

# **Trips: Trips - 27**

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Sec. Gen.'s trip to Thailand 1956

Feb. 3, 9<sup>1-</sup>

Chi - Yuen Wu (Chief, Div. of Administration, ECAFE)

- 1) — to G. Juan Smith (Un. Inform. Centre)
- 2) — to P. S. Lokanathan (Executive Secretary)

MEMORANDUM

1 February 1956.

To : Dr P.S.Lokanathan, Executive Secretary  
From : C. Y. Wu, Chief, Division of Administration  
Subject: SALA SANTITHAM

1. The ECAFE Secretariat is at present accommodated in Sala Santitham but has control only over parts of the building. The building is divided into four parts: (a) the central pavilion (including the entrance and the two conference halls); (b) the north wing consisting of offices; (c) the ~~new~~ south wing consisting of offices; and (d) the annex. The ECAFE has control over only two-thirds of the north wing, all of south wing and the annex. These parts are supplied by the Government of Thailand to ECAFE free of charge. The central pavilion (including both the entrance and the conference halls) is under the supervision and control of the Thai Government. The Thai Government decides what meetings are to be held in those halls. The second floor has been assigned to the Thai United Nations Association.

2. Since we have no control over the conference halls, we have sometimes encountered difficulties. For instance, in the second half of 1955, the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development was unable to meet in one of the two meeting halls because of Thai Government's commitments to WFUNA. Early this year, a SEATO meeting met in one of the two conference halls, at the time when the ECAFE Inland Transport Committee held a session in the other hall.

3. The main entrance of the Sala Santitham is under the control of an officer of the Department of Public Work. Security is therefore more the responsibility of the Department of Public Work than of the ECAFE Secretariat.

4. The office space assigned to us is inadequate. With present staff, we need 5 or 6 additional rooms. In ~~1956~~ 1957 when the Survey Group's report will be implemented, we shall require 20 more rooms in order to accommodate additional staff and the new Social Affairs Unit and the TAA Unit.

5. The Thai Government has decided to add a new wing for international meetings to the Sala Santitham. The blue-print for this new wing has not yet been finalized. It would seem, therefore, that if an attempt is to be made to change the present arrangements or to obtain more office space, it should be made in the near future.

6. Because of the Prime Minister's personal interests in Sala /Santitham and because of the fact that considerable sum has been spent by the Thai Government on building it and air-conditioning its conference halls, it appears that the best way to obtain new arrangements would be to raise the matter directly with the Prime Minister.

3 February 1956.

Mr George Ivan Smith,  
C/o United Nations Information Centre,  
Theatre Communications Building,  
New Delhi, 1.

Dear Mr Smith,

... Dr Lokanathan informed me that he had briefly mentioned to you the questions relating to Sala Santitham as outlined in my memorandum to him dated 1 February 1956, which is attached herewith, but that he had no time to discuss this matter with the Secretary-General. We should be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of the Secretary-General and leave it to him to decide if he would wish to discuss these questions with the Government of Thailand during his forthcoming visit to Bangkok.

Yours sincerely,

Chi-Yuen Wu  
Chief,  
Division of Administration, ECAFE.

UNITED NATIONS - NATIONS UNIES  
**INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mr. George Ivan Smith

Date 9 February 1956

FROM: Chi-Yuen Wu *C.Y. Wu*

SUBJECT: Secretary-General's Visit

The attached cable from you dated 8 February 1956, sent from Rangoon, reached me only at 10.30 this morning. I have already discussed with you the question concerning Lady Laiad's reception. By now you must have learnt that the wreath will be supplied by the Government and it is, therefore, up to the Government to decide what kind of wreath to be laid.

Encl: