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NOVEMBER 2020 | SWISS-THAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | E-NEWSLETTER #124

Good food, Good life

TOP NEWS

**Deutsche Bank:
School News:**

**What's at stake on Nov 3
Open House Day on 3rd November 2020
at RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige
Schule Bangkok / Elective Courses /
Christmas Card Competition / Mandalas /
German National Day Event**

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE STCC



PRESIDENT BRUNO G. ODERMATT

Times have really changed. Just a year ago you could easily book a cheap flight to Bangkok, book a first-class hotel at a decent price, receive a visa-on-arrival stamp in your passport, and hours later be relaxing at one of the top-notch beaches, sipping exotic drinks in a tropical paradise. Those days have seemingly passed for now and when you look at all the mind-numbing formalities you have to go through just to come to Thailand these days, I really feel sorry for the tourists as well as the hospitality industry. You also do not just need lots of patience and perseverance during that pro-

cess, but deep pockets as well. As we usually spend the fall school holidays in the North of Thailand, enjoying the cooler climate in the mountains, I was really shocked this time around. I have never seen the Golden Triangle area as deserted as this time; almost all of the shops and cafes were closed, the Immigration office at the Mekong river and money changers were closed, and no people and tourists were to be seen around this typically year-round extremely busy area. Many hotels are either shut down or empty. Even on the day we played the acclaimed Santiburi Golf course in Chiang Rai, there were only 10 players on the course that day. Once you travel outside of Bangkok, you can really see the devastation caused by the Covid Pandemic and we can only pray that this nightmare will be soon over, not just for Thailand but for all the other parts of the world who are affected by its impact.

SERVICE

MEMBER DETAIL UPDATES

Do you have changes among your delegates or changes to your e-mail, mobile, telephone, or fax numbers?

Please send all updates to secretary@swissthai.com



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If you really want to become an acclaimed writer and publish a book that will end up on the New York Times best seller list, then you should write a book about Donald Trump. His tumultuous presidency has just been great business for book sales, and there is no end in sight despite the worries about saturation in the publishing industry. From *Fire to Fury* to *Higher Loyalty* to *The Room Where It Happened*; all books are big money makers. Books about politicians are usually not considered commercial hits, but since President Trump began his time in office, this all changed. Mary L. Trump's memoir about her uncle, *Too Much and Never Enough*, sold more than 1.3 mil copies on the first week. Bob Woodward's *Fear* sold more than 2 million copies, which is really hitting the jackpot in the publishing industry. As I am also an avid reader, I truly believe that you cannot be really smart if you do not read books. Bill Gates reads about 50 books a year and every year I follow his list of books he recommends, just to stay up to date on current trends. On the other hand, Trump's ghost writer for *the Art of the Deal*, Tony Schwartz, speculated that Trump has never read a single book in his adult life, except the one about himself. On that subject matter, if I had to make choice of the best book I have

read the last 2 years, I would say it is *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* of Harvard professor Soshana Zuboff. I recommend it to all young people who are concerned about data privacy and the new way tech companies claim human experience as products.

In November we are engaged in a number of events and activities, and the highlights are the Tri-Nation Network event with our German and Austrian friends and the annual STCC network event hosted by the Swiss Embassy. In future editions of our Newsletter you will find delightful interviews with our newly elected Vice President Michael Arnold and our Executive Director David Stauffacher, who are playing an active part in our leadership team. Michael is located in Chiang Mai and will help us to build-up our base in the North of Thailand and taking care of our members in this vital region.

Last but not least, let's keep our fingers crossed that the Presidential Election in the USA, scheduled for November 3rd, will go smoothly and that a clear outcome will set forward the right path for the USA and the rest of the world. Hopefully once the political situation in Thailand also improves, we can focus on what is really important – tackling

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business issues in order to kick-start the economy again and to provide jobs and livelihoods to the many people who are affected by the devastating effects of this enormous health and economic crisis caused by the Covid Pandemic.

