

New Directions East Asia

Bangkok, Thailand, 2024

Welcome Pack

Dear Delegate

Sawasdee and **welcome** to the first New Directions in Language Assessment conference in Bangkok!

For more than a decade, we have provided education and language practitioners, policy makers, and language testing experts in East Asia with a platform to gather, connect, and exchange ideas. In 2024, we will convene in Bangkok, Thailand for the first time. The New Directions conference aims to look at the impact of language assessment policy at different levels and how the learning environment can be positively shaped by policy reform, when conditions are created which strengthen the links between curriculum, teaching, and assessment at the heart of effective systems. The conference will explore the theme of the Power of Language Assessment on Individuals and Society.

Get ready for an engaging conference filled with insights and ideas. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

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1. Conference Overview

The conference convenes as a **three-day event from Thursday to Saturday 21 – 23 November** in the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Thursday 21 November:



- **Opening plenary by Associate Professor Jirada Wudthayagorn Ph.D.**, Director of Chulalongkorn University Language Institute (CULI), Thailand **and Professor Barry O’Sullivan OBE**, Director English Language Research, British Council.
- Please join us at the **Cocktail Reception** after the opening plenary at Sumon Room, 1st Floor.

Friday 22 November and Saturday 23 November:

- **Conference proceedings**



The **Registration desk** will be open at Hallway of Poonsub 3rd Floor, Pra Mingkwan Building (Building 2), Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University.

Registration time as below:

- 16.00 – 17.00 on Thursday 21 November
- 07.30 – 08.30 on Friday 22 November
- 08.00 – 09.00 on Saturday 23 November



The **Networking Dinner** will take place on the evening of Friday 22 November from 19.00 (doors open from 18.30) – *for those registered for the dinner only.*

📍 *Grand Postal Building, Bangkok*



2. Travel to Bangkok

2.1 Visa (Visa on arrival and visa exemption scheme)

If travelling from outside Thailand, please familiarise yourself with the **visa and entry requirements** to Thailand applicable to you before your departure. Information is available here: [Thailand Tourist Visa](#).

Many nationalities can visit Thailand without a visa under the [Visa on Arrival](#) rule with a non-refundable entry fee of 2,000 THB cash only, or under the [Visa Exemption scheme](#). These options allow visitors to stay from 15 up to 30 days.

According to the website, some countries allow for the Thai E-Visa, and you can apply for the E-visa online. It is a very fast method for obtaining your tourist visa online.

2.2 Travel Insurance

It is advisory to have travel insurance while you are visiting Thailand. Foreign visitors are not eligible for free medical care. Purchasing travel insurance protection is affordable and worth not paying the hospital bill out of your own pocket. The average travel insurance cost for a trip to Thailand is only around \$50 to \$100.

2.3 Yellow Fever

To enter Thailand, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a [country listed as a transmission risk](#). It is recommended that you bring a valid yellow fever certificate as random checks are sometimes carried out by health officials on arrival.

2.4 COVID-19 Rules

Visitors are no longer required to provide a Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) or Professional Antigen Test Kit (Pro-ATK) test before entering Thailand.

2.5 General Travel Advice

For further travel and security advice, please also consult the [Thailand travel advice - GOV.UK](#) as well as any guidance issued by your home country and/or country of departure.

2.6 Health

There can be high levels of air pollution in Bangkok, which are also affected by seasonal regional smoke haze caused by farmers burning trees and crops. The high pollution and [particulate count](#) sometimes reach dangerous levels. This may worsen bronchial, sinus or asthma conditions. Check air quality levels every morning for your own health and safety.



Drinking tap water is not recommended. Bottled water is widely available in restaurants and shops. Ice in cold drinks can be a source of bacterial infection and should be avoided anywhere but in homes or at the best hotels and restaurants.

More detail on Health advice in Thailand can be found [here](#).

2.7 Road Safety

According to the Third Global Status Report on Road Safety, Thailand has the second highest road traffic fatality rate in the world. There are a variety of factors at play including lack of driver experience, speeding, and inconsistent law enforcement. Thai authorities also acknowledge that a culture of drink-driving contributes to the high accident rates. Walking in Thailand can present its own hazards. Pavements aren't always well maintained, and you will often find parked motorbikes, street vendors or random obstructions blocking the way. But the most important thing to be aware of is pedestrian crossings. Do not assume vehicles will stop for you at zebra crossings or at pedestrian crossings, even when the lights are red. Drivers are supposed to stop, but the fact is very often they don't. Always cross with caution and even if cars have stopped look out for motorbikes who may still be whizzing through.

2.8 Dietary requirements

Bangkok is one of the world's greatest street food cities and as soon as you arrive and start exploring the city, you'll discover that there's an abundance of delicious things to eat everywhere you look. Along with street food, Bangkok is also a city where restaurants of all levels, serving both Thai and an extensive range of international cuisine, are flourishing. You can eat a modern Thai meal for lunch and sit down for a world class Italian dinner (there are so many food possibilities).

Food revolves around every part of Thai culture; people often ask one another "Have you eaten?" instead of "How are you?". When eating together, people often order dishes to be shared between pals. This is partly due to the friendly, social nature of Thai people, but also because of the way in which food is ordered, served, and eaten. Family and friends unite and share through food.

The only reminder is that the majority of Thai menu items include rice, pork, chicken, sometimes seafood and often contain coconut milk, peanuts etc. If you have a severe allergy to any of these ingredients, please alert the conference team immediately.



3. Venues

3.1 Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University



We are pleased to announce that the three-day conference will take place at one of the most prestigious universities in Thailand, the Chulalongkorn University.

Chulalongkorn University is Thailand's first institution of higher learning, dedicating itself as a centre for academic learning and professional excellence. The conference will be held in the Faculty of Education in collaboration with our partner, Chulalongkorn University Language Institute (CULI).



Find the location in Google maps: [Link](#).

3.2 Networking dinner



We look forward to welcoming those who have registered for the networking dinner to the General Post Office also known as the **Grand Postal Building**.

Friday 22 November: Networking dinner from 19.00

Grand Postal Building, Bang Rak, Bangkok

The Grand Postal Building was designed in a mixture of Art Deco and International Style architecture which reflected the desire of the ruling People's Party to project a modern and powerful image of the state. It is a venue with contemporary neo-classical architecture. It emphasizes simplicity, elegance, classicism, charm, and grandeur, from the exterior of the building decorated in brown tones. And the interior is spacious, luxurious, but hidden in simplicity.



Find the location in Google maps: [Link](#).



Getting to the Grand Postal Building:

Four double-decker buses will take attendees to the Grand Postal Building (2.7 km). Please get ready to board the bus at the entrance of Building 1 near Sumon Room once the conference finishes at 17.30. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The bus will depart immediately once all seats are filled. Staff will help guide you to the bus and check your badge before you embark on the vehicle.

Following the networking dinner, the buses will depart every 15 minutes starting from 21.15 to drop passengers off in the Siam area (near the BTS Skytrain), providing easy and convenient access for your journey home.

- 1st Bus = Departure time 21.15
- 2nd Bus = Departure time 21.30
- 3rd Bus = Departure time 21.45
- 4th Bus = Departure time 22.00

If you are unable to make it in time for the final bus departure, you will be responsible for arranging your own transportation back to your accommodation.



C1 Standard
รถสองชั้น Chassis นำเข้า
50 ที่นั่ง 2 ชั้น

Facilities

- TV
- MICROPHONE
- GPS
- TOILET
- KARAOKE



4. Accommodation

The conference venue at the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University is closeby the Siam Square Area with a variety of hotel choices, listed below.

Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square Hotel

A four-star hotel located in the heart of Bangkok City. Accessible and convenient, the hotel is a 2 minute walk from the Siam BTS sky train station. Visitors can get on the CU POP Bus number 4 at the Bus station next to Henri-Dunant Road, which is three stations away from the Faculty of Education (Henri Dunant, Lido, Osotsala or the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Education).

Please contact the hotel directly or use a reputable booking site to make a reservation. Hotel website: www.novotelbkk.com/



Google Maps location [Link](#)

Room Rate Reference

Room Type	Price/night in THB	Price/night in GBP
Deluxe Classic Single (33 sqm)	3,800	82.43
Deluxe Classic Twin/Double (33 sqm)	4,100	88.94
Grand Deluxe Corner Single (42 sqm)	4,000	86.77
Grand Deluxe Corner Twin/Double (42 sqm)	4,300	93.28
ExecuPlus Suite Single (72 sqm)	5,400	117.14

Pathumwan Princess Hotel

A five-star hotel connected with MBK Shopping Centre. If you stay at this hotel, you can use the skywalk to cross the road to the nearest bus stop in front of Osotsala Pharmacy to get on the bus to the conference venue using CU POP bus number 4. The Faculty of Education is the next station from the Osotsala station (the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences station).

