

Back to Bangkok! – 5th Field Meeting of FIATA Region Asia/Pacific and UNESCAP



Delegates attending the meeting in Bangkok, including UNESCAP guests and staff, came from 13 countries from across the Asia-Pacific region.

The Bangkok Pullman Kingpower Hotel was the venue for the second time after 2009 for the FIATA RAP Field Meeting. It was once again held in conjunction with meetings of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

THE MEETINGS, held between 22–24 June, attracted dozens of delegates, including UNESCAP guests and staff, from 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Co-organizer and host was FIATA Association Member, the Thai International Freight Forwarders Association (TIFFA).

The RAP Field Meeting was chaired by Mr Chris Kanter, and delegates were welcomed to Thailand by TIFFA President Mr Somsak Wiseetruangrot.

Experts representing various RAP FIATA Association Members made a series of insightful presentations on a wide range of topics:

- Contingency plans in the case of emergency caused by river transport accidents
- Handling container deposits and letter of indemnity, Malaysia experiment
- Conditions of Chinese sea-rail multimodal transportation
- UNESCAP – Infrastructure and building connectivity in Asia
- SMART Container Chain Management – on Electronic Seal (e-Seal) Evolvement
- Vocational training

The presentations sparked lively debate among delegates who had their own experiences to share. The attendees were clearly taking advantage of the greater time afforded by the RAP Field Meeting to interact, in comparison to the RAP meeting time available during the Headquarters Sessions and FIATA World Congress.

UNESCAP MEETINGS (UN CONFERENCE CENTRE, BANGKOK)

UNESCAP invited special guests from the World Bank and Thailand's Ministry

of Transport to honour the delegates with their presence and presentations.

The core issue addressed by UNESCAP delegates was the ESCAP draft guidelines for minimum standards and a code of conduct for freight forwarders, NVOCC and Multimodal Transport Operators. The key points of these guidelines were presented. They were prepared during a workshop held in Bangkok last May. Various delegates representing FIATA Association Members provided input. Sources included FIATA documents. For example, here is Article IX of the guidelines on Standard Trading Conditions:

"FIATA model of Standard Trading Conditions (STC), especially FIATA model rules for freight forwarding service may be considered by an industry association as a basis for developing a country specific STC."

From the World Bank, Ms Monica Alina Mustra, Trade Facilitation and Logis-



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tics Specialist, outlined the institution's experience on the Logistics Performance Index (LPI).

The UNESCAP Meeting of Chief Executives of National Associations of Freight Forwarders Multimodal Operators and Logistics Service Providers was held on

June 24. The theme of the gathering was how to enhance the role of the associations in promoting development in these fields.

Association members discussed self-regulation, member services, improving cooperation, communication tools and technology and capacity building and

training. FIATA's partnering role was mentioned in most of the presentations.

The 2012 venue for the meetings in conjunction with UNESCAP, will be discussed at the forthcoming FIATA World Congress in Cairo.

The UNESCAP presentations are available here: www.unescap.org/ttdw/Index.asp?MenuName=FFForum2011