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# 14<sup>th</sup> WORLD FERTILIZER CONGRESS

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**Fertilizers and Fertilization:  
Stewardship for Food Security, Food Quality,  
Environment and Nature Conservation**

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## ***SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT***

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*22-27 January 2006*

*Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew,  
Chiang Mai, Thailand*

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## INVITATION

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### **Invitation from SWCST**

**Dear Colleagues:**

On behalf of the Land Development Department (LDD) and the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Thailand (SWCST), it is indeed a privilege for us to extend our warmest welcome to you to Thailand - the host of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Fertilizer Congress which will be held during 22-27 January 2006 in Chiang Mai, the beautiful province in the north of Thailand.

No one can deny that food is the most important thing in human's life. The increasing of world population effects the need of food production. Fertilizers become an important factor that is widely used to help increase the raw materials to produce food. Our challenge is to identify suitable way of fertilization which can provide high food quality and ensures a more prosperous and happier world.

We would like to invite you and your colleagues to join us at the 14<sup>th</sup> World Fertilizer Congress to launch a new strategy that will enable us to achieve the world food security with environment and nature conservation. We can assure you that we will make this a most productive and useful Congress. Your presence and contributions are necessary to realize this.

*Chaiwat Sittibush*

*President, Soil and Water Conservation Society of Thailand (SWCST)*

*Deputy Director General, LDD*

### **Invitation from CIEC**

**Dear Colleagues:**

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and the CIEC staff, I would like to invite you to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> World Fertilizer Congress (WFC), which will be held during 22-27 January, 2006 at Chiang Mai province, Thailand. The Congress will focus on "Fertilizers and Fertilization – Stewardship for Food Security, Food Quality, Environment and Nature Conservation".

I strongly encourage you to join the oral or poster session as a presenter and to participate in a platform for the exchange of new knowledge and concepts in fertilizer utilization. Pre- and post- congress scientific tours are prepared to illustrate the situation of fertilizer utilization in Thailand as well as the series of cultural tours to enjoy accompanying participants. If you are an exhibitor, we are also inviting you to bring your latest equipment and products to be displayed in the exhibition section.

Please come and join us! I can assure you that we will make this a most productive and useful Congress.

Prof. Cristian Hera, Ph.D.; Dr. Sc.

President, International Scientific Centre for Fertilizer (CIEC)

**CONGRESS THEME**

Fertilizers and Fertilization – Stewardship for Food Security, Food Quality, Environment and Nature Conservation

**CONGRESS VENUE**

Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew, Chiang Mai, THAILAND

**CONGRESS DATE**

22-27 January 2006

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS OF  
*THE 14<sup>th</sup> WORLD FERTILIZER CONGRESS*****Thai Agencies**

Land Development Department (LDD)

Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Department of Agriculture Extension (DOAE)

Kasetsart University (KU)

Soil and Water Conservation Society of Thailand (SWCST)

Soil and Fertilizer Society of Thailand (SFST)

**International Agency**

The International Scientific Centre for Fertilizers (CIEC)

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## CONGRESS INFORMATION

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### CONGRESS SCHEDULE

Sunday	22 January 2006	On-site Registration
Monday	23 January 2006	On-site Registration
		Opening Ceremony
		Technical Presentations
		- Key-note lectures
		- Oral presentations
		- Poster Presentations
		Welcome Party
Tuesday	24 January 2006	Technical Presentations
		- Key-note lectures
		- Oral presentations
		- Poster Presentations
Wednesday	25 January 2006	Mid – Congress Tour
Thursday	26 January 2006	Technical Presentations
		- Key-note lectures
		- Oral presentations
		- Poster Presentation
		Conference Dinner
Friday	27 January 2006	Technical Presentations
		- Key-note lectures
		- Oral presentations
		Closing Ceremony

### REGISTRATION

The registration fee is 350 US\$, which covers entry to all scientific events at the venue, mid-congress tour, congress document, abstract, lunches during the congress, welcome party and conference dinner.

The accompanying person registration fee is 150 US\$, which covers entry to exhibition at the venue, mid-congress tour, welcome party and conference dinner

Registration fees for participants and accompanying persons will increase to 400 US\$ and 180 US\$, respectively after 31 October 2005. Registration can be made on-line under [www.ldd.go.th/wfc14th](http://www.ldd.go.th/wfc14th)

### TIMETABLE AND IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstracts	1 October 2005
Note on acceptance of contribution	15 October 2005
Registration with reduced fee	1 November 2005
Full paper due	at congress, 22-27 January 2006

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

All lectures and proceedings will be presented in English only. Translation facilities are not available.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at the congress venue, Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew, Chiang Mai Province. Rooms can be booked by the congress-secretariat. The room rates including full breakfast are:

Deluxe (single)	60 US\$
Deluxe (double)	80 US\$
Junior Suite	110 US\$

The rates include transport from and to Chiang Mai airport.

## EXHIBITION PROGRAM

During the congress, commercial and non-commercial fertilizer companies exhibitions will be organized in order to provide the most current information and products about organic and chemical fertilizers, including new technologies in fertilization. The congress exhibition will be set up at the Congress venue.

Those interested in exhibiting fertilizers and fertilization-technologies at the 14<sup>th</sup> WFC can find more detailed information and the application form at the Congress website, [www.ddd.go.th/wfc14th](http://www.ddd.go.th/wfc14th). You can also contact the secretariat of 14<sup>th</sup> WFC, and/or Mr. Viroj Hirunyupakorn, chair of the exhibition committee at [wfc14th@ddd.go.th](mailto:wfc14th@ddd.go.th).

## TOUR PROGRAM

Friday to Sunday	20-22 January 2006	Pre-Conference Tour (\$US 300)
Wednesday	25 January 2006	Mid-Conference Tour (Included in registration fee)
Saturday to Monday	28-31 January 2006	Post-Conference Tour (\$US 400)

## CLIMATE IN CHIANG MAI

Chiang Mai popularity stems in part from its pleasant climate. Temperatures from mid-November to January average between 13°C and 28°C (56°F and 83°F) in Chiang Mai; the hills are even colder.

## SECRETARIAT

Dr. Pitayakon Limtong  
Land Development Department,  
Phahonyothin Rd., Chatuchak  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand  
Tel: 66 2941 2724  
Fax: 66 2579 7687  
Email: [pitaya@ddd.go.th](mailto:pitaya@ddd.go.th)

Mrs. Waraporn Boonsorn  
Land Development Department,  
Phahonyothin Rd., Chatuchak  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand  
Tel: 66 2579 5571  
Fax: 66 2579 0772  
Email: [pld\\_7@ddd.go.th](mailto:pld_7@ddd.go.th)

The secretariat Email: [wfc14th@ddd.go.th](mailto:wfc14th@ddd.go.th)

[www.ddd.go.th/wfc14th](http://www.ddd.go.th/wfc14th)

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

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Fertilizers play an important role in meeting the greater food demand resulting from the rapid increase in world population. At the same time food quality, soil fertility, the waste of resources and environmental impacts of low fertilizer efficiency are important issues of fertilizer research and fertilization.

The 14<sup>th</sup> World Fertilizer Congress, jointly organized by CIEC and LDD will provide a forum to exchange the latest detailed information and achievements on fertilizer research, development, production and application since the 12<sup>th</sup> World Fertilizer Congress of CIEC (Beijing, China, August 2001), and will also fully discuss future developments. The Congress will address the following subjects:

1. Fertilization and Food Quality
2. Improvement and Maintenance of Soil Fertility
3. Fertilizer Use and its Impacts on Environment
4. Efficiency and New Fertilizer Development
5. Fertilizer Balances and Balanced Fertilization
6. Fertilization of Tropical Crops
7. Fertilization of Grasslands
8. Fertilization in Organic Farming
9. Fertilizer Recommendations in Small Farming
10. Production, Markets and Economics of Fertilizers.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> WORLD FERTILIZER CONGRESS

The objectives of the Congress are to bring together scientists from all over the world to discuss different aspects concerning fertilizer use. At the end of the Congress the delegates will have shared ideas, contributed to the body of knowledge concerning fertilizer use, and made friends and contacts for future research and the sharing of knowledge.

### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Chaiwat Sittibush** (Chairman of Organizing Committee)
- Pisut Pijarnsorn** (Organizing Committee)
- Supamard Panichsakpatana** (Scientific Committee)
- Sawasdee Boonchee** (Accommodation Committee)
- Apichat Chongsakul** (Ritual Committee)
- Rungsarid Boonsin** (Registration Committee)
- Viroj Hirunyupakorn** (Exhibition Committee)
- Taweesak Viarasilp** (Excursion Committee)
- Chumpol Lilittham** (Public Relations Committee)
- Chumphol Wattanasarn** (Treasurer Committee)
- Pitayakon Limtong** (Secretariat)
- Waraporn Boonsorn** (Secretariat)
- Kreeyaporn Devahastin** (Secretariat)

