

**First Expert Meeting of the UN-GGIM and IHO Joint Working Group
on Marine Geospatial Information
'Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management'**

Kantary Hills Hotel
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 4-8 May 2026

Logistical and Information Note

Preamble

In this logistical and information note, you will find relevant information about the logistics and arrangements for the First Expert Meeting of the UN-GGIM and IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, including information on the venue, visa, accommodation, and general information about Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Logistical arrangements for the event

The in-person Expert Meeting is organized jointly by the IHO Secretariat, in cooperation with the Hydrographic Department, Royal Thai Navy (HRTN) in Thailand, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The event will generally take place from 08:30 to 17:00 each day.

Venue

The event will be held at the Kantary Hills Hotel Chiang Mai, 44/1-4 Nimmanhaemin Road, Soi 12, Chang Phueak, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand.



Chiang Mai, the host city, is the hub of northern Thailand; it lies on a plain at 316 m elevation surrounded by mountains and lush countryside. The city is “much greener and quieter than the capital” Bangkok, with a cosmopolitan feel. Chiang Mai is Thailand’s second-largest city and a major

cultural and economic center in the north. It is located in a valley surrounded by mountains, offering a comfortable climate and many tourist amenities. The meeting and workshop sessions will be held at Kantary Hills Hotel Chiang Mai. Kantary Hills Hotel Chiang Mai is in the popular Nimmanhaemin area (44/1-4 Nimmanhaemin Rd, Soi 12). This centrally located hotel offers spacious studio and one-bedroom rooms, a rooftop pool, restaurants, and meeting facilities. The venue is within walking distance of shopping and dining along Nimmanhaemin Road (e.g. Maya Lifestyle Mall, One Nimman).

Language

This Expert Meeting will be conducted in English.

Participants

This event is an in-person event. Participants are expected to be Members of the UN-GGIM and IHO Joint WG-MGI, comprising expert representatives nominated by UN Member States from all regions, along with members of the IHO community. Observers from relevant international organizations and other UN-GGIM Working Groups may attend to contribute expertise.

Accommodation

Participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation and can make the necessary reservations through all major booking websites. The United Nations will not be able to assist in booking or in bearing any related costs and expenses.

HDRTN has arranged special accommodation rates for delegates at Kantary Hills Hotel Chiang Mai. Rooms can be booked through the meeting organizers at the rates below (per room, per night, net, including breakfast, 10% service and VAT):

- Studio (45 m²): THB 2,500 (~USD 80) for 1–2 persons.
- One-Bedroom (75 m²): THB 3,200 (~USD 105) for 1–2 persons.

These rates include daily buffet breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and all taxes/fees. Delegates should complete the hotel accommodation section of the registration form (Annex A) to reserve a room. For questions about lodging or group rates, please contact Cdr. Intira Netmukda (hydrotechhdrtn@gmail.com; WhatsApp +66 8 9791 3666). In all correspondence, please mention “JWG-MGI” in the subject line.

Other Nearby Hotels: The Nimmanhaemin district has many high-quality alternatives (subject to availability). Within a ~5–10 minute walk of Kantary Hills are:

- U Nimman Chiang Mai – A luxury hotel at Nimmanhaemin Rd Soi 10 (about 0.6 km from Kantary). Features modern rooms and a rooftop pool, adjacent to MAYA Mall.
- Art Mai Gallery Nimman Hotel – An art-themed boutique hotel on Soi 3, about an 8-minute walk from the Nimman intersection.
- The Craft Nimman – A 3-star boutique hotel on Soi 9, roughly a 5-minute walk from One Nimman Mall.
- At Pingnakorn Nimman Hotel – A charming hotel on the same street as Kantary (Nimmanhaemin Soi 12), just ~200 m away.

These alternatives are listed for convenience; participants may book directly with the hotels or via online travel sites. (All are in the Nimman area, near shopping malls and restaurants.)

Travel information

Participants are responsible for their travel to and from Thailand, for acquiring entry visas into Thailand and any necessary transit visas, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable. The United Nations will not be able to assist in bearing any related costs or in obtaining required visas.

Visa

Most participants should check their entry requirements with the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in advance. Thailand visa policy: Citizens of 93 countries and territories are eligible for visa-free entry (60-day stay) for tourism/business purposes. Citizens of an additional 31 countries can obtain a visa on arrival for up to 15 days (for tourism). Travelers not eligible for visa exemption/Voa must obtain a Thai visa in advance (typically a Tourist or Non-Immigrant visa).

- Visa Exemption: Nationals of 93 countries (e.g. most European, Asian, and Oceanian nations) may enter Thailand without a visa for up to 60 days (and can request a 30-day extension in Thailand).
- Visa on Arrival: Nationals of 31 countries may apply for a 30-day visa on arrival at Thai airports for tourism purposes.
- Other Visas: Participants from countries not on these lists must apply for a Thai visa before travel.

If you require an official invitation or visa support letter, please contact HDRTN as soon as possible. The Hydrographic Department can provide an invitation letter or TCEB support letter for business/conference purposes if needed.

