The 24TH JOINT MEETING OF THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA & UNWTO HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN TOURISM

Chiang Mai Province, Thailand
3 – 5 MAY 2012

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

1. VENUE

The 24th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia will be held in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand, from 3 – 5 May 2012. The meeting will take place at:

Le Méridien Chiang Mai
108 Chang Klan Road, Tambol Chang Klan, Amphur Muang, Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand
Telephone: (66) (53) 253 666
Fax: (66) (53) 253 667
Website: www.lemeridien.com/chiangmai

CHIANG MAI PROVINCE

Chiang Mai Province is rightly regarded as a destination that offers tourists a wide variety of attractions, to meet all their needs and across all environments. The area is rich in natural resources, contains several national parks covering millions of acres, and boasts the three highest mountains in Thailand. The traditions passed down over hundreds of years are distinctive and integrate to form one unique culture. The activities Chiang Mai Province offers are suitable for all age groups and include art, culture, adventure and shopping.
2. Transfer Arrangement and Airport Meeting Service

Transportation will be provided to all delegates from Chiang Mai International Airport to the official hotels of the meetings and from the hotels to the airport for departure. It will take about 30 minutes from the airport to reach the official hotels, which are all located in the centre of the city.

In order to organize this service, delegates are requested to complete and return the attached registration form indicating their arrival, departure and accommodation details at the latest by 18 April 2012.

3. Airport Tax

Foreigners are not required to pay any airport tax at Suvarnabhumi Airport and Chiang Mai Airport.

4. Visa Requirements

All participants must be holders of a valid passport or a proper travel document. Delegates from ASEAN member States who own an official or diplomatic passport are not required to obtain visas for Thailand.

Delegates from countries that require visas for Thailand must obtain their visas from the nearest Embassies, High Commission or Consulates of Thailand prior to traveling to Thailand.

Countries and territories entitled for visa exemption and visa on arrival are listed on the following link: http://www.mfa.go.th/internet/document/ChartVisa.pdf

5. Practical Information

1) Exchange Rate

The Thai unit of currency is the Thai Baht (THB). Notes are available in denominations of 1,000THB, 500THB, 100THB, 50THB, 20THB.

Throughout the country, American Dollars are easily exchanged and accepted in some tourism areas. However, the bank note must be relatively new with no marking or tear. Traveller’s cheques are easily exchanged in banks. The rate of exchange is approximately 1USD = 31 THB (source: Bank of Thailand, March 2012)

2) Customs Regulations

Upon arrival, foreign visitors are advised to fill in Baggage Declaration form before disembarking. The green channel is available for those who have ‘Nothing to Declare’.

For declaration of foreign currency, any person who brings or takes an aggregate amount of foreign currency exceeding USD 20,000 or its equivalent out of or into the Kingdom of Thailand shall declare such an amount of foreign currency to a Customs Official. Failure to declare bringing foreign currency that exceeds the amount restricted by law or its equivalent out of or into the Kingdom of Thailand, or making any false declaration to a Customs Official is a criminal offence. If you have any enquiry, please consult a Customs Official.

3) Climate

Chiang Mai’s climate is tropical but cooler and less humid than elsewhere in Thailand. The average temperature in May ranges from 23 °C (73 °F) to 34 °C (93 °F). However, the weather from May to
November can be dominated by the southwest monsoon, during which time rainfall in the north is at its heaviest.

4) **TIME ZONE**  
Thailand is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +7.00).

5) **CLOTHING**  
Participants are advised to bring light cotton tropical wear, with or without a jacket. However, business suits are required at official meetings.

6) **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**  
Thai is the official language. English can be used at the hotels and restaurants.

7) **ELECTRICITY**  
Electricity in Thailand is 220 Volts at 50 Hertz. Outlets in Thailand generally accept two types of plug: Flat blade plug and two round plug. If your appliances do not fit the conditions, you may need a converter.

8) **BUSINESS HOURS**  
Government officials (e.g., immigration) open their desks at 9.00 a.m. Lunch is from midday to 1.00 p.m. and they close at 4.30 p.m.  
Banks open from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Banks and government offices are closed on public holidays.  
Department stores open around 10 a.m. and close between 8.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.  
Smaller businesses are open from 8.30/9.00 a.m. until 5.30/6.30 p.m.,

9) **HEALTH**  
Member States in the region are not required to take any vaccine to enter Thailand.

