



Logistical Note for participants

Asia Pacific Social Forum 2025

1 – 5 November 2025, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction:

Asia Pacific Social Forum (APSF) is a continuing process of social movement and civil society in Asia Pacific which was re-started in 2021 prior to the World Social Forum in Mexico the same year. APSF was an instrumental driving force toward the World Social Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal in February 2024. Through series of meetings, debates, seminars and discussions, the meeting convened at October 14 Memorial Hall in Bangkok and later at Burapha University, Bangsaen, Thailand in late August and early September 2024 resolved to proceed with the physical events of APSF 2025 to be held in Thailand.

Finally, the broad meeting of APSF in January resolved to hold the APSF 2025 from 1-5 November 2025 in Bangkok. Since time for preparation and the financial are quite limited, we are trying our best to make sure the successful events towards a stronger social movement in the region.

This time, APSF together with other CSO partners, Civicus and Asia Democracy Network (ADN) are organizing the event at the same time and place at Thammasat University in Bangkok. Thammasat University is a key principal partner of this historical event.

This document is to provide some basic information for participants to prepare and take it as a recommendations or guidelines for participation.

Visa:

Please check the website of Thai consulate in your respective country or website if you need entry visa to Thailand. Normally, visa exemption for those ASEAN citizens.

We strongly recommend you to obtain tourist visa rather than the business or meeting with invitation. You may try to apply e-visa through: <https://thaievisa.go.th/>

Visa on Arrival:

Visa on arrival is provided at 48 designated international checkpoints and applicants should submit the application form duly filled out and to which his/her recent photograph (4 x 6 cm) is attached.

Starting from 27 September 2016, Thailand, by the order of Ministry of Interior No. 30 B.E. 2559 (2016) dated 1 July B.E. 2559 (2016), Visa on Arrival (VoA) fee is 2,000 THB.

With reference to announcement by the Ministry of Interior dated 4 March 2019, effective on 14 April 2019, nationals of following countries/territories can use passports/travel documents to apply for Visa on Arrival (VoA) at the designated immigration checkpoints or www.immigration.go.th :

1. Bulgaria
2. Bhutan
3. China (include Taiwan)
4. Cyprus
5. Ethiopia
6. Fiji
7. Georgia
8. India
9. Kazakhstan
10. Malta
11. Mexico
12. Nauru

13. Papua New Guinea 14. Romania 15. Russia 16. Saudi Arabia
17. Uzbekistan 18. Vanuatu

According to the Immigration Bureau of Thailand, qualification required for visa on arrival are as follows:

- The Visa on Arrival must be used only on the date of issue.
- Must be the citizens of nationalities in accordance with Ministry of Interior's announcement.
- Passport must have over 30 days validity.
- Purpose of touring not more than 15 days.
- Must present confirmed return ticket within 15 days.
- Must notify the address in Thailand that can be verified.
- Not under section 12 Immigration Act B.E.2522 (1979).

Since October 2023, there was a relaxation for Chinese and Indian and some more nationalities to enter the country. Some exemption to getentry visa. However, please check the update policy on this matter from the Thai Embassy or Consulate in your respective country as well.

For more details on travel requirements, please visit:

<https://www.thaiembassy.sg/visa-matters-consular>

Accommodation:

There are many hotels nearby the University which can be easily search from the google maps. The rare ranging from a few hundred Baht for bag-pack tourists around Kao Sarn Road to the 4-5 Stars hotels which might cost several thousand Baht. However, we advise that the accurate room cost should be around 800 – 2,000 Baht including breakfast, internet wifi and other facilities. Extra expenses such as telephone bills, minibar, laundry and other cost will be shouldered by the participants. (see enclosed document)

The speakers, invited guests and those who had request the secretariat and local organizers to reserve the accommodation, might stay at the following hotels:

Royal Rattanakosin Hotel
Ratchadamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200

Trang Hotel Bangkok
Visutkasatri Road, Bangkok 10200

Royal Princess Hotel
Larn Luang Road, Bangkok

Royal River Hotel
Jaransanit Wong Road, Soi 66/1, Bang Plad, Bangkok 10700

Check-in/ Check-out time

Normally, the check-in time of most of the hotel will be mostly in the afternoon while check-out time before noon. However, this is subjected to negotiation between the client and the hotel staff on the case-by-case basis.

