



## XXIX ISSCT Congress 5-8 December 2016 Chiang Mai, Thailand Newsletter No. 1



For the second time, Thailand is honored to host the ISSCT Congress. The first held in Thailand was the XXI Congress in 1992, where over 1200 delegates had the opportunity to discover the early development of an agri-business that has become the second largest exporter of sugar in the world.

In 2016, delegates have the chance to return to Thailand when the Thai Society of Sugar Cane Technologists hosts the XXIX ISSCT Congress from 5 to 8 December 2016 in Chiang Mai with Pre-Congress Tour from 2 to 3 December and Post-Congress Tour from 9 to 11 December. Technical visits will be organized to the sugar cane areas of Khon Kaen, Sukho Thai and Nakhon Sawan provinces.



## **The sugar cane industry of Thailand**

Sugar production in Thailand has a very long history. It was first established as a cottage industry during the Sukho Thai era (A.D. 1257-1350). Production expanded gradually and shifted from a cottage industry to a more commercial scale. Brown sugar was produced during this period, but production fluctuated and sometimes did not meet domestic demand. White sugar was imported from Java and the Philippines.

A new era of sugar production began in 1937 when the first government-owned sugar mill was established in Lampang, northern Thailand. Four years later, a second government-owned centrifugal sugar mill was set up in Uttraradit, near Lampang. Two more followed in 1950 and 1959 in the Eastern and the Central regions, respectively. During the same period, several privately-owned sugar mills were also established. In 1960, sugar production met domestic demand for the first time. Since then, Thailand has been exporting plantation white sugar. In 2013/14, about 8.13 Mt of sugar were exported. This makes Thailand the world's second largest sugar exporter.



### **Sugar cane production**

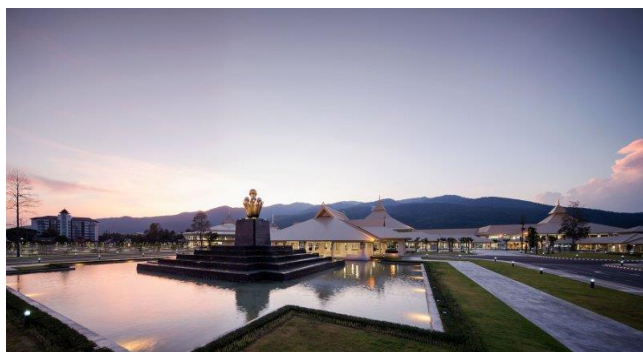
There are 50 sugar mills in activity: 19, 18, 9 and 4 located in Northeastern, Central, North and East region respectively. Among these, Mitr Phol and Khon Kaen Sugar will be included in the Pre-Congress Tour. A visit to the largest sugar cane factory in the world, Kaset Thai in Nakhon Sawan with the capacity of 50,000 tonnes cane per day will be included in the Post- Congress Tour.

In 2013/14, Thailand produced more than 103 Mt of cane from about 1.5 million hectares of land in the four major producing regions of the country, the Northeastern region being the largest production area.

Most Thai sugar cane farmers cultivate only small areas. This means that the Thai sugar cane industry needs a unique cooperative management between the farmer and the sugar mill. With a strong passion to help farmer's live better and to continue farming as a sustainable occupation in the community under the principle of growing together, Thailand has initiated and undertaken

several projects to maximize productivity and profit for farmers. These are showcase initiatives, not only for sugar cane, but also as scientific and technological developments.

The Thai sugar cane industry believes that environmental conservation and community development are leading to sustainability. The industry places strong emphasis on increasing the value of sugar cane through the development of downstream businesses from sugar to alcohol, fertilizer, particle board and renewable energy businesses. These help strengthen Thailand's sugar cane industry and create more opportunities for local farmers and Thailand's economy.



## **XXIX ISSCT Congress**

The XXIX ISSCT Congress in Thailand will include a Pre-Congress Tour and a Post-Congress Tour. Technical and cultural visits will give delegates the opportunity to understand the Thai sugar and cane industry.

