

Asia Pacific Youth Exchange Program



*Bangkok, Thailand
July, 2017*

1st Delegate Mailer





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I. Greetings

Sawadee!

Welcome to APYE 2017 Thailand!

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for your participation in this meaningful program, contributing to youth empowerment and community development towards the

Sustainable Development Agenda.

In this mailer and the following to come, you can find all the useful information needed to help you prepare for the best possible experience with us.

Only more than 30 days to go!

We can't wait to see you in Bangkok!

APYE Thailand Team



II. Program Overview

APYE Programme responds to the global need of actively engaging youth in localized SDGs initiatives. By working with multiple stakeholders in local communities and in decision-making processes, selected youth delegates are given a unique opportunity to learn and hone the skill necessary to participate in SDGs-related activities.

The APYE programme consists of three main components: (1) Leadership development training to enhance knowledge and build necessary skills; (2) Local immersion to engage youth in the social innovation projects responding to community needs and; (3) a Youth Symposium to showcase the innovations that they developed to address the challenges in the communities.

For more detailed information about APYE Thailand, please visit:

APYE Thailand Website: www.apyethailand.org

APYE Thailand Facebook: www.facebook.com/APYETHailand

Program Booklet: <http://bit.ly/APYETH-1stBOOKLET->

APYE Thailand 2017 Delegate Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/APYEBKK/>



III. Thailand Overview

Thailand is the geographical heart of South-East Asia. Known as the ‘Land of Smiles’, the country’s diverse features are natural landscapes, rich history, Buddhist culture, inspiring buildings, both ancient and modern, world famous cuisines, and warm, hospitable people, making Thailand one of the world’s most popular destinations.

Basic Facts about Thailand

Area : 514.000 sq km

Population : 68,284,485

Capital City : Bangkok

Currency : Thai Baht

Government : Constitutional Monarchy

Time zone : Seven hours ahead GMT

Electricity : 220 volt / two or three pin types of plug

Welcome to Bangkok city!

Thailand's capital city for over 200 years. Bangkok offers the international traveler a fascinating, sometimes chaotic rush of sensory stimulation – exotic sights, world – class shopping, super spas, massage and splendid cuisine, plus a complex mix of old and new.



PAD THAI



Pad Thai, the popular noodle dish made with chewy, stir-fried rice noodles, vegetables, bean sprouts, peanuts, and egg, among other things, is the original fast food in Thailand and can be found at every street corner.



So called the Land of Smiles, Thai friendly locals are some of the nicest people we have ever met. They're always happy, smiling, extremely polite and helpful.

FRIENDLY LOCALS



Enjoy the warm tropical weather of Thailand, where it's always hot and humid. Enjoy your summer clothes at anytime of the year.

SUNNY WEATHER



TUK TUK

Doing a similar job to the taxi is Thailand's ubiquitous **tuk-tuk**. So named because of the sound of their engine. It's essential to bargain the price with tuk-tuks before getting in.





Be aware! Taboos in Thailand !!!

- Thailand is also known as **Buddha's Land**. The use of Buddha statues and images as decorations or tattoos; posing with, defacing or disrespecting them in anyway, is considered taboo, disrespectful and it is punishable BY LAW.
- **Thailand's Lese Majeste Laws** are among the strictest in the world. Acts that defame, insult or disrespect the King or the Royal Family in any way, whether verbally or in written communication, is forbidden and punishable BY LAW.
- Do remember that the **bottoms of the feet** are considered offensive in Thai culture and that pointing the bottom of your foot at someone is very rude. Keep this in mind when sitting on the floor or lying down.
- Don't touch a Thai person's head. The head is a sacred part of the body and touching it is a very uncomfortable violation of the person's **personal space**.
- Please prepare **appropriate clothing** as Thailand is going through a year-long mourning period for the great loss of their beloved King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who passed away at 88 after an unprecedented 70-year reign.

IV. Preparation

Visa Process

Please read the official information regarding Visa to Thailand through the following links:

- **List of countries entitled for Visa Exemption and Visa on Arrival to Thailand:**
<http://www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/doc/services.pdf>
- **Visa Application Process:** <http://www.immigration.go.th/>
- Please contact the Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate-General where you intend to submit your application on required documentations and acceptable ways of application.
- If required for Visa Application, please send your request for **Invitation Letter** or **Program Introduction Letter** to apye.bkk@urbanyouthac.org under the subject 'VISA Inquiries_Your Name'.
- **Program Booklet** can be used for VISA application and is available on APYE Thailand Website: www.apyethailand.org and through the link: <http://bit.ly/APYETH-1stBOOKLET->
- We highly suggest you proceed to apply for Visa starting from now and **before 25th June 2017.**

IV. Preparation

Preparation Webinar

We'll host a series of online preparation webinars during December 2016 to prepare delegates with necessary knowledge and information for the program. **The webinar will be live streaming on Youtube.** Guide to participate will be informed via email and our Facebook page.

