

TTR weekly

VOL 42, ISSUE 35, 14 - 20 October 2019

NEWS FOR SOUTHEAST'S ASIA TRAVEL PLANNERS

Daily NEWS UPDATES at www.ttrweekly.com



MEKONG

Luang Prabang dam threatens Mekong River.

PAGE 6.



TRAVEL DEALS

THAI offers cash top-up on award fares.

PAGE 8.



YOUR STORIES

Countdown begins to Royal Barge spectacle.

PAGE 12.

Travel to Vietnam soars

Vietnam closes third quarter of 2019 with 12.8 million visits and is well positioned to hit the year-end target.

VIETNAM'S tourist arrivals increased by a respectable 10.8% in the first nine months of the year to reach a record 12,870,506 trips.

September closed with 1,561,274 up by an impressive 28.8% year-on-year, prompting officials to say the country is right on target to reach its 2019 goal of 18 million visits.

More than half of the 12.8 million visits during the nine months came from China and South Korea. First-placed China supplied 3,977,183 visits, January to September, up by a modest 4.4%. Visits from second-placed South Korea clocked 3,140,693 up by a remarkable 22.5%.

Growth wise South Korea appears to have a stronger momentum than the China market, and spending is higher.

Travel from Japan (third place) registered a 14% increase to reach 712,532 visits. Fourth-placed Taiwan also recorded a healthy 27.8% growth from January to September clocking 674,771 visits. The USA is the only non-Asian source market in the top five with 569,113 visits up 7.7%.

Standout source markets in Asia worth watching include Thailand that delivered 345,305 visits with an increase of 46%. Indonesia supplied 79,419 and improved 18.9% while Malaysia with 433,287 visits increased 13.5%.

Despite more than four months of disruption and civil unrest, Hong Kong residents found time to visit Vietnam. Over the nine months, they clocked 30,804 trips, and year-to-date visits soared by a massive 70.3%.

Asia dominates Vietnam's tourism



markets delivering more than 10 million of the 12.8 million arrivals through to September. In contrast, Europe provides 1.6 million. However, with more flights planned from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to major cities in Europe, Vietnam

should see an increase in leisure traffic. But to achieve progress in the EU markets, Vietnam needs to keep in place its visa-free travel facilities beyond 2020 and ensure its eVisa is more user-friendly.

Cambodia Air flies to Danang

CAMBODIA Angkor Air will launch a new service, 27 October, linking Phnom Penh and Danang, a coastal gateway city in central Vietnam.

The airline already flies from Siem Reap to Danang creating a direct flight between World Heritage towns in Vietnam's central region (Hue and Hoi An) and Siem Reap home of Cambodia's World Heritage Angkor Historical Park.

There are around 112 flights a week connecting Cambodia and Vietnam.

According to a report in the Khmer Times, Monday, the Cambodia Association of Travel Agents president Chhay Sivlin noted more Vietnamese

tourists are visiting Cambodia.

"The new flight will bring in more Vietnamese tourists and also foreign tourists who Danang," she said.

In earlier reports, Tourism Minister Thong Khon urged airlines in Vietnam to increase flights to Cambodia, particularly to Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville a coast town.

He forecast that 1 million Vietnamese tourists would visit Cambodia in 2020.

Khmer Times reported that Cambodia and Vietnam have agreed to develop marine tourism starting with a new port in Kampot province due to open in 2021 for ferry services.

EDITOR'S POST

Dams will destroy the Mekong

Every day thousands of tourists soak up life on the Mekong River, the seventh longest river in Asia. They take cruises, stay at boutique hotels or tuck into a grand lunch at a riverside restaurant. The river is the most compelling reason they travel to a string of destinations in the six Mekong Region countries.

Yet it is in mortal danger as countries dam the flow, and that threatens the very existence of rural communities, the economy, agriculture, fisheries, essential transport and in recent years tourism.

Tourism is billed as a lifesaver that brings countless job opportunities and lifts towns and communities out of the poverty trap.

Thailand's entire tourism strategy today revolves around the challenge of dispersing millions of tourists to second destinations, and many of them are towns on the Mekong River.

