

Navigating the Campus at Thidamaepra

by Elizabeth A. Clayborne



Picture This:

It's your first day of training at Thidamaepra School. The morning air is cool as you leave your apartment and climb on your bike, but you're feeling a little warm— excitement or nervousness? Maybe a little of both. Plugging Thida into your navigation, you carefully make your way through the wild west of Thai traffic. You hug the far left of the road like ya'll are besties, send a prayer to whoever may be listening as you set off. This early traffic is still pretty light. You're not used to the roads here yet though, so it feels like real life Mario Kart— set on hard mode with higher stakes.

You make your way through the gates of Thida. You made it. On a scooter, in Thailand. You're so painfully cool right now. As you enter the campus grounds, though, you pause and pop out the kickstand of your bike. You lean back and look around. The campus is HUGE. Where should you park? Which of the many buildings is your destination?

In this post, I'll show you how to navigate the MEP and IEP portions of the Thida campus. Of course you'll have plenty of help, during training week and beyond. Any questions you may have will be answered quickly and kindly. Either by a Thai teacher, a fellow foreign teacher, or the manager. All the same, I remember what it was like for me that first week. There were so many firsts, so much to learn. I familiarizing yourself with the campus while you're in the comfort of your home will help you feel more confident during the first couple of weeks.

Plus, it took me a full month to figure out that there was a water fountain right behind my office. And we need to stay hydrated! So keep reading for a quick picture tour through Thida's beautiful campus.

When you drive into the main gate of Thida (there are several entrances, but we're gonna keep it simple) this is what you'll see 👁️👁️ :

The Entrance



1 IEP Building

You'll have IEP classes here.

(I'll do another post breaking down the differences between IEP and MEP classes)

2 Assembly Area

You can't see it in this picture, but behind those trees is the Assembly Area.

This is a wide pavilion with lots of pillars.

This is where we have morning assemblies and events.

3 MEP Building

Your MEP classes will probably be in this building. Your office definitely is.

You'll spend most of your time on campus here.