Please contact the hotel directly or use a reputable booking site to make a reservation. Hotel website: www.pprincess.com/



Google Maps location [Link](#)



Room Rate Reference

Room Type	Price/night in THB	Price/night in GBP
Superior Room Single (30 sqm)	3,413.30	74.04
Superior Room Double (30 sqm)	3,707.55	80.42
Deluxe Room Single (33 sqm)	3,648.70	79.15
Deluxe Room Double (33 sqm)	3,942.95	85.53
Executive Premier Floor Single (30 sqm)	4,490.30	97.40
Executive Premier Floor Double (30 sqm)	4,884.55	105.96
Junior Suite Single (45 sqm)	5,296.50	114.89

Siam@Siam Design Hotel

Siam@Siam Design Hotel Bangkok is nestled in the heart of central Bangkok, just a 5-minute stroll from the National Stadium BTS Skytrain Station. This smoke-free hotel boasts avant-garde décor and an infinity pool offering breathtaking views of the cityscape.

Please contact the hotel directly or use a reputable booking site to make a reservation. Hotel website: www.siamatsiam.com/bangkok/



Google Maps location [Link](#)

Room Rate Reference

Room Type	Price/night in THB	Price/night in GBP
Deluxe Room (28 sqm)	5,175	112.26
Deluxe Premium Room	5,445	118.11
Deluxe Corner (30 sqm)	5,625	122.02
Deluxe Triple (42 sqm)	7,200	156.18
Studio (48 sqm)	6,525	141.54
Heritage Suite (43-48 sqm)	6,975	151.30

Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park

Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park is a luxurious 5-star hotel located 11.2km (7mi) from the centre of Bangkok. Located next to Sala Daeng BTS Skytrain Station, Crowne Plaza Bangkok features an outdoor pool and spa with traditional Thai massage services.



Please contact the hotel directly or use a reputable booking site to make a reservation.
Hotel website: <https://bangkoklumpinipark.crowneplaza.com/>



Google Maps location [Link](#)

Room Rate Reference

Room Type	Price/night in THB	Price/night in GBP
1 King Standard (34 sqm)	5,691	123.45
2 Single Standard Room (34 sqm)	5,691	123.45
Standard Room (34 sqm)	5,691	123.45
1 King Premium (46 sqm)	6,023	130.65
2 Single Premium (46 sqm)	6,023	130.65

Triple Y Hotel

The hotel is located in the Samyan Area next to Samyan Mitrtown Shopping Complex. Visitors could easily use the underground link from B1 floor to MRT Samyan station (Exit 2) to explore the Bangkok city. The hotel is only 4 – 5 minutes (300 metres) from the conference venue.

Please contact the hotel directly or use a reputable booking site to make a reservation.
Hotel website: www.tripleyhotel.com/



Google Maps location [Link](#)

Room Rate Reference

Room Type	Price/night in THB	Price/night in GBP
Studio (17 sqm)	3,050	66.16
Deluxe Twin Room (34 sqm)	3,750	81.34
Deluxe King Room (34 sqm)	4,050	87.85
Deluxe Triple Room (34 sqm)	5,400	117.14



5. Getting around Bangkok and security

Bangkok is a city that offers nearly every type and form of transportation available – taxi, bus, motorbike, tuk tuk, longtail boat, ferry boat, above ground train, and underground train. And some areas of Bangkok aren't too bad for walking either.

Public Transportation

For personal travel, MRT Metro and BTS Sky Train and highly recommended. This mode of transportation in Bangkok is one of the most affordable and fastest means to beat the traffic. The MRT metro is an underground railway network which covers different path of Bangkok City that are inaccessible via the Sky Train. BTS Sky train starts operating from 05:00 AM till midnight. MRT Subway starts from 06:00 AM till midnight. There are ticket machines at every station and can be paid by credit card. Please view the Route and Fares maps on the BTS website at <https://www.bts.co.th/eng/routemap.html>

Taxis

Taxi (pay with cash) or Grab Application (pay with cash or with credit card). Taxi meters start from 35 Baht and increase at a rate of 5 baht per kilometre. You may consider using for more convenient choices. However, the traffic in Bangkok is often jam packed so we recommend using Bangkok's extensive public transport network.