The river lends its name to a very successful marketing effort funded by the six countries Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Together they create campaigns and initiatives like the recent MIST that recognises and supports travel startup companies in the six-county region.

For decades the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office languished on the fringes of mainstream tourism. Today its voice is heard in major tourism summits including the auspicious gatherings of the UNWTO.

Optimists in tourism and there are many, suggest Mekong Tourism is on the cusp of success. Yet there is

the clear and present danger that this iconic river flowing from the Himalayan ranges in China to Vietnam's rice bowl delta on the South China Sea will be transformed into a series of artificial stepped lakes as governments build more dams.

Save the Mekong Coalition has highlighted the crisis spelling out the stark reality that we could be the last generation to cruise down this river or even admire its vastness and power.

The river is a driver of sustainable tourism in the region, and that role will be in jeopardy if plans for multiple dams materialise. Sadly the pleas of Save the Mekong Coalition are ignored by the travel industry that thrives off the Mekong River "tourism gems" and assets.

In the past, the travel industry could escape criticism by saying it was "none of our business." Today, sitting on the fence is an unacceptable response. The Mekong Region's tourism industry should be more vocal on issues that seriously impact on the region's greatest asset — its river.

The MTCO is funded by the six governments and that simple fact muzzles any attempt by its director to speak out against the construction of dams on the river. It would be career suicide. Asian Development Bank is a keen supporter of Mekong Tourism and backs MTCO activities designed to improve the tourism economies of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. It too is failing to lend its voice to campaigns to save the river.

Our report on the Save the Mekong Coalition campaign earlier this week gained just one comment. The reader who sailed the navigational sections* of this mighty river said; "The Mekong River is really threatened. With the three dams, you mentioned it would be the last days of the mighty and mysterious Mekong River.

Also, down in the south, a dam will destroy Si Phan Don as one of the last natural paradises in mainland Southeast Asia."

Don Ross, editor

Follow us on:



TTR Weekly is a controlled circulation newspaper for the travel industry specialising in Thailand and the Mekong region. Published every Wednesday, alternatively in English, the publication is distributed free to travel agents. Available on subscription outside this qualifying category. Published by Ross Publishing Ltd.

Managing editor: Don Ross: donr@rosstr.com

EDITORIAL: news@rosstr.com
Editor: Don Ross

MARKETING: sales@rosstr.com Tel: +66 82 829 6455
Content editor: Danai Stephen Ross
Publishing director: Lars Magnusson

PRODUCTION: info@rosstr.com
Creative director: Danai Stephen Ross
Graphics: Suradej Chatsomsiri,
Kamolapat Srivriwan

New travel tech show launches in 2020

Travel Tech Asia 2020 will be co-located with ITB Asia and MICE Show Asia 2020 giving Messe Berlin (Singapore) three shows in one week.

MESE Berlin (Singapore) will host a brand new show Travel Tech Asia 2020 in Singapore, 21 to 23 October 2020.

The brand new three-day conference will take place at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre at Marina Bay Sands at the close of ITB Asia.

"In recent years, we have seen a remarkable development in travel technology and the integral role it is playing for the travel industry. Travel Tech Asia 2020 aims to provide the

community with a platform for in-depth discussions on how technology can disrupt and transform the travel landscape," said Messe Berlin (Singapore) Managing Director Katrina Leung.

Travel Tech Asia will bring together a fresh set of buyer participants, identified

in travel.

Innovations surrounding e-commerce, internet of things in hospitality, transportation, AI, VR and AR, big data and cloud, payment solutions and revenue management and optimisation, will also be featured at the show to showcase the possibilities in travel tech and how it is set to revolutionise the industry.

Exhibitors at the show will include industries such as artificial intelligence, booking, reservations and metasearch, hotel tech, virtual reality and augmented reality, voice and biometrics, data, personalisation and mobile marketing, revenue management and optimisation and more.

As technologies continue to fuel record growth in the travel industry, Travel Tech Asia 2020 will see new exhibitors catered explicitly for the travel tech industry.

Super Early Bird rates for exhibiting at the inaugural Travel Tech Asia 2020 are on offer until 31 October 2019.

