



Swiss Thai



June 2021 | SWISS-THAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | E-NEWSLETTER #131

Good food, Good life

TOP NEWS:

- Economy:** Commodity prices and inflation in Asia
- Legal:** PDPA Effect Date Again Postponed
- STCC Internal News:** 90 Years of Swiss-Thai Friendship
- New Members:** REGROUP CO., LTD. / KYBURZ Asia Co., Ltd. / Warot Business Consultant Ltd.
- RIS Swiss Section:** Virtual Open House Info Session

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SWISS ADVICE.

Bridge to Asia

STCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE STCC, DEAR READER,

The year 2021 seems to be going the same way as 2020, online meetings are the norm again in Thailand and while some areas are already easing up restrictions, the Bangkok region will have to wait some more time. As you can read this in every newspaper and on social media, I will leave it to the journalists and experts to provide you with the updated case numbers and the measures being taken by the government.

although there is still uncertainty about when such vaccines will be administered. Since vaccines are in short supply on a global level, I think we all need to be patient. I personally follow the German proverb of "Abwarten und Tee trinken". (Note: This is a German proverb that can be translated as: wait and see attitude). We will keep sharing relevant information in this regard with you once it reaches us.

Vaccination Plans

The only thing I would like to comment on here is in relation to the large-scale vaccination programme that Thailand is about to launch. We have been lobbying the government both through the JFCCT and through our embassy to ensure that foreigners and Thais are treated equally in this regard. We were therefore glad to hear that Thailand plans to allow foreigners to register for vaccinations starting on June 7,

STCC Office Solution

Good news should not be neglected at this time either, and so it is my pleasure to inform you that the Swiss-Thai Chamber of Commerce will soon be moving to the city centre! After many months of discussions and preparations in the background and an extraordinary effort by our ambassador, her team as well as multiple departments of the Swiss government, we have managed to find an office solution for us on the Embassy premises.

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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Following tradition and underlining our mission as a chamber of commerce, we will set up an office in a shipping container on the compound. The planning and implementation of this project was entrusted to our member regroup architecture, who has already worked with the embassy on several projects in recent years. Their experience when it comes to converting freight containers into an office building is a great asset for this project.

To give you a visual idea of what this office will look like, I have attached two project drawings. The interior construction of the container is about to start and we expect the office to be ready for us to move in by August. In the next issue of the Newsletter we will provide you with a



detailed status update, so stay tuned!

New Silver Partner

I would like to express my gratitude to Kyburz Asia, our newest member. Not only have they decided to become a member of the STCC, but they have also signed on as a Silver Partner of the Chamber for one year to support our operations even further.

Kyburz Asia is a subsidiary of Kyburz Switzerland, a company



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that most of you will not have heard much about, but if you have ever lived in or visited Switzerland, you will most likely have seen their product. Kyburz produces a variety of electric vehicles, one of which (e-trike) is used by Swiss Post for last-mile delivery of mail and parcels. As Thailand is expected to become one of the most important markets and production locations for e-vehicles in the coming years in ASEAN, Kyburz has decided to expand its activities to Asia and support to achieve this vision. We

are excited to learn about their upcoming journey in the Thai and ASEAN markets!

If your company is also interested in benefiting from the many advantages of our Elite Partner Programme, please contact me!

Upcoming Events

As the current situation does not allow for face-to-face meetings and events, we will continue to provide you with interesting

webinars and online content to spice up your home office working hours! We are currently planning in person events only after the summer break, starting around mid-July. If the situation improves significantly before that time, we will reassess this decision.

Stay healthy and stay safe!

David Stauffacher
Executive Director
execdiretor@swissthai.com
LinkedIn

STCC Calendar June 2021:

- Tuesday, June 8: **(Webinar) Learn from the experts: Roche's COVID-19 Tests and how they work**
- Wednesday, June 23: **Co-organizing – Women in Leadership: Resilience 2021**
- Postponed to September
- Thursday 23 & Friday 24: **Khon Kaen Business Forum**

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ECONOMY SPECIAL REPORT BY DEUTSCHE BANK

COMMODITY PRICES AND INFLATION IN ASIA

With commodity prices rising at their fastest rate in about a decade – and many at near decadal highs – it's of more than passing interest whether this represents an important source of inflation in Asia. We find that for most economies – India being the main exception – crude oil prices and an index of globally traded food commodities have important impacts on the consumer price index. On average, a 10% rise in crude oil prices pushes the CPI index in an Asian economy up by 0.3%; a 10% rise in world food prices pushes the CPI up by 0.8%. With crude oil prices up 177% in April and the food price index up 38% there's about an 8ppt impulse to inflation in Asia at present.

Our oil price forecast suggests that the oil price impact on inflation is likely to disappear over the next 12 months. Similarly, we forecast iron ore and metals prices to decline over the next year. So this commodity price impulse to Asian inflation is expected to be transitory. But if we're wrong and these prices keep rising, the impact on Asian inflation could be substantial.

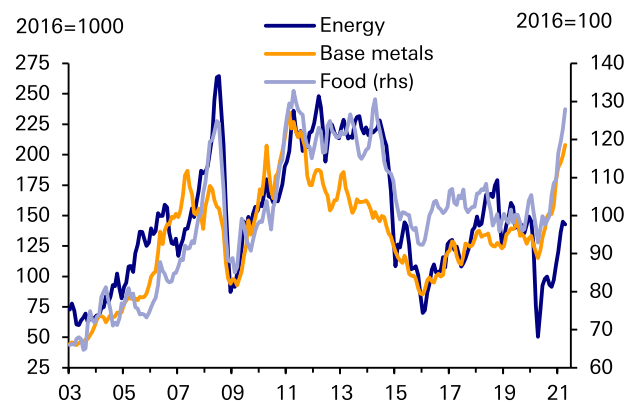
Our analysis suggests that exchange rate appreciation could be helpful in combatting this imported inflation, but only to a point. A 10% appreciation – something most central banks would likely view as damaging to an economy's competitiveness – would only lower inflation by about 1.5%. Currency appreciation is unlikely to be the sole policy response to rising inflation. And that assumes that currencies can appreciate as inflation rises. Lower real interest rates and/or higher US bond yields if inflation is rising there too could both weaken Asian currencies, exacerbating the inflation trend.

It matters greatly, therefore, whether the rise in commodity prices is a temporary post-Covid phenomenon or the beginning of a longer-term 'super-cycle'.

Introduction

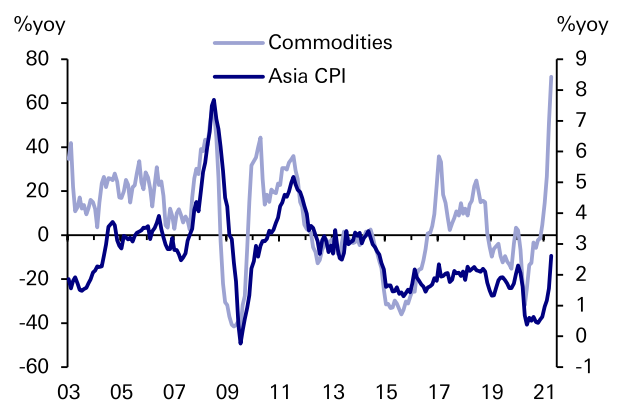
Crude oil prices have about tripled over the past year, the fastest rate of increase since the second oil shock in 1979, and something that we have often noted will be reflected in a sharp increase in

Figure 1: IMF commodity price indices



Sources: Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Research.

Figure 2: Commodities and Asian inflation



Sources: Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Research. Asian inflation is the trimmed mean (average across twelve economies excluding monthly min and max values).



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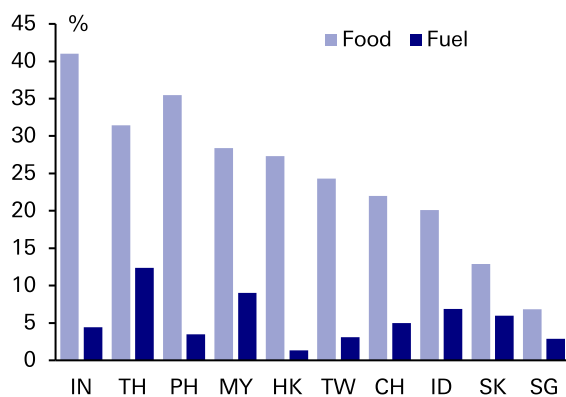
headline inflation until the base effect of last year's collapse drops out of the YoY calculation. But oil prices today aren't much higher than they were prior to the pandemic, so this base effect will gradually dissipate. Not so for many other commodities. Copper, iron ore and tin prices are at decade highs; prices for vegetable oils, corn and wheat are at their highest levels in about eight years. The IMF's food commodity price index is at a seven-year high (up 37%yoy) and only 4% off the all-time high (Figure 1). The base metals price index is nearly at a 10-year high (up 80%yoy). Commodity price inflation is more than just a base effect from the crisis.

