

Presentation

By

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Secretary General of the House of Representatives of Thailand

On the Organisation of the Session in Bangkok

Mr. President,

Colleagues,

It is a tradition for the next host to make a presentation on the conferences arrangement next year. Therefore, I would like to give you some initial information which may take about 10 minutes from now.

It is a great honour of the Thai Parliament to host the 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) in Bangkok next year.

About Thailand

The Kingdom of Thailand is situated in the heart of the Southeast Asian mainland. It has Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Malaysia as neighboring countries. All through 76 provinces, the population in Thailand is approximately 63 million, of which 10 per cent live in Bangkok, the capital city. The national and official language is Thai while English is widely understood in major cities, particularly in Bangkok. It will be summer season in March and April, which temperatures are highest, averaging 28 degrees Celsius to 38 degrees Celsius. Time in Thailand is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Entering Country

All delegates are required to possess a valid passport and to obtain appropriate visas before entering Thailand. Visas may be issued from the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate. Visa on arrival would also be organized at Suvarnabhumi Airport for the convenience of the participants who attend the meetings.

About Bangkok

Bangkok, known as "city of angels", is located in the central part of the country. Bangkok has a registered population of 6 million with a population density of 3,700 per square kilometer. The ethnic group of people in Bangkok comprises 80 per cent Thai, 10 per cent Chinese and 10 per cent others. 95 per cent of people in Bangkok are Buddhists, and the remainders are mixed of Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs.

In 2008, Bangkok is number one of the World's best cities as awarded by online polling in the website of Travel + Leisure, the famous traveling magazine. Chao Phraya River, the main artery of the nation flowing through the city, has provided affluence to the Thai People's living for such a long time. Besides this, it has attracted many tourists with its fascination and beautiful scenery.

Accommodation

There are various hotels, ranging from three stars to luxurious hotels. Many of them offer fittingly furnished rooms. Business center is also available for guests in hotels including other facilities such as postal services, internet service, safety deposit boxes in room and et cetera. A fitness center with full equipment, a swimming pool and traditional Thai massage are included in the services of many hotels as well.

Transportation

To avoid traffic in Bangkok, the Bangkok Mass Transit System Sky Train and the Mass Rapid Transit Underground Train are the most comfortable and convenient way to get around Bangkok. They will take you to shopping centers and other key destinations. In case where you would like to go to other particular places, you can take a metered-taxi which sign "TAXI-METER" on the top. If you would like to get a real taste of Bangkok as the locals do, TUK TUK, a three-wheeled vehicle, is another option for your exotic traveling. For more convenient and private ride, there are a number of car rental companies being ready to provide a service with a driver.

Thai Cuisine

This will be your great chance to come to Thailand to taste the authentic famous dish, "Tom Yom Goong", a spicy soup with prawns. Staying in Bangkok, the never sleep city, you will never let your stomach growl because of being hungry. Thai food restaurants can be found anywhere and anytime, from street vendors selling noodles to decorated deluxe restaurants. In addition, international food such as Chinese food, Indian, European and other Asian cuisines are plentiful in the city.

Mr. President,

Colleagues,

As the Secretary General of the House of Representatives of Thailand, once again, I am very pleased and honoured to be your host of the 122nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and the Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments which has already been scheduled to be held from 27 March – 1 April 2010 in Bangkok. For the venue, you will be informed as soon as we have a final decision after a thorough consideration.

For your basic information about Thailand, you will be given a handout in order to get to know Thailand greater. I hope this booklet will be useful.

Mr. President,

Colleagues,

To underline my invitation, His Excellency Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Thai Prime Minister, as well as His Excellency Mr. Chai Chidchob, the President of the Thai National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives will speak to you through VTR presentation to assure that you will have a pleasant stay and a memorable experience in Thailand since you arrive until you leave.

We are look forward to welcoming all of you to the land of smile.

Thank you.