With my best wishes

Bruno G. Odermatt-Maag
President

Contact the President:
Bruno G. Odermatt-Maag,
CPCU
President STCC

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Tel: +66 2 652 1911

STCC CALENDAR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2020:

Thursday 12th November: **"Tri-Nation Night"** at Kimpton Maa-Lai Bangkok Hotel

Wednesday 18th November: **Multi Chambers Networking Night**
at JW Marriot Sukhumvit Soi 2

Thursday 19th November: **STCC + Swiss Embassy Networking Event**
at the Embassy of Switzerland

Thursday 3rd December: **Year-end networking event**, venue TBC

More details for above events please wait for the invitation-mail or get it from www.swissthai.com, click on "events".

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CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE SWISS EMBASSY

LES CONFESSIONS DU PASTEUR BOURG DE JACQUES CHESSEX

Cultural Contribution by the Swiss Embassy

Cultural event at Alliance Française supported by the Embassy of Switzerland:

Once more before he leaves to return to Switzerland, the Swiss actor Frédéric Landenberg can be seen in the above play in French at the Alliance Française.

Please stay tuned, as we don't know the exact date yet. The Embassy will announce it on its Facebook feed, and you can soon find the details on the website of the Alliance Française:

<https://afthailande.org/fr/accueil/>

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ECONOMY SPECIAL REPORT BY DEUTSCHE BANK

WHAT'S AT STAKE ON NOV 3

We remain more concerned than most investors seem to be about post-election uncertainty in the US. Our currency forecasts reflect an expectation of flight-from-risk in the near term.

We expect that in a second term, President Trump would push for more tax and expenditure cuts, further deregulation, and a unilateral trade policy that uses tariffs, export controls and foreign investment reviews to open doors for American products and services abroad and to protect markets at home.

How might a Biden administration differ? Domestically, we would likely see higher taxes on corporations and high-income earners, but also higher spending. A Covid-19 relief fiscal package in Q1 would likely be significantly larger if Biden becomes president. A Democratic Senate would also likely support Biden's call for a large infrastructure investment program emphasizing green technologies.

We would expect Biden to return to multilateral engagement, working with European leaders to confront China with a common position on trade and investment concerns. Tariff reductions would still be conditional on China agreeing to improve the access of American firms to Chinese markets, reduce subsidies to SOEs that engage in international trade, and protect intellectual property rights more forcefully. We think a Biden administration would also continue to encourage firms to diversify production to create non-China supply chains serving the US.

We think Biden might also find common cause with Europe on environmental policies, sharing a commitment to a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050. Asian economies will be expected to increase their own environmen-

tal protections and reduce emissions as a price of maintaining access to European and US markets.

We think both Biden and Trump would insist that exchange rates adjust to reflect bilateral trade imbalances. We see most Asian currencies appreciating an average of 5% in 2021, after a near-term bout of weakness prompted by the election. Only the IDR, INR and PHP are likely to depreciate against the dollar next year.

The US election won't ease the pressure on Asia to adapt

An election that both candidates describe as the most consequential in generations is just over two weeks away. Polls in recent weeks have shown a widening of Biden's lead over Trump in both national opinion and in likely electoral college votes. But polls have been wrong before and Covid-19 interjects unusual uncertainty about whether people will actually vote – and whether their votes will count. **Markets are more sanguine about the possibility of a contested election than we are, and, indeed, we think it's unwise to rule out a second term for President Trump. Our concerns about post-election instability are reflected in our expectation of weakness in Asian currencies in Q4.**

While he has been an unpredictable President in many respects, we think we have a reasonable idea of what a second term Trump administration would do. **President Trump would push for more tax and expenditure cuts, more deregulation, and a unilateral trade policy that uses tariffs, export controls and foreign investment reviews to open doors for American products and services abroad and to protect markets at home.** Meanwhile, America First foreign policy has increasingly isolated America, while providing opportunities for others to fill the gap in multilateral institutions.