For more information on Travel Tech Asia 2020, visit www.traveltechasia.com/ **About Travel Tech Asia 2020**

Travel Tech Asia 2020 will take place at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore from 21 to 23 October 2020.

as 'tech buyers'. They are mainly made up of top executives in distribution, sales and marketing, e-commerce and IT from hotels, travel agencies, airlines, tours and activities.

Conference speakers will share information on emerging technologies, trends, ideas and applicable case studies that will set the stage for new possibilities

Outrigger Laguna opens ballroom

OUTRIGGER Laguna Phuket Beach Resort, in Laguna Phuket, has announced the opening of a new meeting and events centre in January 2020.

The new facility transforms the beachfront resort into "the complete meeting venue," said general manager, Tony Pedroni.

The new 'Similan Ballroom' meetings and events centre will offer 640 square metres of flexible meeting and exhibition space including a pillar-less ballroom with six-metre-high ceilings with movable partition walls. The new venue features audio-visual technical excellence with complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi throughout.

The new complex will target the meeting sector across the Asia Pacific, local business gatherings in Phuket and

major weddings.

The new set-up features a large pre-function area, a VIP lounge, space for 350 guests theatre-style, and includes the resort's existing three meeting rooms totalling 320 sqm.

The new standalone convention centre has a dedicated private entrance to the left of the resort lobby.

"The magnificent new Similan event space compliments the ever-expanding range of services and visitor experiences offered in Laguna Phuket and the immediate neighbourhood," says Pedroni.

"The whole area is now defined by superlative shopping, entertainment, dining and active lifestyle options for sport,



ecotourism and responsible event hosting."

On environmental innovation for the meetings sector, the 255-key Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort has adopted a proactive campaign against single-use plastics. The resort's green commitment addresses the key issues of plastic bags, food containers, straws, capped water bottles and utensils. Responsible 'green' events will be central to Outrigger's MICE offering.

Voice will take over type and swipe

Experts predict the top five tech trends for business travel in Southeast Asia.

'SUPER APPS', voice-enabled bookings and 5G rollout will have a significant impact on business travel during 2020, according to a new paper released, Monday, by travel technology company Amadeus.

Despite the growth of technologies that make virtual meetings possible, business travel spend in the region is still predicted to double between 2020

businesses will have quicker access to the traveller's profile, real-time alerts and in-flight amenity checks within a single natural sentence. This means that travel consultants and travellers won't have to go through multiple screens; they will soon be able to achieve the same goal much more quickly – using voice.

Musement Chief Business Officer, Nishank Gopalkrishnan commented: "I personally think voice will be the deciding factor moving forward. If you think of it, talking to one another is the most natural thing humans do. Typing,

media, payments and travel, targeting more business travellers.

Moving forward, travellers will expect everything to be easily accessible to them through one, simple to use the app. This is a commercial opportunity for travel companies, and businesses need to bear this in mind when reviewing the solutions that they make available to their employees.

Feeling the impact of 5G

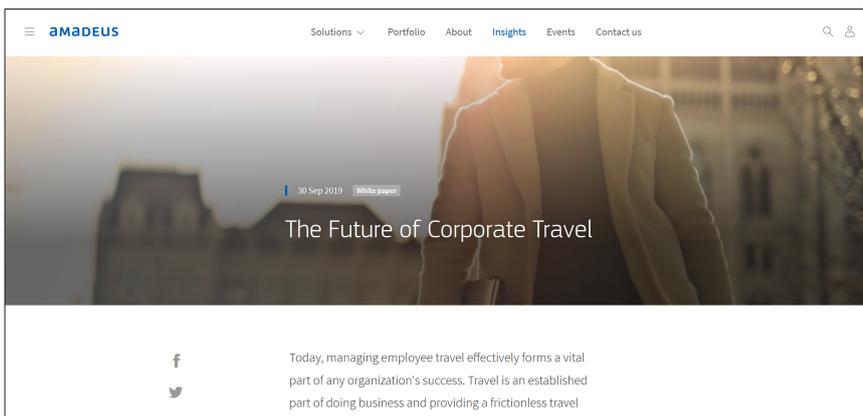
Faster networks through 5G are now being deployed across the Asia Pacific and are enabling other technologies to take off, changing the way that moves around their own cities and travel to others. Thanks to the increased speed and amount of data, there will be more advanced connected devices – from smart homes to self-driving cars and smart cities – and increased personalization through Artificial Intelligence (AI).

This greater connectivity will allow travel companies to provide a seamless travel experience in which a business can go door-to-door from their home to a hotel with little hassle and truly personalized service. The frictionless experience will continue at their hotel with 5G smart hotels – offering faster connection speeds for smartphones and connected devices.

With 5G, the end traveller is going to be better connected than ever before. Businesses need to be ready for this and ensure they best equip their employees to take advantage of 5G hyper-connectivity.

Amadeus Commercial Head of APAC Mobile, Edgar Vega commented: "Business travel is no longer just about getting to and from home. It is a series of experiences that demand intuitive, streamlined management – which is driven through mobile. I'm convinced that the 5G rollout will completely transform the corporate traveller's mobile experience.

For starters, access to unlimited data will allow for more informative and productive business trips while on the other side corporations will be able to provide better guidance for their corporate travellers in terms of access to hotel, transfer and destination services in virtual reality format."



to 2025, with the region forecast to eventually account for half of the world's total spend.

'B-leisure' travel – where employees add leisure time and activities to work trips – has also been rising in Asia, with a survey by Amadeus finding that Asian corporate travellers are twice as likely to book work trips that include weekends than their European counterparts.

Against this backdrop, Amadeus' 'Future of Corporate Travel' paper, written in conjunction with senior leaders from Musement, BorderPass and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation, identifies five key trends that travel companies in the region need to be aware of as corporate travel continues to grow and evolve:

Voice is the next frontier for bookings

There's a major shift happening between human and computer interaction, particularly with voice technology across the Asia Pacific. As travel companies continue to invest in voice technology,

swiping, and other forms of interaction are all just intermediate steps, as we are unable to talk to a machine efficiently. This will change, and companies that devise the most efficient way of selling high value and high engagement products via voice will lead in the future."

The rise of 'Super-apps'

Corporate travellers are juggling so many travel apps, including for their airlines, travel agencies and hotels. In the future, this will move to a 'one-app/ super-app' concept, giving corporate travellers the ability to book, make changes, get an itinerary and claim expenses – all on one single app. It is already one of the top trends among big players in the mobile space.

Much like WeChat has done for years in China, several other companies in Asia like LINE, KakaoTalk, Grab, and Go-Jek are expanding to other verticals to add functionalities and content to their apps, from mobility options to food delivery,



Enjoy Free Wifi, Light Refreshments and Parking Coupons!*



Time is precious and we know it. That is why, we make time for your business here at Concorde.

From the moment of your enquiry, until the end of your event, we promise to deliver an unsurpassed service, catering for your every need. Regardless of a meeting, incentive, conference, event or exhibition, you can be confident that you, your guests and your event are in the very best of hands.

For a personalised proposal, please call +65 6739 8338
or email cateringsales.chs@concorde.net.

Inspiring Minds. Always At Concorde

*Terms and conditions apply.

   | @ConcordeHotelSG | www.facebook.com/concordehotelsingapore

 **CONCORDE HOTEL**
SINGAPORE

100 ORCHARD ROAD
SINGAPORE 238840
TEL +65 6733 8855 FAX +65 6732 7886

SINGAPORE.CONCORDEHOTELSRESORTS.COM

CONCORDE HOTELS & RESORTS KUALA LUMPUR | SHAH ALAM | SINGAPORE

Dam project threatens Mekong River

Save the Mekong Coalition calls for the cancellation of the Luang Prabang Dam that will threaten rural communities and tourism.

PRESSURE is growing on Lao PDR to retract its decision to build a massive dam project on the Mekong River near the World Heritage town of Luang Prabang according to Save the Mekong Coalition.

In a statement released, Tuesday, the non-government organisation said the Mekong River was facing a crisis.

