

• STCC President's word

Dear members,

The new government has now completed its first quarter year in office and has been able to formulate some of its policies. On the whole the government's attitude can be seen as investor friendly and more positive towards the foreign business community. The amendments to the Foreign Business Act seen to have been shelved for the moment. Overt political unrest is not expected for the time being although undercurrents of dissatisfaction from opposing political camps still run strong.

Mass transit projects are being emphasized as well as alternative energy sources mostly in the area of biofuels, which are of course also problematic.

High oil and commodity prices, especially rice, are contributing to inflation which may according to some sources soon reach 4%, a level considered high by Thai standards.

Looking at our chamber's undertakings we are, as members of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce (JFCCT), involved in the formation of a new management structure with clear objectives and activities for the JFCCT. Our former President, Mr. Nandor von der Luehe, has agreed to stand for election as Chairman of the JFCCT. The election will take place on April 28th, 2008.

Our monthly events have regularly taken place since the beginning of the year. The networking Stamm is well-attended as usual and also the luncheon events have found a favorable response although a larger turnout would be much appreciated. Your board spends a lot of effort on finding and inviting interesting speakers and organizing these luncheons so please try to attend whenever you can.

Looking at the future events STCC will hold the annual STCC Golf Tournament on Saturday May 17th, 2008 at the Burapha Golf Course near

- Page 1	- STCC President's word
- Page 2	- Business / Economy News
	- Legal Matters
- Page 3	- Legal Matters Cont.
	- Swiss Embassy News
- Page 4	- Swiss Embassy News Cont.
- Page 5	- Swiss Embassy News Cont.
- Page 6	- Swiss Embassy News Cont.
	- Event Calendar
- Page 7	- Miscellaneous
	-Market Place
	- Secretary
	- Comments from our Members
	- Useful Link SSB
	- Useful Links
- Page 8	- Useful Links Cont.

Pattaya followed by a dinner. The tournament will be open to members of other chambers as well so we expect some lively competition.

In July we expect the visit of Secretary of State of SECO, Mr. Jean-Daniel Gerber who will also speak to the STCC a luncheon.

In closing may I again emphasize that we greatly value your active participation in the STCC.

Any suggestions, ideas or criticism on how to improve our chamber are always welcome and will be dealt with promptly.

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

• **Business / Economy News**

After a turbulent year and jittering financial markets, the Thai economy expanded by a healthy 5.7 % during the fourth quarter of 2007. The growth components of this underlying performance were more balancing than those experienced during the first three quarters, though net exports remained the key growth engine. Government spending also increased rapidly and private investments picked up noticeably. For the entire year of 2007, the Thai economy expanded by 4.8%, though domestic demand remained soft.

Inflationary pressures are still prevailing, with the Headline Consumer Index closing at 2.9% for the fourth quarter of 2007, mainly driven by the substantial increase in energy prices and substantial increases in agricultural and manufacturing products.

On a positive note, the Bank of Thailand decided to remove the controversial capital controls and introduced new measures in order to prevent Baht currency speculation. This move was effective as of March 3 and should have positive implications for foreign investments. The Central Bank is still determined not to cut policy interest rate, though the Thai rate is higher than the US rate which makes Thailand still attractive for capital inflows, which in turn put pressures on the Baht.

The cabinet also approved a Baht 45 billion stimulus package to alleviate the cost of living for people from all walks of life, especially for the middle class. These measures will reduce the individual tax burdens, promote long-term savings, and boost disposable income. Those measures include deduction of Baht 100,000 for life insurance premiums, tax exemption for income of less than Baht 150,000, increase of maximum deduction for provident and long-term equity funds of up to Baht 500,000 each, and individuals, whose parents, spouses or children are physically impaired, can now deduct expenses of up to Baht 30,000 per year.