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Despite the weakening of American alliances, Asia Pacific has yet to find an alternative security order that ensures peaceful resolution of unresolved historical conflicts and increasingly contested borders.

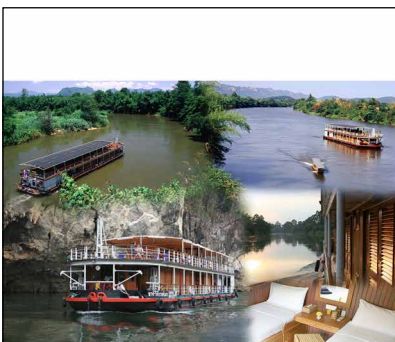
But how might a Biden administration differ? Domestically, we would likely see higher taxes – on corporations and high-income earners – but also higher spending.

In the very-near term, a Covid-19 relief fiscal package in Q1 would likely be significantly larger if Biden becomes president – and the Democrats win control of the Senate – than with Trump and a Republican Senate. A Democratic Senate would support Biden’s policy to reinstate some of the labor and environmental regulations that Trump abolished and support a larger infrastructure investment program, emphasizing green technologies. In recent decades, Democratic administrations have been ones in which US fiscal deficits fall. That is almost certainly going to be the case in the coming couple of years, regardless of who wins on Nov 3 – at least we hope double-digit deficits won’t be needed after 2021.

Larger fiscal stimulus and higher investment in the US under a Biden presidency sounds positive for Asia: it seems to promise higher import growth than under a Trump administration.

But we’re even more interested in Biden’s international relations – especially his plans for the relationship with China. What we see first in **Biden’s policy proposals is a return to multilateral engagement. The US would likely remain in the WHO, return to the Paris Climate Accord and restore the enforcement capability of the WTO, for example.** In so doing, Biden would pledge to return to a more predictable rules-based and collaborative approach to international relations. Biden would not only encourage stricter social distancing practices at home, he would likely collaborate more with other countries and the WHO in formulating a global response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A more multilateral orientation need not imply a lessening of pressure on China to respond to US complaints about subsidies and unfair trade, investment restrictions, forced technology transfers, etc. Indeed, we think Biden might set aside concerns about trade with Europe to win European support (along with Japan, Canada, Australia and others) to confront China with a common position on these thorny issues. In so doing, Biden might bring even more pressure to bear on the Chinese side if they can no longer trade off reduced access to American markets with sales to, or investments in, Europe and other advanced economies.



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To be specific: **we don't expect a President Biden to remove most of the tariffs Trump imposed on China in 2018-19, but we don't expect him to add many new ones either.** Tariff reductions would still be conditional on China agreeing to: improve the access of American firms to the Chinese markets, reduce subsidies to SOEs that engage in international trade, and protect intellectual property rights more forcefully. We think the US government would remain sufficiently concerned about the security implications of being so reliant on China-made telecommunications and computing hardware that it would continue to encourage firms to diversify production to create non-China supply chains – at least those serving the US.

Particularly if the Democrats win the Senate, **we think a more progressive administration might engage in an industrial policy that focuses on new technology and innovation.** To be blunt: if the government is going to ban Chinese suppliers from emerging telecommunications systems, it might want to see a domestic alternative. A Biden infrastructure investment plan would likely include much higher spending on research – including higher targets for immigration of skilled workers and of foreign students – and financial support for investments in emerging technologies. China has been closing the gap to the US technological frontier because it has been increasing spending on R&D much faster than the US has. The US still spends more as a proportion of GDP than China does, but the gap is narrowing rapidly. A Biden administration would likely seek to extend that advantage.