### **Pre-Congress Tour**

The Pre-Congress Tour will include visits to research institutions, factories and farmers' fields, from 2 to 3 December 2016. The programme will cover Agricultural and Industrial areas and will be held in the main production area of Khon Kaen province in north-eastern Thailand.

### **Congress**

The XXIX ISSCT Congress will be held from 5 to 8 December 2016 at the International Convention and Exhibition Centre Commemorating His Majesty's 7<sup>th</sup> Cycle Birthday Anniversary (CMICE) in Chiang Mai, the largest and most culturally significant city in northern Thailand. It is located 700 km (435 mi) north of Bangkok among the highest mountains in the country. In recent years, Chiang Mai has become an increasingly modern city and has been attracting over 5 million visitors each year, of which about 2 million are foreign tourists. The city is one of the few places in Thailand where it is possible to experience both historical and modern Thai culture coexisting side by side; the city features centuries-old pagodas and temples next to modern convenience stores and boutique hotels.

Although the Mid-Term Meeting of the ISSCT Executive has not yet been held, it is expected that the Congress will follow more or less the same format as the recent ones with



oral and poster presentations in the five Commissions: Agriculture, Biology, Factory, Co-Products and Management. Plenary sessions and group discussions will also be held while the Workshop of the Management Commission will take place during the Congress. Delegates will be invited to a welcoming Cocktail in the evening of Sunday 4 December 2016, during which the Trade Exhibition will be inaugurated. The Cultural night and Farewell banquet will be held on Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 December 2016.

### **Post-Congress Tour**

The Post-Congress Tour from 9 to 11 December 2016 will be a mix of agricultural, industrial and cultural visits. It will cover the northern and central part of Thailand in Sukho Thai and Nakhon Sawan provinces and end at Thailand's capital, Bangkok.



### **Accompanying Persons' Programme**

An attractive programme will be prepared for persons accompanying delegates. Details will be given in Newsletter No. 2.

### **Mid-Term Meeting**

Members of the ISSCT Executive Committee and the Technical Programme Committee will meet with the Congress Organising Committee in Chiang Mai from 26 to 30 January 2015. In addition to all matters related to Congress, Pre-Congress and Post-Congress Tours, the business activities of ISSCT will also be conducted. The outcome of the Mid-Term Meeting will be publicized in Newsletter No. 2 scheduled for April 2015.

### **XXIX ISSCT Congress – Important Features**

#### **Chiang Mai, Thailand**

#### **The Office Bearers of the Congress Organising Committee (COC)**

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Honorary President:           | Dr. Kasem SOOKSATHAN  |
| 2. Congress Chairman:            | Mr. Kitti CHOONHAWONG |
| 3. Congress Vice-Chairman:       | Dr. Klanarong SRIROTH |
| 4. Congress Vice-Chairman:       | Dr. Wiwat SUASA-ARD   |
| 5. Congress Secretary-Treasurer: | Dr. Sapon URAICHUEN   |

## Dates

Pre-Congress Tour	2-3	December	2016
Congress	5-8	December	2016
Post-Congress Tour	9-11	December	2016

## Venue

Full Name:

*The International Convention and Exhibition Centre Commemorating His Majesty's 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary (CMICE)*, located in Chiang Mai.



## Registration Fee for Congress

Type	Rate (USD)	Deadline
Early Bird Rate	1350	Until 31 May 2016
Premium Rate	1500	1 June to 30 September 2016
Standard Rate	1700	From 1 October 2016
Onsite Registration	1900	

Registration fee includes:

- Access to all sessions
- Congress material
- Publications
- Morning and Afternoon Coffee Breaks
- Daily Lunches
- Welcome Cocktail
- Cultural
- Congress Gala Dinner

**Registration fee for Pre and Post Congress Tours will be conveyed after the Mid-Term Meeting in Newsletter No. 2.**

## Hotel Accommodation

Chiang Mai features an amazing array of accommodation choices, including guesthouses, mid-range hotels, and the finest luxury resorts in Thailand.

