

ASIA EDUCATION RESOURCE CONSORTIUM
announces its annual
Family Education Conference
Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 3-5, 2010

Who is this conference for?

It is for families working in Asia who:

Homeschool, use national schools, or use other nontraditional schooling, or will in the future want to evaluate their current educational options or face new educational decisions as their children get older face the challenges of educating and parenting their children cross-culturally It is also for teachers of homeschool co-ops and one-room schoolhouses.

When and where will it be held?

February 3-5, 2010, Lotus Pang Suan Kaew Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand

What topics will be covered?

The conference sessions will include:

Spiritual development in the life of your child Family life with homeschooling. Teaching science from a biblical perspective. Scientific evidence for creationism. Teaching math. Third culture kid issues. National schools. Waiting on our Father through trials. Biblical parenting. Many more relevant topics.

Pre-conferences:

This year we will again hold two pre-conferences on Tuesday, February 2. There will be an additional charge for these. The first will address foundational issues for families who are attending the conference for the first time or are facing educational decisions for the first time. The topics covered will include: Evaluating options and developing long-range plans. Getting started in homeschooling. Choosing your curriculum. Understanding your child's learning style.

The second pre-conference is In Search of a Good Fit, a career planning and college preparation seminar with Dr. John Schwaiger, President of CareerFormation, Inc. Please see the flier at the end of this announcement for details.

How will this conference help families?

1. It addresses the practical issues and challenges facing parents as they raise and educate their children overseas.
2. It gives parents an opportunity to discuss specific concerns with educators who have a background in cross-cultural education and the unique challenges faced by families who are homeschooling and using national schools.
3. It provides testing services for parents who desire this. Testing will be available that can help determine if a child is working at grade level as well as identify areas of learning struggle and challenge. (See below.)

Who will be the presenters for this conference?

Plenary speakers for FEC 2010 include Jay Wile, Founder and Director of Apologia Science Curriculum; Jeff and Janna Gilbert, Cofounders and Directors of The

Potter's School; Janet Blomberg, Executive Director of Interaction, Int.; Ron Bossom of Harvester Gathering; as well as many other educators and homeschool presenters, AERC educational consultants, and AERC Board members.

Children's Program: An excellent program is planned for elementary, middle, and high school age students focusing on fun, friendship, and being third culture kids. Childcare is provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Please note: It is important to register early because space in the children's program is limited. When the program is full, we will put families on a waiting list. Parents will still have the opportunity to attend, but their children may not be able to be in the children's program once it is full.

What are the costs for the conference? In spite of rapidly increasing inflation and the continued weakening of the American dollar, AERC is pleased that hotel/package cost increases for this year's conference are minimal. Please note that there are two separate billings. Again this year we are using the logistical services of Southeast Asia Marketing (SAM). That means that there will be a per person conference fee from them which includes hotel accommodations, breakfast, lunch, and breaks, airport transportation, room registration, full service on-site office during the conference, Internet service, tour package options, flight re-confirmations, pre- and post-hotel booking, and 30 percent off laundry. This also includes many expenses for the conference such as notebooks, nametags, meeting rooms, and meeting equipment. The hotel/package fee from SAM will be paid at the conference.

The AERC conference fee covers other costs such as FEC preparation, workshop materials, and room and board for speakers and staff. The cost of staff transportation is well over \$50,000, but presenters at FEC cover their own transportation charges, and for many that includes airline fare from the United States or England. This is a huge savings to the families who attend, over \$300 per adult. As always, AERC seeks to keep fees as low as possible for our families who attend. AERC is not a subsidized organization, and our fees reflect actual costs. AERC registration fees (including conference, pre-conferences, children's program, testing) can be paid online, and then the hotel/package charges will be paid at the conference.

We are pleased to announce that for those living in Chiang Mai who do not need lodging at the hotel, SAM has lowered the day rate, which covers lunch, meeting room costs, notebooks, and many other logistics. Since the hotel rooms are part of the reason for conference pricing by the hotel, the day rate from those living outside Chiang Mai will stay the same.

SAM Package Costs:

(Please note that the current rate of exchange as of October is approximately 33.60 Thai baht to 1 U.S. dollar.)