We expect **Biden to return to a more traditional view of alliances.** Allies shouldn't have to wonder whether the US will make good on its security commitments if they are running a large trade surplus with the US. However, they won't be completely off the hook: we expect that any US administration will continue to emphasize the need for exchange rates to adjust to reflect bilateral trade imbal-

ances, for example. Particularly if the administration doesn't seek to forcibly re-shore production (i.e., allows US suppliers to leave China but remain in third countries like Vietnam), it will insist that exchange rates adjust to the widening surpluses this is likely to generate. **We see most Asian currencies appreciating an average of 5% in 2021, after a near-term bout of weakness prompted by the election. Only the IDR, INR and PHP are likely to depreciate against the dollar next year.**

On a broader trade policy front, **a return to seeing trade as potentially 'win-win' could bring the US back to the Trans Pacific Partnership (now rebranded as the CPATPP), albeit with the integration of climate goals.** Under Biden, we think the US would recommit to emissions reductions – to achieve a 100% clean energy economy and reach net-zero emissions by 2050 – and the integration of climate change into US trade and foreign policies. To this end, Biden has proposed a federal investment of USD1.7tn over a decade, leveraging additional private sector and state and local investments to more than USD5tn. There is likely too to be much common ground with the Europeans on environmental policies, which also seek to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, with a budget of EUR1.8tn.

Together with the EU, the US will then set the tone for the rest of the world, including Asia. Asian economies will be expected to increase environmental protections and reduce emissions as a price of maintaining access to European and US markets. The US might even sign on to a European-style carbon border tax. While there are concerns in this region that such policies risk making Asian manufacturing much less competitive, as we have reported before, this region is particularly vulnerable to climate change. For example, 11 of the 15 cities most at risk from sea level rise are in the region. Chinese President Xi has promised to make China carbon neutral by 2060 in an important commitment in this direction. This



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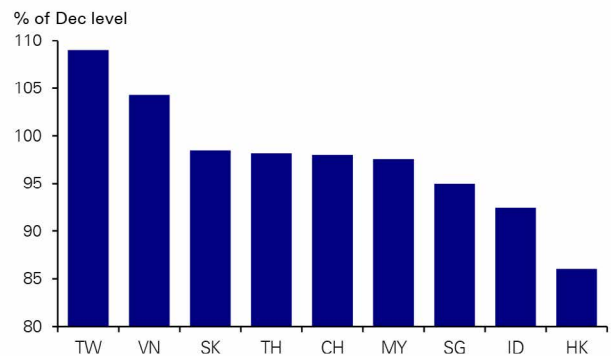
follows South Korea's commitment to achieve it by 2050. They remain the only two Asian economies that have made such explicit commitments thus far. Singapore pledged to do so "as soon as viable" in the second half of the century, committing to phase out internal combustion engine vehicles by 2040, in favor of electric vehicles.

Q3 growth could beat our expectations

Entering the final quarter of the year, as we review the data we have so far for Q3, it seems that the post-lockdown recoveries in both domestic and external demand have been somewhat stronger than we had expected. Export growth is rising almost everywhere (although still negative in a few economies) and continues to be particularly strong in China, Taiwan and now South Korea – reflecting continued strong demand for communications and computing equipment.

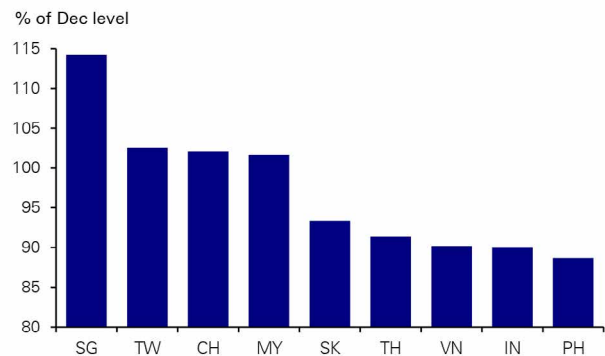
Retail sales have rebounded more fully – but not completely – than we had expected. Sales in Taiwan and Vietnam have risen well above pre-Covid-19 levels, while in most other economies, sales volumes are only about 5% below previous levels. Hong Kong is an important outlier in this respect because of the near-total loss of visitor spending.