## CIEC SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

**Hera, Christian** (President of CIEC, Romania)  
**Schnug, Ewald** (Deputy President (Plannings) of CIEC, Germany)  
**Hofman, Georges** (Deputy President (Members) of CIEC, Belgium)  
**Nemeth, Tamas** (Secretary General of CIEC, Hungary)  
**Haneklaus, Silvia** (Deputy Secretary General of CIEC, Germany)

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Ahmed, Salah**, NRC Cairo (E)  
**Amar, Boujamar**, IMPHOS Casablanca (Ma)  
**Bannick, Claus**, UBA Dessau (D)  
**Becker, Mathias**, University of Bonn (D)  
**Betteridge, Keith**, AgResearch Palmerston (Nz)  
**Bielek, Pavul**, Soil Sci. Inst. Bratislava (Sk)  
**Bolan, Nanthi**, Massey-University, Palmerston (Nz)  
**Cermak, Pavel**, Soil Testing Inst. Brno (Cz)  
**De Kok, Luit, J.**, University of Groningen (NL)  
**Eichler, Bettina**, University of Rostock (D)  
**Gassner, Anja**, University of Sabah (My)  
**Gerendas, Joshka**, University of Kiel (D)  
**Gutser, Reinhold**, University of Munich (D)  
**Habib, Leila**, University of Tishreen (Sy)  
**Haerdter, Rolf**, K&S Poznan (Pl)  
**Hell, Ruediger**, University of Heidelberg (D)  
**Hu, Zhengyi**, CAS Nanjing (Cn)  
**Im-Erb, Rungsun**, LDD Bangkok (Th)  
**Ji, Lanzhu**, CAS Nanjing (Cn)  
**Kalra, Yash**, North. Forestry Centr., Edmonton (Ca)  
**Kimani, Stephen**, Agric. Res. Inst., Nairobi (Ke)  
**Koepke, Ulrich**, University of Bonn (D)  
**Maene, Luc**, IFA Paris (F)  
**Messick, Donald**, TSI Washington (USA)  
**Mineev, Vladislav**, Soil Inst., Moscow (Ru)  
**Montemuro, Francesco**, Inst. Sperm. Agron., Bari, (I)  
**Noor-Mohd, Faisal**, University of Sabah (My)  
**Panichsakpatana, Supamard**, Kasetsart University Bangkok (Th)  
**Papenbrock, Jutta**, University of Hanover (D)  
**Pedersen, Carl-Aage**, DAAC, Skejby (Dk)  
**Pongsakul, Pichit**, DOA Bangkok (Th)  
**Rahmann, Gerold**, Inst. of org. farming, Trenthorst (D)  
**Rosyadi, Imron**, University of Indonesia (Ind)  
**Saarela, Into**, MTTK Jokioinen (Fi)  
**Saifak, Kamron**, LDD Bangkok (Th)  
**Selmar, Dirk**, University of Braunschweig (D)  
**Sequi, Paolo**, CRA, Roma (I)  
**Singh, BalRam**, University of Aas (N)  
**Sparovek, Gerd**, ESALQ Sao Paulo (Br)

**Sytchev, Vladislav**, CINAO, Moscow (Ru)  
**Tonmanee, Nitayaporn**, LDD Bangkok (Th)  
**Tremblay, Nicolas**, Hort. Res. St. John-Sur-Mer (Ca)  
**Uzakbaeva, Jyldiz**, Forest Institut Bishkek (Kg)  
**Vago, Imre**, University of Debrecen (Hu)  
**Vagstad, Nils**, NHO Aas (N)  
**Van der Waals, Johan**, University of Pretoria (RSA)  
**Walker, Kerr**, SAC Edinburgh (UK)  
**Wang, Shiping**, CAS Beijing (Cn),

## KEY-NOTE LECTURES AND SPEAKERS

1. The soils P-engine (Eichler, Bettina (D))
2. Maintenance of nitrogen balances in intensive farming (Knudsen, Leif (Dk))
3. Fertilization with Rare Earth Elements (REE) (Hu, Zhengyi (Cn))
4. Protection of soils from pollution through fertilizers (Bannick, Claus (D))
5. Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for fertilizer use (Vagstad, Nils (N))
6. Physiological aspects of sulphur fertilization (De Kok, Luit, J. (NL))
7. The status quo of Precision Agriculture for fertilization (Betteridge, Keith (Nz))
8. Arsenic – an environmental threat from P-fertilizers? (Schmidt, Ahlert (D))
9. N.N. Thailand
10. N.N. Thailand
11. N.N.
12. N.N.

