

The Preparation for Hosting the 5th Meeting of States Parties

BY
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Mr. Co-Chairs, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am MG. Gitti Suksomstarn, the TMAC Director General. May I take this opportunity to inform you of our preparation for hosting the 5th Meeting of States Parties in Bangkok, Thailand during 15-19 September 2003. As you may realize that last meeting with Ambassador Jean lint as the president, the meeting has been conducted effectively.

We are delighted that Thailand has an honor to be the host of the 5th meeting of States Parties which will be held at ESCAP Building of the United Nation. May I show you some pictures of conference room, small meeting room and interpretation room.

On the 18th December 2002, the 1st National Mine Action Conference has been established, Deputy Prime Minister, General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, as Chairman. He approved all issues proposed in preparation for hosting the 5th Meeting of States Parties as follows:

On Sunday 14th September 2003, one day prior to the meeting, we invite delegations from States Parties , UNMAS, and GICHD to visit an affected mine area at Ban Nong Ya Kaeo, Srakeao province. The 200 applicants who sign in through TMAC Website (www.tmac.go.th) will have a chance to visit an affected mine area of Humanitarian Mine Action Unit-1 which will travel by the Air Force aircrafts. We plan to invite Prime Minister or his representative to join this visit.

On the opening ceremony, we will invite Her Royal Highness Princess Galayaniwattana Kromluangnaratiwat Ratchanakarindra to be the Chairman of the meeting. After that the Prime Minister, UN Secretary General or representative will deliver key note address respectively, followed by the 30-minute performance of mine victims before the beginning of the first session of the meeting.

For the arrangement of this meeting, we have made the reservation for the conference at ESCAP building.

On 15 September at 1830, our government plan to host welcome reception (buffet) at the Army Convention Hall or at the Montien Riverside hotel.

On 17 September at 1830, GICHD will host reception (cocktail) at the Army Headquarters' reception room.

On 18 September at 1830, Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host reception (buffet) at the reception hall.

For the accommodation, we have made reservation of 540 rooms at several level of hotels, range from 5 stars hotel to 3 stars hotel namely,

Royal Princess Hotel, about 10 minutes walk to ESCAP building. We have reserved 120 rooms (\$U.S. 42/per night).

Siam City Hotel, about 15 minutes drive to ESCAP building. We have reserved 80 rooms (\$U.S. 69/per night).

Montein Riverside, about 30 minutes drive on freeway to ESCAP building. We have reserved 150 rooms (\$U.S. 50/night).

Prince Palace hotel, about 15 minutes walk to ESCAP building. We have reserved 50 rooms (\$U.S. 50/night).

3 stars hotel nearby, (a walking distance) are Trang Hotel, 80 rooms have been reserved (\$U.S. 25/per night) and Thai Hotel, 60 rooms have been reserved (\$U.S. 24/per night)

During the meeting, all hotels as mentioned, will provide transportation from hotels to ESCAP building and return to the hotels,

Especially the Montein Riverside Hotel has shuttle bus available every hour for the delegations who would like to

go to downtown or shopping centers at a distance of 3 kilometers.

We assure that the transportation will be available for all delegations from the airport to the hotels and from the hotels to the airport after the end of the meeting . Two or three days prior of the 5th States Parties we will have the vehicles standby at the airport in case of the arriving schedule has been delayed.

In addition we will provide security at the airport, at the ESCAP building and at the hotels that you stay. During the free time or as your convenience we will have the transportation standby to take you to the Shopping Malls nearby or if you would like to do some sightseeing, we can make an arrangement for you, such as, Ancient City, Viman-mek Palace, the Grand Palace and the Emerald Buddha. For more information you can visit our website tmac.go.th. You are now can search the information on 5thMSP, Meeting content, Registration, Accommodation, Come to ESCAP. If you have time, please come to visit our website.

As recommended by the GICHD delegations while visiting us during 24-26 November 2002, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide Consule desk at the airport in case of the delegations have any immigration problems. We will be able to provide the assistance immediately. We will assure that you will have a wonderful time during your stay in Bangkok. We are confident that we can do our best to support you all.

Thank You Very Much.
7th February 2003

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