Webinar #1: 15th June 2017 Agenda is as followed:

1) Introduction about Thai Culture

Basic Thai lessons, food, weather, bugs, hygiene, taboo, manner, common allergy, and what to prepare.

2) Introduction about SDGs

Explain the SDGs in general for the beginners

3) Introduction about SDGs in the Local Immersion Sites



Local Immersion Sites



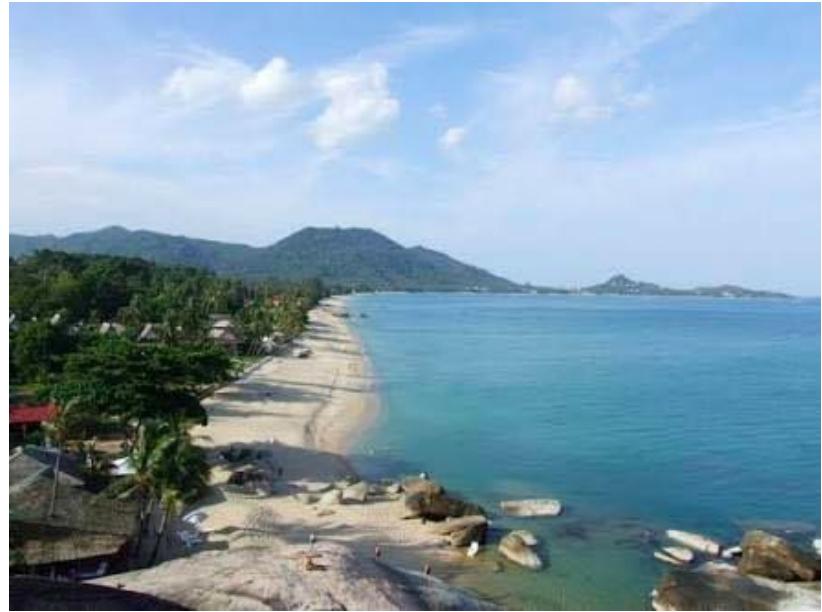
Bangkok is renowned as the Venice of the east due to the essential role played by its waterways in the past. During recent times rapid urbanization of the city has brought heavy pollution to its well spread canal system. Youth, as the torch bearers of sustainable development, are vital in bringing change to these challenges. This message was well received by the youth at Suvitseeranusorn high school who invested their efforts to bringing change to the existing canal system through cleaning and organic farming activities. The community also hosts a zero baht shop which supports the local livelihoods by recycling. This community acts as a role model for the urban suburbs which are grooming in this region.

Local Immersion Sites



With its close proximity to Bangkok, Bangnampeung played a key role in fulfilling the agricultural input for the urban habitat. However, crop production in the community suburbs had a deteriorating impact due to the recent floods and increasing impacts of climate change. The community has improvised significant steps in order to address this challenge through the principles of sufficiency economy. They have crafted economic opportunities through capitalizing the ever growing tourism in the nearby capital. At present they offer unique tourism products such as floating market, cycle tours and sightseeing in lush green habitats quenching the thirst of tourists who seek freedom from a concrete jungle.

Local Immersion Sites



Samui Island is one of the most attractive tourist destination in Thailand. But now they are facing a garbage problem with over 200,000 tons of garbages left undisposed which is affecting the people living nearby. The youth leaders in Samui desire to create a project such as “Big Cleaning Day” to solve the current situation. As a tourist destination, touristic lifestyle also threatens local people's lives, such as young girls below 15 years old work in nightclubs and they see it as a usual way of life.

Local Immersion Sites



Nong Sarai is a small village located in the west of Thailand. Here, the local people are living in a traditional style and earn their incomes through subsistence farming, particularly rice cultivation and other field crop productions. However they are still faced with problems in the agriculture stem from technical, economic and social factors. Farmers are regarded as the poorest group in the country. So they started to use the “New Theory for agricultural” created by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, served as a set of principles or guidelines on the proper management of land and water resources to create optimum benefits for farmers who own a small piece of land.