Transportation to the hotel:

Taking to hotel from the Suvarnabhumi International Airport:

Your Options:

1. You may find the way to the first Floor of the airport and looking for the booth for public taxi-meter. Normally, that might cost you around 400 Baht plus the toll fee (around 85 Baht) and airport surcharge (50 Baht) to the hotel.
2. If you like adventure a bit, you can choose to take the Airport Rail Link (speed train) from the airport to the city. Get off at the terminal (Phyathai Station) and take a short drive by Taxi Meter to the hotel. For Royal Hotel, it is 5.4 Km. from the station, that might cost you around 100 Baht.

Main Venue of the Forum:

The meeting might be held at the **Thammasat University**, located at Phranakorn district along Chaophraya River in the central of Bangkok Metropolitan. Thammasat University is one the oldest universities in town. There were lot of political history involved Thammasat University in the past 9 decades.

Thammasat University founded in 1934, two years after the country transformation from Absolute Monarchy to constitutional monarchy in 1932 by the late Dr. Pridi Bhanomyong, the Stateman, aiming to provide the broader higher education to serve the need of the people as well as to prepare the law and political personnels to serve the national development.

Thammasat University was also the place where that sparking the Popular Uprisings of October 14, 1973 ousting the dictatorial regime and brought about a democratic society for a few years afterward. However, due to the un-experience movement, the military took back the power and committed a bloodshed massacre over the peaceful students protesters on the football ground of the campus on October 6, 1976 causing a hundred of death, seriously injured physically and mentally, many disappeared and thousands joined the arms struggle in the rural area. That was one of the darkest times of the nation. Memorial of the incidents can be found in a small historical park just in front of Thammasat University Main Auditorium Hall.

The welcoming Session will be convened at the Main Auditorium Hall where more than 500 overseas participants from various movement (Asia Democracy Network - ADN, CIVICUS under the banner of International Civil Society Week) is expected to join this historical event.

For the meeting room, APSF events will be using Small Auditorium Hall (Sri Burapha Hall) for All Plenary and Assembly Sessions. The classrooms, conference rooms will be used at various faculties and Institutions within the University. (Map is enclosed).

The student/ volunteer guides will be available during the 5 days events to support the participants if needed.

Free and clean Drinking water will be available at the university. However, for environmental friendly, we ask if the participants can use the recycle bottle or personal mug, jug, bottle instead of plastic bottle.

Registration fee:

Registration fee for individual participants internationally and locally is waived.

However, each participating organization is entitled to contribute 50 USD (around 1,750 Baht) as registration fee to cover the forum facilities, conference rooms and other organizational cost. This is some kind of solidarity among social movement in Asia and the Pacific.

Tents, booth for exhibition, product sale and other special request have also some costs. Amount of 20 USD for the 5 days rental charge of the tent (3 x 3 metres) or 100 USD for the bigger tent (5 x 12 metres) will be applied. More detail can be inquired from the logistic team.

Currency and Exchange Rate

Local currency here is Thai Baht. One hundred Satang is equivalent to one Baht. Not many items cost in Satang any longer. Thai bank notes are: 1,000 Baht (in gray-brown colour); 500 Baht (white-purple colour); 100 Baht (in red colour); 50 Baht (in blue colour); 20 Baht (in light green colour) and 10 Baht coin, 5 Baht coin, 2 Baht (bronze colour) and 1 Baht (silver colour) coins.

1 US Dollar = 31.53 – 32.35 Baht (current exchange rate as of 24 October 2025)

1 Euro = 37.42 Baht (current exchange rate as of 24 October 2025)

Fluctuation of exchange rate always causing confusion so please check with the bank. Anyway, we suggest you exchange a small amount of money at the airport on arrival just enough for your taxi fare.

