



Information COVID-19 to the Swiss community in Cambodia / No. 2 / 21.03.2020

Dear compatriots,

Please find below a new update from the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok.

1) Operations of Regional Consular Center of the Swiss Embassy in Bangkok, covering Cambodia

Given the challenges and growing constraints imposed by the COVID19 situation, the different services offered by the Swiss Embassy are now reduced:

- The **visa section** of the Regional Consular Center of the Swiss Embassy is closed until further notice. This is a decision of the Swiss authorities implemented worldwide to all Swiss Embassies / Consulates.
- The **consular section** of the Swiss Embassy remains open, but focuses essentially on emergencies related to COVID-19. Thousands of Swiss travelers in the region are now affected by the situation, so the Embassy does its best to advise and assist Swiss citizens with its resources available. Not urgent consular requests will be dealt with at a later stage. Thank you for your understanding.

As for the **Swiss Consular Agency** in Phnom Penh, please refrain from going to the Office in person. Contact the Regional Consular Centre in Bangkok directly: bangkok@eda.admin.ch or +66 2 674 69 00.

2) Reductions and cancellations of flights are rapidly increasing every day. It is urgent for Swiss travelers to return to Switzerland. From our side, we will make our best to also announce any new flight possibilities we might hear of, and put them on the [Facebook page](#) "Swiss Cooperation Mekong", and our websites: [Bangkok](#) and [Phnom Penh](#).

3) Further travel restrictions :

- To enter Switzerland:** On 18 March 2020, the Swiss Federal Council decided, that entry at the Schengen external borders is generally prohibited ([with only few exceptions](#)). **This means, if someone is holding a Schengen visa, this person is not allowed to enter Switzerland.** For additional information, please consult the [webpage of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM](#). Kindly also consult the [webpage of the Embassy of Switzerland](#), where more details on the changes and updates of the above mentioned are published.
- To enter Cambodia:** The restrictions imposed on 13 and 14 March, as mentioned in my first letter dated 17.03.20, are still valid. Meaning, that there is still a ban on entries for all nationals from Italy, Germany, Spain, France, the USA and Iran, as well as **for any foreigner, incl. Swiss, traveling to Cambodia from one these six countries.**
- To enter Thailand:** As of Sunday 22 March, every foreign national, including Swiss citizens, will have to provide a recent [health certificate](#) (including the result of a COVID test) to enter the country, as well as proof of health insurance with a minimum medical coverage in Thailand of not less than 100'000 USD. Information should be available on the website of the [Department of Disease Control](#), of the Ministry of Health of Thailand. These new requirements make the entry into Thailand almost impossible. Furthermore, you might end in an imposed self-quarantine or isolation scheme.

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If any Swiss citizen is currently travelling in the region as a tourist or as businessman (this is not meant for Swiss permanent residents in the region), please also make sure you are registered on [Itineris](#) so that you can be contacted by the Swiss Embassy if needed.

4) Situation in Cambodia

Cambodia is also strengthening its measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus in Cambodia. If you are in Cambodia, please comply strictly with these measures imposed by the Cambodian authorities.

For further questions please contact: bangkok@eda.admin.ch or +66 2 674 69 00. Or the Helpline FDFA: +41 800 24-7-365 or +41 58 465 33 33

Please consult regularly the internet links mentioned in this email.

Stay safe and healthy and with my best wishes and greetings,

Helene Budliger Artieda
Swiss Ambassador to Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR