

# Practical Suggestions and Conference Logistics:

## Pacific Rim Community Design Network Conference

PRCD25 (Bangkok, 10–13 December 2025)

Host: Thammasat Design School

### 1. Airport Logistics Options

Bangkok is served by two international airports. Both offer clear routes to the city center and TU, Tha Prachan Campus.

Airport	To City Center (Sukhumvit/Siam)	Notes
Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK)	Airport Rail Link (ARL): Fast and cheap. Take the City Line to Phaya Thai station (30 mins).	Public Taxi (Metered) – cash only: Use the official taxi stand. Expect to pay around 400–500 THB (including tolls and airport surcharge). Travel time: 45–70 mins. Limousine/Grab/Bolt are also available.
Don Mueang Airport (DMK)	Airport Bus (A1 or A2): A1 to BTS Mo Chit/MRT Chatuchak. A2 to Victory Monument. (50 THB).	Public Taxi (Metered) – cash only: Use the official taxi stand. Expect to pay around 350–450 THB (including tolls and airport surcharge). Travel time: 40–60 mins. Grab/Bolt are convenient options.

### 2. SIM Card and Connectivity

- **Local Providers:** The top three major mobile network providers are [AIS](#), [TrueMove H](#) (now merged with DTAC). All offer competitive "Tourist SIM" packages with generous data allowances (often unlimited or high-speed capped) valid for 8, 15, or 30 days.
- **Where to Buy:**
  - **Airports (BKK & DMK):** The most convenient place to purchase. Kiosks for all providers are located in the arrivals hall. Staff will set up the SIM for you. *Note: Prices are often slightly higher than in the city, but the convenience is worth it.*
  - **City:** You can find official stores in any major shopping mall (e.g., Siam Paragon, MBK Center).
  - **eSIM:** If your phone supports it, an eSIM from providers like Airalo or Holafly can be purchased and installed before you even land, ensuring instant connectivity upon arrival.
- **Requirement:** By law, you must present your **passport** to purchase and register any Thai SIM card.

### 3. Traveling Options to Thammasat University, Tha Prachan Campus

([Faculty of Law – the conference venue](#))

Thammasat University (TU) Tha Prachan is located in the historic Rattanakosin area, which is *not* directly served by the main BTS or MRT lines. You will need to combine modes of transport.

Transport Type	Route and Estimated Cost	Notes
MRT Subway	Take the MRT Blue Line to <a href="#">Sanam Chai Station</a> . This is the closest station to the Old Town. From here, a short taxi/Tuk-Tuk ride – cash only (5-10 mins) or a 15-20 minute walk will get you to TU.	Sanam Chai Station is next to <a href="#">Museum Siam</a> and close to the <a href="#">Grand Palace</a> .
Public Taxi / Grab / Bolt	Direct ride. Metered Taxi – cash only	Grab and Bolt (often cheaper) are highly recommended. Use the app for a fixed price and enter " <a href="#">Thammasat University Tha Prachan</a> " as the destination.

#### 4. Food and Drink Safety

Bangkok's food scene is incredible, but hygiene practices can vary.

- For those with food restrictions, please note that some allergenic ingredients may not be listed on the menu.

#### 5. Dinner Options Near Thammasat University

The area around Tha Prachan is a vibrant hub of street food, hidden cafes, and historical restaurants.

- **Local Street Food (Lunch/Casual Dinner):** The immediate alleyways and streets around the campus are renowned for cheap, authentic, and delicious Thai street food, especially lunch vendors.
- **[Phra Athit Road](#):** A short walk from the campus, this road is lined with charming cafes, trendy bars, and established restaurants offering Thai and international cuisine in a relaxed setting.
- **[Tha Maharaj](#):** This chic, open-air lifestyle mall sits right on the **Chao Phraya River**, offering a serene atmosphere with spectacular sunset views over Wat Arun (the Temple of Dawn). It features a relaxed selection of quality restaurants, popular cafes, and local artisanal shops
- **[Wang Lang Market \(Across the River\)](#):** Take the cross-river ferry for a massive, bustling market famous for a variety of inexpensive and high-quality savory and sweet Thai dishes. Highly recommended for an authentic local experience.

#### 6. Health and Comfort Tips for Pre-Event Activities (Field Trips and Bangkok City Tour)

December in Bangkok is the cool season, but the weather remains hot and humid, especially during the day.

- **Footwear:** Comfortable, breathable walking shoes are essential for field trips and city tours, as you will be on your feet for several hours on uneven pavement.