SIMCARD:

If you wish, you can purchase sim-card at the airport Greeting Hall after passing the customer. Either AIS, or DTAC-TRUE with the minimum cost of 180 – 200 Baht covering 7 days service with some unlimited internet WIFI. There will be a small booth at the University to sell TRUE Simcard which costs around 180 Baht to access internet during your stay. But if you use the International Roaming from your own facility, that's also fine.

Internet WIIFI will be available in many area around the campus,. However, dure to some congestion, internet might go slow due to limited bandwidth. If you found problem, you can also report to the APSF Secretariat or PR Desk around the campus.

Weather

Normally, October is the transitional period from rainy session to winter. Announcement of the Thai Meteorological Department that winter is already started from 23 October. Temperature will be dropped from around 3-5 degree Celsius in the city but will be more in the provinces. Temperature during the APSF events might be around 25-32 degree Celsius. Just comfortable for those who like the mild weather.

Therefore, the participants can prepare the light clothes and some light sweater/ jacket to keep yourselves warm at all time. Some meeting will be cold due to air-condition. Please be aware and taken good care of your health.

Host Organizations:

The Thailand Preparation Committee is comprised of various local and regional organizations namely, Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD), HomeNet Southeast Asia, Focus on the Global South, Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD), Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF), Union for Civil Liberty (UCL), Thai Labour Solidarity Confederation (TLSC), Thammasat University Student Union (TUSU), Climate Watch Thailand, We-Watch, We-Fair, PMove, and various local civil society, grassroots organizations and democratic movement.

Besides, Thammasat University's Administration and Institute of Global Studies, the Community Organization Development Institute (CODI), Thai Health Promotion Foundation (THPF) are also the key local partners.

Asia Pacific Social Forum 2025 Working Group:

APSF 2025 is facilitated by the Working Group (WG) composed of a broad range of representatives from various organizations and movement throughout the region.

The WG meet regularly every Monday evening (earlier it was Wednesday) in the last 10 months while the monthly meetings of APSF partners of 26th of each month are also continuing in the last few years to keep communication, discussion on various concern issues.

APSF Secretariat:

Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD) was designated to be the focal point and acting as the Secretariat of APSF since September 2024 during the regional meeting at Burapha University in Bangsaen, Choburi province. APSF Secretariat can be contacted via: apsf2025sec@gmail.com

Contact Persons In case of emergency:

Laddawan Tantivitayapitak	drjobladdawan@gmail.com	Tel/ WhatsApp: 092 553 8855
Suntaree Saeng Ging	sunnewoman@gmail.com	Tel/ WhatsApp: 089 713 2070
Boonthan T. Verawongse	bverawongse8@gmail.com	Tel/ WhatsApp: 081 866 2136

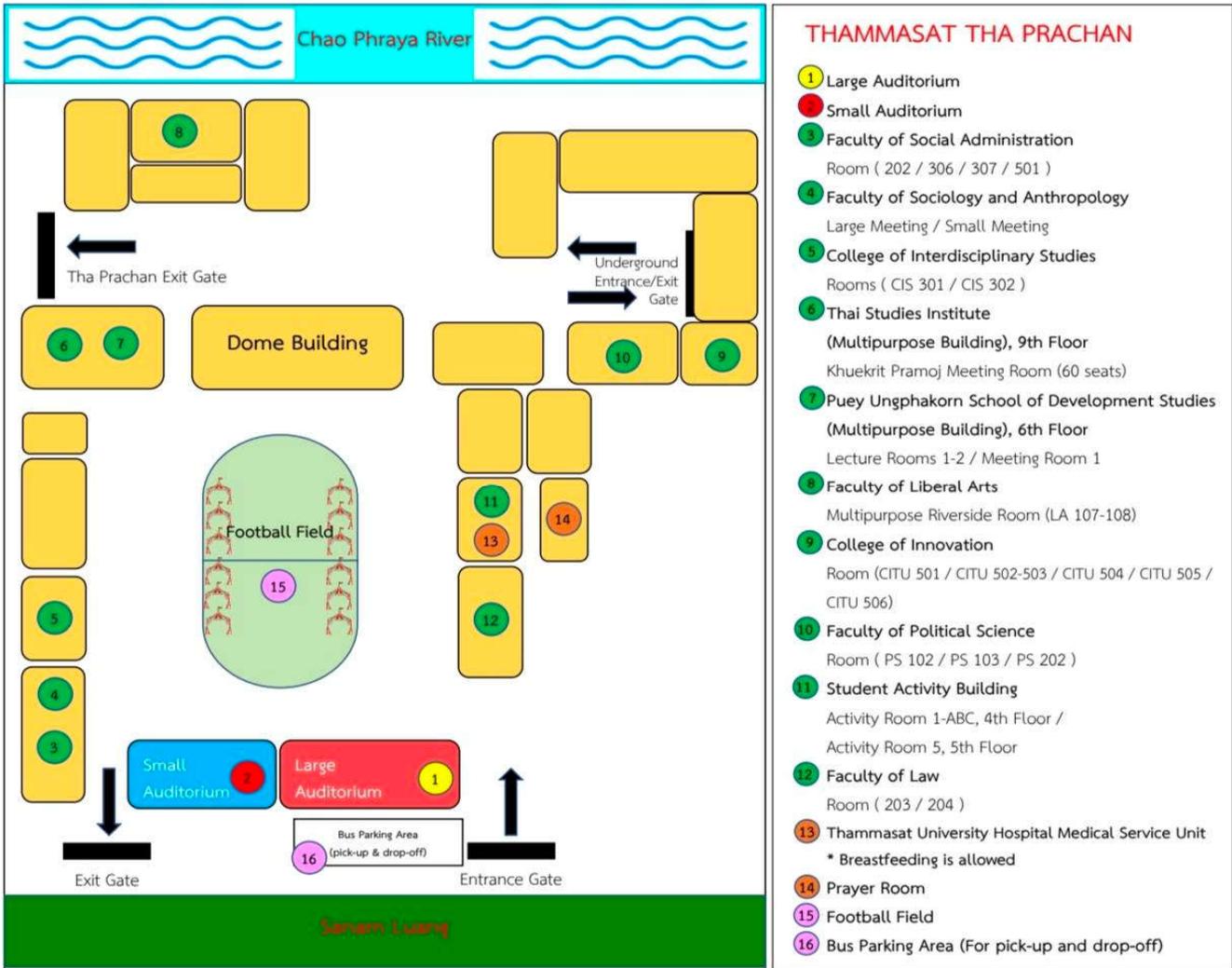
Tentative Schedule

1 November	9.00 hrs.	Welcome Session
	11.00 hrs.	Inaugural Session (Plenary A: Global Geo-Politic and the Challenge to Our Common Future)
	14.00-16.00	Plenary B: People Speak Out Loud
	16.00	Peace March
	18.00	Welcoming Reception
2 November	9.00 – 11.00	Parallel Workshops
	11.30 - 13.30	Parallel Workshops
	14.00 – 16.00	Plenary C: Revisiting Bandung and People-to-People/ South-South Collaboration
	16.30 – 18.30	Parallel Workshops
	18.00	Music in the Park: Event in Solidarity with the Burmese Peoples
3 November	9.00 – 11.00	Parallel Workshops
	11.30 - 13.30	Parallel Workshops
	14.00 – 16.00	Plenary D: Social Movement in Asia: Lessons and Challenges
	16.30 – 18.30	Parallel Workshops
	18.00	Music in the Park: Event in Solidarity with the Palestinians in Crisis
4 November	9.00 – 11.00	Plenary E: International Solidarity for Peace in Palestine
	11.30 - 13.30	Parallel Workshops
	14.00 - 16.00	Parallel Workshops
	16.30 - 18.30	Parallel Workshops
	18.00	International Solidarity Night
5 November	9.00 – 11.00	Plenary Sessions of each key Thematic Concern
	11.30 – 13.00	Open Space/ Square of statements/ Networking on Football Field
	14.00 – 16.00	General Assembly
	16.00 – 17.00	Closing Session: Moving ahead to Cotonou WSF2026 and Beyond
	17.00	Celebrating Live at Loy Kratong Festival with the TU Student Union

Detail Information will be available in the brochure/ flyer and digital files during the APSF 2025.

Further information, please contact: apsf2025sec@gmail.com

Map of Thammasat University



Other information that may be useful for you

Do and Don't in Thailand

Do

- Be kind, friendly, smile, sincere and respectful to others always
- Speak and behave gently to others who might have different race, nationality, colour, religion, culture, ethnicity, or gender. Be gender and cultural sensitive,
- Establish a close linkage in solidarity with those struggling social movement for just, emancipation, human dignity and peace
- Be patience when you face problem or obstacle
- Approach our local staff or volunteers whenever needed
- Speak slowly and clearly as some might not understand your language, and accent very well
- Enjoy your stay here in Thailand !

Don't

- Don't speak too loud and fast especially in public area which might annoy others
- Don't spit out on the floor wherever you go
- Don't throw away rubbish or waste products in the public area. Find the trash close to you
- Don't smoke or drink alcohol in the university and the public area
- Don't misbehave or sexual harassment against other gender
- Don't play gambling anywhere either inside or outside the campus
- Don't take any offer from strangers to do something in exchange with big bulk of money or benefit
- Don't leave away your important items such as purse, gems, watch, notebook, passport, etc.
- Don't bring along or carry all kind of drug narcotic, weapon or other danger items
- Don't scold or insult ancestor of your counterpart or others
- Don't insult, defame or disrespect others which might offence the law

Some basic words in Thai that might be useful during your stay

ENGLISH	THAI
Good morning/ Good afternoon	Sawasdee Krap (for man)/ Ka (for woman)
Thank you	Kob Khun Krap (for man)/ Ka (for woman)
Go to Royal Hotel at Rachadamnern Road	Pai Rong Ram Royal Thanon Rachdamnern
Go to Thammasat University	Pai ma ha vit ta ya lai Thammasat
How much is it?	Ra Ka Thao Rai
I am so hungry	Hew kao jung
Fried Rice	Kao Pad Moo (pork)/ Kai (chicken)/ Kung (Shrimb)
Noodle	Guay Tiew
No vegetable, please	Mai Ao Pak
Vegetarian	Mang sa vi rut
Soup please	Kor Nam Soup Noi
Snack/ Dessert	Kha Nom
Delicious/ Taste so good	Ar Roy/ Ar Roy Mark
Motor Tricycle	Sam Lor/ Rot Tuk Tuk
Motorcycle	Mo Tor Side
Counting: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Nueng, Song, Sam, See, Har, Hok, Jet, Paed, Kao, Sip
20, 100, 1000	Yee Sip, Nueng Roi, Nueng Punt
Very Good	Dee Mark
I can't understand	Mai Kao Jai
Where is ? Pai Tarng Nai.
How far it is?	Klai mai/ Klai Kae Nai
500 Metres	Har Roi Metre
1 Kilometre	Nueng Kilo Metre
Man	Poo Chai
Woman	Poo Ying
Children	Dek Dek
Conference Room	Hong Pra Choom
Main Auditorium	Hor Prachoom Yai
Small Auditorium	Hor Prachoom Lek
Yes	Chai
No	Mai Chai
Okay	Dai Loey/ Tok Long
I am sick	Chan Mai Sa Bai
Head Ache	Puad Hua
Stomach Ache	Puad Thong
May I see the doctor	Kor Phob Mor Dai Mai ... (Krap/ Ka)
Bye Bye/ See you later	Bye Bye/ Phob Gun Mai
** Thai speaking language has 5 intonation which might has different meaning. Please practice by learning and doing.	