

Subject line- UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN BANGKOK

Soon we will all be together at the Symposium...

We would like to provide you with the latest update on the situation in Bangkok. The local organizing committee continues to be reassuring. We will be sending you the Feb 3 TCEB report on the Thai Political situation in a subsequent email.

One of our members who is already in Bangkok now reports the following:

No major developments. The election came and went without major unrest.

So what has changed? Well, nothing really. As things are now the conference participants will be able to land, get to their hotel, enjoy the conference, and get back to the airport, and do all of these in safety. And will they be able to enjoy Bangkok while they are there? Well yes! Bangkok remains as it always is, a fascinating and generally safe city, with wonderfully friendly people. The traffic in some parts of the city is lighter (people are leaving their cars at home), but is heavier in some other places (roads are blocked). People are using public rail and river transport more. The city is a bustling modern, functioning and generally peaceful city.

The bottom line remains the same: ***so long as the airports remain open (and it looks as though they will), and conference participants stay away from protest areas (easy to do as these protest sites are fixed) then there is no likely risk at all.***

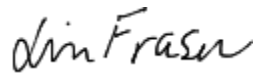
Three things then to suggest to participants...

1. Come to BKK.
2. Avoid the airport rail link (it will take them into the centre of the city where traffic conditions could be heavy), and
3. take a taxi instead (I would suggest a standard meter taxi, to the conference hotel, and avoiding the centre of the city, and avoiding the much higher limousine rates that you end up paying if you hire that form of transport at the airport).

Of, and yes, a number 4...

4. Bring a camera and light clothes (it is around 35 degrees Celsius and brilliant sunshine in BKK)

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Lin Fraser EdD
WPATH President