It warned climate change, and large-scale dams on the Mekong mainstream and tributaries are making Mekong's flows and levels more unpredictable.

Apart from the impact of climate change especially in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region, dams are destroying the livelihood of thousands of river communities and will in the long-run damage tourism linked to towns on the Mekong River.

"From record lows in June and July to major flooding in parts of the basin in August and September;

hydropower dams have aggravated the impact on the river and people. Large-scale dams, especially those planned for the Mekong mainstream, are a significant cause of – not the answer to – the Mekong crisis," Save the Mekong Coalition started.

It accused the Lao PDR government of failing to take urgent steps to address the rapid deterioration of the river system's health and productivity, on which millions of people depend.

Instead, it claimed Laos had formally notified the Mekong River Commission (MRC) of its intention to build yet another large dam on the Mekong mainstream. The Luang Prabang dam is the fifth dam to be submitted for Prior Consultation under MRC Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA).

Save the Mekong Coalition opposes plans to initiate a prior consultation process for the Luang Prabang dam. It claims there are still on-going



concerns over the impacts of existing and proposed mainstream dams that were raised during previous prior consultation processes without resolution.

"We, therefore, call for the Luang

Prabang and other planned mainstream dams to be cancelled. Rather than embarking on another flawed prior consultation process, we urge lower Mekong governments and the MRC to address outstanding concerns regarding the impacts of mainstream dams and to undertake a comprehensive options assessment to study alternatives."

If built, Luang Prabang dam, combined with Pak Beng, Xayaburi and Pak Lay dams, would transform the Mekong River along the entire stretch of northern Laos into a series of stepped lakes, resulting in major and irreversible damage to the health and productivity of the river, the coalition argues.

Vietnam is a lead developer in the Luang Prabang dam despite having called for greater attention to exploring renewable energy sources as replacements for hydropower in the Mekong Basin.

Mainstream dams are not necessary to meet the region's energy needs according to the NGO. A 2018 Mekong

River Commission summary paper notes that by 2040 Laos plans to export 11,739 MW of power to Thailand, while Thailand's plans indicate it will only import 4,274MW. The difference of 7,500 MW is greater than the combined capacity of all the seven mainstream dams planned or under construction.

Bamboo Airways to fly to Seoul

VIETNAM'S Bamboo Airways will launch scheduled flights from Vietnam to Seoul in South Korea effective 17 October.

The airline released details last week saying it would fly daily services using an Airbus A321 from both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

South Korea is a major tourism market for Vietnam with Danang due to its golf courses attracting more tourists.

Vietnamese travelling to South Korea until August this year increased by 26% to over 371,000, according to the Korea Tourism Organisation.

Travel from South Korea to Vietnam, up until September, increased 22% to 339,600, based on Vietnam National Administration of Tourism.

Bamboo Airways operates 26 domestic routes with international services to Japan, South Korea and China.

FIRST NAME IN FAMILY FUN HOLIDAYS



#BookCentara

Travel professionals trust Centara for their travelling family clients. Centara Hotels & Resorts features plenty of family-friendly accommodation options at great value in beautiful tropical destinations across Thailand and beyond. Your clients can relax in comfortable top-quality rooms, suites and pool villas just steps away from glorious beaches, exhilarating water activities, beachfront dining, cultural attractions and exciting nightlife. And kids love our sensational water parks and fully-supervised multi-age Kids' Club.

DISCOVER MORE AT

- 🌐 centarahotelsresorts.com/b2b
- ✉ sales@chr.co.th
- ☎ +66 2769 1234

THAILAND

MALDIVES

OMAN

QATAR

SRI LANKA

VIETNAM

Award fares come with cash top-up options

THAI introduces three campaigns to redeem award tickets using accrued miles for discounts.

THAI Airways International has introduced three campaigns for Royal Orchid Plus (ROP) members to enjoy low-fare deals.

Cash Plus Miles, Domestic Weekday, and the Early Bird campaigns, all allow frequent flyer members to redeem award tickets in economy class and Royal Silk Class on designated routes at special mileage rates.

