



## **Meeting Information**

### **The Technical Meeting for the Preparation of the Proposal for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of AFSIS Project, Phuket, Thailand, 25 May 2006**

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#### **1. Background and Objectives**

In the Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea (5<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three) on 30 September 2005 in the Philippines, the Ministers agreed with the necessity to continue the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project after the implementation period. In this regard, the AFSIT Center then prepared the General Framework for the second phase of AFSIS Project and submitted to the Fourth Focal Point Meeting and the Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN + 3 Countries held during 21-24 February 2006 in Siem Reap for their consideration. The Meetings agreed in principal with the General Framework and the Work Plan to organize the Technical Meeting for the Preparation of the Proposal for the 2nd Phase of AFSIS Project in Thailand in May 2006.

The objective of the Technical Meeting is to formulate the detailed Proposal for the 2nd Phase of AFSIS Project for submission to the 6th AMAF+3 meeting, to be held in November 2006 in Singapore for endorsement. All member countries were requested to provide comments and suggestions on the formulation of the Proposal to Project management by April 2006. The Project management would then consolidate all suggestions and develop into the detailed Project Proposal to be tabled and discussed at the Technical Meeting.

#### **2. Participants of the Meetings**

The Technical Meeting will be attended by representatives nominated as Project's Focal Points from each of member countries including representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, JICA, East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

#### **3. Date and Venue**

The Meeting will be held on 25 May 2006 at Metropole Hotel, Phuket, Thailand.

#### **4. Traveling Costs**

The project will provide the participants from ASEAN countries with air-tickets, terminal expenses, and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) including accommodation (except for Brunei and Singapore, such costs will be provided through the ASEAN Secretariat). The participants will be advised to receive their round trip air-tickets in advance. As for the terminal expenses, the reimbursement shall be made upon the submission of receipt, while DSA will be paid in cash during the meeting.

#### **5. Arrival at the Airport and Accommodation**

Participants whose tickets not provided by the Project are requested to inform the Project staff with their arrival and departure schedule including flight numbers. The Project will arrange transportation from Phuket International Airport to the hotel for all participants. A group booking for all participants will be arranged at Metropole Hotel, Phuket in accordance with their respective traveling schedule.

#### **6. About Phuket**



**Location:** Phuket is Thailand's largest island and nestles against the Indian Ocean Coast some 870 kilometers south of Bangkok. It is similar in area to Singapore, measuring 54 kilometers north to south, and 21 kilometers east to west at its most distant points. About 70 percent of the land area is mountainous, with the highest elevation at 529 meters. The terrain is richly varied, with rocky headlands, numerous beaches of differing sizes and character, limestone cliffs, jungle-clad hills, small estuaries, lagoons, and tropical vegetation of all kinds. It is surrounded by over thirty

smaller islands of similar topography, many of them prime tourist attractions in their own right. The permanent population is estimated at roughly a quarter of a million, and Phuket is the only island in Thailand to have full provincial status. The Sarasin Bridge connecting it to the mainland was constructed in the mid-1970's, and a second one parallel to it, the 660-metre Thao Thep Krasatri Bridge, opened more recently. Phuket airport saw its first aircraft land in 1976.

**Climate:** Phuket's weather conditions are dominated by monsoon winds that blow year round. It is therefore always warm and humid. There are two distinct seasons, rainy and dry. The rainy season begins in May and lasts till October, during which the monsoon blows from the southwest, The dry season is from November through April, when the monsoon comes from the northeast. Highest average temperatures, at 33.4 degrees Celsius, prevail during March. Lowest averages occur in January, when nightly lows dip to 22 degrees Celsius.

**Airport:** Phuket Airport is an international airport, so Phuket can be reached directly from points all over the world. For further information contact Thai Airways International or travel agents. Thai Airways numbers in Bangkok are Tel. (02) 2800070 2800080, and in Phuket, the numbers are Tel. (076) 211195, 212499, 212946. For More information visit <http://www.thaiair.com>

## **7. Contact Persons**

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## **8. Registration Form**

All participants are requested to complete the attached registration form and return it to the project by fax or e-mail as soon as possible.