

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

All foreign visitors entering Thailand must be in possession of a valid passport or other traveling documents endorsed and valid for Thailand. Visitors of most nations can get a 30-day visa upon arrival, whilst those staying longer than 30 days will require a visa to be issued before arrival in Thailand. The Organizing Committee recommends that you contact the nearest Embassy/Consulate of Thailand to determine the visa requirements in your specific case. Check the latest information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.maf.go.th>.

## CURRENCY/BANKING

Thai currency is the Thai Baht (THB), the exchange rate with US Dollar (USD) is approximately 1 USD = 33 THB. Foreign currency changes are available at the airport and provide the same rates as in town and better rates than in hotels. Most local businesses prefer Thai Baht as payment. However, major currencies, e.g. USD, EUR, GBP, HKD, SGD, are also accepted by some hotels and stores at a reasonable rate of exchange, but, usually somewhat lower than that offered by banking institutions. Credit cards, e.g. VISA, Master Card, and AMEX are accepted by most local commercial establishments.

## TIME

The entire country has one standard time which is 7 hours earlier than the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT + 7 hrs).

## CLIMATE/CLOTHING

Thailand has a tropical climate with three seasons: summer (hot and dry) from March through May, Rainy (mild and wet) from June to October, and winter (cool and dry) from November throughout February. September is a rather pleasant time with some rains in Bangkok with temperatures ranging from 22 to 30 degrees Celsius during the day. For the most part, casual, lightweight attire will be appropriate for the Congress. For those who take tours to northern Thailand, a light jacket is recommended.

## ACCOMMODATION

For accommodation, delegates will have choices of preferred rates from among the following Bangkok hotels:

Centara Grand at Central World (Host Site of Conference)

16-18 September 2009  
Bangkok, Thailand



Intercontinental Bangkok  
Pan Pacific Bangkok  
Holiday Inn Bangkok  
Baiyoke Sky  
Baiyoke Suites

Reservation links to individual hotels will be provided on the WBC website or can be made via the event coordinator.

## POST-CONFERENCE EXCURSIONS

Post conference excursions will be arranged starting from Bangkok on Sunday, September 20. Apart from a variety of technical visits, they will include tourist attractions to balance entertainment with scientifically oriented features. Excursion fees will cover transportation, accommodation, meals and entry fees to all special events and attractions. Delegates wishing to participate in the excursion should use the registration form and provide a deposit to confirm their space. Delegates are also advised to register early since booking will be accepted on a first come, first-serve basis.

### TOUR 1: The Northern Thailand

Route: Bangkok/Chiang Mai/Lampang/Phayao/Chiangrai  
Transportation: Air (Bangkok/Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai/Bangkok), Bus (Remaining)  
Duration: 5 days  
Fee: Approx. USD 600. (to be confirmed by the time registration opens)

**Technical visits:** Thai Elephant Conservation Center in Lampang/FIO (Forest Industrial Organization), teak and bamboo plantations and nursery center in Lampang/RFD (Royal Forest Department), teak improvement center in Lampang/RFD, teak seed orchard in Phayao, evergreen forest in Chiangrai, forest and agriculture projects at Royal Agricultural Station Angkhang in Chiang Mai, and Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden in Chiang Mai.

**Other attractions:** Wood carving district in Lampang, OTOP products in Chiang Mai, Doi Suthep Temple in Chiang Mai.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The minimum number of participants in each tour shall be announced. The organizer reserves the right to cancel a tour if the number of participants is less. In such case, participants may choose a replacement tour or receive a full refund.



Official Announcement



World Bamboo



16-18 September 2009 Bangkok, Thailand

Bamboo,  
the Environment  
and Climate Change

## VIII World Bamboo Congress 16-18 September 2009

Hosting Organization :  
World Bamboo Organization, [www.worldbamboo.net](http://www.worldbamboo.net)

Official Event Coordinator :  
Equinox Marketing Ltd. : [www.equinoxmarketing.com](http://www.equinoxmarketing.com)

### International Organizing Committee (IOC)

- Dr. Victor Brias, Oprins Plant NV, Belgium – Chairman
- Director General, RFD, Thailand - Co Chairman
- Director General, DNP, Thailand – Co Chairman
- Mr. Thomas Lindley, Australian Bamboo Society – Co Chairman
- Mr. Kamesh Salam, WBO/CBTC, India- Organizing Secretary
- Ms. Susanne Lucas, WBO, USA
- Mr. Junji Kagata , Take Hei Inc., Japan
- Dr. Fu Jinhe, INBAR, China
- President, Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Mr. Harsh Adhyapak, Equinox Marketing Ltd, Thailand