Latest retail sales (SA)



Source : Haver Analytics, Deutsche Bank Research. Real retail sales indexes except nominal retail sales in China and Vietnam. Data for August except September for Indonesia and Vietnam.

Latest manufacturing output (SA)



Source : Haver Analytics, Deutsche Bank Research. "Latest" data are for August. China data is for all industrial production.



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On the supply side, manufacturing output in Singapore is well above pre-Covid-19 levels, reflecting real non-oil domestic exports that were 14% above December levels in August. Production in Taiwan, China and Malaysia is also slightly higher than in December, while in the other economies output levels are still about 10% below December. Overall, these are slightly more encouraging data than we'd expected even a month ago, and the risks to our Q3 forecasts are perhaps tilted to the upside.

Having said that, we still expect that Q4 will see much slower sequential growth. That's natural – in the immediate post-lockdown rebound, sequential growth rates will be as exaggeratedly positive as they were negative as the virus took root. But as behavior adjusts to new patterns, sequential growth is likely to slow sharply – albeit remaining positive – reflecting higher unemployment rates and continued social distancing practices. Rising Covid-19 infection rates in Europe and parts of the US are likely to see a tightening of social distancing policies and practices, which will restrain growth in those economies and therefore of Asian exports in Q4. The delay in agreeing to a new round of fiscal support in the US is already expected to bring US GDP growth down to zero in Q4 from a forecast 7.1%QoQ(sa) growth in Q3. Growth in the Euro Area is expected to slow to 1.6% in Q4 from 8.5% in Q3.

Beyond Q4, **risks to growth are biased towards being below pre-Covid rates for some time:** social distancing practices will remain to some degree, as long as people remain worried about catching the virus. An effective vaccine may not have been made widely available much before the middle of next year – and possibly much later in many emerging economies. Note, though, that treatments continue to improve and it's possible that the virus loses its ability to depress economic activity because of improved treatment long before herd immunity is acquired.

In short, while Q3 may surprise to the upside, we still expect weaker sequential growth in the following few quarters until, hopefully, a Covid vaccine and/or effective treatment becomes sufficiently widely available that we enjoy a period of somewhat stronger growth as the final gap to true potential demand is closed.



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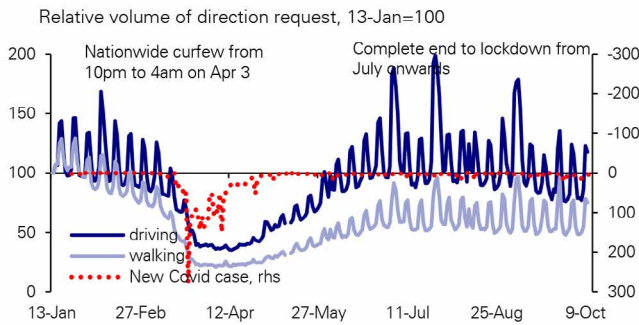
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Research Associate



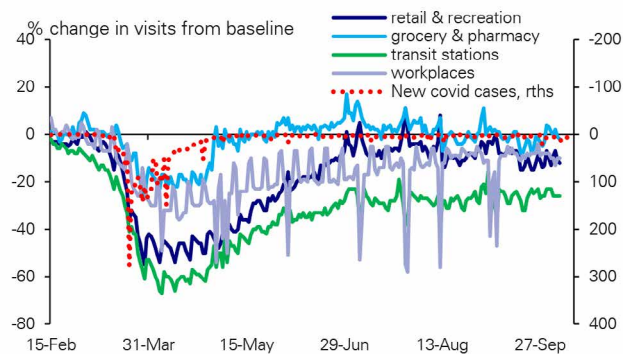
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Thailand – Under control



