

• **STCC President's word**

Dear Members,

As we go into the second half of 2007 there seem to be a few reasons for cautious optimism. On the political front the confrontation between protesters demanding the return of former Prime Minister Thaksin and Government forces transpired without undue violence. The court cases against Mr. Thaksin and his family seem to be moving ahead in earnest. And most importantly: the Government has committed to a definite time frame for general elections, i.e. latest by December even possibly as early as November 25th. This positive news has given the stock market a small boost, whether the rally is sustainable remains to be seen. Export figures also remain encouraging.

On the other hand Thailand's growth figures, at between 3-4%, still lag far behind those of neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam. Singapore is competing for tourists with a casino/ entertainment complex coming onstream in 2008 and several other major attractions.

The security situation in the 3 southern provinces remains very serious.

The uncertainty surrounding the controversial draft Foreign Business Act amendments has also not yet been resolved. The STCC, through the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce, has actively been trying to safeguard the basic rights of our members who fall under this law. The results have yet to be seen, the draft is still pending with the NLA.

In June we had Dr. Nipit Piravej, CEO of PRMA (Pharmaceutical Research & Manufactures Association) as our guest speaker at the STCC's luncheon. He gave us some very interesting insights on the issue of compulsory licensing: the motivations of the Ministry of Public Health, the role of the NGOs, the impact on the development of new medicines, etc. Interested members may request a copy of Dr. Nipit's talk from the chamber.

We are still without a chamber Secretary since Mrs. Margaret Kankaew-Utz has moved back into the business world. Again I wish to personally thank her for her outstanding contributions to the STCC. In the meantime our Executive Director Mr. Thomas Gerber has kindly agreed to fill in on a

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temporary basis. If any members know of anyone who is interested in the position of Secretary please contact me directly at president@swissthai.com

Wishing you a pleasant summer vacation (for those who are lucky enough to take one) and we will keep you informed of upcoming STCC events.

Sincerely yours,
Niti Meyer
President, STCC
president@swissthai.com

• **Business / Economy News**

Weaker than expected private investments and rising fuel prices led the National Economic and Social Development Board to revise its economic growth targets to 4% to 4.5% from 4% to 5% earlier this year. The revision came after gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter grew by 4.3% compared to 4.2% in the same period last year, buoyed by strong export figures. The economy is still under pressure from oil prices, which were higher than the original forecast. Crude oil averaged US\$ 57.91 per barrel for the first five months of the year, but rose to US\$ 64.59 in May alone.

The government has increased the budget deficit in order to accommodate a 4% pay hike for state employees and to finance a number of social projects to shore up the sluggish economy at grassroots level. The government planned to increase spending by Baht 25 billion from the original plan, whereby Baht 17 billion would support the new salary structure of state officials. After taking into account the additional spending, the government expenditures for fiscal 2008 would be Baht 1,66 trillion, compared to Baht 1.63 trillion which was previously planned.

Meanwhile the Commerce Ministry is standing firm on its forecast that inflation will not exceed 2.5% this year, despite expectations of big price rises towards the end of the year in light of the run-up to a general election.

New project approvals by the Board of Investment (BOI) had an investment value of Baht 123 billion in the first five months of the year, which reflects a healthy increase compared to Baht 90 billion for the same period of last year. Applications for BOI privileges amounted to Baht 200 billion for the first five months of 2007, up from 115 billion for the same period of last year. According to a BOI survey conducted by the Sasin Institute of Chulalongkorn University, conducted from February to March with 514 companies surveyed, nearly 80% of foreign investors are still somehow optimistic about investing in Thailand, despite current political uncertainty.

According to the Central Bank Governor Tarisa Watanagase, the Thai economy continues to face external challenges from global financial imbalances and fluctuating crude-oil prices, besides the political uncertainty prevailing at the current time. She said that the country remained vulnerable to oil-price shocks emanating from continued strong demand from China and India and that those price hikes could lead to inflationary pressures and to current account deficits as Thailand is still heavily depended on imported oil.

In the stock market, analysts are of the opinion that foreign buying will resume as investors fears about political instability had eased since the Constitution Tribunal issued its verdicts on the fate of the major political parties on May 30. But medium-term risks remain, including questions surrounding the next move by former Thai Rak Thai executives which were banned by the court.

Bruno Odermatt, Bangkok 29. June 2007

• **Legal Matters**

How to explain the technology transfer plan in order to obtain a representative office license (2)

Preparation a technology transfer plan in accordance with the forms prescribed

The Foreign Business Committee has prescribed declaration forms in relation to technology transfer which are to be submitted with license applications. The responsible person for the business operation of the representative office shall sign his/her signature on such forms. Content of the forms are as follows:-

(1) The conclusion of a technology transfer contract: the contemplated contractual parties shall be specified as well as the essence of the contract, details on the transfer or matters to be transferred shall also be specified (2) Research and development projects: the matters to be researched and developed, the duration of programs and the budget allocated to research and development shall be specified.

(3) Training of in-house personal: details on training topics/programs which are relevant to the performance of work and other related issues shall be specified. In addition "training" means a training, conference or academic seminar or workshop, special lecture, apprenticeship or activity known by other names, whether held in domestic or abroad, under a project or program and having a definite timeframe. (to be continued) (dhira@hutterdhira.com)

- **Joint Foreign Chambers**

No news.

info@swissthai.com

- **Swiss Embassy News**

Visa for Switzerland

Communication from the Visa Section of the Embassy of Switzerland, Bangkok

Compliments of

Mr. Jacques Lauer

Visa for Switzerland

Communication from the Visa Section of the Embassy of Switzerland, Bangkok

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Switzerland for tourism or business often need a visa. Visas can be applied for at the Embassy of Switzerland, after an appointment by phone (1-900 222 340, THB 9/min). The number can only be dialed within Thailand. The latest information on visa procedures and requirements is found on the website of the Embassy, www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok.

Applicants are advised to check the website regularly, since visa requirements change over time. It is also advisable to apply early, because waiting lists and delays do happen sometimes. An appointment two weeks before departure is sufficient for most tourism and business applications. Finally, please keep in mind that visa files take two working days to be processed. This can cause extra delays during public holidays.

Thai nationals holding a valid, multiple entry Schengen visa, do not need a visa for Switzerland. Most other nationalities do, however. Switzerland is not yet a part of the Schengen space, although it will join the agreement soon. The date of entry has not been fixed yet and depends on many variables, such as ratification of the treaty between Switzerland and the European Union and modification of relevant Swiss laws to conform them to the Schengen requirements. To conclude, a Swiss visa does not allow entry into the Schengen space.

DFA FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Embassy of Switzerland in Thailand
35, North Wireless Road
Bangkok 10330

Phone: +66 2253 0156

Fax: +66 2255 4481

Visa: +66 2254 4596

Fax visa: +66 2254 4804

Website: www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok

mailto: ban.visa@eda.admin.ch

Profit from the Pool of Experts



The Expert-Platform www.PoolOfExperts.ch with now more than 200 experts is a quick and uncomplicated support for Swiss SMEs in building up and out their international business relations.

Easy registration for experts

Experts, also from or in Thailand, can register by entering their contact-coordinates, references, professional experiences and educational background. Experts need to be individuals, who wish to network and to link themselves to executives and export managers of Swiss small and medium-sized companies in order to answer

questions, give advice and establish mutually beneficial relationships. Experts can register under Login > Register as Expert. The registration process consists of 6 logical steps. A "legitimacy check" is performed on all new registrations to verify that the expert can be reached and is willing to make his complete profile, contact information and digital image publicly available on the website. An annual listing fee of SFr 120.- has been implemented.

Simple online access for SMEs

An expert can be selected based upon three sorting-criteria; country, market and functional competences. Having identified the suitable candidate the SME can contact the expert directly. There is no charge for users to access the database and view / retrieve expert information.

Helpful tool for SME

The website is actively promoted to Swiss SMEs interested in a global expansion. The focus is on small enterprises that don't have the specific in-house expertise and therefore require basic, initial support and advice from qualified professionals.

Joint Venture of private actors and Osec

The PoolofExpert.ch online directory is a joint venture by OSEC Business Network Switzerland, the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, Fargate AG and Flare International.

Your Business Opportunities in Vietnam, Indonesia and the ASEAN Region.

Get to know the Head of the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) ASEAN, Mr. Rolf Frei from the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore. See which business opportunities the ASEAN region has to offer to you.

Reserve some time on **Thursday, 27. September 2007** to ask your questions about expanding your business and get an overview of the region.

To register your interest, simply send an eMail to the Trade Office in Bangkok, Christian.Cohn@eda.admin.ch.

See the Zurich Ballet Live

The Zurich Ballet has garnered a reputation for being one of the most talented in Europe. They will be performing on October 6 and 7 during Bangkok's 9th International Festival of Dance and Music, on the auspicious occasion of the 80th Birthday of the King, their most major and demanding production "A Midsummer Night's Dream", choreographed by Heinz Spoerli who is considered today a leading choreographer worldwide.

This is a rare opportunity for audiences in Bangkok to experience such a magnificent production, and to invite your most demanding business partners to an extraordinary performance with a taste of Swiss trade mark!

For bulk-tickets, please contact Ms. Saeng-rapee, Tel 02-661-6828.

Saturday, 06. October 2007, 19:30

Sunday, 07. October 2007, 14:30

Price: 4000 3000 2200 1700 1000 Baht

Venue: Thailand Cultural Center

- **Events Calendar**

- Up coming STAMM with wine tasting

Date: Thursday, July 12, 2007

Time: 18:00 ongoing

Location: **Mingles Pub & Restaurant**, Amari Atrium Hotel, 1880, New Petchburi Road, Huay Kwang, Bangkok

For more information please see Events at www.swissthai.com

- **Miscellaneous**

- **Manpower:**

Please go to our website www.swissthai.com > "Members" > "Classifieds" where you will find interesting manpower offers to be contacted directly. Direct link:
http://www.swissthai.com/upshow_classifieds.asp

- **Trade Fairs**

Please visit the following sites for detailed info:
www.cmpthailand.com
www.impact.co.th
www.bitec.net
www.tradefairs.ch

- **Secretary**

Please be so kind and inform us about any **changes in your contact information**.

Member List

If you need a hard copy of our member list please contact the secretary at secretary@swissthai.com.

- **Membership fee 2007**

The invoice regarding the membership fee for the year 2007 was sent out. We thank you in advance or a **prompt** settlement.
secretary@swissthai.com

- **Comments from our Members**

This place is reserved **for our members!**

If you have any suggestions, a wish or you want to bring us closer to your business, please do it here. Thank you.
secretary@swissthai.com

- **Swiss Society Bangkok**

For social activities, please check the following address: www.ssb.or.th

- **Useful Links**

- Swiss Trade Promotion Office
www.osec.ch and www.osec.ch/newsletter
- CH Foreign Trade
www.swisstrade.com
- CH News Paper NZZ
www.nzz.ch
- Swiss Embassy Bangkok
www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
www.seco-admin.ch
- World Economic Forum
www.weforum.org
- Swiss Business Federation
www.economiesuisse.ch
- Swissinfo
www.swissinfo.org
- The Federal Authorities of the Swiss Confederation
New outfit please have a look.
www.admin.ch
- EU launches on-line helpdesk to foster developing country access to EU markets
<http://europa.eu/int/comm/trade/issues/global/development/thd-en.htm>
- Interesting links in Thailand
www.yellowpages.co.th
www.thailandexportguide.com
www.eguide.co.th
www.tradepointthailand.com
www.bangkok.com
www.thailand.com
www.thaiwebsites.com
- Department of Export Promotion's websites:
www.deptahai.go.th and www.thaitrade.com

Swiss Business Associations and Swiss Chambers in the Region

Vietnam

Swiss Business Association Vietnam
c/o Consulate General of Switzerland
Nam An Building 124 Dien Bien Phu
District 1 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel +84 8 820 5402
Fax +84 8 820 4856
Web www.swissvietnam.com
E-mail sba@hcm.vnn.vn

President: Mr Alexander Gruber
Tel: +84 8 827 70 68
Email: agruber@ecomtrading.com

Malaysia

Swiss Malaysian Business Association
c/o Embassy of Switzerland
16 Persiaran Madge,
55000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel. +60 3 2162 9889
Fax +60 3 2162 8410
Email: myswiss@streamyx.com
Website: www.myswiss.org

Chairman: Dr. Magdi Batato

Singapore

Swiss Business Association
c/o Embassy of Switzerland
1 Swiss Club Link
Singapore 288 162
Tel: +65- 62922842
Fax: +65- 62984133
E-mail info@swissbusiness.org.sg
Web: www.swissbusiness.org.sg
Chairman: Mr. Pius Eberhard

Indonesia (below – the new address as of 25.5.07)

Swiss Business Forum
c/o
PT Zurich Insurance Indonesia
Sudirman Plaza
8th floor - Indofood Tower
Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 76-78
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Tel. +62 21- 579 367 70
Fax. +62 21- 2554-3670

Chairman: Mr Hermann Lischer CEO Zurich
Insurance Indonesia,
E-mail hermann.lischer@zurich.com
PA's email: mimi fauzia@zurich.com

Philippines

Philippine-Swiss Business Council (PSBC)
9/F SGV Bldg.II, 6758 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City, Philippines

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Secretariat: Ms. Leonora Doringo
E-mail Leonora.doringo@philippinechamber.com

Hong Kong

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
GPO Box 9501 Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2524 0590
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<http://www.swisschamhk.org>
Email: admin@swisschamhk.org

President: Mr. Hans Rudolf Kunz
E-mail: hansr.kunz@persens.org

Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce

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secretary@swissthai.com or

president@swissthai.com