



## Statement on the Current Political Situation in Thailand

To Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions Delegates

24 April 2010

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### Clashes in Silom Area, Bangkok

Following clashes between anti-government protestors, residents and groups opposed to the "Red-Shirt" protests on Wednesday night, a series of attacks on the Silom Road / Saladeang Intersection in Bangkok caused one death and 78 injuries. The Royal Thai Government has launched an investigation and pledged its determination to prevent further incidents.

Calm has now returned to the area, and the chances for dialogue are now improved. Nevertheless, the authorities are expected to use necessary measures in the coming days to disperse the protesters who continue to occupy two key intersections in the certain area of downtown Bangkok (Ratchaprasong and Saladaeng) to allow shops, hotels and restaurants in these areas to re-open, and normality to be restored.

The Army chief General Anupong Paochinda has ruled out the use of force to resolve the political crisis. Colonel Sansern Kaewkamnerd, Spokesman for the Centre for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES), affirmed that the Army will abide by international standards and all operations will be appropriate and proportionate to the situation. He added that the authorities have to listen to the voices of all Thais and will take action as appropriate to restore peace as soon as possible.

Although several countries have issued travel advisories against non-essential travel to Thailand, we would nevertheless point out that the Bangkok protests have not affected other MICE destinations such as Chiang Mai, Phuket and Samui, which are main destinations for several groups arriving in early May.

The government and the authorities concerned nevertheless will continue to be vigilant and ensure peace and order as well as safety of the public including foreign visitors in Thailand. In particular, visitors should not enter the protest locations at the Rachaprasong / Silom areas in Bangkok for the time being. Hotels in the Ratchaprasong areas are temporarily closed. Throughout the rest of Bangkok, hotels, businesses, restaurants and entertainment venues are open as usual. All airports and travel services are operating normally.

TCEB will keep you updated with the situation. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to call TCEB office: +(66) 2694 6000 , visit [www.tceb.or.th](http://www.tceb.or.th) or contact [info@tceb.or.th](mailto:info@tceb.or.th) .(+662-694-6001 from 08:30 to 20:00 Sunday-Saturday), or visit [www.tceb.or.th](http://www.tceb.or.th).

For further information, contact:

- Ø Tourism Authority of Thailand's 24-hour English call center at 1672 from within Thailand or +(66) 2-652-8313 from overseas
  - Ø Tourist Police call center at 1155 (within Thailand only)
  - Ø Ministry of Foreign Affairs 24-hour Emergency Coordination Center:  
+(66) 2-575-1023; +(66) 2-981-7225; +(66) 88-022-1540; or +(66) 88-022-1541
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