Even a broad measure of global commodity prices has a sufficiently high correlation with Asian inflation to warrant investigating how important the passthrough to consumer prices might be (Figure 2). In Figure 3 we show the weights on food and automotive fuel in the consumer price indices in Asia. The combined weight of these two categories is 45% of the Indian CPI, 44% in Thailand but only 10% in Singapore. On average, food is 25% of the CPI in Asia, automotive fuel is about 5%.

A global food price index may not be terribly relevant to local inflation – the indices include prices for commonly traded commodities, often of greater importance to American or European consumers. But from about 2005 through 2015, the IMF food price index was reasonably highly (0.53) correlated with food prices in Asia (Figure 4). So far, the recent rise in food commodity prices hasn't been reflected in food prices faced by most Asian consumers. One important reason is that pork prices have been an important driver of inflation in some Asian economies but carries a very small weight in the IMF index.

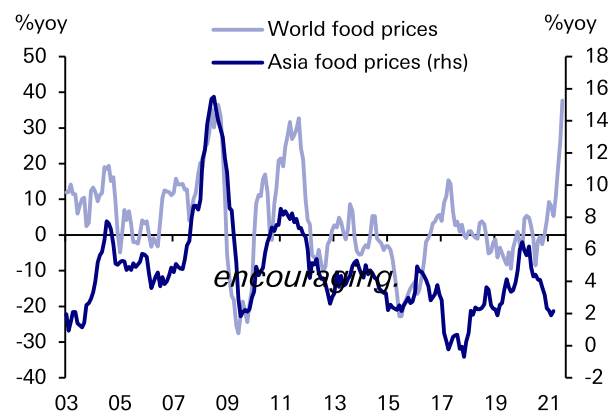
The relationship between fuel prices and crude oil is, not surprisingly, much closer than that between local food prices and food commodities. Crude oil prices lead average pump prices in Asia by a month with a 0.96 correlation. The relationship is weakest in India and Malaysia (correlation of 0.70) but still strong enough to be a good predictor. In Figure 6, we show the sensitivity of fuel prices to a 10% rise in crude oil. In Thailand, India, the Philippines and India, pump prices rise by about 4%; in China and Hong Kong only by about half that much.

Figure 3: CPI weights on food and fuel



Sources: CEIC, Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Research. "Food" excludes food prepared outside the home. "Fuel" is the CPI measure of automotive fuel and lubricants except in Thailand ("energy").

Figure 4: Food prices in Asia and the world

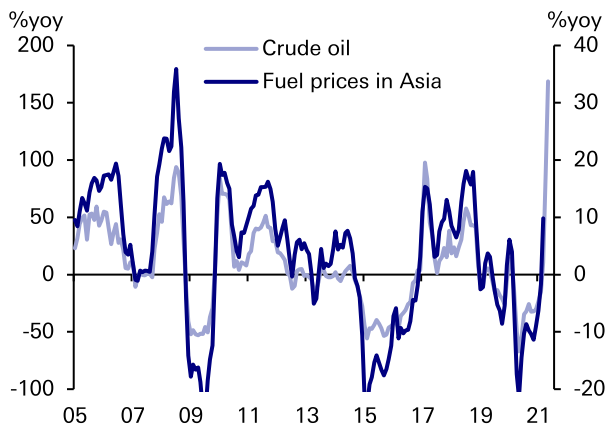


Sources: CEIC, Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Research.



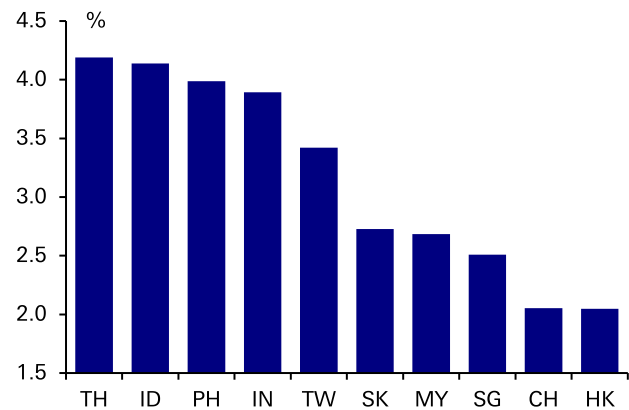
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Figure 5: Crude oil and fuel prices



Sources: CEIC, Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Research. "Fuel" is the CPI measure of automotive fuel and lubricants except for China, India and Indonesia where we use retail gasoline prices.

Figure 6: Fuel price response to 10% crude oil price rise




Sources: CEIC, Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Research.