## SESSION TITLES AND SESSION ORGANIZERS

1. Nutrient requirements and fertilization of oil crops.  
Noor-Mohd, Faisal and Gassner, Anja (My)  
Nilnond, Chairatna (Thai)
2. Trade and market of fertilizers in Thailand  
Chitanond, Dusit (Th)
3. Fertilizers from industrial by-products  
Van der Waals, Johan (RSA)  
Panichsakpatana, Supamard (Th)
4. Management of manures and biofertilizers  
Hofman, Georges (B)  
Sartsanaragkit, Suriya (Th)
5. Nutrient dynamics  
Haneklaus, Silvia (D)  
Suwanarit, Amnat (Th)
6. Fertilization and environmental quality  
Vagstadt, Nils (N)  
Pongsakul, Pichit (Th)
7. Economics of fertilizer use  
Christian Noell (Dk)  
Kantangkul, Piti (Th)



8. Fertilization with Rare Earth Elements (REE)  
Hu Zhengyi (Cn)  
Parkpian, Preeda (Th)
9. Advanced aspects of fertilizer use in horticultural crops  
Tremblay, Nicolas (Ca)  
Prasittiketh Jirapong (Th)
10. Nutrient requirements and fertilization of industrial and energy crops  
Walker, Kerr (Scotland)  
Duangpatra, Piya (Th)
11. Methods and systems for fertilizer recommendations  
Vago, Imre (Hu)  
Attanandana, Tasnee (Th)
12. Advanced aspects of phosphorus fertilization  
Eichler, Bettina (D)  
N.N. (Th)
13. Fertilization in organic farming  
Ulrich Koepke (D)  
Ditsathaporn, Somkit (Th)
14. Nutrient requirement and fertilization of grassland  
Wang, Shiping (Cn)  
Tudsri, Sayan (Th)
15. Foliar fertilization and fertigation  
Rosyadi, Imron (Indonesia)  
Osatspa, Yongyooth (Th)
16. Genetic engineering and fertilizer efficiency  
Hell, Ruediger (D)  
Hongprayoon, Chawarit (Th)
17. Nutrient requirements and fertilization of forests  
Uzakbaeva, Jyldiz (Ky)  
Jamroenprucksa, Monton (Th)
18. Sulphur nutrition and sulphur fertilization of crop plants  
De Kok, Luit, J. (NL)  
Phimsarn, Sathien (Th)
19. Fertilization and food quality  
Hera, Christian (Ro)  
N.N. (Th)

## ABSTRACTS

Delegates are invited to submit English abstracts of not more than 300 words (excluding titles and authors affiliation).

All page margins should be one inch.

All text should be 12-point font and Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing.

The TITLE should be short, concise, and indicative of the abstract. CAPITALIZE and **BOLD** all letters in the title and centre.

The Author's name should follow the title (allow two open lines between title and author name and author name and abstract body). The name should be in bold, but not capitalized. Use an asterisk (\*) after the name to indicate the corresponding author. If the corresponding author and the presenter of the paper are different, please indicate. Author names and addresses should be centred.

Provide an e-mail address and postal address of the corresponding author.

Abstract body should be justified left and right. The word "**Abstract**" should be directly above the body of the abstract.

The submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and the decision will be forwarded to the corresponding author until October 15, 2005.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### INTERNET ACCESS

The Organizing Committee will make arrangements to provide participants with a limited number of computers connected to the Internet. The Hotel has an excellent Business Centre that can cater for most needs. Internet cafes are common throughout Thailand and there are several cafes in close proximity to the congress venue.

### VISA

Temporary participants to Thailand for the purpose of pleasure are exempt from applying for an entry visa if your stay is 30 days or less and you are a holder of a valid passport from the following countries:

**America:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and USA.

**Asia:** Bahrain, Brunei, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, The Union of Myanmar, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

**Pacific:** Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Independent State of Samoa.

**Africa:** Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia.

**Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK.

For participants coming from countries other than those mentioned above, please, contact the Royal Thai Embassy in your country (Royal Thai Embassies) to determine visa requirements to enter the Kingdom of Thailand. It is advised that you make arrangements

to obtain a visa to enter Thailand as soon as possible as there may be delays in processing applications. If an official invitation letter is required, please, contact the secretariat of the 14<sup>th</sup> WFC, wfc14th@ltd.go.th

## **CURRENCY**

The local currency is Thai Baht. All transactions in Thailand should be done in Baht. Converting foreign denominations into Baht can be undertaken at banks and foreign exchange counters that can be found on arrival at international airports and in the hotel or at many places around major cities.