Package Rates

Suthep Wing (newer wing)

Deluxe Twin/Double Room 1404.23 baht per person, per day (pp, pd)

Deluxe Single 2315.28 baht pp, pd

Huay Kaew Wing (6th floor entrance, older wing) Superior Twin/Double Room 1320.12
baht per person, per day (pp, pd)
Superior Single 2027.92 baht pp, pd

Children

03 412.25 baht with pallet or crib, breakfast, lunch, and meeting rooms with
breaks, sharing room with parents
312 650 baht with extra bed or top mattress, breakfast, lunch, and meeting rooms
with breaks, sharing room with parents Over 12 898.70 baht with extra bed,
breakfast, lunch, and meeting rooms with breaks, sharing room with parents

Day Rate:

825 baht per person per day

Day Rate for Chiang Mai Residents: 600 baht per person per day

AERC Fees Please note that these are in addition to the hotel package costs.
AERC member families receive discounts on conference and testing fees. We
encourage parents to attend together by offering significant savings for
couples. Please note that all fees are stated in U.S. dollars. Payment for
AERC fees can be made by US Dollar Check to AERC Business Manager Jeff Harbold,
1242 Heindel Rd., York PA 17408, USA or during registration in US Dollar (check
or cash) or Thai baht. The hotel/package rates will be paid at the conference.
Payment to SAM for the hotel must be made in Thai baht.
There is a money exchange in the mall next to the hotel.

AERC Registration:

For AERC members:

\$125 for couples

\$ 95 for individuals

For non-AERC members:

\$150 for couples

\$120 for individuals

Homeschooling Pre-conference Fees:

AERC Members: US\$30 per couple, US\$15 per individual Non-AERC Members: US\$40 per
couple/US\$25 per individual College/Career Pre-conference Fees: See attached
brochure.

Testing Fees:

Iowa Test of Basic Skills: \$40 non-member/\$30 AERC member Individual Achievement:
\$75 non-member/\$60 AERC member

Diagnostic: \$225 non-member/\$150 AERC member Children's Program: \$35 per child

Late Registration Fee: \$25

Registration:

To get your registration confirmed quickly, take advantage of our secure online
registration. Go to the following website, and register

online: https://forms.sameeventregistration.com/survey.cfm?su_id=98

Password: @erc2010 (Note this is the 'at' symbol, not the letter a.)

If you are unable to register online, you can fax your registration to: SAM Office, Attn: AERC Registration. Their fax number in Thailand is 66 (53) 820-622 or 626. To email your registration, email: conferencing@samassist.com with AERC Registration in the subject line. Please note that all information in the online registration must be included in fax or email registration.

Registration Deadline:

December 7, 2009. Please register early because the conference registration will close when the children's program and/or facilities are filled. Registration forms and payment may be submitted by each family individually or through your agency. Please note that late registrations after December 7 could require an additional processing fee.

Housing:

It is important that you make reservations through SamAssist, not the hotel. We will be staying at Lotus Pang Suan Kaew Hotel.

Testing:

Various types of educational evaluations are available at the Chiang Mai FEC. When you indicate you want testing for your child on the registration form, you will receive an assessment information form. After completing this form, our consultants will help you to make the most appropriate decision regarding the right test for your child and you will receive information on the fees.

1. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is timed and administered in a group setting. It is commonly used in North American and international schools and measures the academic achievement and abilities of students from second through eighth grade in reading, language arts, and mathematics. A report of the scores will be prepared and discussed with you during the post-test consultation.

If this is the test your child will take, please note that it will be administered only on Tuesday, February 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the hotel, so you will need to arrive one day early for this test.

2. If the ITBS is not appropriate for your child, we may recommend an individualized test that gives more specific feedback, such as the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test. These tests will be administered individually by AERC consultants and a more detailed report written and discussed with you during the post-test consultation. These tests will be administered at various times during the conference.

3. If deemed necessary, a battery of diagnostic tests can be administered by an educational psychologist to help identify specific learning issues. A very detailed report will be written and discussed with you during the post-test consultation. These tests will be administered at various times during the conference.

Schedule:

The conference will be held at the Lotus Hotel. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. on February 3 and will end after the closing program on February 5. We will not hold sessions on Wednesday or Thursday evening, but staff may be available for individual meetings with families.

Final Registration and Check-in will begin on February 1 (the day preceding the pre-conference). If you arrive earlier than that, you will be able to check in to the hotel, but please come back to the AERC registration table as soon as it opens to complete your registration.

The homeschooling pre-conference will be on Tuesday, February 2, at 12:30 p.m. and will conclude around 5:30 p.m. Child care will be provided (if needed) for children under age 12 while their parents attend the homeschooling pre-conference. Please see the attached brochure for details of the College and Career Seminar. Registration and testing for this seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills will be given on February 2 (the day of the pre-conference) starting at 9 a.m. and ending at approximately 2 p.m. Children being tested should meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Huay Kaew Wing lobby on the 6th floor. This is the floor where all the AERC meetings will be held.

Further Information:

For further information regarding the conference, AERC membership, or upcoming conferences, email martham@asiaerc.org.