Chao Phraya River Boat

(Open hours: About 6 am – 7 pm, Price is 15 THB on orange flag local boat, and 40 THB per ride on the yellow flag tourist boat) – For getting to Khao San Road and the Grand Palace area, the Chao Phraya Express Boat is highly convenient. You can catch the BTS Skytrain to Saphan Taksin Station which connects with the pier to take the boat.

Public Transportation to the conference venue



BTS Skytrain

The closet station to the venue is Siam Station. Take exit 2 and go down the stairs to the Lido area. You will see the people lining up to get on the Pink Bus below (called CU POP Bus). Take the Number 4 Bus and travel two stations to the Faculty of Education.





MRT Subway

The closest station to the venue is Samyan Station. Take exit 2 to Samyan MitrTown Shopping complex and walk towards the mall by underground tunnel. Walking distance from the shopping mall to the Faculty of Education is 550m (7 Minutes).



Bus

Get on bus number 36, 21, 93, 501, 50, 47, 141, 37, 108, 113, 40, 29, 529, 34 and get off at Chulalongkorn University (Faculty of Science) bus stop. Then walk towards the underground tunnel to cross the road and use the right hand side stairs to go to the Faculty of Education.

Bangkok is considered safe to roam around but it is best to be vigilant and streetwise to reduce your own risk.

- **Walking around** – Theft does happen occasionally, especially bag snatching and mobile phone snatching. It's advised to not be walking down a busy street using your mobile phone and be aware of your handbag or backpack when walking down a road or in a busy area.
- **Scams** – Many of the scams in Bangkok are not harmful, but just waste your time and maybe money. One example is tuk tuk drivers outside the Grand Palace telling you it's closed today, and that they will kindly take you somewhere else. For the most part, researching attractions and places to go, and knowing your facts and information, and then thinking before you make any decisions, can avoid most scams. Also, if any tuk tuk driver offers you a ride for 10 THB (\$0.28) or something ridiculously low like that, you can assume there's some kind of scam involved. Do your research, don't act fast (think about it), and usually you can avoid many of the common scams in Bangkok.
- **Nightlife** – Most of the crime happens in Bangkok at night, especially around nightlife areas. So, use extra caution when going out at night, and especially venturing into Bangkok nightlife districts. If you're with friends, it's better than going by yourself. Drink spiking and drug-assisted sexual assault does happen in tourist areas around Thailand, with male and female victims. Do not leave your drinks unattended or accept drinks from strangers. Pre-arrange your transport home so you do not have to accept lifts in unlicensed vehicles.



Laws and cultural differences

This is some general advice which you may need to be aware of when you are in Thailand.

Criticising the Thai monarchy

Criticising the Thai monarchy ('lèse-majesté') is illegal. The law can be interpreted broadly and carries a long prison sentence. British and Thai journalists, human rights defenders and members of the public have faced charges for making political comments or sharing articles online that could be interpreted as being negative towards the institution of the Thai monarchy. The law also covers any accusations about members of the Thai Royal Family, past and present.

Wildlife, animal products and souvenirs

It's illegal to buy, sell, kill, or capture any protected wild animal or trade its parts without a licence.

Alcohol Purchasing Time

Buying alcohol is restricted to some hours in Thailand. You can buy alcohol only between these prescribed hours that is from 11 AM to 2 PM and again from 5 PM till midnight. Also serving alcohol is legal in these hours only.

Smoking and e-cigarette bans

It's illegal to smoke in public with a fine of up to 5,000 Thai baht. E-cigarettes are illegal. You could be fined or imprisoned for carrying or using them.

Cannabis

Using cannabis in public places is illegal. Private recreational use of cannabis is legal if the Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content is below 0.2% by weight. There are still restrictions around growing and selling cannabis products. See more information on the [Thai government's website](#).

While low-strength cannabis is legal in Thailand, it is likely to be illegal in other countries you travel on to. This includes residual amounts, for example in bags or clothing or in your bloodstream.