IV. Preparation

What to bring

- Clothing:
 - Smart casual (for Conference days and Local Immersion)
 - Business casual (for Forum days and Ceremonies)
 - Traditional Costumes (for Global Village)
 - Sport attires (for Local Immersion activities)
- Your local specialties to present to international delegates and local communities (food, snack & drinks, toys, souvenirs, postcards, materials, etc)
- Gadgets: Mobile phone, Laptop, electric adapter, chargers, camera
- Toiletries: toothpaste, toothbrush, towel, etc depending on personal use
- Personal medication (should you have any health related issues)
- Mosquito spray and allergy medicine

Should you have any specific food allergies, or urgent medical conditions that we need to be aware of, kindly send us an email to apye.bkk@urbanyouthac.org with all details at your earliest convenience so that we can take all the necessary precautions.

Do not forget

- Passport with valid VISA
- Sufficient money
- Travel Insurance (if required)
- Receipt of your payment



V. *Arrival Reception*

Airport Pick Up & Drop Off

- We highly suggest participants to **arrive to Bangkok by the morning of July 17th, 2017, and depart by afternoon of July 30th, 2017.**
- There are 2 International Airports in Bangkok: **Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) and Don Muang Airport (DMK)**. Delegates can arrive to and departure from either of the airports.
- Pick up service is available to take delegates from the airport to accommodation, **only for flights arriving on 17th July 2017:**

Suvarnabhumi Airport: Pick up at 12pm, 15pm, & 17pm.

Don Muang Airport: Pick up at 12pm & 16pm.

- Send off service is available to take delegate from accommodation to the airport, **only for flights departing on 30 July 2017.**
- Please let us know your arrival and departure information by filling our Logistic Form:
<http://bit.ly/APYETH-LOGISTICFORM>
- If there are any changes or delays with your flights, please inform us immediately.
- There is free Wifi available at the airports. Please use the Wifi to contact APYE Pick up team upon arrival.

V. Arrival Reception

Airport Pick Up Special Notice: Transportation

If you must arrange a different schedule, please inform us in advance. If your arrival is at the date and time which pick up service is not available, please follow these instruction to reach your accommodation:

Hotel Address and Contact:

Jasmine Grande Residence

Address: 4338 Rama IV Road, Phra Khanong nuea, khet Klong Toey, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 10110

Phone Number: (66) 02 367-2888

Website: <http://www.jasminegranderesidence.com/>

Hotel reception operates 24/7. You can call to ask for direction guide anytime.

The hotel lies 800 metres away from the BTS Ekkamai and the BTS Phra Khanong, near the Gateway Ekkamai Shopping Mall, the Qis Shopping Mall and the Bic C Department Store.

By Taxi (Highly Recommended):

We recommend going directly to the Hotel using Taxi from the airport. Please make sure the taxi driver agrees with the destination before going inside the taxi, and the driver turns on the taximeter.

By Sky Train & BTS (only recommended if you have data or cellular connection to contact us and use online map):

From Suvarnabhumi Airport: Take the Sky Train at B level of the Airport to Phaya Thai station. Change to BTS Green line (Sukhumvit line), direction to Bearing, stop at BTS Phra Khanong Station. Walk or take a taxi to Hotel Destination.

From Don Muang Airport: Take a bus from the Airport to Mo Chit BTS Station, take the BTS direction to Bearing, stop at BTS Phra Khanong Station. Walk or take a taxi to Hotel Destination.

There is free transit map at the airport. In any case of emergency, please call the hotel reception or APYE Team: (66) 85 871-1616 for direction and support.

V. Arrival Reception

Payment

When you arrive in Bangkok, you should pay the rest of the fee on the first day of APYE.

Due to exchange rate, you might have to pay the added fee with the rest of your first transaction and the rest of the fee.

If you have any inquiries regarding your remaining fee, please contact us at:

apye.bkk@urbanyouthac.org.

There are ATMs and a bank available at the conference venue. Please have your receipt available on the first day of APYE.

VI. Useful Contacts

Nitchakan Daramatat (Kadae)

Project Manager

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APYE Thailand Team

E-mail: apye.bkk@urbanyouthac.org

Linh Vo (Linh)

Delegate Manager

Tel: (66) 95 - 835 - 9593

FB: www.facebook.com/APYETHailand

Website: www.apyethailand.org

A photograph showing a person's hands writing in an open notebook with a black pen. The person is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a solid orange color.

Thank you for Reading!
Next Mailer

Detailed Agenda about sessions, activities, speakers, partners and logistics during the program.

Stay tuned!