Transportation

HDRTN will provide arrival/departure transport and an airport liaison service for delegates. Upon arrival at Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX), HDRTN staff will assist you and arrange a shuttle to Kantary Hills Hotel.

Health and Safety

Chiang Mai is generally considered a safe destination and has good-quality healthcare facilities. Participants are nevertheless advised to exercise normal precautions, including safeguarding personal belongings, avoiding isolated areas at night, and using authorized transportation services.

No special vaccinations are required for travel to Thailand; however, participants are encouraged to ensure that their routine immunizations are up to date prior to travel. Participants are also responsible for arranging any necessary travel and health insurance coverage. Bottled drinking water is widely available and recommended.

In case of emergency, participants may dial 191 for police assistance, 199 for fire services, and 1669 for medical emergency services.

Meals and Refreshments

Lunch and coffee/tea breaks will be provided for all participants during the meeting days. An **ice-breaker dinner** (Thai-themed networking dinner) and an **official group dinner** will also be arranged by the organizers (dates and venue details to be announced). Please inform the organizers of any special dietary requirements in advance (vegetarian, allergies, etc.) so arrangements can be made.

Weather

Chiang Mai in early May is typically **hot and humid**. Daily high temperatures average around **33–35 °C**, with lows around **25–26 °C**. May marks the beginning of the rainy season, so expect some afternoon or evening showers. Humidity rises later in the month, with rainier conditions and the number of rainy days increasing. Participants should pack light clothing, sunscreen, and rain gear (umbrella or light raincoat). Even indoors, air-conditioning can be cool, so a light sweater or shawl may be useful.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Avg. Temperature °C (°F)	21.6 °C (70.9) °F	24.4 °C (76) °F	27.1 °C (80.7) °F	29.1 °C (84.4) °F	27.4 °C (81.3) °F	26.3 °C (79.3) °F	25.7 °C (78.2) °F	25.2 °C (77.4) °F	25.1 °C (77.2) °F	24.5 °C (76.2) °F	23.1 °C (73.6) °F	21.1 °C (70) °F
Min. Temperature °C (°F)	15.4 °C (59.8) °F	17.9 °C (64.2) °F	20.8 °C (69.5) °F	23.7 °C (74.7) °F	23.7 °C (74.7) °F	23.5 °C (74.2) °F	23.1 °C (73.6) °F	22.8 °C (73) °F	22.3 °C (72.1) °F	20.9 °C (69.6) °F	18 °C (64.5) °F	15.1 °C (59.3) °F
Max. Temperature °C (°F)	27.4 °C (81.3) °F	30.9 °C (87.5) °F	33.4 °C (92.2) °F	35 °C (95.1) °F	31.9 °C (89.4) °F	30 °C (86.1) °F	29.2 °C (84.6) °F	28.6 °C (83.4) °F	28.7 °C (83.7) °F	28.4 °C (83.2) °F	27.9 °C (82.3) °F	26.5 °C (79.8) °F
Precipitation/ Rainfall mm (in)	8 (0)	3 (0)	13 (0)	27 (1)	110 (4)	129 (5)	186 (7)	240 (9)	235 (9)	121 (4)	25 (0)	11 (0)
Humidity (%)	64%	52%	48%	50%	70%	79%	82%	86%	86%	83%	75%	70%
Rainy days (d)	1	1	2	3	11	15	17	18	17	12	3	1
avg. Sun hours (hours)	8.8	9.9	10.3	10.6	9.5	9.2	9.3	8.7	7.9	7.6	8.1	8.1

Currency and banking

The official currency is the **Thai Baht (฿, THB)**. Credit cards (Visa/Mastercard) are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and larger shops, but smaller vendors may take cash only. ATMs and currency exchange services are available at the airport and around Chiang Mai. It is advisable to have some Thai Baht on hand for incidentals.

Telephone communications, mobile telephones and Internet

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the hotel and meeting facilities. For mobile phone service, visitors can purchase a Thai SIM card upon arrival at the airport or in the city. Major Thai mobile networks (AIS, DTAC, True) have booths in the airport arrival hall selling prepaid SIMs and data plans. International roaming may be expensive; buying a local SIM is usually affordable and provides reliable 4G/LTE coverage. You will need your passport to register a local SIM card.

Electricity

Thailand's electrical standard is **220 V** at 50 Hz. The outlets in Thai hotels typically accept Type A, B, C, F and O plugs. Travelers from countries with 110–127 V supply (e.g. USA, Japan) should bring a voltage converter or transformer and appropriate plug adapters. (For example, adapters for Type A/C outlets are commonly needed.) If you carry appliances that can handle only 110 V, a **step-down transformer** is required; many simpler devices (phones, laptops) can use a plug adapter without a transformer.



Laptops and Printing

Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops for note-taking and presentations. If you require printing of documents during the event, please contact the organizing team in advance.

Time Zone

Thailand operates on Indochina Time (ICT), UTC+7, and does not observe daylight saving time. Participants are encouraged to take this time difference into account when making travel arrangements and scheduling virtual or international communications.

Attire

Participants are encouraged to wear formal at this meeting.

Enquiries

For local logistical or visa arrangements:

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