With food and fuel prices rising quickly and enough evidence that they have historically had at least some relevance to domestic prices, we turn in the next section to estimating for each economy how much of this international commodity price inflation might be passed on to consumers.

Estimating commodity price passthrough to CPI

We use vector autoregressions (VARs) to model the determinants of inflation in Asian economies and measure the commodity price passthrough to local inflation by estimating the impulse response of the CPI to changes in the food price index and crude oil prices. Details on our methodology are in the Appendix but in brief we estimate a VAR of the CPI index using crude oil, the IMF food price index, G7 core CPI, a measure of the output gap, M1 money



Cataracts Treatment Packages


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Package Price **125,000** Baht

Phacoemulsification Both Eye with Monofocal IOL (Both Eyes)

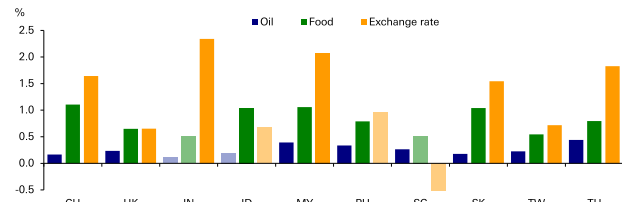
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supply, and the nominal effective exchange rate. All variables are month-on-month changes in seasonally adjusted values except the output gap for which only the change in levels is required. In Figure 7, we show the largest statistically significant change in the CPI index in response to a 10% rise in the crude oil price, the IMF food price index and the NEER. Where the impulse response is not statistically significant, we show the largest response but shade the colour of the bar so it's lighter. This is the case for the oil price response in India and Indonesia and the food price response in Indonesia and Singapore. On average, excluding the statistically insignificant responses, a 10% rise in crude oil prices pushes up the CPI index in Asian economies by about 0.3%. A 10% rise in world food prices leads to a 0.8% rise in the CPI while a 10% depreciation of the trade-weighted currency index leads to a 1.5% rise in the CPI.

Figure 7: Response of CPI to a 10% rise in oil and food prices and the NEER



Source: Deutsche Bank Research. Note: the orange bars show the response of the CPI to a 10% depreciation of the NEER.

Thailand and Malaysia show the greatest sensitivity to crude oil prices – a 10% rise in oil prices leads to a 0.4% rise in the CPI – followed by the Philippines and Singapore with India, China, South Korea and Indonesia much less affected (an increase in the CPI of less than 0.2%). China, Malaysia, South Korea and Indonesia all have very similar responses to a global food price shock – a 10% rise in the food price index pushes the CPI up by 1% – with India, Singapore and Taiwan affected only about half as much and Hong Kong, the Philippines and Thailand somewhere in between.

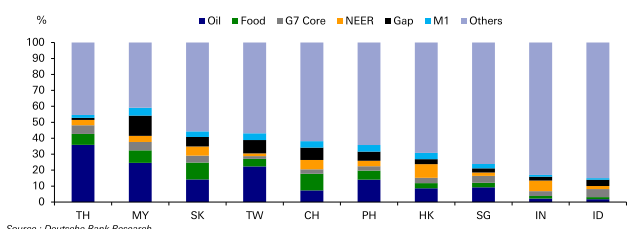
Weighting the impulse responses by the current rates of change of oil and food prices, the implied shock to inflation over the coming months is highest in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines followed

by Indonesia, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan and then lastly India as by far the least exposed to international commodity prices.

We report also, because it is an important policy question, the sensitivity of inflation to the exchange rate. For many Asian central banks, the exchange rate is an important intermediate target; the assumption being that weaker currencies lead to higher inflation. Our analysis bears this out for most economies except, notably, in Indonesia and Singapore where the link between the currency and inflation is perhaps most prominent in the policy discussion.

It's one thing to say that a rise in world oil prices will have an important impact on local fuel prices and through that to prices of other goods. It's a different question whether fluctuations in crude oil or food commodity prices have historically been an important source of inflation. To answer that question, in Figure 8 we show the variance decomposition of the CPI: how much of the variation in consumer prices has been due to each of the factors in our model. We line up the economies in descending order of the importance of external factors – oil and food prices, G7 inflation and the NEER – on domestic inflation.

Figure 8: Variance decomposition of Asian inflation



Source: Deutsche Bank Research.

In Thailand, 36% of the variation in the CPI is due to shocks to crude oil prices. In Malaysia and Taiwan that ratio is above 20% and in the Philippines and South Korea about 14%. World food prices have historically been an important source of variation in the CPI in China and South Korea (about 10%)



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but not so much elsewhere. Our measures of the output gap have not historically been important drivers of inflation except in Malaysia, Taiwan and China.

Summary

With commodity prices rising at their fastest rate in about a decade – and many at near decadal highs – it's of more than passing interest whether this represents an important source of inflation in Asia. We find that for most economies – India being the main exception – crude oil prices and an index of globally traded food commodities have important impacts on the consumer price index. On average, a 10% rise in crude oil prices pushes the CPI index in an Asian economy up by 0.3%; a 10% rise in world food prices pushes the CPI up by 0.8%. With crude oil prices up 177% in April and the food price index up 38% there's about an 8ppt impulse to inflation in Asia at present.

Our oil price forecast – Brent at USD70/bbl in Q4 and USD65/bbl next year – suggests that the oil price impact on inflation is likely to disappear over the next 12 months. Similarly, we forecast iron ore and metals prices to decline over the next year. So this commodity price impulse to Asian inflation is expected to be transitory. But if we're wrong and these prices keep rising, the impact on Asian inflation could be substantial.

Our analysis suggests that exchange rate appreciation could be helpful in combatting this imported inflation, but only to a point. A 10% appreciation – something most central banks would likely view as damaging to an economy's competitiveness – would only lower inflation by about 1.5%. Currency appreciation is unlikely to be the sole policy response to rising inflation. And that assumes that currencies can appreciate as inflation rises. Lower real interest rates and/or higher US bond yields if inflation is rising there too could both weaken Asian currencies, exacerbating the inflation trend.

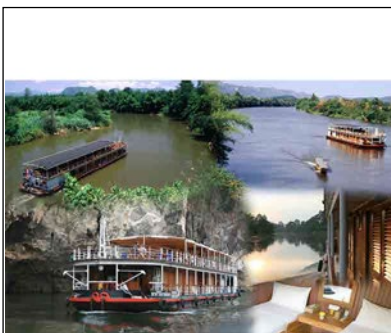
It matters greatly, therefore, whether the rise in commodity prices is a temporary post-Covid phenomenon or the beginning of a longer-term 'super-cycle'.



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Research Associate



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Thailand

	2019	2020	2021F	2022F
National Income				
Nominal GDP (USDbn)	543.8	501.8	524.1	556.1
Population (mn)	66.6	66.8	67.0	67.1
GDP per capita (USD)	7,752	7,216	7,826	8,203
Real GDP (YoY%)				
Private consumption	4.5	-1.0	2.0	3.7
Government consumption	1.4	0.8	2.2	3.6
Gross fixed investment	2.2	-4.8	6.8	3.6
Exports	-3.0	-19.4	9.3	10.7
Imports	-4.4	-13.3	11.7	7.6
Prices, Money and Banking				
CPI (yoy %) eop	0.9	-0.3	1.7	1.5
CPI (yoy %) ann avg	0.7	-0.8	1.4	1.8
Core CPI (yoy %) ann avg	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.8
Broad money	4.1	8.9	4.7	6.2
Bank credit ¹ (yoy %)	1.8	6.8	6.2	6.6
Fiscal Accounts (% of GDP)¹				
Central government surplus	-2.7	-5.1	-4.8	-4.1
Government revenue	15.2	15.0	15.6	14.1
Government expenditure	17.9	20.1	20.3	18.2
Primary surplus	-1.4	-4.3	-3.8	-2.9
External Accounts (USD bn)				
Merchandise exports	243.0	226.7	269.3	286.5
Merchandise imports	216.4	186.9	233.3	262.6
Trade balance	26.6	39.8	36.0	23.8
% of GDP	4.9	7.9	6.9	4.3
Current account balance	37.3	16.3	7.8	12.9
% of GDP	6.9	3.2	1.5	2.3
FDI (net)	-7.1	-3.3	-8.2	-4.8
FX reserves (eop)	224.3	257.5	268.9	276.9
FX rate (eop) USD/THB	29.7	30.0	31.3	30.5
Debt Indicators (% of GDP)				
Government debt ²	38.4	44.0	47.2	49.5
Domestic	37.5	43.1	46.3	48.0
External	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total external debt	31.7	37.9	38.1	37.7
in USDbn	172.1	190.0	199.5	209.5
Short-term (% of total)	59.2	59.5	59.4	59.4
General				
Industrial production (YoY%)	-3.6	-8.8	8.0	5.8
Unemployment (%)	1.0	2.0	1.9	1.6
Financial Markets (eop)				
BoT o/n repo rate	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
3-month Bibor	0.62	0.63	0.63	0.63
10-year yield (%)	1.84	2.00	2.15	2.30
USD/THB	31.4	31.6	31.6	31.3

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



LEGAL

PDPA EFFECT DATE AGAIN POSTPONED

Contribution by Frank Legal & Tax

The enforcement date of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), 1 June 2021, is postponed by another year.

