



**Committee on Fisheries
Sub-Committee on Aquaculture - Fifth Session
Phuket, Thailand
27 September - 1 October 2010**

Information for participants



Venue:

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa
333 Patak Road, Karon Beach
Muang, Phuket
Thailand 83100
Tel: 66-76-396433
Fax: 66-76-396136
Website: <http://www.phuket.com/arcadia/>

Contact persons:

Ms Kannika Chaivised, email: kannika.chaivised@hilton.com
Ms Chalita Kaewdee, email: chalita.kaewdee@hilton.com

Dates:

Monday, 27 September to Friday, 1 October 2010

Technical information and documents:

Relevant technical information and meeting documents are available at the following official website for the Fifth Session of the SCA: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/38933/en>

For further information and assistance, please contact Dr Rohana Subasinghe, Technical Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, by e-mail at rohana.subasinghe@fao.org.

Visa arrangements:

Participants are requested to contact the Thai Embassy or Consulate in their respective country or city well in advance of the meeting (preferably at least 4 weeks prior to their departure) to enquire about the visa and entry requirements. Please note that you may be required to provide a copy of the official invitation to the meeting.

Travel arrangements by air:

In order to reach Phuket you will need to fly to the local airport of **Phuket**. Flights to Phuket are generally via Bangkok from where there are several daily internal flights. The flight duration from Bangkok to Phuket is circa 1½ hours.

Travel arrangements to and from the airport:

Upon arrival at Phuket, participants can take a taxi from the airport to the Karon Beach. Some of the larger hotels may provide a shuttle service to and from the airport. We suggest that you enquire directly with the hotel in this regard. The cost of a taxi from the airport to the city centre would be around US\$ 25.00. Any developments with regard to travel arrangements will be notified as necessary.

Accommodation:

The Fifth Session of the SCA will be held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, which is set on the sandy Karon Beach and stretches over 75 acres of lush tropical gardens, surrounded by green mountains. The hotel is 50 km (1 hour drive) from Phuket International Airport,

A special rate from US\$ 80 (including local tax and service charges) will be given to participants staying at the hotel. In order to obtain this special rate, bookings must be made by no later than 18 September 2010 (*any reservations made after this date will be at the standard hotel rate*). When making a reservation it is important to specify the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture meeting.

Hotel Booking on-line: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/HKTHIHI-GFISA-20100924/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Contacts: Ms Kannika Chaivised, email: kannika.chaivised@hilton.com and Ms Chalita Kaewdee, email: chalita.kaewdee@hilton.com

Further Information on the hotel: <http://www.phuket.com/arcadia/>

Alternatively, participants can consider the Karon Living Room Hotel:

Karon Living Room Hotel

481 Patak Rd., T.Karon

Phuket, Thailand 83100

Tel. (66) 76 286618-9, (66) 76 286493-4

Fax. (66) 76 286633

SKYPE: karonlivingroom

<http://www.karonlivingroom.com>

Additional accommodations are also available for selection in the following recommended hotels' links:

<http://www.phuket.com/>

<http://directrooms.com/thailand/hotels/phuket-hotels/price1.htm>

<http://www.holidaycity.com/phukethotels/>

<http://www.gtahotels.com/cities/phuket.htm>

Phuket:

Phuket, which is approximately the size of Singapore, is Thailand's largest island. The island is connected to mainland Thailand by a bridge. It is situated off the west coast of Thailand in the Andaman Sea. Phuket formerly derived its wealth from tin and rubber, and enjoyed a rich and colourful history. The island was on one of the major trading routes between India and China, and was frequently mentioned in foreign ship logs of Portuguese, French, Dutch and English traders. The region now derives much of its income from tourism.

The Karon beach is one of Phuket's longest beaches, very popular due to its fine white sand.

The Hilton Phuket Arcadia dominates much of the central part of Karon. To the north of Karon is Aroona Plaza which houses a range of handicraft shops, good restaurants and cafes, a few bars and a hotel modelled on the Sino-Portuguese architecture of Old Phuket. The wide beachside avenue is ideal for taking an evening stroll and doing some shopping.

Further attractions close to Phuket include endless scuba diving and marine life around the Surin Islands National Park, the Similan Islands National Marine Park, Phi Phi Islands and Coral Island, with boat trips to these locations readily available.

Climate:

Phuket has a tropical climate with a dry season from November to April and a rainy season from May to October. Average temperatures are consistent all year round. Average highs range from 29 °C (84 °F) to 33 °C (91 °F); average lows range from 23 °C (73 °F) to 26 °C (79 °F).

Money and currency exchange:

The Thailand currency is the Thai "Baht". As of 1 June 2010, the official UN exchange rate is 32.54 Baht to 1 US Dollar and the exchange rate of the Baht to the Euro (taken from the web) is 39.65 Baht to 1 Euro. Participants are advised to check the exchange rate upon arrival at the airport. VISA and Master Card are accepted in most hotels and shops (acceptance of American Express is limited). Traveller's cheques can be conveniently cashed at all commercial banks and authorized money exchanges. There are cash (ATM) machines within the vicinity of most hotels.

Field Visit:

There will be a field visit organised by the Thai Department of Fisheries on the 30th (Thursday). All participants are invited.