



What is the SOUTHEAST ASIA MISSION WORKSHOP?

Answer: The Southeast Asia Access Mission Workshop is a weeklong mission exposure trip outside of the country. This is the second and last stage of the ACCESS MISSION training program and is the final prerequisite for acceptance to the IT Phils. organization. It will be held in any of the following countries: Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Laos, Singapore & Vietnam. There were a few times when the event was held outside of SEA in tandem with a major IT Conference. This stage allows the trainee to experience, in a small degree, what it's like to prepare for and go on actual service in the mission field. This is accomplished in coordination with an existing team in the field which serves as both host and mentor to the trainee during the exposure trip. They are the ones who will also determine the participants suitability for actual mission work and recommend full acceptance (or denial) to the IT Phils organization.

This stage allows the trainee to experience, in a small degree, what it's like to prepare for and go on actual service on the mission field. This is accomplished in coordination with an existing team in the field which serves as both host and mentor to the trainee during the exposure trip. SEA Workshops is an intensive training program designed for missionary trainees of International Teams with the objective of exposing them to:

- A cross-cultural setting and population
- A non-local ministry/ actual work set-up
- Field team dynamics

The training program has the following components:

- In house workshops and seminars
- Exposure visits to ministry sites
- Hands-on ministry to the poor
- Prayer and Intercession for the nations
- Daily briefings on experiences, insights and lessons learned
- Counseling for long-term ministry decisions

A team of IT Trainer/ Evaluator will carry the burden of evaluating every trainee for fitness in the global mission work of International Teams. Their focus will be on the character and spiritual maturity of each individual trainee. They will give the final evaluation that will determine if the trainee is ready for IT global mission ministry.

Only after successfully completing the two phases of ACCESS TRAINING can a trainee be officially accepted as a full-fledged ITP missionary, qualified for long term deployment in the mission field. The trainee will undergo a final Membership Briefing virtually and will be given a membership Contract and an ID card.

How do we proceed?

1. Secure passport and prepare a photocopy to be submitted to IT organizing team.
2. Start forming your support team (preferably from your church) composed of committed financial supporters and intercessors.
3. Inform your relationship circle (people close to you... relatives, friends, church mates etc.) of the training program and your upcoming trip.
4. Attend our regular IT online mission fellowships and try to invite others for an informal virtual get together for the purpose of fanning the flame of mission in your hearts. Others have formed their official Facebook group where they get to chat regularly and post updates on their mission activities.
5. Regularly check International Teams Phils. Facebook site for updates and announcements. If you are not an FB friend of ITP, please go the account: International Teams Philippines and click the LIKE button.
6. Optional: Send funds raised to our accounting department. (Please refer to your Access manual or website: www.iteamsphils.org on how to send funds to our office). The money you send will be placed in a holding account under your name and will be used as a standby fund for the purchase of plane tickets at the best flight booking rates (promo) available.
7. Attend SEA WORKSHOPS pre-departure briefing. Schedule will be announced and communicated to all participants.
8. FLY to your assigned destination ... ENJOY the privilege to serve in another country!
9. Undergo a weeklong field immersion designed primarily for character evaluation and confirmation of calling for mission work.
10. Return to Manila and sign membership contract and get your ID ... or stay with the requesting team for long term ministry, that is, if the field team leader officially requests for your participation in their team.
11. If you're evaluation turns out negative, you will be released from the Access program and your application for IT membership shall be considered denied.

Where and when do we go for our Southeast Asia ACCESS Workshops?

The exact dates and locations of the SEA Mission workshops for the whole year are listed on our website: www.iteamsphils.org. You are expected to take part in the closest available schedule that is a month away after finishing your ACCESS Mission Training. You will no longer be participating as a single ACCESS batch. Some trainees from other ACCESS batches who were unable to join their assigned trips may take part in this scheduled trip. The country location for the workshops for the time being will revolve around these countries: Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand. We are adding TAIWAN in the list for this year 2023.

What if I failed to join the trip?

If you were unable to join the trip, then you will be reassigned and booked for the next SEA Mission Workshop (ACCESS 2). The same process as the above will apply. If you are left behind several times, just don't give up!!! It happened to several missionaries too. God has an appointed time for you to experience the fulfillment of your dreams. And if it does not happen today, rest assured that it will happen tomorrow. Don't be ashamed if you are unable to join the first group with your batch that departed for the mission field. Some of our missionaries greatly used by the Lord have been through a similar experience. Just keep on believing!

Can I book my flight ticket personally instead of the office?

Yes, you may. BUT please consult with our office first and confirm final flight schedule. YOU MUST travel as a group, so you will arrive the country destination as a group. The country field team would prefer that you arrive as a group for logistical reasons. We will provide pre-departure briefing one time only and we may be unable to accommodate those who will travel on a separate schedule. Airport runs will be coordinated with the field team, and they would not want to do multiple runs just to assist those who booked on a separate flight schedule. If you still decide to arrive on a separate date, then you may just receive instructions on how to proceed to the workshop venue.