LGBT+ travellers

Thailand is generally a safe place for LGBT+ travellers. Same-sex marriage was published in the Royal Gazette after endorsement by King Maha Vajiralongkorn and will come into effect in 120 days or January next year.



6. Conference Apps

Eventsforce



The Eventsforce conference app will allow you to view the conference schedule, session details, speaker biographies and other useful information. Attendees can also use the app to scan a QR code to check in for each session.

Please use the following links to download this application from your [App Store](#) or [Google Play store](#) (or search **Eventsforce**). You will receive a direct link to the New Directions event via email at the end of October. We suggest adding noreply@rdmobile.com to your safe sender list to avoid missing it.

Interprefy

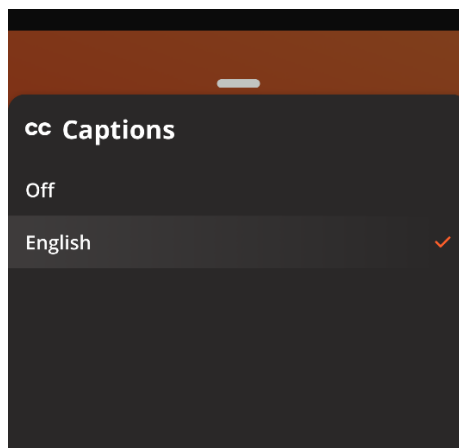


Interprefy will transcribe the speaker’s speech during plenary sessions using AI to detect the wording. You can download the application and put a token “**BritishCouncil**” then click Enter to proceed. The first scan will take you to the download page.

Once the app is downloaded and installed, the second scan will take the user to the language selection page. You will not miss the conference content even if you are not in the plenary room! Simply scan the QR code below to download the app.



When you enter the token, you will see the page below with the sound wave. Click the Caption button, then click English and the captions for the conference will start appearing.



7. Registration and check-in

The registration desk for the conference will be open from 16:00 on 21 November 2024. Proceed to the registration desk in the **Poonsub Hallway on the 3rd floor**. There will be staff on hand at the venue to guide you.

At the registration desk you will receive your conference identification name badge and meeting kit.

Registration desk opening hours:

Day 1 = 16.00 – 17.00

Day 2 = 07.30 – 08.30

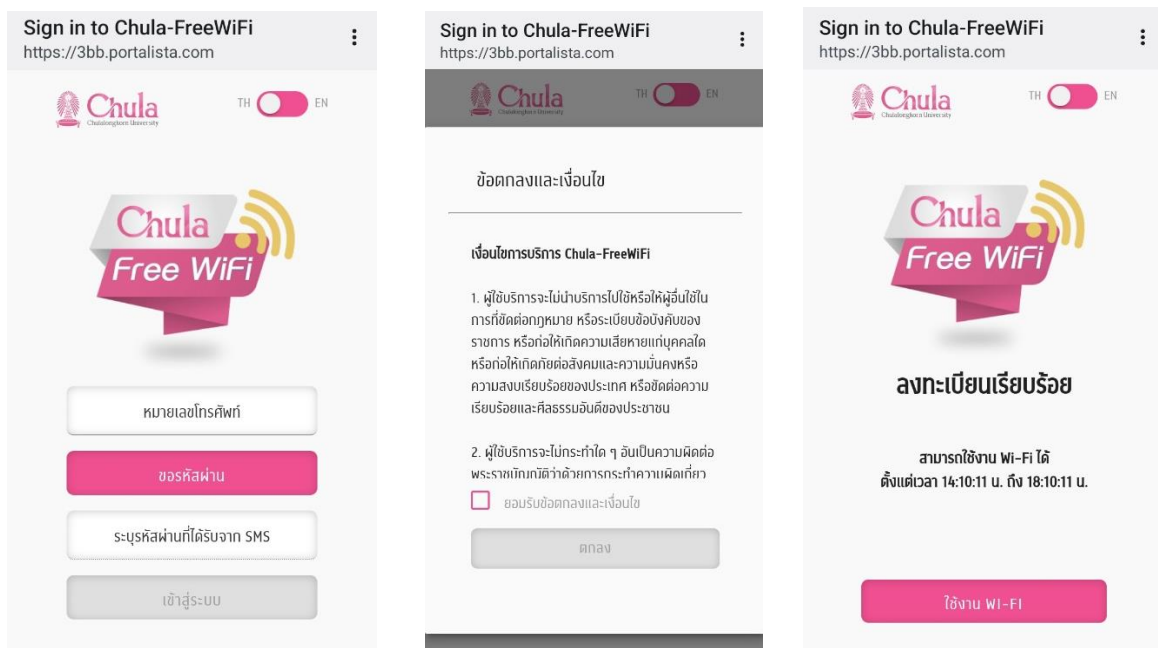
Day 3 = 08:00 – 09:00

Wi-Fi connection in the venue

Chulalongkorn University provides a free Wi-Fi connection called ‘Chula Free Wi-Fi’.