Hotel	Rating Stars	Single rate USD	Double rate USD
Shangri-La	5	220	230
Le Meridien	5	220	230
The Imperial Maeping	4	85	95
Porn Ping	3	50	55
Centara Duangtawan	3	50	55
Chiang Mai Hill	3	50	55
Lotus Pang Suan Kaew	3	50	55



## Fast Facts about Chiang Mai

Thailand's "Rose of the North" is a cultural and natural wonderland with ethnic diversity, a multitude of attractions and welcoming hospitality. Chiang Mai literally means "new city" and has retained the name despite celebrating its 700th anniversary in 1996. King Meng Rai the Great founded the city as the capital of the Lanna Kingdom on Thursday, 12 April 1296 around the same time as the establishment of the Sukhothai Kingdom. King Meng Rai conferred with his friends



King Ramkhamhaeng of Sukhothai and King Ngam Muang of Phayao before choosing the site where the capital of the Lanna Kingdom was to be founded. Henceforth, Chiang Mai not only became the capital and cultural core of the Lanna Kingdom, it was also to be the center of Buddhism in northern Thailand. King Meng Rai himself was a very religious leader who even founded many of the city's temples that remain important to this day.



Chiang Mai is one of the few places in Thailand where it is possible to experience both historical and modern Thai culture coexisting side by side; the city features centuries-old pagodas and temples next to modern convenience stores and boutique hotels. This dichotomy is best appreciated within the moat-encircled old city, which retains much of the fortified wall that once protected the city center as well as the four main gates that provided access to the former Lanna capital city. For many years tourists had considered Chiang Mai simply as the base from which they could plan trekking and rafting trips to hill-tribe villages and explore other provinces. Once in Chiang Mai, however, tourists are surprised by the fact that there are so many things to discover other than its beautiful and historic temples. Intriguing diversity among ethnic tribes, a number of elephant camps, many cooking and massage schools, numerous outdoor activities, a variety of handicrafts workshops, various cultural performances, and breathtaking scenery make Chiang Mai one of Asia's most attractive tourist destinations. The phrase "a day in Chiang Mai is enough to see things around town" was once a common expression. Today, two weeks in Chiang Mai may not be long enough for travelers to experience all that Chiang Mai has to offer.

The old city of Chiang Mai is a showcase of the north's fascinating indigenous cultural identity that includes diverse dialects, a delectable cuisine, distinctive architecture, traditional values, lively festivals, numerous handicrafts workshops, northern style massage, and classical dances. Chiang Mai is also blessed with pristine natural resources including mountains, waterfalls, and rivers. The presence of numerous hill tribes that feature a wealth of unique cultures enhances Chiang Mai's distinctive diversity. Hill-tribe trekking, often combined with river rafting and elephant riding has always been one of Chiang Mai's greatest tourist attractions. Nowadays there are innumerable activities and attractions both in the city and the surrounding province, including massage instruction and golf. Moreover, visitors can visit workshops where they can learn about the production of silk or silver, and purchase memorable, handcrafted souvenirs. With such a diverse range of attractions and an equally grand selection of dining and accommodation options, Chiang Mai is a place where both backpackers and luxury tourists can enjoy the ultimate Thailand holiday.



**Region** Northern

**Population** 1.66 million

#### **How to get there**

Chiang Mai is the transportation hub for northern Thailand, and can easily be reached via plane, train, bus or car.

#### **Activities**

Elephant Riding, Trekking, Bamboo Rafting, Shopping

#### **Tourists Hotspots**

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, Royal Flora Ratchaphruek Garden, Doi Inthanon National Park, Chiang Mai Night Safari, Nimmanhaemin Road

## **Interesting Information**

Chiang Mai is home to Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest mountain at nearly 8,500 feet above sea level. The province's population comprises nearly 80% native inhabitants who speak a dialect that is a slight departure from the mainstream Thai language.

Additional information on Chiang Mai is available through the link [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiang\\_Mai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiang_Mai) or by keying Chiang Mai, Thailand in Google.

**All communications concerning the Congress and associated activities should be addressed to:**

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