THAI executive vice president commercial, Wiwat Piyawiroj, said THAI has introduced three campaigns to offer discounts with mileage redemption for ROP members to “thank them for customer loyalty”.

Cash Plus Miles Campaign

Travellers can redeem award tickets for travel on domestic flights in economy class, using accrued miles along with cash as a special discount on specific routes:

Roundtrip flights from Bangkok to Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Milan, Rome, using mileage beginning at 13,000 miles and a cash top-up of THB13,000 (excludes airport tax and all surcharges).

One-way flights departing from Bangkok to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Beijing, Shanghai, Kunming, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Xiamen, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Perth. Accumulated miles and cash may be used on the route Bangkok-Perth, beginning at 6,000 miles and a cash top-up of THB11,300 (excludes airport tax and all surcharges).

One-way flights departing from Bangkok to Yangon, Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh.

Accumulated miles and cash can be used beginning 6,000 miles and a cash top-up of THB 2,400. (excludes airport tax and all surcharges).

For this campaign, reservations must be made and tickets issued on thaairways.com, 1 to 31 October 2019, with travel valid from 1 October to 18 December 2019.

Domestic Weekday Campaign

Redeem award tickets for travel with THAI and THAI Smile on domestic



routes, in all classes of service, for travel on Monday to Thursday, using accrued miles for a special discount beginning at 5,000 miles per flight (excludes airport tax and all surcharges).

Reservations must be made and tickets issued 15 October 2019 to 31 January 2020. Travel is valid from 15 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Early Bird Campaign

Redeem award tickets for travel with THAI's international flights in economy class and Royal Silk Class. Accrued miles may be used to gain a 30 to 50% discount per flight.

Reservations must be made and tickets issued 1 to 30 November 2019.

Accor brings back Super Sale

IT'S that time of year when Accor brings back its Super Sale with rates starting as low as USD25 per night and 30% off across more than 3,300 hotels and resorts globally.

Members of Le Club AccorHotels loyalty programme also receive free breakfast.

Some of the deals undercut the best rates quoted by popular hotel booking sites, but not always so double-check with your favourite OTA before booking directly with Accor. Often the breakfast included in the rate makes the difference, but for loyalty members, the offer is more attractive by 10%.

Some of the great deals on offer include ibis Styles Bali Petitinget from USD25, Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort from USD99, Muse Bangkok Langsuan – MGallery from USD103, Pullman Nadi Bay from USD124, Sofitel Mumbai from USD144 and Fairmont Jakarta from USD146.

The Super Sale covers most of the Accor brands from luxury to economy, including Raffles, Fairmont, Sofitel and

MGallery, Pullman, Swissôtel, Grand Mercure, The Sebel, Novotel, Suite Novotel, Mercure to ibis, ibis styles and ibis budget hotels worldwide.

For travellers who are still loyalty fans, members of the Accor Plus and Le Club AccorHotels enjoy early access to the savings, while rates to the public went on sale on 8 October.



The Super Sale is valid for stays from 15 December until 14 November 2020 across the Asia Pacific and until 1 March 2020 in other parts of the world. Accor Plus members even get an additional 10% off the quoted rate.

MADE FOR MUSIC.

HARD ROCK HOTEL BALI

Brainstorm business strategies, have that team building session or organize themed events, private functions or dinners in any of our rock 'n' roll themed meeting and conference rooms. We have the setting as your perfect venue for a successful event in Bali!

Book now to receive 5% off meeting package. For more information, visit our website

BOOK NOW

#MADEFORMUSIC
BALI.HARDROCKHOTELS.NET

©2017 HARD ROCK INTERNATIONAL (USA), INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



BALI

YAANA corporate cycle challenge in Vietnam



YAANA Corporate Challenge ready to roll in Vietnam to support two charities.

OVER 20 bicycle riders will cover 120 km near Halong Bay in northern Vietnam 18 to 20 October to raise funds for Operation Smile Vietnam and Blue Dragon's Children's Foundation as part of YAANA Corporate Challenge 2019.

Event organisers, YAANA Ventures, are hoping to match the USD25,000 raised in 2017, which, through Operation Smile, funded 33 life-changing cosmetic operations mostly for young people with disabilities such as cleft lip.

