

1. Introduction

The 2025 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum will be held on the theme 'The OECD and Southeast Asia: Partnership for prosperity', under the auspices of the OECD's Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP). The focus will be on exploring the ways in which Southeast Asia can benefit from the OECD's expertise, policy committees, and structured global relations tools. The Regional Forum will be hosted by OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Maris Sangiampongsa, along with representatives of the SEARP co-chairs, Australia and Viet Nam.

2. Date and venue

The 2025 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum will be held at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Bangkok, on 2 May 2025.

The Ritz-Carlton Bangkok Hotel



- Address: PGHW+967, 189 Witthayu
 Rd, Lumphini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok
 10330, Thailand
- Telephone: +66 2 180 7777
- Website:

 https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotel

 s/bkkrb-the-ritz-carlton-

 bangkok/overview/

3. Meeting format

The 2025 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum will be held with in-person attendance in Bangkok. A live webcast will be available and the event will be recorded. However, only in-person participants will be able to make interventions and participate in audience Q&A.

4. Registration

All participants are required to register in advance via the <u>event website</u> **no later than 25 April 2025**.

5. Venue details

The event is held on floor 4. Please refer to the floor plan for meeting room

locations available under *Venue Details* in the *Practical Information* section of the event website.

• **Registration desk**: 4F, Pre-Function 3

The registration desk will be available in the morning of 2 May for participants to confirm their attendance and collect their event badges.

• *Main Conference Room*: 4F, Ballroom 1B

The main sessions of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum 2025 will be held in Ballroom 1B (4F).

Breakout session: 4F, Ballroom 2A

A breakout session for private sector participants will be held in Ballroom 2A (adjacent to the main conference room).

• Bilateral Room: 4F, Gallery 2

One bilateral room will be provided during the meetings, available on a first come first served basis. A reservation form will be circulated closer to the date.

6. Meeting arrangements

- *Lunch:* A buffet lunch will be provided for event participants.
- Refreshments: Coffee/tea and light refreshments will be served throughout the day. Special dietary options will be available upon request.
- Wi-Fi: Free Wi-Fi access will be available in all meeting rooms.

7. Official Reception

An official reception will be hosted by Australia, the co-chair of the Southeast Asia Regional Programme, at the conclusion of the event. Access to the reception is by invitation only. Invitations will be issued closer to the date of the event.

Location: Embassy of Australia, 181 Witthayu Rd, Lumphini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand (two minutes' walk from the Ritz Carlton Hotel).

8. Entry visa requirements

Nationals from countries with visa waiver agreements are permitted to stay for 60 days upon entry. Additionally, nationals of 31 countries and territories may apply

for a visa on arrival at designated immigration checkpoints for tourism purposes, with a maximum stay of 15 days. Those requiring a visa are advised to check whether they are eligible for an <u>e-visa</u>. For more details and guidance, please contact the nearest Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate General in your country.

Please note the OECD is unable to facilitate visa applications on participants' behalf.

9. Travel and Accommodation:

Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements, including hotel room(s), flight reservations and transportation to the meeting venue (if applicable).

For those arriving by car, parking spaces are available at the hotel. If your VIP participant requires a parking space, kindly inform grcsoutheastasia@oecd.org in advance.

For those not staying at the event venue, the following hotels are nearby:

- SO/ Bangkok, 2 N Sathon Rd, Si Lom, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand
- Conrad Bangkok, 87/3 Witthayu Rd, Lumphini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand
- Banyan Tree Bangkok, 21/100 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120, Thailand

10. Airport transfers, vehicle arrangement and transportation in the city

Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements, including flight reservations and transportation to the meeting venue.

• Transportation in the city:

- Private vehicles (motorbikes and cars): *Grab* (Mobile App) is the most popular, convenient and highly recommended modes of transportation in Thailand.
- Public transportation: Local buses, MRT, BTS SkyTrain, Airport Rail Link etc. For further information and convenience, please contact your hotel concierge.

11. Additional information

• *Climate and weather*: The weather in Bangkok in May is hot and humid, with an average minimum temperature of 26°C (78.8°F) and a maximum of 36°C (96.8°F). It is also the start of the rainy season, with afternoon thunderstorms possible.

The average humidity during this time is between 75 and 80%, which may affect travel and outdoor activities.

• *Currency and currency exchange*: The official currency in Thailand is Thai Baht (THB) and can be exchanged at airports. Credit cards are also widely accepted in most commercial facilities (restaurants, shopping malls, etc.)

*Exchange rates for information only: 1 USD = 34.3456 TBH.

- **Telecommunication:** AIS, DTAC, TrueMove are three largest mobile network operators in Thailand. 4G/5G Connections are available. SIM/eSIM cards are available at airports.
 - Electric voltage: 220V
 - Time zone: UTC+7
 - Telephone country code: +66
 - In case of emergency, please dial 191 (Police), 1155 (Tourist Police), 199
 (Fire) and 1669 (Ambulance).
 - Nearby hospitals/clinics in case of medical needs:

BNH Hospital, 9/1 Convent Rd, Si Lom, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500

King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, 1873 Rama IV Rd, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330

Bumrungrad International Hospital, 33 Soi Sukhumvit 3, Khlong Toei Nuea, Watthana, Bangkok 10110

12. Contacts

The OECD Southeast Asia team stands ready to support you from the Forum's preparation stage until its closing. Should you need assistance or have any other inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at grcsoutheastasia@oecd.org.

For more information concerning the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme, please consult the <u>OECD website</u>. We look forward to welcoming you in Bangkok.