Political risks will continue to affect investor confidence, as the Charthai, Matchimathipataya and People Power parties are all facing possible dissolution by the courts due to alleged fraud committed during the last election in December last year. Under the current law, vote fraud committed by a party executive is grounds for

dissolution of the entire party. According to economic pundits, the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the US will affect global economic growth, but this still have less impact than the prevailing political risks.

The Bank of Thailand expects the Thai economy to grow in a range of 4.5% to 6% in 2008 and 2009, despite signs of recovery of domestic demand. High oil and food prices are the biggest worry, with expected headline inflation in the range of 2.8% to 4% in 2007.

To close on a positive note, the Thai consumer confidence index rose to the highest level in 11 months in February, spurred by the anticipation of the economic stimulus measures the government confirmed earlier this year. The index, which is based on interviews conducted each month with 2,239 people nationwide, increased from 71.6 to 72.6, which showed consumer confidence increase for a consecutive four months.

Bruno G. Odermatt,
15 April, 2008, Bangkok

• **Legal Matters**

Amendment of the Civil and the Commercial Code concerning partnership and limited company for increase convenience, speed, in business establishment and trust of business contact.

.....

The Civil and the Commercial Code concerning partnership and limited company has been amended and shall come into force as of 1 July 2008 onward. The importance of the amendment is, that the business operator will obtain convenience, speed, and reduce process of business establishment as well as increase trust of business contact.

To summarize the important points are as follows:-

1. Criterion of increasing speed for business
 - 1.1 Reduce number of promoters from 7 persons to 3 persons and be able to register memorandum of association and establishment of company within the same day (formerly, it has to be registered memorandum first, and then publish summoning notice of company establishment by giving notice not later than 7 days after meeting, then it can be registered).

- 1.2 Transform ordinary partnership and limited partnership to limited company by using the formerly name(formerly, if limited partnership or registered ordinary partnership need changing to limited company, they need to file for dissolved registration, then register formation of limited company and it can not be used former name of limited partnership to form company).
 - 1.3 The general meeting for be special resolution is changed to one meeting. Formerly, the law require for twice meeting for special resolution.
 - 1.4 Reduce publishment in newspaper in case of reduction of capital and amalgamation of limited companies which, formerly, it must be established 7 times but present remains 1 time.
 - 1.5 Cancel for sending of memorandum. Also, other legal matters formerly prescribed for twice advertisement will be reduced to one time only and published regulation to the Registrar.
2. Criterion of increasing trust for investment and business contact.
- 2.1 To secure the shareholder benefit, for limited company already establish, notice called for general meeting must be published in newspaper at least one time and sent by registered mail with acknowledged receipt (formerly, summoning of general meeting can be chosen one of those choices).
 - 2.2 The Registrar empowers to delete registered ordinary partnership from registration record to be as defunct partnership (formerly, this can happened only in case of limited company).
 - 2.3 Partnership and limited company which were removed from registration record are terminated as juristic person and not be able to appoint liquidator to liquidate any assets or debts but the court may assign the Registrar to restore such removal partnership and limited company to the registration record, however, the application must be filed to the court within 10 years after the day of deleting from the registration record.

since 1929 or about 79 years. The amendment will affect to establishment and transaction of business in Thailand. Providing convenience and trust in business information to be used for business for the next future.

dhira@hutterdhira.com

• **Swiss Embassy News**

Osec Swiss Business Hub ASEAN Business Consulting Days in Switzerland.



The Swiss Export and Location Promotion Organisation OSEC is inviting Swiss companies to meet experts and to find potential business partners. Offered are the Business Consulting Days on 26-28 Mai 2008 in Zurich and the Export Dialogues on 23 Mai 2008 in Geneva. These are good opportunities to receive first hand information by the Swiss Local Trade Officers of the ASEAN region. Especially experts and consultants can use this platform to introduce themselves to the Business Network Switzerland and to get to know about the "PoolOfExperts". Find more information on www.osec.ch and www.poolofexperts.ch or call the Trade Office at the Embassy of Switzerland in Thailand: Tel 02 2530 156.