## **CREDIT CARD**

Commonly accepted credit cards in hotels and restaurants and shops within these venues are MasterCard, American Express and Visa. Restaurants and shops generally display signs indicating which cards are accepted.

## **CASH DISPENSER (ATM)**

Automatic tellers (ATM) or banking machines can be found throughout Thailand and there are several at the airport or in close proximities to the congress venue. Please, check before leaving your country as to whether you can use these facilities in Thailand with your personal credit card.

## **AIRPORT TAX**

On departure from Thailand a Baht 500 tax is payable at time of departure from international airports.

## **HEALTH REQUIREMENT**

A vaccination certificate against yellow fever is required for participants from or traveling through endemic areas of Africa and South America. Please check with your local health officials to see whether these conditions apply to you.

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## **A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CIEC**

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The International Scientific Center of Fertilizers (CIEC) is a non-profit and non-governmental international scientific society founded in 1933. CIEC is an association of scientists, scientific institutions, fertilizer industries and trade companies, agricultural consulting services and any other fertilizer-minded institution or person that is interested in plant nutrition, soil testing for plant nutrient needs, fertilizer demand and for the evaluation, application and technology of fertilizers (mineral and organic). For further information you are welcome to visit <http://www.pb.fal.de/en/>. The central scientific event organised by CIEC is the World Fertiliser Congress (WFC, list of former events see below) which is held every 4 years and brings together scientists and decision makers interested in soil fertility and fertilizer use from all over the world.

## THE 14<sup>th</sup> WORLD FERTILIZER CONGRESS TOUR

### PRE-CONGRESS TOUR PROGRAM (20-22 January 2006)

#### Day 1 \*Fertilizer Manufacture

- Organic Fertilizer (Khun Chet Rangsit) and/or
- Bio Fertilizer (TISTR) and/or
- Mineral Fertilizer (Rung Aroon Fertilizer)

#### \*Ayuthaya Ancient Capital tour program

- Bang Pa In Summer Palace
- Bang Sai Handicraft Center
- Ayuthaya Old Capital Tour

#### \*Overnight Ayuthaya / Night program

#### Day 2 \*Angthong province /Bang Chao Cha Village

- Agro-tour program
- OTOP Village

#### \*DOA Field Crop Research Center or Rice Research Center /Chai-nat province

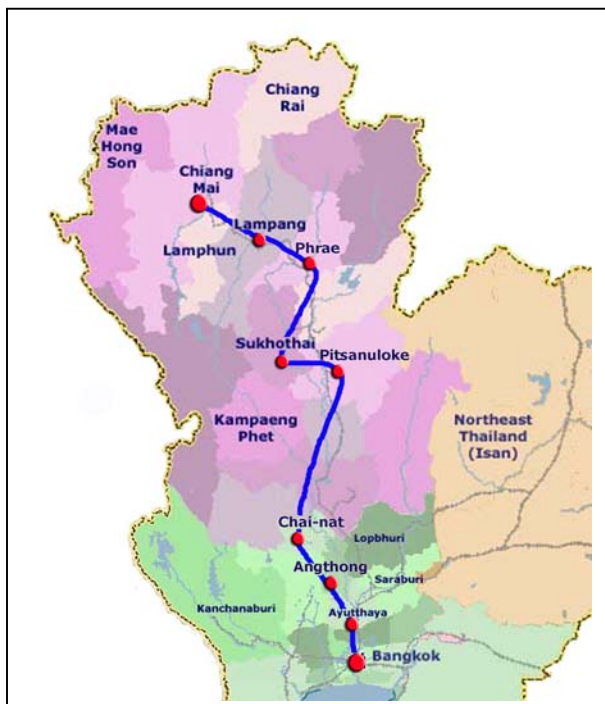
#### \*Overnight Pitsanuloke / Night program

#### Day 3 \*Pitsanuloke Tour program

- Budha Chinaraj Temple
- \*Sukhothai Tour program
- Sukhothai Old Capital Tour

#### \*Phrae/Lampang

Arrive Chiang Mai



Route map of Pre- and Post- Congress Tour

### Route map of Mid Congress Tour



## **MID-CONGRESS TOUR PROGRAMS (25 January 2006)**

### **Route 1: Mae Rim Trip**

- 0800 Leave hotel for  
 1100 *Stop 1:* Nong Hoi Royal Development Center,  
 Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai  
 1130 *Stop 2:* Farmer field and leave for lunch  
 1330 *Stop 3:* Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, Mae Rim district  
 1530 *Stop 4:* Mae Ram Orchid and Butterfly Farm, Mae Rim District  
 1700 Back to hotel