On 5 May 2021, the Thai Cabinet has approved a resolution to postpone the enforcement of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) for one more year. Although the new effective date is not formally announced yet, the expected date would be 1 June 2022. The decision to postpone the enforcement date was to reduce economic effects on the government sector, private sector, and small businesses.

The Cabinet has agreed that the Thai public and private sectors are not ready to use the PDPA. It is believed that they need time to prepare their internal processes and the financial burden that occurred during the covid-19 crisis should be eased. This was why the Cabinet agreed to postpone the enforcement for another year.

The PDPA is a landmark new law that was supposed to provide international standard privacy protection in Thailand.

If you have any questions regarding PDPA, Please do not hesitate to contact info@franklegaltax.com.



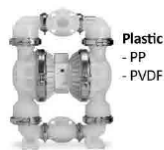
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LEGAL

THAILAND ANNOUNCES SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR THIRD WAVE OF COVID-19

Contribution by Tilleke & Gibbins

Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 in Thailand since March 2021, the Cabinet has approved new reductions in employers' and employees' mandatory contributions to the Social Security Fund (SSF).

Contribution rates will be calculated as a percentage of each employee's monthly wages, based on a minimum and maximum monthly wage that will be confirmed in the formal regulation published in the Government Gazette. Effective May 18, 2021, the new contribution rates for mandatory SSF contributions approved by the cabinet are as follows:

From June 1 to August 31, 2021

Category of Contributions	Government	Employer	Insured person (employee)
Compensatory benefits for suffering danger or sickness, disability, death, or childbirth	1%	1%	1%
Compensatory benefits for elderly and children	1.5%	1.25%	1.25%
Compensatory benefits for unemployment	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%
Total Contributions	2.75%	2.5%	2.5%

From September 1, 2021, onward

Category of Contributions	Government	Employer	Insured person (employee)
Compensatory benefits for suffering danger or sickness, disability, death, or childbirth	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Compensatory benefits for elderly and children	1%	3%	3%
Compensatory benefits for unemployment	0.25%	0.5%	0.5%
Total Contributions	2.75%	5.0%	5.0%

The approval of the cabinet will now be considered by the Office of the Council of State. Thereafter, the new regulation will be published in the Government Gazette before formally coming into effect.

For more information on this issue, or any other aspect of labor law in Thailand, please contact Chusert Supasitthumrong at +66 2056 5793 or chusert.s@tilleke.com.




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STCC INTERNAL NEWS

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAILAND - SWITZERLAND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS 1931 – 2021

To mark the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Switzerland, the Embassy of Thailand in Switzerland has created a [website](#) that presents many different and highly interesting aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries. Both STCC member companies and state actors present their experiences and insights. To make sure you don't miss anything, we will be publishing snippets on these stories in our monthly newsletter:

Latest news:

[A Story of a Long-lasting Friendship by SECO](#)



From a trade perspective. This article has been conceptualized and written by Ambassador Erwin Bollinger and Ambassador Markus Schlagenhof, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

[Read More](#)

[90 Years of Swiss-Thai Friendship](#)



The 90th anniversary of the bilateral diplomatic relations gives me the opportunity to have a quick glance at the rich history of our two countries'.

[Read more](#)

By Raphael A. Nügeli, Assistant State Secretary and Head of the Asia Pacific Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



STCC INTERNAL NEWS

Novartis: Reimagining Medicine to Improve and Extend Thai People's Lives



Cordial ties between Thailand and Switzerland have been recognized for almost a century. On behalf of our Novartis associates in Thailand, I would like to congratulate the two countries for their long history of diplomatic relations. We are honored to be part of Thai-Swiss relationship and to join this celebration of the 90th anniversary.

[Read more](#)

By Sumalee Kristarnin, Country President and Oncology General Manager Novartis (Thailand) Ltd.

Nestlé: 128 Years of Creating "Good Food, Good Life" for Thailand



At Nestlé, we believe in the important role of food in nourishing and delighting the senses. It helps children grow healthy, pets thrive, parents age.