The amendment of law concerning above partnership and limited company are changing for provision which have been used for long time

Swiss Secretary of State Mr. Jean-Daniel Gerber in Thailand July 2008.



Swiss Secretary of State Mr. Jean-Daniel Gerber is visiting Thailand in mid July 2008 and will meet with representatives of the business community and the Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce. Trade between Switzerland and Thailand in 2007 has progressed and has reached more than 60 Bn Baht in trade value. Switzerland is a TOP10 investor in Thailand (FDI) as reported by figures of the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI). A newly elected government has launched the Thailand Investment Year 2008-09 under the Ministry of Industry and the BOI which mean several Bn Baht of investment by the government into infrastructure and key sectors like tourism and the automobile industry.

Euro2008 Marketing opportunities.



The Embassies of Switzerland and Austria are partnering together with the entertainment and sports content

provider RS Public Limited Company (www.rs.co.th) which is holding the Thailand live broadcasting rights for Euro2008.

RS is planning plenty of entertainment and media activities in June 2008 at the CentralWorld outside area which could be an opportunity and platform for you to reach out to your consumers. A major event (Kick-Off) starts Saturday, 7th June 2008, 15hrs. A pre event and a road show in several provinces is planned by RS.

For details about scope and your Marketing opportunities contact directly RS Vice President Sports, Mr. Jimmy Heosontaty, Tel 02-938-7379, jimmy@rs.co.th.

Swiss Solar Taxi on World Tour: Luncheon at the Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce.



Mr. Louis Palmer, Initiator of the Swiss Solar Taxi Project and speaker at the STCC Luncheon held at Nai Lert Park Hotel.

It is the first time in history that a car drives around the world without a single drop of petrol. In times of low conventional energy sources, high fuel prices and global warming, Swiss adventurer Louis Palmer is looking for alternative driving technologies. His mission: make people more aware of climate change and show that alternative solutions are available.

On his world tour, he has been at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 and will end his trip at the Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2008. Palmer has already shared his two-seater cabin with ministers, journalists, backpackers and a Jordanian prince.



Business Event with STCC: In the car Mr. Louis Palmer (initiator and speaker), Mrs. Simone Flubacher (Embassy of Switzerland). Standing are Dr. Niti Meyer (middle), Counselor Daniel Derzic (second from right, Embassy of Switzerland), Member of the STCC Board, guests of the STCC, Swiss Society Bangkok and Swiss School (DsSB).

The Swiss Solar Taxi has been in Bangkok from 9 – 10 April 2008. The vehicle, powered 100% by solar energy, is on its 40,000 km-journey around the world. The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and the Swiss institutes HTA Lucerne, ETH Zurich, University of Applied Sciences in Aarau and University of Applied Sciences in Berne have designed the car, integrating top-notch technologies that allow the passenger to drive at a maximum speed of 90 kph.

Kasetsart Students to build next Solar car.



Academic Event at Kasetsart University: Minister of Energy Lt. Gen. Poonpirom Liptapanlop being greeted by Minister Jacques Lauer (Embassy of Switzerland).

Kasetsart University President Prof. Dr. Vudtechai Kapila-kanchana who kindly hosted the academic event said, after a presentation by Mr. Palmer in front of 200 students and professors, that his students will be part of Mr. Palmer's next world tour starting December 2009 in Copenhagen called "wave". The faculty of engineering under the Dean of Faculty of Engineering Mr. Nontawat Junjareon will build a solar car to be part of it, if Mr. Palmer can help to talk to the Swiss battery producer Zebra to sponsor this important part worth 15'000.-CHF.

How to order your own Solar car?

Swiss initiator Mr. Louis Palmer is confident that his solar car with minimum production of 100'000 pieces could be assembled for about 10'000.-CHF, including the battery. His concept is that everyone would have a 10m2 solar cell on top of the own house, feeding energy to the national energy grid and therefore being able to recollect it anywhere else where a 220V plug can be found.