### **Route 2: Huai Hong Khrai**

- 0800 Leave hotel for  
 1200 *Stop 1:* Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Center,  
 Doi Saket District, Chiang Mai  
 1330 *Stop 2:* Mae Jo University and/or DOA Mae Jo Field Crop Research Center  
 1530 *Stop 3:* Bo Sang Handicraft Center, San Kamphaeng District  
 1700 Back to hotel

### **Route 3: San Pa Tong Trip**

- 0800 Leave hotel  
 0930 *Stop 1:* Multiple Cropping Center, Faculty of Agriculture,  
 Chiang Mai University  
 1100 *Stop 2:* Roi-Un-Pan-Yang, Traditional Lanna Woodcraft Center  
 1300 *Stop 3:* San Pa Tong DOA Rice Research Center  
 1500 *Stop 4:* Ban Tawai Handicraft Village  
 1700 Back to hotel

### **Route 4: Doi Pui Trip**

- 0800 Leave hotel  
 0930 *Stop 1:* Wat Phratat Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai  
 1100 *Stop 2:* Doi Pui Highland Agricultural Research Center  
 1300 *Stop 3:* Phuping Palace  
 1400 *Stop 4:* Doi Pui Tribal Village  
 1700 Back to hotel

## **POST-CONGRESS TOUR PROGRAM (28-31 January 2006)**

### **Day 1 \*High Land Development Program**

- Doi Tung Highland Agricultural Extension Center,  
 Mae Fa Luang District, Chiang Rai
- **Doi Tung Development Project overview and visit Macadamia  
 and Coffee Plantations**
- Doi Tung Royal Villa and Mae Fa Luang Garden
- **Doi Tung Royal handicraft and cottage industries activities**
- Lanna Dinner /Overnight Chiang Rai province

### **Day 2 \*The Golden Triangle and Opium Museum**

- The Opium Museum
- **The Golden Triangle**
- Pan Rice Research Station
- **The Kwan Phayao fresh-water Lake**
- Overnight Lampang Province

**Day 3 \*OTOP Program**

- Lampang Land Development station
- **Elephant school, Lampang**
- **Lampang Ceramic factory**
- Overnight Phetchaboon

**Day 4 \*Highland Agriculture**

- **Kao Kor Highland Research Station, DOA**
- **Herbal Production “Kao Kor Thalae Pu”**
- B N Plantation
- Arrive Bangkok

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## **INFORMATION OF PRE- AND POST- CONGRESS TOUR**

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**Ayutthaya**

The capitol of Siam from the mid-fifteenth century until it was sacked by the Burmese in the late eighteenth century. The center of the old capitol was on a large island and this is where most of the main palaces as well as the national museum are located. However, take the time to see the many old temples spread along both banks of the river. The capitol was also where emissaries of France, England and other European powers first made contact with the court of Siam.

**Bang Pa In Summer Palace**

A relatively modern royal retreat on an island in the Chao Phraya river. A rather tour-de-force in styles ranging from Thai houseboat to art nouveau to Chinese pagoda.

**Bang Sai Folk Arts & Crafts Center**

Located on the banks of the Chao Phraya river, the Bang Sai center was founded by her majesty the queen to preserve traditional arts and crafts. A large store cum museum was opened in 1998 to sell the products of the craftsmen, as well as display paintings, ceramics and other arts. You can wander through workshops to see the students in action.

**Ang Thong**

Ang Thong is a small province on the bank of the Chao Phraya River. The former settlement is at Wiset Chai Chan on the bank of the Noi River. It was an essential frontier outpost of Ayutthaya when fighting with the Burmese. The majority of the people were later moved to a new site on the left bank of the Chao Phraya River during the Thon Buri period.

**Bang Chao Cha village**

The Bang Chao Cha village is located in Amphoe Pho Thong, 14 kilometres from the town. The villagers have retained the art of traditional basketry and make old patterns as well as create modern designs. The bamboo baskets are made in various shapes and sizes, and can be used in many ways. Estimated price : -??

**Phitsanulok**

Phitsanulok province covers some 10,584.5 sq.km. The riverside provincial capital is 377 kms. North of Bangkok. Phitsanulok is situated on the geographical and administrative line uniting the central and northern regions.

Phitsanulok was the birthplace of King Naresuan the Great of Ayuthaya (reign : 1590 - 1605), and his brother Prince Ekathosarot. Phitsanulok has long been an important center for political and strategic reasons. Phitsanulok was a major center of recruitment when Ayuthaya waged war with Burma, and was the capital of Thailand for 25 years during the 1448-1488 reign of Ayuthayas King Boromtrailokanat

### **Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat**

This monastery commonly called by the inhabitants as "Wat Yai" is the most important monastery of Phitsanulok, the home of the famous Phra Buddha Chinnarat. It is located at the foot of Naresuan Bridge on the city side of the river. The monastery was built in the reign of Phra Maha Thamma Racha I (Phraya Lithai) In 1357 A.D. It houses the Phra Buddha Chinnarat regarded as the most beautiful Buddha image in Thailand. It is cast in the attitude of subduing? evil. Later, in 1631, King Ekatosarot graciously bestowed some of his gold regalia to be beaten into gold - plate and applied them to the image worth his own hands, creating its most beautiful Buddha image. There are many other beautiful and noteworthy items in the monastery compound. The mother of - pearl inlaid wooden doors of Vihara - are especially splendid, and were built by King Boromkot in 1756 as a dedication to phra Buddha Chinarat. Behind the Vihara, there is a large Prang 36 meters high, with a staircase leading up to the niche containing the Buddha relics. In front of the Prang, there is Phra Attharos, and on the 9 room Vihara slope. There remains only the newly-renovated Buddha image.

### **Sukhothai**

Sukhothai which literally means "Dawn of Happiness" with an area of 6,596 sq.kms, is about 427 kms (267 miles) north of Bangkok and was founded in 1238. Sukhothai was the capital of Thailand for approximately 120 years.

### **The Sukhothai Historical Park**

This is located 12 kms from town on the Sukhothai-Tak Highway. It is open daily 08.30-16.30 hrs. Admission fee is 40 baht. Ruins of the royal palaces, Buddhist temples, the city gates, walls, moats, dams, ditches, ponds, canals, and the water dyke control system, which was the magical and spiritual center of the kingdom, are now preserved and have been restored by the Fine Arts Department with the cooperation of UNESCO, not only with a view of fostering Thailand's national identity but the safeguarding a fine example of mankind's cultural heritage. The tourist Service Center is near Wat Phra Phai Luang. The center provides information and facilitates visitors to the Sukhothai Historical Park, as well as displays models of historical buildings and structures in old Sukhothai.

### **Lampang**

Lampang is situated on the right back of Mae Nam Wang and lies 559 kilometres north of Bangkok at the junction of highways of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, with an area of 12,543 sq.kms.

Lampang lays? claim to two unique features: it is the sole Thai town still using colourful horse drawn carriages as a mean of everyday urban transport and it claims to have the world's only training school for baby elephants. Both attractions account for the bulk of Lampang's Thai and foreign visitors.

## **Phrae**

The province of Phrae may be somewhat off the beaten track, but its undiscovered treasures are well worth noting is the annual Rocket Festival, which marks the beginning of the ricegrowing season in May.

Phrae is quite a prosperous province due to lucrative coal mining and, until recently, lodging?logging businesses. The town is popular as a manufacturing centre for rattan furniture and the indigodyed farmers' shirts which are worn all over Thailand as a symbol of solidarity with rural Thai life.

One of the attractions of Phrae is its eclectic blend of temple architecture. Traditional Lanna architecture, with its multi-tiered roofs, is seen side by side with examples of Burmese and Lao temple architecture.

## **Chiang Mai**

Situated between north latitude 17-21 and east longitude 98-99, the province of Chiang Mai is found in the upper area of Thailand's northern region. The distance from Chiang Mai to Bangkok is 750 kilometres (468.75 miles). Chiang Mai valley is 310 meters (1,027 feet) above sea level, and its land covers 20,107 square kilometres. The widest point of the province of Chiang Mai measures 136 kilometres (85 miles), and the longest 320 kilometres (200 miles).

To the north, a 227 kilometer (141.82 miles) stretch of mountains divides Chiang Mai northern districts of Fang and Mae Ai from Burma Chiang Tung (Shan) state. In certain areas, the Kok River also acts as a border between Chiang Mai and Burma. On the east, Chiang Mai is bordered by the Chiang Rai, Lampang and Lamphun provinces. The Mae Tuen River, ream Mountain and Luang Mountain separate Chiang Mai South from the province of Tak. Some portions of Chiang Mai South also border the Lamphun province. To the west, Chiang Mai is bordered by Mae Hong Son Province.

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## **MID-CONGRESS TOUR**

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### **Route1**

#### **Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden**

This botanical garden, which covers a mountainous area of 560 acres, is located around 12 Kms along the Mae Rim-Samoeng route. This international botanical garden with a fine collection of Thai and foreign plants exhibited according to species and climate was established in 1992 to honor Queen Sirikit.

#### **Mae Rim Orchid and Butterfly Farm**

This plantation has been established for over 20 years and is famous for breeding a variety of species of orchids using appropriate technology. In addition to learn about orchid breeding, it is also possible to learn about various butterfly species.

### **Route2**

#### **Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Center**

Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Center is situated in the area of "Pa Khun Mae Kuang" National Reserved Forest covering an area of approximately 8,500 rai (1,360 hectares). Pa Khun Mae Kuang is a forest with mixed deciduous in the northern part suitable for conservation study as watershed area in the central and southern sections, there are deteriorate forest suitable for the study of agricultural development.



### **Bo Sang & San Kamphaeng**

Bo Sang & San Kamphaeng route is the most famous route for those in search of excellent handicrafts. On both sides of San Kamphaeng Road, are showrooms and factories where you can see how the products including silk, cotton, lacquer ware, ceramics, silverware, leather ware, umbrellas, woodcarvings and antiques are actually produced.

Bor Sang - the world famous village which sells cotton umbrellas and paper parasols hand painted in wide varieties of floral and animals designs. Bor Sang (which translates into umbrella) was once a tiny village where generations of families engaged in umbrella and parasol making, labouring beneath their raised teak houses to craft bamboo, string and paper (made from the bark of the mulberry tree) into marvels of engineering. Today, the production has become an industry but the umbrellas are still made by hand and tourists from all around the world make a stop here to admire and buy the crafts.

### **Route3**

#### **Ban Roi An Phan Yang**

A privately owned 4-story museum and arts collection displaying wood carving in Chiangmai Province. This amazing and unbelievable place is located on the Chiangmai – Sanpatong highway between kilometer 19 and 20. The museum is a traditional Lanna - style house containing a large collection of valuable and very hard to find wood carvings from small to large sizes which were made by local carvers.

#### **Ban Tawai**

Woodcarving is a traditional northern Thai art featured in numerous temples. This tradition has been passed on for generations so it can be preserved in different ways. Furniture carving is considered one way of preservation. Teak, rosewood and rattan are being crafted both in traditional and modern designs. Woodcarving products range from gracing screens, chairs, tables, beds, to carved elephants, figurines and tableware. You can easily find them in shops located in San Kamphaeng and Ban Tawai (apparently Thailand's woodcarving capital).

### **Route4**

#### **Wat Phrattat Doi Suthep**

Locals would say, "You haven't really gone to Chiang Mai unless you've been to Wat Phrattat Doi Suthep". Truly, the place is the most important and famous Chiang Mai landmark. Built in 1383, this mountaintop temple has a chedi (pagoda) that houses holy Buddha relics. The gold-plated chedi lies in the middle of a square marble-tiled courtyard. The four corners of the chedi are adorned with parasols which represent royal regalia. The temple's courtyard is lined by a cloister, which contains images and murals depicting Buddha's life. There are also two viharns situated in the middle of the east and west sides of the cloister. This temple is 15 kilometres from town and is 3,520 feet above sea level. It is the perfect place to get a bird's eye view of the city. The temple can be reached via a steep Naga staircase comprised of 290 steps or railcars.

**Phuping Palace**

After Doi Suthep, the road continues to climb through pine forest to Phuping Palace on Doi Buak Ha, 22 kms from town. Phuping Palace, built in 1962, is a summer residence of the royal family, used as headquarters for overseeing development projects in northern Thai and hilltribe villages. Phuping Palace is a beautiful place full of flowers, a lot of trees and places to walk.

**Doi Pui Village**

A 'seelor' (red pick-up converted in local taxi) will continue for about 3 Kms to the Hmong tribal village of Doi Pui - which will give you vignettes of modern hilltribe life. Of interest in the village are also the Opium Museum and the Hilltribe Museum. For centuries, the tribe has been an opium grower of importance. The Opium Museum documents how the crop is cultivated and processed, and displays some of the implements used in opium production. The Hilltribe Museum exhibits those used in the Hmong daily life.