[Read more](#)

By Victor Seah, Chairman and CEO of Nestlé Indochina

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Bridge to Asia



guidance, counseling, realization, help, direction, information, implementation, views, pointers, recommendations, opinions, tips, guidelines, ideas, suggestions, information, implementation, views, pointers, recommendations

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Representatives: Mr. Lukas Schnider,
Founder / CEO


regroup architecture is a Bangkok based architecture design firm. 2014 founded by Michael Chompookas Hansen and Lukas Schnider, focusing on contemporary, innovative, and sustainable architecture and interior design. regroup architecture covers the whole design and planning process including construction management and contracting as turn key solution. We see us as a mediator between Europe and Asia, a combination of Swiss design, European knowledge, and local Thai experience.



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Activity: KYBURZ Asia Co., Ltd. based in Bangkok THAILAND, is the Asia exclusive distributor for KYBURZ Switzerland BRAND. KYBURZ Switzerland develops and produces high-quality electric vehicles for delivery companies, industrial companies, municipalities and private individuals and the supporting Fleet management system.

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Our practices

Mergers & Acquisitions, Foreign Direct Investment, Corporate and Commercial Transactions, Employment & Immigration, Tax, Litigation and Dispute Resolution and Startups.

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! SWITZERLAND AND THAILAND CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP!

May 28, 2021 marks the 90th anniversary of bilateral relations between the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Thailand. On May 28, 1931, the draft Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between our two countries was concluded. On the occasion of this special day, H.E. Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication of Switzerland, and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa, witnessed the signature of a Joint Statement on Climate Change Cooperation by the Swiss Ambassador and the Secretary General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (สำนักงานนโยบายและแผนทรัพยากรธรรมชาติและสิ่งแวดล้อม).

The two countries intend to engage in enhancing their cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in contributing to the implementation and achievement of their National Determined Contributions (NDCs). This Joint Statement was signed on an e-ferry in the presence of Swiss climate solutions company South Pole, Energy Absolute and E-Smart Transport (MINE Smart Ferry) who are potential private partners in this collaboration. We hope that this will open doors for future extensive partnership.

Learn more about it here: <https://www.uvek.admin.ch/>



Furthermore on the occasion of this anniversary, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Don Pramudwinai (กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand) received the Swiss Ambassador for an exchange, where the importance of the dynamic and dense relations between the two countries was underlined.

Going forward, Switzerland and Thailand are committed to intensifying their rich relations. To continue to celebrate the 90 years of bilateral relations, a Thai – Swiss Friendship Trail will be inaugurated at Khao Yai National Park and a Sister Relationship between the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Khao Yai and Jungfrau Aletsch will be established. Switzerland will further support a new youth center in Yala, by adding a Swiss science and education corner. In November, Swiss and Thai Posts will both release celebratory stamps.



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RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE INFO SESSION ON SATURDAY, MAY 22ND, 2021



On Saturday, May 22nd, 2021, the RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok welcomed the interested public to a virtual Open House. The session was streamed from the school where principal Christian Vogel, the head of primary school Johanna Vänskä, the head of secondary school Jens Eggert and several students and teachers explained

the Swiss/German approach to education and the school's unique learning methods and characteristics. Visitors had the chance to ask questions during a live Q&A session. It was nice to see how many people showed up online and expressed their interest in our school. A big thank you to everyone who participated in this event.



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PROF. JOSEF LEISEN OSTD A.D.

The teachers of the RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok regularly take part in professional development sessions. On Friday, 23rd of April, an online seminar took place where German as a foreign language and German as a second language (DaF/DaZ) was the main topic. The online workshop was held by Prof. Josef Leisen OStD a.D., who is a professor for Didactics of Physics at the University of Mainz in Germany. It was a very informative and constructive afternoon and we thank Prof. Josef Leisen for his participation and this very interesting lecture.



“The Learning Dwarves”

During online learning, our youngest learners enjoy showing off their toys, books or stuffed toys they have at home. In our Nursery “the Learning Dwarves” we read picture books together, do yoga, sing children's favorite songs in the morning circle or also like to craft with natural materials.



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MATURA EXAMS AT THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND



From Wednesday, April 21st until Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, the written Matura exams of our Grade 12 students were held at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok.

Unlike many other private schools which were unable to hold their IB examinations, our school could proceed with the Matura exams as scheduled even during this challenging time.

Several students stayed at nearby hotels to study together and reduce their commuting time in the morning. The Swiss Embassy was such a pleasant

environment to them that "I wish we could have taken all our regular exams here too" was a comment shared by many. Teachers also cannot complain, since they were under the excellent care of Frau Gabriela Hess. Moreover, it should be noted that the Swiss Embassy makes the best coffee in Bangkok.

We would like to express a big thank you to the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok and especially to Ambassador Helene Budliger Artieda for their much appreciated support and for hosting the final exams of our Matura class once again!



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RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

Important planned events in the second semester of the school year 2020-21:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 11.06.2021 | Matura Graduation Ceremony via Facebook Live from the Swiss Embassy |
| 14.06.2021 | Graduation Ceremony of Grades 9 and 10 via Facebook Live from the German Embassy |

Please check our website for more information.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic there will be no events for visitors in June at the school. Check our website to find out if we will be able to hold and offer the streaming of virtual events.

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



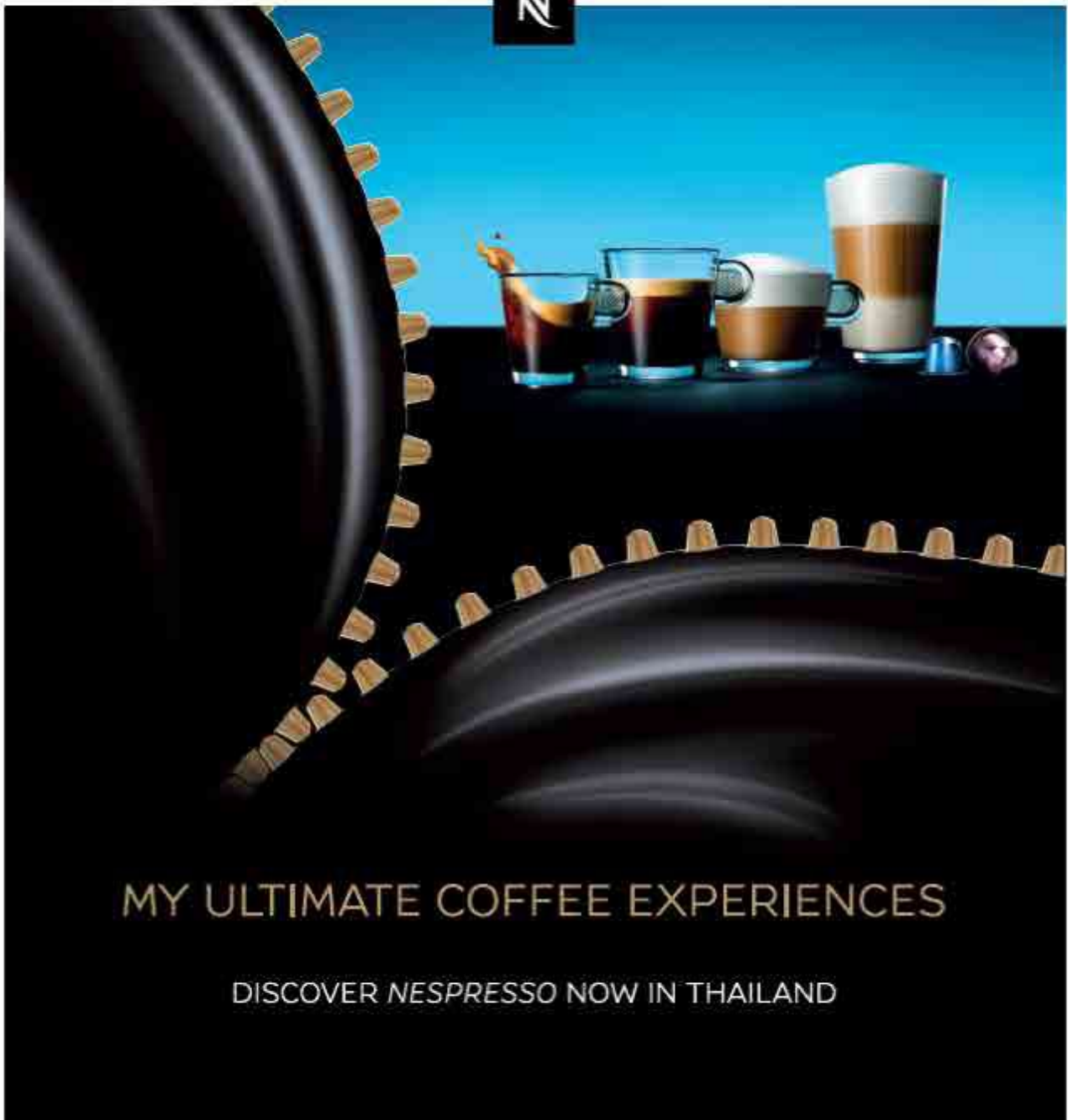
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