- **Sun Protection:** Wear sunscreen (SPF 30+) daily, even on cloudy days. A wide-brimmed hat or cap is highly recommended.
- **Clothing:** Opt for lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing made from natural fibers (cotton, linen).
- **Hydration:** Carry bottled water at all times and drink frequently. Dehydration can happen quickly in the tropical climate.
- **Heat Exposure:** Plan to take breaks in air-conditioned spaces (malls, cafes, the university) to manage exposure to the heat and humidity.

## 7. Safe Travel for women travelling at night

Bangkok is generally safe, but standard big-city precautions are advised, especially at night.

- **Use Ride-Hailing Apps:** Use reliable apps like **Grab** or **Bolt**. This registers your trip, driver, and vehicle, offering better security and a pre-determined fare. Share your trip details with a trusted contact.
- **Official Taxis:** If hailing a metered taxi, look for ones with a clear company name and license. Insist the driver uses the meter; if they refuse or try to negotiate a flat rate that seems too high, politely get out and find another.
- **Public Transport (BTS/MRT):** The Skytrain (BTS) and Metro (MRT) are excellent, safe, and efficient, but they stop running around midnight. Plan your late-night return journey accordingly (usually requiring a taxi or Grab/ Bolt).
- **Walk with Confidence:** If walking at night, stick to well-lit, busy streets. Avoid dark, empty alleyways. Walk with purpose and be aware of your surroundings (limit phone use).
- **Emergency Contact:** Keep the **Tourist Police (1155)** number easily accessible.

## 8. AV Outlets and Socket Type in Thailand

- **Voltage:** The standard electrical voltage in Thailand is 220 volts (V) at 50 hertz (Hz). Ensure all your electronic devices (laptops, chargers) are compatible; most modern electronics are dual-voltage (100–240V).
- **Socket Type:** Thailand uses a combination of two socket types:
  - Type A: Two flat parallel pins (like the US/Japan).
  - Type C/O: Two round pins.
  - *Practical Note:* Most sockets are hybrids that accept both the two flat pins (Type A) and the two round pins (Type C).

## 9. Payment and Cash Preparation

While credit cards are widely accepted in hotels, major restaurants, and large stores, cash is essential for many everyday transactions.

- You will need cash (Thai Baht, THB) for taxis, Tuk-Tuks, all street food vendors, smaller shops, and entry fees for temples/museums.
- ATMs: ATMs are ubiquitous and the safest way to get cash using an international debit/credit card. Note that Thai banks charge a 220 THB foreign transaction fee per withdrawal.
- Currency Exchange: Rates at Bangkok airport exchange kiosks (e.g., SuperRich) are generally much better than those offered by your home bank.
- Mobile Payment: Many places, including convenience stores, accept mobile payments via services like PromptPay or QR code payments, but these often require a local bank account or app setup which may not be practical for short-term visitors.

## 10. Emergency Hospital Contact & Health Services

Thailand has excellent, modern private hospitals, particularly in Bangkok, which are often preferred by foreigners.

Service	Contact Number	Notes
Tourist Police	1155	Trained to assist foreigners, available 24/7, and generally have English-speaking staff.
General Emergency	191	Police, Fire, Ambulance.
Ambulance (Bangkok)	1646 (Erawan EMS Center) or 1669 (Narethon EMS Center)	Public services. In non-life-threatening cases, calling a private hospital is often quicker/easier for foreigners.

Health Service Tips:

- **Travel Insurance:** Ensure your travel insurance covers overseas medical expenses and emergency evacuation. Know your policy and have the claim contact details readily available.
- **Medication:** If you have prescription medication, carry it in its original packaging with a copy of the prescription. Be aware that **vaping/e-cigarettes are illegal in Thailand** and carry severe penalties.
- **Pharmacies:** Pharmacies are plentiful and often staffed by knowledgeable professionals. They can assist with minor issues like colds, minor cuts, and stomach upset. Look for signs in English.
- **Private hospital with translation services:**

#	Hospital	Address	Phone
1	Bangkok Christian Hospital	124 Silom Rd, Suriyawong, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500. <a href="#">Emergency Thailand+1</a>	02-625-9000

#	Hospital	Address	Phone
2	BNH Hospital	9/1 Convent Rd, Silom, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500. <a href="#">BNH HOSPITAL+1</a>	02-022-0700 <a href="#">BNH HOSPITAL+1</a>
3	Bumrungrad International Hospital	33 Soi Sukhumvit 3 (Soi Nana Nua), Khlong Toei Nuea, Watthana, Bangkok 10110. <a href="#">Bumrungrad International Hospital+1</a>	+66 (0)2-066-8888
4	Bangkok Hospital (Headquarter)	2 Soi Phetchaburi 47 Yaek 10, Bang Kapi, Huai Khwang, Bangkok 10310. <a href="#">Bangkok Hospital+1</a>	02-310-3000 (Emergency 1724) <a href="#">Bangkok Hospital</a>