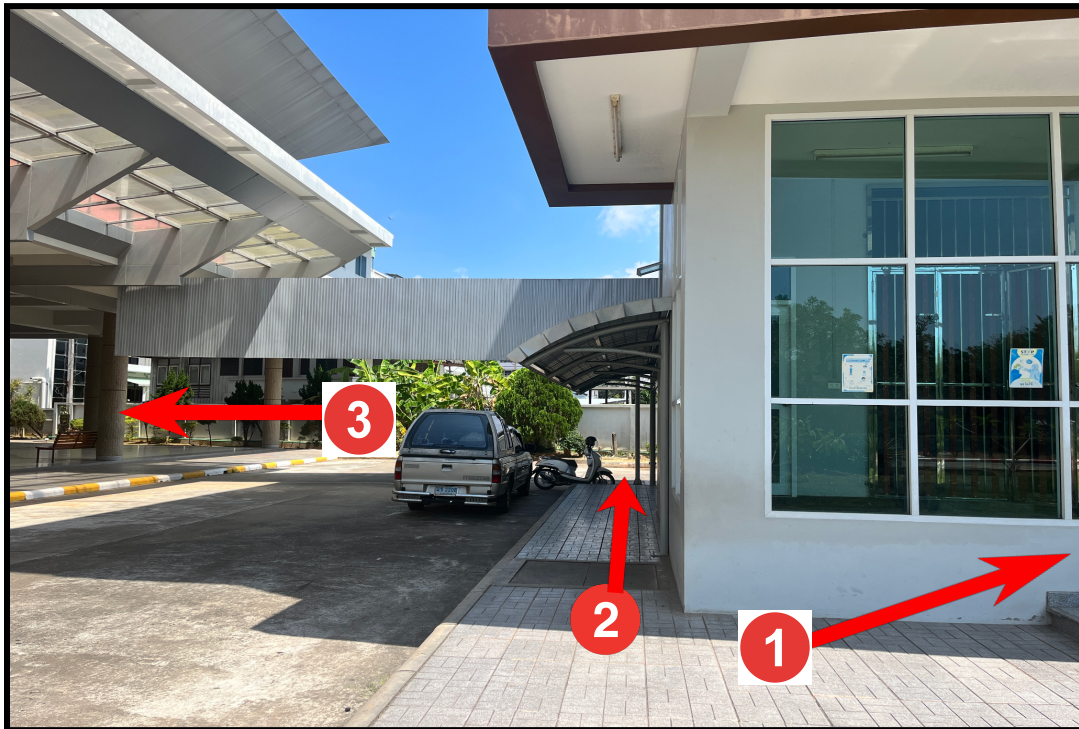
4 Parking Area

Most of us park here. As you can see, it's pretty close to our office.

See that adorable yellow bike parked in the middle of the picture? That's my bike, Bumblebee. I love it. If you continue past Bumble and keep going straight, you'll see a closer view of the MEP building.

This is what you'll see 👁️:

MEP Building



1 MEP Building

Your office is that way. Ground floor, last two doors on the left.
Your MEP classes will probably be that way as well.

2 MEP Cafeteria

The MEP kids will eat their lunch here.
The closest water fountain is also here.

3 Assembly Area

Notice the covered walkway between the MEP building, the MEP cafeteria, and the Assembly Area. It goes all the way to the IEP building. That's for the rainy season.

So let's pretend you're actually on campus. You probably want to go to the office first, to put some things down. You turn to the right, and the last two doors on the left are our offices. You open the office door.

Here's what you'll see 👁️👁️ :

MEP Office



There are two MEP offices, right next door to each other. This is what your desk and chair will look like.

(Now hold on one sec. Look at that chair. Imagine sitting there for hours. Just saying, you *might* wanna invest in some padding for the seat and lumbar areas.)

You put down your things. After an eventful morning, you realize you're thirsty. Water bottle in hand, you leave the office and head to the MEP cafeteria. Baddies hydrate 💕.

Here's what you'll see right when you exit the office 👁️ :

Leaving the Office



1 Parking Area

2 Assembly Area

3 MEP Cafeteria

You turn to the right and head to the MEP cafeteria.

Here's what you'll see 👁️ :

MEP Cafeteria



1 MEP Caf

2 Water Fountain

Successfully hydrated, you decide you also want a snack. The quickest place to find a snack is the IEP building. To get there you'll have to go through the assembly area. You follow the path under the rain covers. They also offer a shady respite from the Thai sun.

Here's what you'll see 👁️ :

Assembly Area

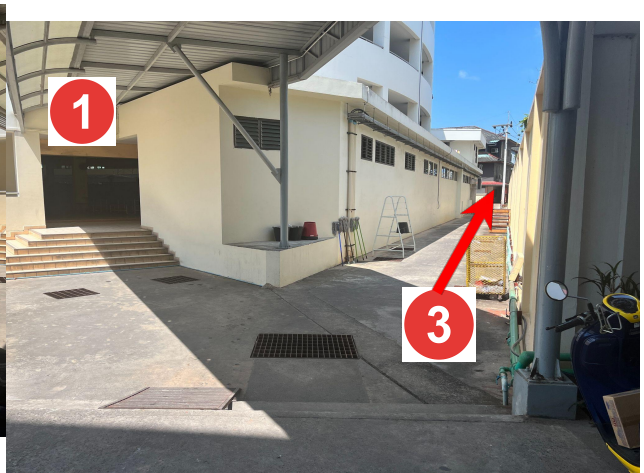


- 1** Assembly Area
- 2** Walkway Covers
- 3** IEP Building

You walk through the assembly area, excited about your snack. Maybe a donut. Ohh, or some ice cream. You keep straight and then veer a little to the left to get to the IEP building.

Here's what you'll see 👁️ :

IEP Building



1 IEP Building

2 Thida's Main Entrance

3 High School

You walk up the steps and into the IEP building, turning to the right towards the snack counter.
You can already taste that donut. Or the ice cream. Or both 🍩🍦