Will it be possible for ITP to advance payment for my trip?

No, we don't do cash advances anymore. If your funds can't meet the airline rates for the upcoming trip. To those who chose to deposit funds in an IT holding account, we could only book you on the trip with a ticket cost that matches your available funds. The airlines follow these ticketing rules ... the farther the schedule the cheaper the rates. We try to monitor daily the airline rates, waiting for the best possible ticket prices to appear. When we spot them, we inform those with funds in our accounting department and if we get a go-signal we start with the booking process right away. So, our advice is this: any funds you have intended for this trip should be sent to our accounting right away so you will have a standby fund ready and available for booking purposes should a fantastic promo rate show up. Anyone can book their own flights though as long as they make sure of the final dates and airport on arrival.

What if I had an emergency and needed to withdraw my funds?

You could withdraw them anytime even if there is no emergency EXCEPT for donor designated funds. If donor's intent is for your mission trip, then we will need to secure his approval for withdrawals to be made outside its intended use. You have sole authority over the withdrawal of funds placed under your name. Our office will not deduct even a single percent from it. We could have it wired or sent to you thru bank transfers or GCash etc... You need to cover the cost of wiring though should you ask that money be sent to you in that manner.

What if I chose not to join the SEA ACCESS Workshop?

You will remain as a missionary trainee for some time until we decide to erase your name completely from our files. We do give ample time for the trainee to reconsider and pursue the completion of the ACCESS program. There is no need to undergo ACCESS again if your name is still active in our file as a trainee. A former trainee who wishes to rejoin the program may be asked to undergo ACCESS Mission Training Phase 1 again. Special cases apply on the prerogative of the Executive office.

Can I ask for an endorsement letter from the office?

Our office can provide a letter of certification that states the purpose of your status in the organization (Missionary Trainee) and the travel assignment to fulfill requirements in gaining full membership. Should you need more copies, you could simply have it photocopied.

I have some relatives and friends from the US who want to send their financial report, how will they do it?

Please refer to your ACCESS Mission Manual for instructions or you may visit the GIVE section of our website for the complete guide on sending money from the US or other parts of the world to the Philippines.

What is expected from us by the field teams?

You are expected to honor field missionaries and submit to leadership and recognize that you are there to learn and gain an understanding of mission life. We advise trainees to simply observe the national's culture, way of life, ministry approaches and team dynamics for the purpose of determining whether they would consider long term involvement. It is best to be reminded that as trainees, **you are the ones being evaluated and not the other way around.**

What are some of the travel problems encountered by those who went before us?

A. Philippine Immigration issue. Legitimate travelers who were refused boarding by these airport officials are fast growing in numbers. We, in ITP had our own share of harrowing immigration experiences when some of our missionaries were off loaded in the past ... all in the name of human trafficking. Though we understand that the main intent was to aid

those who were being deceived by illegal job recruiters, these immigration officials have fallen short in their evaluation process and have created great harm to the genuine travelers, like our missionaries. Being aware of this problem, we decided to provide a very important Pre-departure Missionary Briefing designed to prepare our missionaries and trainees for their encounter with our airport immigration. We provide all documentations that may be required by our airport officials to show proof of our authenticity as a mission organization and legitimacy of our missionaries' travel.

B. Absence from pre-departure briefing. Based on experience, most of our problems happened to either those who failed to attend our pre-departure briefing or those who did not follow the instructions given at the said briefing. We could have breezed through immigration in many instances, if not for those individuals who due to their unpreparedness during actual interview raised the suspicion of immigration officials. They were separated and sent to the immigration office for further interrogation ... dragging some trainees with them. Worst scenario was denial to board the plane or simply, "off loaded". Our PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING is of great importance and should not be treated lightly.

Who do I talk to in ITP with regards to other questions related to our trip?

Please feel free to contact the following individuals for your queries:

A. GLOBAL MISSION CENTER Leader/ Mobilizer/ Organizer: Please visit our website for the list of mobilizer/organizers in or near your area.

B. For all accounting / financial related questions: KATHY MERENCILLO – Email: kathy.merencillo@iteams.org, Mobile no: +639329085347, Facebook: Kathy Merencillo

C. For all SEA WORKSHOPS Mission trip and flight booking questions: YNAH SINSAY – Email: karinakhaye1989@gmail.com, Mobile no: +63947 1637958, Facebook: Ynah Delos Reyes Sinsay

D. For all legal documentations, personnel related questions: ATTY.ELNA CRUZ – Email: elna.cruz@iteams.org, Mobile No: +63921756000

E. SCHEDULES & LOCATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA MISSION WORKSHOPS (ACCESS 2) for the YEAR 2023 are available on the SCHEDULES page of our website: www.iteamphils.org.