

**Bangkok, Thailand
Site Visit Report for Evaluation of the**

Application for the ICTMM 2020

13 – 19 March 2016

**Federated Society Involved :
The Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of
Thailand (PTAT)**



by Professors

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&
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Background

The Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand (PTAT), chaired by the Associate Professor Jitra Waikagul, has submitted an application for the organization of ICTMM 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Considering the invitation from PTAT to visit Bangkok, Professors Cláudio Tadeu Daniel-Ribeiro and Santiago Mas-Coma have decided to evaluate the application.

PTAT was established in 1968 by academics working in the fields of parasitology and tropical medicine. After almost 50 years, PTAT has more than 200 members all around the country.

It has been possible to verify, during the time of our stay, that the PTAT application is fully supported by the government and private partners such as Universities, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), Thai Airways International (Public Company), Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), etc.

This site visit program was organized and supported by Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB).

Several meetings and visits were successfully organized.

Conference Venue

In terms of conference venue, three potential facilities were inspected.

1. Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC)

BITEC, a total area of 70,000 sq.m. column-free indoor exhibition space, has been one of Asia's leading trade and consumer exhibition venue since 1997. Accessibility is made possible only 20 minutes from Bangkok CBD via skytrain, 15 minutes from the Suvarnabhumi International Airport by car and regular bus services from Bangna-Trad Road and Sukhumvit Road.

International organizers have selected BITEC as the venue for international trade exhibitions, world congresses, and various MICE events. Each year, BITEC hosts over 80 major international events for 3 million visitors from all over the world.

2. Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC)

QSNCC, located on New Rachadapisek Road in central Bangkok with the area of 65,000 sq.m., was first operated in 1991 with the intention to proudly reflect the essence of Thai culture. The Center is ideal for conferences of up to 5,000 delegates and exhibitions of up to 900 booths. It has played host to numerous global congresses and international conferences over the past two decades.

3. The Centara Grand at Central World

Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld is located in the very heart of Bangkok's shopping and business district, with easy access by road and via the BTS Skytrain. The 55 storey-Centara Hotel is a five-star hotel offering spectacular city views from its guestrooms and restaurants, and provides a satisfying blend of city living with resort-style facilities.

The meeting and convention complex in the capital at Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld includes the World Ballroom with a maximum capacity of 1,000 persons seated theatre-style and a series of 17 Lotus Suites, which can accommodate between 10 and 400 people.

Mega events can be staged at Bangkok Convention Centre, with the Convention Hall accommodating up to 7,000 for a cocktail reception in a single pillar-less environment. This has been the venue of many prime national and regional events. All the events facilities are backed by the expertise and attention to detail of dedicated team of staff and event planners, the latest meetings and events technology and a team of culinary experts to fulfill the catering needs.

Both the hotel and the convention centre connect seamlessly with CentralWorld, one of the largest lifestyle and shopping complexes in Southeast Asia, which along with its shops, stores, boutiques and restaurants includes a multiplex cinema that can be used for presentations, and areas for organizing exhibitions and public presentations.



Group photo with hotel management & Setup demonstration

Conclusion:

The Centara Grand at Central World is the preferable venue due to its meeting and convention complex, the Bangkok Convention Centre. Participants staying at the Centara Grand can easily access to the congress venue. Besides, there are several satellite hotels nearby including low cost hotels affordable for students, young scientists and other budget-limited participants. The Hotel is undergoing a big renovation in 2017 and would be definitely at its full capacity, both the accommodation and meeting facilities, in 2020.

Cultural visits & Special venues

For the Cultural visits and social/special venues, a number of places were visited.

1. Grand Palace and Temple of Emerald Buddha

Grand Palace and Temple of Emerald Buddha are the most famous places of Bangkok where conference's delegates should visit. Generally, the program of visiting temples and palaces has been arranged in half-day period as pre or post conference program.



2. Sampran Riverside (Thai Village Performance)

Sampran Riverside is Thai cultural village where visitors can experience authentic Thai way of life and learn about local wisdom. For decades it has been considered one of Bangkok's favorite attractions because of the obvious dedication to preserving Thailand's natural and cultural heritage by engaging with the local community. Today facilities in the property include a 4 star riverside hotel with 160 rooms, 6 antique Thai houses around a serene lake, Spa, 4 restaurants, meetings rooms, a 10-acre Organic Farm, a Weekend Farmer's Market and the unique Thai Village Cultural Centre.



3. Chao Phraya Dinner Cruise

Dinner along Chao Phraya River seems to be one of attractive programs for delegates especially for exclusive dinner for VIPs. During the inspection, PTAT hosted the dinner to be an alternative for Invitee dinner or any special occasions related to the event.

Conclusion:

Grand Palace and Temple of Emerald Buddha seemed interesting for foreign participants. Sampran Riverside, located in Nakhon Pathom Province about 1.5 hr. drive from the Centara Grand Hotel, would be a nice place for cultural visit or even a social event the day before the conference. It offers an environmental friendly atmosphere.

Meetings

In addition to daily meetings and discussions with Professor Jitra Waikagul, in charge of the Thai application, two special work meetings were organized during the visit.

1. Meeting with PTAT local organizing committee and advisors in the morning of 18 March 2016 at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University

The meeting was attended by the visiting Professors Cláudio Tadeu Daniel-Ribeiro, Santiago Mas-Coma and Maria Dolores BARGUESCASTELLO, and, from the local team; Professors Jitra Waikagul, Pratap Singhasivanon, Waranya Wongwit, Mathirut Mungthin and Padet Siriyasatien. The name list of possible Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee, mostly on the international level was tentatively proposed and discussed.

We (CTDR & SMC) made some comments on our impressions on the PTAT's intention to organize the 20th ICTMM in 2020 via video-taping.



2. Meeting with stakeholders in the afternoon of 18 March 2016 at the Siam Kempinski Hotel

Adding to the above mentioned attendees were

- 1) Mr.MungkornPratoomkaew
Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- 2) Ms.Deuntemduang Na-Chiangmai
Advisor to Bangkok Governor, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)
- 3) Ms.Vichaya Soonthornsaratoon
Conventions Department, TCEB
- 4) Ms.Wiparat Tharateerapab
Government and Corporate Affairs Department, TCEB
- 5) Mr.Kitipong Manityakul
Thai Airways International (Public Company)
- 6) Mr.Varanvipa Nuntavisit
Thai Airways International (Public Company)



The agenda of the afternoon meeting covered the following items:

- Verification of governmental support (assured by MFA, BMA and TCEB)
- Problems of VISA with conflictive countries (assured by MFA)
- Interaction with embassies, if needed (assured by MFA)
- Organization of relationships with the media (TV, radios, newspapers, etc.)
- Agreement with airline company (assured by Thai Airways)
- Security issues (inside the congress, outside - in city, rest of the country) (partly assured by BMA)
- Scholarships for young scientists
- Funding for scientists from low-income countries
- Motivation for Asian scientists to participate in the conference
- Preparation for bid presentation at ICTMM2016 in Brisbane

Conclusion:

We felt that the Thai pre-candidacy lies on an excellent infrastructure, under all points of view (local, operational, academic, site attractiveness...): assures the itinerancy among the five different continents (after two Congresses in South-America and Oceania), can guarantee the participation of an important number of students, young scientists and low-income participants from Asia and Oceania, counts with a traditionally competent and well recognized Scientific Community of Thai and Asian Professionals on Tropical medicine and malaria. In addition, it is important to register that the Thai colleagues and application fulfilled the traditional rule of manifesting their intention of hosting one of the next ICTMM at least two ICTMM and eight years before the intended ICTMM. The Thai team was, indeed present at the General Assembly of the IFTM that took place on September 2012, during the realization of the XVIII ICTMM at Rio de Janeiro, and declared their desire of Organizing one of the next International Congresses of the IFTM.