Corporate sponsors participating in the ride this year include YAANA Ventures, Naruna Retreats, BSM Group, Chow Energy, Antipodeans, GROUND Asia, Zone Golf, Green Trails, Khiri Travel, HMP Master, bike tour organiser Indotrek, the Legacy Yen Tu-MGallery Hotel, and ScottAsia Communications.

Apart from supporting charities, the concept of the YAANA Corporate Challenge is to let riders experience a great work out and build friendship and business networking over the two-and-a-half-day event.

This year, funds raised will also go towards the Blue Dragon Children's

Foundation, which helps street kids, young people with disabilities and fights against human trafficking in Vietnam.

During networking events in the evening, corporate participants will hear from executive coach Bruce Hancock, founder of Naruna Retreats. He will stimulate dialogue and ask questions designed to make leaders question their assumptions and look for new and proactive ways to address business challenges.

Leaders of non-tourism businesses such as BSM Group (workplace ceilings and partitions) and Chow Energy

(renewable and alternative power) will exchange ideas and insights with leading hospitality sector operators and student educational travel specialists, Antipodeans, during evening networking.

"YAANA Corporate Challenges are as much about the meeting of minds as a great physical work out and the appreciation of awesome scenery," says Mark Remijan, partner and CFO of YAANA Ventures, and one of the 2019 riders.

"Participants will be making new business contacts and stretching minds as well as leg muscles," he says.

FCM names HR director

Global travel management company FCM Travel Solutions, has appointed Clare Woo as its human resources director for Asia and a member of its Asia leadership team.

Assigned to FCM's regional office, located in Singapore, Woo is responsible for supporting the company's Asian growth strategy.

Woo has 20 years of experience across diverse sectors including automotive, consumer goods, luxury brands and reinsurance, bringing

particular expertise in leading engagement with business leadership to build organisational and people capabilities.

She joins FCM from Zespri International, where she held progressive roles in Human Resources, the most recent being Business HR Lead for the consumer-packaged goods market in Zespri.

The company said Woo's appointment completes the appointment of the leadership team.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

SAWASDEE SENDAI TO THE THAI FAMILY

With our new route from Bangkok non-stop to Sendai, you can travel to the City of Trees, meet a Kokeshi doll or some other local creatures, visit breathtaking pagodas or enjoy the outdoors and colours of nature. Fly THAI to more destinations in Japan. Commencing from October 29th, 2019 onwards.

#FlySmoother to Sendai

thaiairways.com

Route	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Bangkok - Sendai	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	23:59	07:40 ⁺ *	TG626
Sendai - Bangkok	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	11:15	16:05	TG627

*The following day



 **THAI**
Smooth as silk

Countdown to Royal Barge spectacle

Details of the Royal Barge Procession, 24 October and the viewing locations along the river bank.

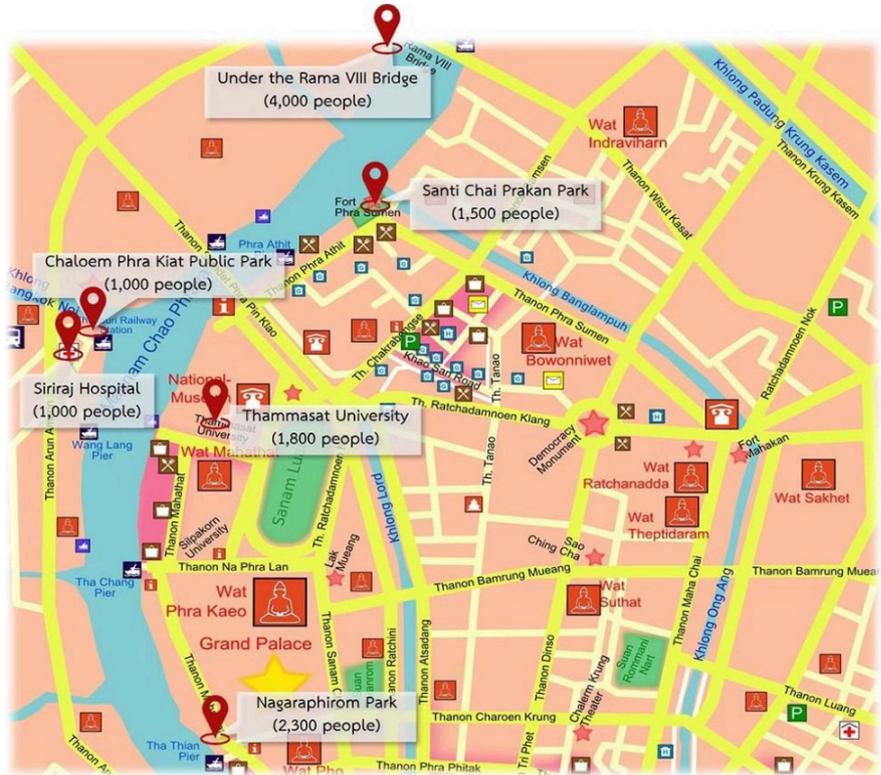
THE countdown begins for the spectacular Royal Barge procession scheduled for 24 October on the Chao Phraya River Bangkok.