To connect, please select this Wi-Fi and it will direct you to the login page. You can change the language page to English using the switch button in the top right corner.

Log in by putting your phone number in the first white box and click the pink button. A 4-digit password will be sent to you via SMS. Enter the 4-digit password in the second white box and click login. Please accept the Terms and Conditions to proceed and the Wi-Fi will be connected to your device. The Wi-Fi connection will last 4 hours so may require you to log in again.



8. Conference programme

The full programme can be viewed in the [Eventsforce conference app](#).

At a glance:






Day 1	Thursday 21 November 2024
16.00 – 17.00	Registration – Please ensure you have registered online.
17.00 – 18.30	Opening Plenary by Associate Professor Jirada Wudthayagorn, Ph.D. and Professor Barry O'Sullivan.
18.30 – 20.00	Welcome cocktail reception
Day 2	Friday 22 November 2024
07.30 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 09.15	Opening Ceremony
09.15 – 17.40	Conference Proceedings
17.40 – 19.00	Travel to the Networking dinner
19.00 – 22.00	Networking Dinner – <i>for those who have pre-registered only</i>
Day 3	Saturday 23 November 2024
08.00 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome
09.15 – 16.30	Conference proceedings
16.30 – 17.00	Closing Ceremony



9. Climate and clothing



November in Bangkok brings cooler temperatures and less rainfall, as the city transitions into the dry season. The Bangkok temperature in November ranges from approximately 23C to 30.9C, with nearly 8 hours of sunlight daily. The humidity levels continue to decrease, and occasional breezes provide a pleasant atmosphere for exploring the city. It's a good idea to bring along your umbrella so that you don't get caught in poor weather. Copied below is the long-range forecast for the days of the programme. It is advisable to re-check the weather forecast every morning.

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						
33° 24°	33° 25°	33° 24°	32° 23°	32° 23°	Hist. Avg. 31° 22°	Hist. Avg. 31° 22°

Pack appropriate clothing suitable for the tropical climate, including lightweight and breathable clothes, as well as comfortable footwear. Don't forget to bring sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent, and a hat to protect yourself from the sun. It's important to include versatile clothing that can adapt to both the humid climate and culturally respectful attire for temple visits, such as lightweight scarves or shawls to cover shoulders and knees.

Medium and lightweight clothing is suitable for Thailand for most of the year. However, Thais are conservative people when it comes to formal events. Attendees are expected to mostly dress in the appropriate casual formal or formal dress. Most government officials and senior members of academic institutions wear suits and long-sleeved shirts with ties. If you're staying in a hotel, it's a good idea to take a light sweater or a pashmina as the air conditioning can be fierce at times.

Staying hydrated is important, especially in Thailand's tropical climate. Please bring a reusable water bottle to the conference, and we will provide water dispensers in the dining area to help you stay hydrated!



10. Language

Thai is the national and official language of Thailand. Many Thais speak and understand English, especially in Bangkok and the major tourist areas. But visitors may have trouble picking up the Thai language as it is considerably different from many foreign languages. The Thai language features five tones: high, mid, low, rising, and falling, each of which changes the meaning of particular 'words'. Fortunately, road signs are written in both Thai and English, and many tourist areas provide maps, menus, and other literature in both Thai and various other foreign languages. One problem that does occur for foreigners trying to pronounce Thai words correctly is caused by the transliteration of Thai words into Romanized characters. An obvious example would be the island of Phuket, pronounced "poo-ket" rather than "foo-ket" as it would be pronounced in English.