6. **ACCOMMODATION**  
Discounted room rates have been arranged for participants at the following selected hotels:

- **LE MÉRIDIEN CHIANG MAI**  
108 ang Klan Road, Tambol Chang Klan, Amphur Muang, Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand  
Telephone: (66) (53) 253 666 Fax: (66) (53) 253 667  
Website: www.lemeridien.com/chiangmai  
Email: lemeridien.chiangmai@lemeridien.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOM TYPES</th>
<th>RATES (Single/Twin Room) THB/Room/Night</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room</td>
<td>3,200 THB (approx. $103)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superior Room</td>
<td>1,800 THB (approx. $58)</td>
<td>* The hotel is located just around the corner from the HQs hotel of the Le Méridien Chiang Mai (It is within walking distance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room</td>
<td>2,200 THB (approx. $71)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ROYAL PRINCESS CHIANG MAI
  112 Chang Klan Road,
  Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand
  Telephone: (66) (53) 253 900  Fax: (66) (53) 281 044
  Email: dpcmrsvn@dusit.com

- PORNPING TOWER HOTEL
  46, 48 Charoenprathet Rd., Amphur Muang,
  Chiang Mai 50100 Thailand
  Telephone: (66) (53) 270 099  Fax: (66) (53) 270 119
  Email: cnx@pornpinghotelchiangmai.com

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superior Room</td>
<td>1,200 THB (approx. $39)</td>
<td>* The hotel is located about 300 metres from Le Méridien Chiang Mai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room</td>
<td>1,500 THB (approx. $48)</td>
<td>* Shuttle bus will be arranged to and from the hotel for the meetings and other social functions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that all the three above-mentioned hotels, as official hotels for the meeting, have the following conditions and policies:

- Room payment has to be made in the local currency which has the fixed room rate in Thai Baht (THB).
  * The dollar room rate is only meant to provide an idea of the current exchange rate: Approx. 1USD = 31 THB (source: Bank of Thailand, March 2012)
- Room rates are inclusive of full buffet breakfast and include 7% tax & 10% service charge.

- Check-in time is 2.00 p.m and check-out time is 12 noon. Early check-in and late check-out is subject to availability and a surcharge may apply.

OTHER RECOMMENDED HOTELS BUT WITHOUT SHUTTLE SERVICE

In addition to the above-mentioned hotels, the Royal Thai Government recommends the following hotels for your reference. These are also within close proximity to the meeting venue, Le Méridien Chiang Mai.
* However, delegates are informed that no transportation will be provided from the following extra hotels.

- **SHANGRI – LA HOTEL CHIANG MAI**
  89/8 Chang Klan Road, Muang, Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand
  Telephone: (66) (53) 253 888, Fax: (66) (53) 253 800

- **DusitD2 CHIANG MAI**
  100 Chang Klan Road, Tambol Chang Klan, Amphur Muang, Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand
  Telephone: (66) (53) 999 999, Fax: (66) (53) 999 900
  Website: [http://www.dusit.com/dusit-d2](http://www.dusit.com/dusit-d2)
  Email: d2cmrsrvn@dusit.com

- **CENTARA DUANGTAWAN HOTEL CHIANG MAI**
  132 Loykroh Road, Chang Klan, Muang, Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand
  Telephone: (66) (53) 905 000
  Fax: (66) (53) 275 429
  Website: [http://www.centarahotelsresorts.com/cdc/cdc_default.asp](http://www.centarahotelsresorts.com/cdc/cdc_default.asp)
  Email: cdc@chr.co.th

7. **REGISTRATION AND BADGES**
   The registration desk will be open at Le Méridien Chiang Mai on Wednesday, 2 May 2012 at 14.00 hrs. Name badges will be issued at the time of registration. All participants are requested to wear the name badge during all the sessions of the Meetings.

8. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**
   The official language for the Commission Meeting and the Conference is English.

9. **SOCIAL PROGRAMME**
   The Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand will host a welcome dinner on Thursday, 3 May 2012 and a farewell banquet on Friday, 4 May 2012.

10. **SAFETY AND SECURITY**
    The Royal Thai Government will take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of the
delegates participating in the event. Participants of the meeting will find easy-to-follow manuals for the fire, emergency exits and other safety procedures in each room of the official hotels. The safety and security room will be set up with basic medical facilities for emergency treatment in the Le Méridien Chiang Mai at the Expedition Hall which is located on the third floor.

For further information on the security, please contact:

Ms. Urairatana Naothaworn,
Director of International Affairs Division
International Affairs Division, Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand
4, Ratchadamnoen Nok Ave., Bangkok 10100, Thailand
Tel: (+66 2) 356 0684, Fax: (+66 2) 356 0678, Email: urairatn@hotmail.com

11. TECHNICAL TOUR
Tour programmes for participants, spouses and accompanying persons, and press
Two technical tours will be arranged for all delegates, spouses and accompanying persons, and press (on a complimentary basis) as options on 5 May 2012.

Course 1  Thai Elephant Conservation Center, Lampang Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
<th>Tour Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Departure from Le Méridien Chiang Mai 8.00 A.M.</td>
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</table>

Thai Elephant Conservation Center, Lampang Province

The Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC), founded in 1993 under Royal Patronage, cares for more than 50 Asian elephants in a beautiful forest. Beyond being an exciting tourist experience, the TECC is also known for its pioneering work in conservation and science. The TECC also proudly houses six of His Majesty King Bhumibol’s ten white elephants in the Royal Elephant Stables.

The TECC offers many enjoyable activities such as the elephant show, elephant-back ride and a tour to elephant hospital.

03.00 p.m. Arrive at participant’s hotel (TBC)
## Course 2  Huai Hongkhrai Royal Development Study Center - Ban Tawai Village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
<th>Tour Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Departure from <strong>Le Méridien Chiang Mai 8.00 A.M.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Huai Hongkhrai Royal Development Study Center**

On December 11, 1982 His Majesty King Bhumibol recommended that the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Center be established in the area of Huai Hong Khrai at Doi Saket district, Chiang Mai province. The center then began operation in 1983. The center concentrates on studies and experimentation in search of development models suitable for the watershed area in the north of Thailand to enhance the conservation and development of forest, soil and water as well as agricultural development.

**Baan Tawai Village**

Baan Tawai village was awarded OTOP Tourism Village of Thailand because of its unique character as the wood carving village. For a long time it became the center for various kinds of handicrafts and the largest handicraft village of Thailand. Baan-Tawai has also earned world-wide reputation for its skills and craftsmanship for decades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Arrive at <strong>participant’s hotel (TBC)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tour programme for spouses and accompanying persons**

The host will provide tour programmes for spouses and accompanying persons (on a complimentary basis) on 4 May 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Tour Programme</th>
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</table>
Optional Tour programmes for spouses and accompanying persons

The Host will provide two tour programmes as options for spouses and accompanying persons from 3-4 May 2012. The cost for the following tour programmes shall be borne by the participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td>Cooking class</td>
<td>1,500 THB</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>Tribal village – Orchid Nursery – Spa</td>
<td>3,000 THB</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to make the necessary arrangements, participants who wish to take part in the technical tour are requested to confirm their participation by indicating their attendance on the Registration Form.

Tour programme for Press

The host will provide a tour programme for press (on a complimentary basis) on 4 May 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Tour Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00-15.00 hrs.</td>
<td>Chiang Mai International Convention Centre – Adventure Tour (Chiang Mai Zoo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. MEETING COORDINATORS

For further information on the meetings, please contact:

Ms. Mingkwan Chitapong  
International Affairs Officer  
International Affairs Division, Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand  
4, Ratchadamnoen Nok Ave., Bangkok 10100, Thailand  
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Fax: (+66 2) 356 0678,  
Email: mboonpokai@hotmail.com

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International Affairs Officer  
International Affairs Division, Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand  
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Fax: (+66 2) 356 0678,  
Email: ss_earth@hotmail.com

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Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific  
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Fax: (+34) 91 571 3733,  
Email: cbrew@unwto.org