Source : Apple, Deutsche Bank Research

Normalizing



Source : Google, Deutsche Bank Research

Thailand

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020F | 2021F |
|---|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| National Income | | | | |
| Nominal GDP (USDbn) | 506.6 | 543.8 | 493.5 | 519.7 |
| Population (mn) | 66.4 | 66.6 | 66.8 | 67.0 |
| GDP per capita (USD) | 7,383 | 7,752 | 7,389 | 7,761 |
| Real GDP (YoY%) | 4.2 | 2.4 | -7.6 | 2.8 |
| Private consumption | 4.6 | 4.5 | -2.7 | 2.8 |
| Government consumption | 2.6 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| Gross fixed investment | 3.8 | 2.2 | -7.2 | 1.6 |
| Exports | 3.3 | -2.6 | -19.2 | 8.9 |
| Imports | 8.3 | -4.4 | -13.5 | 6.8 |
| Prices, Money and Banking | | | | |
| CPI (yoy %) eop | 0.4 | 0.9 | -0.5 | 1.1 |
| CPI (yoy %) ann avg | 1.1 | 0.7 | -0.8 | 1.1 |
| Core CPI (yoy %) ann avg | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Broad money | 5.1 | 4.1 | 6.4 | 6.1 |
| Bank credit ¹ (yoy %) | 5.9 | 1.8 | 5.2 | 5.5 |
| Fiscal Accounts (% of GDP)¹ | | | | |
| Central government surplus | -3.4 | -2.7 | -5.1 | -4.3 |
| Government revenue | 15.5 | 15.2 | 15.0 | 16.6 |
| Government expenditure | 18.9 | 17.9 | 20.2 | 20.8 |
| Primary surplus | -2.0 | -1.4 | -4.3 | -3.3 |
| External Accounts (USD bn) | | | | |
| Merchandise exports | 251.1 | 243.0 | 222.4 | 232.4 |
| Merchandise imports | 228.7 | 216.4 | 180.8 | 190.3 |
| Trade balance | 22.4 | 26.6 | 41.6 | 42.1 |
| % of GDP | 4.4 | 4.9 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| Current account balance | 28.5 | 37.3 | 20.4 | 29.9 |
| % of GDP | 5.6 | 6.9 | 4.1 | 5.8 |
| FDI (net) | -8.0 | -7.1 | -7.1 | -9.7 |
| FX reserves (eop) | 205.6 | 224.3 | 250.9 | 271.6 |
| FX rate (eop) USD/THB | 32.3 | 29.7 | 31.8 | 30.2 |
| Debt Indicators (% of GDP) | | | | |
| Government debt ¹ | 38.4 | 38.4 | 44.1 | 48.1 |
| Domestic | 36.3 | 37.5 | 43.2 | 47.2 |
| External | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Total external debt | 32.1 | 31.7 | 36.8 | 37.0 |
| in USDbn | 162 | 172 | 182 | 193 |
| Short-term (% of total) | 59.4 | 59.2 | 59.4 | 59.3 |
| General | | | | |
| Industrial production (YoY%) | 3.7 | -3.6 | -10.0 | 6.0 |
| Unemployment (%) | 1.1 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Financial Markets (eop) | Current | 20Q4F | 21Q1F | 21Q2F |
| BoT o/n repo rate | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 3-month Bibo | 0.63 | 0.63 | 0.63 | 0.63 |
| 10-year yield (%) | 1.33 | 1.40 | 1.45 | 1.50 |
| USD/THB | 31.1 | 31.8 | 31.2 | 30.8 |

Sources: CEIC, Deutsche Bank Research, National Sources
Note: (1) Central government debt and guarantees.



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NEW MEMBERS NOVEMBER 2020

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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159/29 Sukhumvit Road, Soi 21 (Asoke)
North Klongtoey, Wattana
10110, Bangkok

Phone: +66 2 401 9779
E-mail: info@illies.co.th
Website: www.illies.co.th

Representatives: Mr. Fritz Kistler, Managing Director and Ms. Futrakul Orn-anongk, Human Resources & Administration Division Manager

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10120, Bangkok

Phone: +66 2 212 68 66-7
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Website: www.sukhothaiinterlaw.com

Representatives: Mr. Sutham Siribunyawat, Managing Director and Mr. Krit Siribunyawat, Managing Director

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Syngenta Crop Protection Limited

25th Floor, Tower A, CW Tower,
90 Ratchadapisek Road, Huai Khwang District
10310, Bangkok

Phone: +66 2 201 48 49
E-mail: Laddawan.Sombun@syngenta.com
Website: www.syngenta.co.th

Representatives: Ms. Kluaymai Nuchniyom, General Manager and Ms. Watchareeporn Panpoompruk, Head of Business Sustainability, Thailand

Activity: Syngenta is a leading agriculture company helping to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources. Through world class science and innovative crop solutions, our 28,000 people in over 90 countries are working to transform how crops are grown. We are committed to rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities.

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Condo at the Lakes Asok Bangkok



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RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

OPEN HOUSE DAY ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020 AT RIS SWISS SECTION – DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok welcomes everyone to visit us from 7:30am to 2:30pm.

RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok is the only international school in Bangkok with a Swiss/German curriculum, which is offered in two profiles with either English or German as the first classroom language. We offer all grades from Pre-K (Nursery) to Grade 12 and afternoon Playgroups for the youngest children.

Come along if you want to experience our unique Swiss and German learning experience first-hand! You will have the chance to observe classes, participate in guided tours of our school and get together with current students and parents who will share their experience.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Open House Day!



RIS · SWISS · SECTION
DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

Open House Day

Tuesday, 3rd November 2020
From 7:30 to 14:30



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RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

ELECTIVE COURSES



Model making and lamp making are two new elective courses offered at the RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok. During the first part of this creative craft courses, the students have already thoroughly sawed, sanded,

measured and designed. The students used the Napkin technique, learned how to process copper, and worked with balsa wood to create their beautiful art pieces.



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CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



For this year's Christmas card competition, a prominent jury carefully examined the many Christmas cards handed in by the participants. Joachim Hecker, as representative of the German Embassy, as well as Stephanie Jakobitsch, as representative of the Austrian Embassy, together with principal Simon Dörig and art teacher Fabian Studerus selected this year's winners. More than one hundred students had accepted the challenge of the competition, making the selection exciting.

After detailed discussions, three students were chosen as the winners. We congratulate the winners, whose cards will be printed together with other artworks and sold at the school before Christmas.



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MANDALAS



The students of Grade 2 drew some beautiful mandalas outside the school building. Drawing mandalas helps children in a playful way to improve their

hand-eye coordination, train the mind to recognize shapes, develop creativity and improve the accuracy of their writing skills.



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Contributions of interest are:
General English news and knowledge
related to business in Thailand
Please email your contributions
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Thank you
The STCC Newsletter Editor Team





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GERMAN NATIONAL DAY EVENT



RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok hosted a virtual National Day event for the Secondary students in their classrooms. The goal of the ceremony was to let all students understand and experience these important events in German history. The students watched an interesting speech by Jens Eggert, the Head of Secondary School, on video in their classrooms. The students, then, created their own online

program and choose from a great selection of videos, songs, texts, virtual museum visits and quizzes to work with.



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Planned events in the first semester of the school year 2020-21:

| | |
|------------|---|
| 03.11.2020 | Open House Day (7:30 – 14:30) |
| 13.11.2020 | Lantern Parade (Evening) |
| 04.12.2020 | St. Nicholas visit |
| 11.12.2020 | Flea Market (Morning) |
| 17.12.2020 | Christmas Market and Party (from 13:00 onwards) |

Please visit our website - www.ris-swiss-section.org - and get more information about our upcoming events.



