Ensuring Adequate, Effective and Equitable Financing in Schools:
Expert Meeting on School Finance in the Asia-Pacific Region
31 March – 1 April 2016

General Information

Dates
31 March – 1 April 2016 (2 days)

Venue
Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort
Meeting room: Garden Room

For taxi:
Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort is roughly 45 minutes from Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Anantara Riverside is a short 20 minute boat ride from Saphan Taksin skytrain station, a convenient connection to all other locations within the city. The boat transfers are complimentary and depart from Saphan Taksin and the resort every 30 minutes. The hotel offers a limousine service to and from the airport. Prices are 2500THB (2 passengers) or 3500 THB (4 passengers). You can make a reservation by calling +66 (0) 2476-0022 or sending an email (bangkokriverside@anantara.com).

Public taxis are also available from the pick-up counters at the airport. Public transportation from the airport is available by connecting to the BTS skytrain from the Airport Rail Link (more information is provided below in the transportation section).

*Please note: accommodation is at AVANI Riverside Bangkok, adjacent to Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort (see exact location in the back of the note). To check in to your room, please report directly to AVANI.
Accommodation

AVANI Riverside Bangkok (located adjacent to Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort)

For taxi: อาวานี กรุงเทพฯ ริเวอร์ไซด์ 257 ถนนเจริญนคร เขตธนบุรี ภท. 10600 ประเทศไทย

Address: 257 Charoennakorn Road, Thonburi, Bangkok 10600, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 2431-9100
Email: riverside.bangkok@avanihotels.com

Overlooking Bangkok’s bustling Chao Phraya River, AVANI Riverside Bangkok Hotel is perfectly situated among Bangkok Riverside hotels to grab a bite, see the sights or head to a meeting. Shuttle boat services to the BTS skytrain and the central Saphan Taksin boat pier make connecting to the city’s major commercial, shopping and entertainment districts convenient.

To simplify logistical arrangements, UNESCO Bangkok will reserve a single room for each participant at the AVANI Riverside Bangkok. The cost is Thai baht 3,000.00 net/person/room/night (inclusive of breakfast, internet, service charge and government tax) for the duration of the meeting period, for a total of two or three nights, starting on the night of 30 March 2016 with checkout on 1 or 2 April 2016, depending on flight schedules.

Self-funded participants should pay the room costs to the hotel. For fully–funded participants, room costs (room rate and breakfast) will be covered directly by the organizers for the period of the meeting. If a participant has a companion/s and needs a different type of room or an extra bed, this can be arranged upon request. The additional room costs will be covered by the participant and charged directly upon check-in. Please also note that the participant will be held responsible for any other personal expenses (e.g. telephone, fax, mini-bar, laundry, etc.) incurred by the participant or his/her companion(s) and these costs should be cleared directly with the hotel upon check-out. In addition, if the participant (and companion(s)) decides to stay extra nights at the hotel, he/she should cover those expenses, paying directly to the hotel.

Check in/out time offer:

- Standard check-in time is 15:00 /check-out time is 12:00.
- Late check-out time is subjective to room availability (free of charge).
- Late check-out 18:00 will be charged half price of room rate.
- Late check-out from 18:00 onward will be charged full price of room rate.

Provisions

For all participants, breakfast is included in the room rate; lunch and coffee breaks will be provided by UNESCO during the meeting period (31 March – 1 April 2016, 2 days). A dinner reception will be hosted at the hotel on 31st March 2016.

For fully-funded participants, travel costs (round-trip, economy class air ticket to and from Bangkok) will be covered by the organizers. Information on travel arrangements will be directly provided by UNESCO.
Meeting Room / Registration
All participants should register for the meeting in front of the **Garden Room** at the Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort. **Registration will start on Thursday, 31st March 2016 at 08:30.** The meeting will begin at 09:00 on Thursday, 31st March 2016, and will end at about 17:30 on Friday, 1st April 2016.

Computer and Communication
Participants are requested to bring a notebook computer for their own use during the meeting. Internet service at a special rate is inclusive in the room charge for participants staying at the hotel. The internet password can be obtained from the hotel reception upon your check-in. Internet service will be available in the meeting room and password can be obtained from the UNESCO or hotel staff. For other official communication expenses (international phone call, fax), participants should pay directly to the hotel upon check-out. Please check telephone service charges at the hotel reception before use.

