

**PROGRESS MADE IN PREPARATION FOR
THE FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to report the progress of Thailand who will host the 5th Meeting of States Parties that will be held at the United Nation building in Bangkok, Thailand from 15 – 19 September 2003 the first ever States Parties meeting under the Mine Ban Convention to be held in Asia.

We update Website www.tmac.go.th regularly, please **click and then come to ESCAP** if you would like to find the direction from the airport to the United Nation conference center.

Room has been reserved en bloc in 8 hotels ranging from 5 star to 3 star, please **click Accommodation** on www.tmac.go.th. The names of the hotels are

HOTEL	RATE (USD)	Rooms, have been reserved	Bus or van
Shangri —la Hotel	130	30	none
Royal Orchid Sheraton	125	40(minimum)	Bus
Montien Riverside	95	40	Van
Siam City Hotel	69	60	Van
*Royal Princess	50	100	Van
*Prince Palace	35	50	Van
*Trang Hotel	25	120	Van
*Thai Hotel	25	60	Van

The last 4 hotels are walking Distance to the UNCC.

For delegate's spouses and those who are interested in the sightseeing or shopping, escort officers and vehicles will be on stand by. Please contact Coordinator for transportation support.

We will provide transportation for participants between Bangkok International Airport and the hotels on the arrival and departure (**For the Ministers or delegates of the Ambassadors level, we will provide the escort officers and vehicles**). During the meeting, all hotels will provide transportation between the hotels and the venue of meeting or TMAC will provide vehicles, Please request support as a group.

The field trip to the mine affected area at Ban Nong Ya Kaeo in Sa Kaeo province, eastern Thailand will be organized on Sunday, 14 September 2003, one day prior to the meeting to observe mine action operation in mine affected area and mine dog training. Participants are invited to join the trip. The transportation including military aircrafts will be provided. As we can accommodate only 200 participants, we kindly request interested participants to inform us by the registration through the website of the UNDDA **for more information concerning Logistics and Administrative, please click Administrative www.tmac.go.th** .

An ambulance either doctor or nurse from the Supreme Command Headquarters will be stand by during the meeting at UN building at all times and a vehicle for UNDDA will also be available when they arrive Bangkok. It is also great pleasure to inform you that , Her Royal Highness Princess Galayaniwattana, the sister of His Majesty the King and the Royal patron of Thailand Mine Action Center will graciously preside over the opening ceremony on Monday 15 September 2003 at 1100 and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium will be invited to deliver her remarks and the Prime Minister will be invited to deliver the remarks.

In addition, His Excellency Mr. Pierre Vaesen, the Belgium Ambassador to Thailand plan to set up a Gala Dinner to raise fund for Mine Victims during Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid's visit to Thailand.

On 15 September 2003, The Royal Thai Government will host the welcoming reception at The Royal Thai Police Officers Club. Buses will be available.(It will take about 30 minutes from UNCC)

On 17 September 2003, The Geneva International Center Humanitarian Demining will host a reception in that evening, the place will be determined later.

On 18 September 2003, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand will host a reception at the Ministry. **For further information of Tentative Agenda please click Meeting Content on www.tmac.go.th**

Security will also be provided for all participants at the airport, venue of the meeting and at the hotels.

The documents about the important information of the 5th Meeting of States Parties are available on the table outside the room.

The sky trains are available to take participants around Bangkok for shopping or sightseeing. Thailand will follow up the commitment of the Ottawa Convention and will play a leading role on training and operation in South East Asia.

In conclusion, please allow me to inform you that Thailand still needs technical assistance to further develop our humanitarian and meet the landmine challenge facing Thailand. We also need assistance to enhance regional cooperation, information sharing and technical assistance amongst our neighbor creating stability and security.

Thailand Mine Action Center is very grateful for the international assistance provided and hope for continued supporting our demining program.

Thank you very much

MG Gitti Suksomstarn

Director General of TMAC

16 May 2003