Furthermore, there is no official standard for the transliteration of words and thus many Thai words are spelled differently on different maps or street signs (i.e. Even the BTS Skytrain features both Chitlom and Chidlom stations). In addition, while most Thais speak and understand the central Thai dialect, there are various regional dialects, including those of Southern Thailand and Northeastern Thailand, the latter of which is essentially just the Lao language (as most of the population is of Lao descent). In northern Thailand, which had been the independent kingdoms of Lan Na and Chiang Mai from 1259-1939, a distinctive form of Thai is still spoken by the local inhabitants, all of whom can also speak central Thai. All variants of Thai use the same alphabet.

Here are some samples of useful Thai phrases:

To make the sentence more formal, a male would end the sentence with 'Krap' and female with 'Ka'.

In English:	In Thai
Hello	Male: Sa-wat-dee Krap Female: Sa-wat-dee Ka
Thank you	Male: Khop Khun Krap Female: Khop Khun Ka
Very Delicious	Aroy Mak (Krap/Ka)
Excuse me, Sorry	Kor-tot (Krap/Ka)
Yes	Chai (Krap/Ka)
No	Mai Chai (Krap/Ka)
How are you?	Sabai Dee Mai (Krap/Ka)
Have you eaten?	Gin-Kao-Rue-Young (Krap/Ka)
Toilet	Hong Nam
Water	Nam



11. Money

The official currency of Thailand is the Thai baht (THB). Known for its vibrant and distinctive design, the baht has a rich history, linked closely into the nation's heritage. Thai currency displays the image of the Thai king and should be treated respectfully. If you drop money, don't step on a coin or note to stop it from rolling or blowing away and don't throw money at somebody in anger. To do either would be deemed to be insulting and could land you in trouble.

Bank Notes	Coins
20 baht (green)	50 satang
50 baht (blue)	1 baht
100 baht (red)	2 baht
500 baht (purple)	5 baht
1,000 baht (brown)	10 baht

Thailand is generally a cash-based society, but paying by bank card is becoming increasingly common, especially in tourist areas and larger hotels and stores. Major credit cards like Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, but you will need to carry some cash for smaller shops, local markets and for tips, buses, and taxis. When using a bank card, there will usually be transaction fees charged by your bank or the outlet you're buying from. Check how much your bank fees will be before travelling, to avoid any shocks. It's also a good idea to inform your bank about your travel plans to avoid any unexpected card blocking.

There aren't any strict rules when it comes to tipping in Thailand. They're not required, but of course, are usually appreciated.

Money Exchange

Exchanging money in Thailand often offers better rates. However, it's advisable to compare rates and fees before deciding. On arrival at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport there are cash machines and exchange booths airside and again once you clear arrivals. The exchange booths are convenient, but the rate is normally lower than you will get at other locations in Bangkok. If you are taking the airport rail link into town, there are exchange booths (SuperRich) on the basement level of the airport which offer a slightly better rate compared to the arrivals areas. They have exchange counters at a number of locations around Bangkok including shopping centres and Skytrain stations.

Mobile and QR payment

Thai QR payment services are becoming very popular among locals, but they're not available to UK citizens. As of now, only tourists from certain Asian countries can use them. For example, Bangkok Bank's PromptPay service can only be used by visitors from Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Laos and Cambodia.



12. Contact details

If you have any questions or queries ahead of or during the conference, please consult our website or contact us via the email address below.

NewDirectionsEastAsia@britishcouncil.org

Emergency Numbers

Name	Position/Detail	Telephone Number
Universal Emergency Services	Police, Fire and Ambulance	Call 191
Tourist Police	Police	Call 1155
Fire Department	Fire	Call 199
Bangkok Emergency Medical Centre (Erawan Centre)	Ambulance	Call 1646 or 1669
National Health Security	COVID-19 related Matters	Call 1330

British Council Contact Person

Name	Position	Contact	Issue
Ninsri Manaponsgon	Local Project Manager	Ninsri.manaponsgon1@britishcouncil.org +66(0)84-221-3998	Transportation and logistic support
Jordan Weide	Programme Coordinator	Jordan.weide@britishcouncil.org	Conference schedule and speakers
Sirinda Sithiyavanich	Local BDM Manager	Sirinda.sithiyavanich@britishcouncil.org	Thai stakeholders and VIPs
Sonal Trevedi	Safeguarding Focal Point	Sonal.trivedi@britishcouncil.org	Safeguarding concerns