Visa
Participants should ensure that their passport is valid for **at least 6 months** from their travel dates. If a visa to Thailand is needed, the application process should be started immediately. Please contact the Royal Thai Embassy/Consulate in your country or check: [http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/services/123](http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/services/123) for more information on visa requirements and applications. Should you encounter any issues with obtaining your relevant visa, please inform UNESCO Bangkok immediately.

Currency Exchange Rate
The commercial rate is subject to change daily. The exchange rate for cash is slightly lower than for travelers’ cheques. There are banks and currency exchange kiosks located at the airport and near the hotel, and you may exchange from the hotel cashier as well.

Currency exchange rate (counter rate) as of **February 2016**: US$ 1 = Thai baht 35 approximately ([http://www.scb.co.th/en/personal-banking](http://www.scb.co.th/en/personal-banking)).

Climate in Bangkok
In March and April, temperatures are expected to range between 27 to 34 °C approximately. Weather is hot and humid especially during the day time. It is also advisable to bring appropriate clothes for a fully air-conditioned meeting room (a light jacket / shawl or scarf for ladies). For more information on the weather forecast, please visit [http://www.tmd.go.th/en/province.php?id=37](http://www.tmd.go.th/en/province.php?id=37).
Transportation

Bangkok’s Suvarnamhumi airport is located about 30 km east of Bangkok. Please see the following website for a map of the Suvarnabhumi International Airport: http://www.bangkokairportonline.com/node/85. There is only one airport terminal; the arrival hall is located on level 2 while the departure hall is on level 4.

Participants are responsible for transport arrangements to and from the port of departure and arrival. There are three ways to get to the hotel: public meter-taxi, limousine service, and Airport Rail Link:

- **Public meter-taxi** can be found in front of the Terminal (level 1, ground level). There will be counters to queue at, and upon telling them your destination, both you and the taxi-driver will be given a taxi ticket. Travel to downtown Bangkok costs around THB 200 to THB 400 and there is a compulsory airport surcharge of THB 50 which is added to the metered price. Journey time is from 30 minutes to over an hour depending on the traffic; you may instruct the taxi driver to take the expressway, in which case a toll fee of THB 45 should be paid up front by the passenger. Ensure you have small change of at least THB 100 denominations, as taxi-drivers usually do not have change for high-value ones.

- **Limousine**: To get a limousine, contact the Limousine Service Center at the arrival level. The limousine pickup area is located along the outer curb, right outside the terminal building. Please be advised that the limousine services in Bangkok are much more costly than public meter-taxis, ranging from THB 1,000 up to 1,500 per car.

- **An Airport Rail Link** is available. Getting to the hotel requires travelling to Phaya Thai station and then transferring to the BTS/Skytrain. For more information on the airport rail link please visit: http://www.srtet.co.th/index.php/en/cityline-calculate. For more information on the BTS, please visit: http://www.bts.co.th/customer/en/02-route-current.aspx

Medical Emergency

In the event that you should require urgent medical attention, please contact the hotel’s information desk (24 hours). The hotel has first-aid kit available for basic medical care. The nearest hospitals to the hotel are:

1) **BHN Hospital**

   Address: 9/1, Convent Road, Silom Bangkok 10500, Thailand
   E-mail: info@bnh.co.th
   Call Center: Int’l call: +66 2 686-2700; Domestic call: (02) 686 2700
   https://www.bnhhospital.com

2) **Saint Louis Hospital**

   Address: 27 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120
   E-mail: contact@saintlouis.or.th
   Call Center: Int’l call: +662 675-5000; Domestic call: (02) 675-5000
   http://www.saintlouis.or.th
Language

English will be the working language of the meeting.

Further Information

Correspondence related to the logistics of the meeting may be addressed to:

Mr. Mark Manns, Research Assistant, m.manns@unesco.org
Ms. Ashida Akemi, Programme Officer, a.ashida@unesco.org

Location Map of Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort and AVANI Riverside Bangkok

Google Map:

https://www.google.co.th/maps/place/AVANI+Riverside+Bangkok+Hotel/@13.7053746,100.4891175,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x30e2988edc766981:0x23ed8370c18c7598