landline
International access code (00 or +) followed by 66, then STD CODE followed by Landline no.
e.g. +66 2 XXXXXXXX

Dialing Thailand: Mobile
International access code (00 or +) followed by 66 and the 9-digit Mobile no. eg. +66 XXXXXXXXX.

10. Language

English is spoken in most hotels, shops and restaurants as well as in major tourist destinations.

11. Time

The time in Bangkok is 7 hours ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +7).

12. Electricity & Power Plug

The electric current is 220 volt AC throughout the country. For Thailand, the picture/diagram shows the type of main power plug used in Thailand so participants can bring the right adaptor for their electrical appliances. This plug and receptacle are technically known as NEMA 5-15 (North American 15 A/125 V grounded.

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