### Organizing Partners

- Royal Forest Department (RFD)
- National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP)
- Kasetsart University Faculty of Forestry (KUFF)

### Important Congress Dates

November 2008	First Announcement
1 January 2009	Registration opens and Call for papers
15 April	Last date for receipt of paper submittals
31 May	Completion of selection of papers (both oral and posters)
15 July	Last date for submission of edited papers for proceedings
16 September	VIII World Bamboo Congress begins
18 September	Concluding session and Declaration of World Bamboo Day
19 September	Post-conference tours begin

Official Congress Website: [www.worldbambocongress.org](http://www.worldbambocongress.org)

World Bamboo Organization Website: [www.worldbamboo.net](http://www.worldbamboo.net)

## BACKGROUND

The importance of bamboo to the world economy and its people is enormous. A vast portion of rural poor in developing countries depend on bamboo resources for their livelihood and well-being. The growth of industries and the mega trade of bamboo products contribute significantly to employment and foreign exchange earnings in many developing countries. The potential of bamboo to help fuel rural, economic and industrial development has been bolstered by national and international bamboo workshops and conferences, which have encouraged global interaction through improved networking and sharing of actions. These events have contributed substantially to the development of the bamboo sector throughout the world and have raised the profile of bamboo amongst peoples, institutions and governments.

The VIII WBC is expected to be the largest and most focussed gathering of bamboo practitioners and decision makers in history. An estimated 600 delegates from about 40 countries are expected to attend the WBC, and thousands will attend the Bamboo Expo.

## THE CONGRESS PROGRAM

The VIII World Bamboo Congress is intended to focus attention on the role of bamboo in rural, economic, industrial, and environmental development. The congress will cover the following program fields of interest:

- Architecture, Engineering and Social Housing
- Protection and Construction
- Community and Economic development
- Industrial Aspects
- Products – Design and Technologies
- Plantation Development and Management
- Resources, Standards and Policy
- Biological Aspects
- Ecology and Environmental Concerns
- Horticulture and Landscape Design
- Regional Reports

And other topics to be determined

The Congress Program is currently under development. Tentative program details will be posted on the website, [www.worldbambocongress.org](http://www.worldbambocongress.org). Stay tuned for updates.

**A Bamboo Expo will be held along with the congress.**

**Registration will begin January 1, 2009.**

**For full details, go to official congress website: [WWW.WORLDBAMBOOCONGRESS.ORG](http://WWW.WORLDBAMBOOCONGRESS.ORG)**

## REGISTRATION FEE

Online registration is open from 1 January 2009. Early registration is recommended to confirm your participation in the World Bamboo Congress. Please note that there will be no on-site registration or refund for cancellation/absence. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding arrangements or registration. The registration fees are as follows:

Registration fee	Before 31 March 2009	After 1 April 2009
Developed Nations	300 USD	350 USD
Developing Nations	250 USD	300 USD
Students and ASEAN Nations	200 USD	250 USD

### Registration fee includes:

- Participation in the session's meetings of the conference;
- Participation in the opening and closing ceremonies;
- Admittance to the ice breaking party, welcome and farewell reception;
- Lunch and breaks during technical sessions and one day field visit;
- Conference proceedings.

## HOW TO REGISTER AND PAY

On-line registration will open on 1 January 2009.

## CONTACT PERSONS

1. Mr. Harsh Adhyapak – Event coordinator, Equinox Marketing Co., Ltd. E-Mail: [wbc2009@hottdesk.com](mailto:wbc2009@hottdesk.com)  
Cell: + (6681) 807 245, Fax: (662) 231-8121
2. Mr. Kamesh Salam- President WBO and Conference Secretary, Email: [kamesh@caneandbamboo.org](mailto:kamesh@caneandbamboo.org)
3. Mr. Smit Boonsermsuk, RFD, Email: [smit98@hotmail.com](mailto:smit98@hotmail.com)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### THAILAND

The kingdom of Thailand, lying in the heart of Southeast Asia, is bound to the north and northeast by the Lao PDR, to the north and west by the Union of Myanmar, to the east by the Gulf of Thailand and Cambodia, to the west by the Andaman Sea and the Union of Myanmar, and to the south by Malaysia.

Thailand's bustling capital, Bangkok, is one of the world's most exciting and exotic cities, a dramatic contrast of ancient traditions and modern culture. The city has a feast of attractions to offer: glittering Buddhist temples, magnificent palaces, classical dance extravaganzas, traditional cultures and world-class cuisine.

For more details please visit the official Bangkok website: [www.bangkoktourist.com](http://www.bangkoktourist.com).