Details of the rare spectacle were released by the Foreign Office, Government Public Relations Department last week.

His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, accompanied by Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana, will board the royal barges at 1530, Thursday 24 October, for a 45-minute voyage along the Chao Phraya River that flows through the inner city.

The Government Public Relations Department (PRD) organised a press briefing and study tour on 'Preparations for the Royal Procession by Water on the Occasion of the Royal Coronation.

Their Majesties the King and Queen will embark on the Royal Barge Suphannahong at the Wasukri Pier and disembark at the Ratchaworadit Pier.



The trip will cover 3.4 km and consist of 52 ceremonial barges, including four royal barges; the Suphannahong, or Golden Swan, the Anantanakkkharat, or multi-headed Naga, the Anekkachatphutthong, or innumerable Naga figures, and the Narai Song Suban King Rama IX.

About 2,300 oarsmen will row the barges that are arranged into five

groupings. Rhythmic barge-rowing songs are part of this ceremonial water-borne procession, which is a rare spectacle, arranged on special occasions only.

The Royal Thai Government has extended an invitation to the general public to witness this historical event and has designated various sites along the banks of the Chao Phraya River as viewing locations which can

accommodate up to 10,700 people.

The viewing locations

- Santichai Prakan Park (1,500 people)
- Thammasat University (1,800 people)
- Nagaraphirom Park (2,300 people)
- Siriraj Hospital (100 people)
- King Bhumibol's 72nd Birthday Anniversary Park (1,000 people)
- Under the Rama VIII Bridge, Thon Buri (4,000 people)

Six temples on both sides of the Chao Phraya River will hold a Buddhist chanting ceremony in honour of Their Majesties.

They are Wat Rachathiwat Ratchaworawihan, Wat Thewarat Kunchorn Worawiharn, Wat Sam Phraya, Wat Bowon Mongkhon, Wat Karuhabodee, and Wat Rakhang Kositaram. Each temple will begin the chanting ceremony when the Royal Barge is approaching and conclude when the procession has passed by.

The ancient procession was revived by the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 1960 after a lapse of several decades and took place at the end of Buddhist Lent.



ROYAL CLIFF HOTELS GROUP
THE STATE OF EXCLUSIVITY & FASCINATION
www.royalcliff.com

PEACH
PATTAYA EXHIBITION
AND CONVENTION HALL
www.peachthailand.com



SUCCESS

MEETING PACKAGE

Discover the unbelievable benefits including upgrades to suites, cash vouchers, and special privileges for planners and organizers, discount in F & B plus spa and many more!

To book the **"Success Meeting Package"**,
please visit <https://bit.ly/2QCgnTc>
call (+66) 38 250 421 ext. 2845 or send
an email to success@royalcliff.com



A UNESCO World Heritage Site. A World Craft City.
PATA Gold Awarded Sarawak Cultural Village.
And so much more to see, to taste, to experience,
to captivate. Discover the many ways you can do
more in Sarawak, Borneo.

Sarawak
More to Discover