New energy concept. No global warming.

The said 10m2 solar cell panel would produce enough energy for 15'000km per year or roughly 57km per working day. The consumption is 8 Kilo Watt(Units) per 100km. In Thailand 1 Unit costs about 3-4 Baht. Positive side effects are that a solar car would create nearly no noise, does not need any petrol and reduces global warming. Also, sand for creating solar panels can be found amasses and solar cell producers normally give a 20 year warranty on their products. Additionally, Mr. Palmers says, this could also be a concept to help Africa to become a global energy distributor by selling sand for creating solar panels and by renting space to put up the panels in the Sahara or charging by consumption.

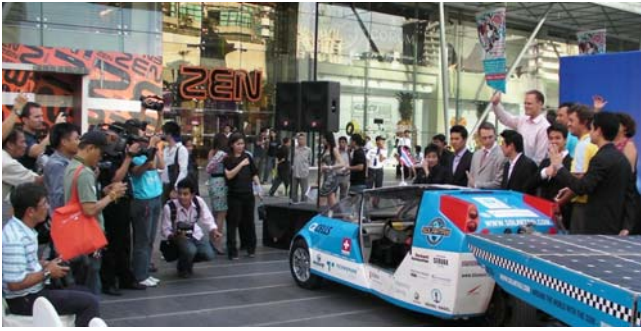
Academic, Business and Public Event at Kasetsart, STCC and CentralWorld for the Swiss Solar Taxi.



Presence Switzerland has kindly sponsored parts of the event platforms and the Embassy of Switzerland had partnered for an academic event with Kasetsart University, for a business event with STCC and for a public event with CentralWorld.



Public Event at CentralWorld. From top left: Mr. William Schaedla (Country Director WWF), Mr. Tara Buakamsri (Thailand Manager Greenpeace), Mrs. Satwant Kaur (Regiona Information Officer, UNEP), Mr. Louis Palmer. From down third from left: Mr. Daniel Derzic (Counselor, Embassy of Switzerland), Mr. Kantaphon Phantirat (Vice President Marketing, CentralWorld).



Television, newspapers and magazine editors covering the event.

The world tour of Mr. Louis Palmer can be followed via his personal blog on www.solartaxi.ch.

Christian Cohn, Trade Officer
Embassy of Switzerland
Christian.Cohn@eda.admin.ch

- **Events Calendar**

- **Up coming STAMM**

- Date: Thursday, May 8, 2008**

- 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**

- **Market Place**

Swiss BOI promoted company for sale in Chantaburi. Details available under the following link: <http://pottery-land.com/landsale.html>

- **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.

- **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**

- **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
Jakarta 12910
Tel: +62 21- 579 367 70
Fax: +62 21- 2554-3670
E-mail: hansr.kunz@persens.org
Chairman: Mr. Hermann Lischer CEO Zurich
Insurance Indonesia,

Phillippines

Philippine-Swiss Business Council (PSBC)

9/F SGV Bldg.II, 6758 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City, Phillipines

Tel: +63 2 894 8177
Fax: +63 2 892 8275
Mobile: +63 918 994 8177
Secretariat: Ms. Leonora Doringo
E-mail: Leonora.doringo@philippinechamber.com
Chairman: Mr. Joel C. Valdes

Hong Kong

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
GPO Box 9501 Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2524 0590
Fax: +852 2522 6959
website:
<http://www.swisschamhk.org>
Email: admin@swisschamhk.org

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

Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce

36/9-10 Chaengwattana Road
Kwaeng Thungsonghong
Khet Laksi
Bangkok 10210
Tel: +66 (0) 2982 4896
Fax: +66 (0) 2982 4897
E-mail: secretary@swissthai.com
Web page: www.swissthai.com

Next Newsletter: July 2008

For all comments please contact
secretary@swissthai.com or
president@swissthai.com