

Suvarnabhumi Airport
30th November 2009

Suvarnabhumi Airport implements stern measures to counter illegal taxis and unregistered guides

Mr. Nirandra Theeranartsin, the General Manager of Suvarnabhumi Airport, disclosed that since implementing measures to prevent and suppress illegal taxis and unregistered guides Suvarnabhumi Airport in August 2009 to date (25th November), 2,430 taxis and 1,091 guides have been caught. This equates to an average of 20 taxis and 10 guides being caught per day. Suvarnabhumi Airport's legal consultant team, with Samut Prakan provincial prosecutor as team leader, has recommended that civil and criminal suits should be taken against any person caught operating illegally. Therefore, stern measures are being implemented to catch those operating and causing disturbance within the Passenger Terminal building and platform areas. Once there is enough evidence for prosecution, legal actions will be taken; under the Penal Code of Thailand on the Offences of Trespass, Section 364., the offender shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year or fine not exceeding 2,000 baht, or both; and Section 365., if the offence under Section 364 be committed: (1) by an act of violence or (2) by night, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding five years or fine not exceeding ten thousand baht, or both.

Mr. Nirandra explained further that Suvarnabhumi Airport gives great importance on the policy to eliminate illegal taxis and unregistered guides and strict measures will be implemented continuously until such goal is achieved. A special taskforce, working concurrently with the police force, has been set up to prevent and suppress these taxis and guides from operating in the airport. Since the implementation of the strict measures, the usage of public taxis has increased from around 6,000 - 6,500 to around 7,000 – 8,000 per day.

Lastly, Mr. Nirandra added that the move of the Public Transportation Service counters from Level 2 to Level 1 of the Passenger Terminal shows positive result in the passenger flow. There is now less confusion in the whereabouts of the service counters and the dedicated area is easier to get to. Also, the much larger area on Level 1 allows more orderly taxi queues than before.

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