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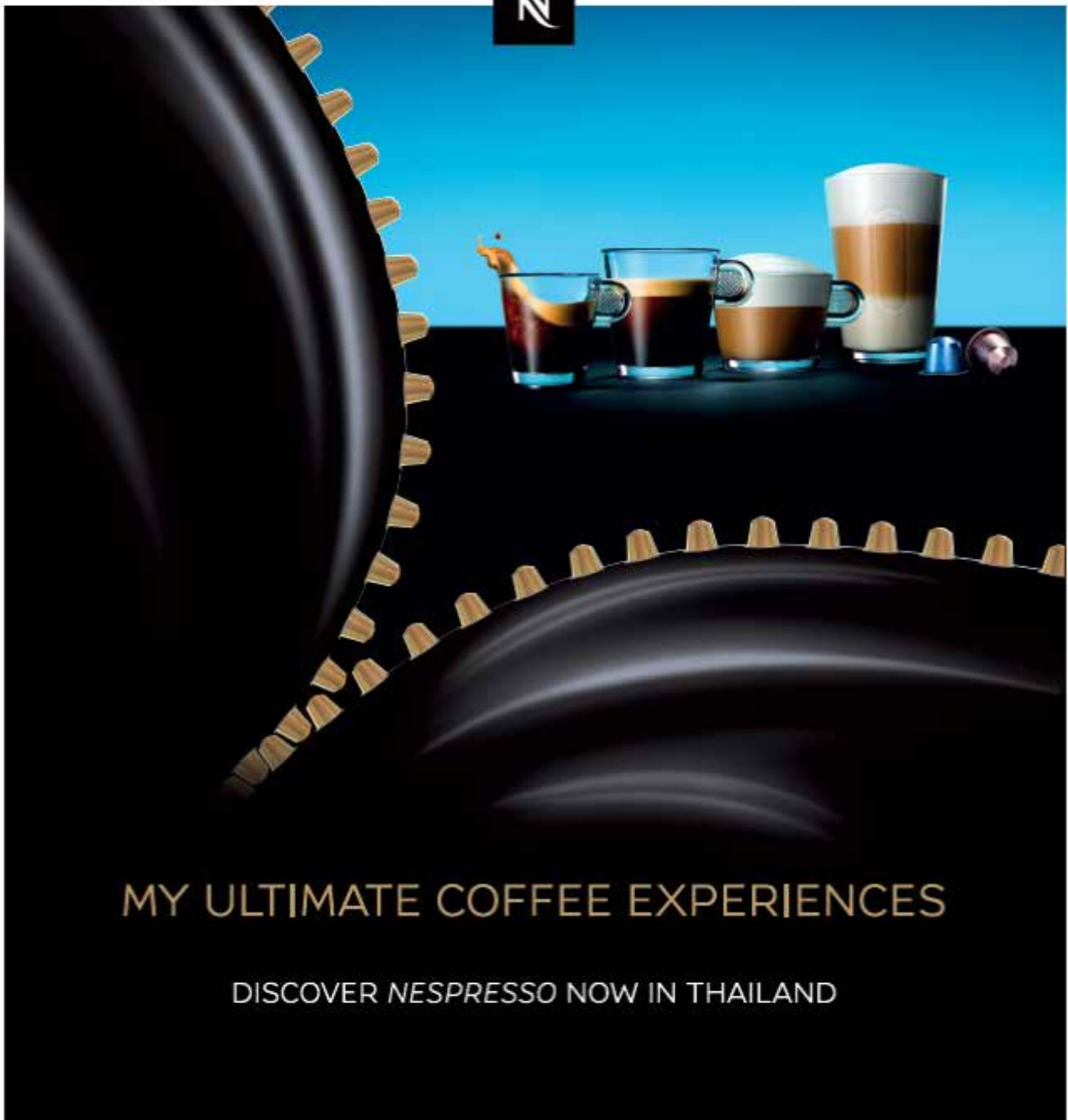
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