

GENERAL INFORMATION
13th JASIC Asia Government / Industry Meeting

Chiang Mai, Thailand
November 26 – 28, 2008

DEPARTMENT OF LAND TRANSPORT
AND
JAPAN AUTOMOBILE STANDARDS INTERNATIONALIZATION CENTER

Chiang Mai

Located 720 km. above Bangkok, Chiang Mai is the principal city of the northern region and claimed as the second biggest city of Thailand.

Popularly known as “The Rose of the North” and with an enchanting location on the banks of the Ping River, the city and its surroundings are blessed with stunning natural beauty and a uniquely indigenous cultural identity. Founded in 1296 by King Mengrai as the capital of the Lanna Kingdom, Chiang Mai has had a long and mostly independent history, which has to a large extent preserved a most distinctive culture. This is witnessed both in the daily lives of the people, who maintain their own dialect, customs and cuisine, and in a host of ancient temples, fascinating for their northern Thai architectural Styles and rich decorative details.



Chiang Mai also continues its renowned tradition as a handicraft centre, producing items in silk, wood, silver, ceramics and more, which make the city the country’s top shopping destination for arts and crafts.

Beyond the city, Chiang Mai province spreads over an area of 20,000 sq. km. offering some of the most picturesque scenery in the whole Kingdom. The fertile Ping River Valley, a patchwork of paddy fields, is surrounded by rolling hills and the province as a whole is one of forested mountains (including Thailand’s highest peak, Doi Inthanon), jungles and rivers.

Climate

Chiang Mai have a tropical climate condition with an average min. and max. temperature of November is 19° C to 28 ° C with a humidity of 69 to 88 %. It is located higher the equator and it has three seasons: summer (March to May), rainy (June to October) and winter (November to February).

Language

Normally Chiang Mai people use northern dialect. And they use Thai as official language. However, they also use English at tourist attraction and places.

Religion

Some 92% of Chiang Mai people are Buddhist. About 8% are Muslim, Christian, Hindu, others.

Electricity

220 volts a/c is the common standard.

Time

The time zone is GMT + 7 hours.

Bank & Thai Currency

Banks are usually open on Monday to Friday, from 08:30AM to 3:00PM. Money Changers are available at most major shopping centers, the airport and major banks. Hotels and Shopping Centers normally accept major credit card, such as Visa Card, American Express, Master Card, Diners Club and etc..

Thai currency is Baht. Approximately, US\$ 1.00 is equal to 33 Baht as of July, 2008. Exchange services are available for cash and travelers cheques in Banks, Hotels, and Foreign Exchange Places. Bank Notes are issued in the following denominations:

Baht 1,000.-; Baht 500.-; Baht 100.-; Baht 50.-; Baht 20.-;

Coins are Baht 10.-; Baht 5.-; Baht 2, Baht 1.-; Baht 0.50.-; Baht 0.25.

VISA Information

All participants are recommended to refer to the website of *Visas and Travel Documents* announced by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand at <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2630.php>

Hotel Accommodation

The meeting will be held at **IMPERIAL MAE PING HOTEL** in **November 26 - 28**. If you would like to book your room at the Hotel, please send a Hotel Reservation Form direct to the Hotel as the address below.

Ms. Phakaphan Jhanphim,

Address: 153 Sridonchai Road, Chang Klan, Chiang Mai, 50100 Thailand

Phone: + 66 53 283900 Ext. 7001 or 71409

Fax: +66 53 276486

E-mail: phakaphan@imperialmaeping.com

Transportation

International Transport

Chiang Mai International Airport is the center for air travel in the north and is the second largest airport in Thailand after Bangkok International Airport. It is the main airport in the Northern Region and the hub for interprovincial flights from other regions, as well as international flights from other countries in Asia and Europe.

That means the best ways for travelling to Chiang Mai are as follow:

1. Via Suvarnabhumi Airport (New Bangkok International Airport)

Int. airport (your country) → Suvarnabhumi Airport → Chiang Mai Int. Airport

or

2. Direct to Chiang Mai International Airport

International airport (your country) → Chiang Mai International Airport

Please consult your travel agent or your international airline for more information.

Local Transport

Chiang Mai Airport provide limousine and metered taxi service for going to city center of Chiang Mai. **IMPERIAL MAE PING HOTEL** conveniently situated in the heart of downtown, adjacent to the famous shoppers' paradise "Night Bazaar", 10 minutes drive from the Chiang Mai International Airport. The charges for an airport limousine to city center is around 120 Baht.

IMPERIAL MAE PING HOTEL also provide shuttle bus from airport to the hotel at 120 Baht. (see Hotel Reservation Form)

Others

For further information, please contact:

DLT (Thailand)

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IMPERIAL MAE PING HOTEL

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