

• STCC President's word

Dear Members,

First of all I have to apologize that the newsletter is a month late. Due to the year-end rush and the fact that we have a new secretary, Khun Maethika Chanarpas who is still not yet wholly familiar with the job and had to organize the Annual General Meeting (AGM) as well ,we are behind schedule but can consequently also bring you the latest news that only transpired in January.

Towards the end of 2007 a very important political event took place in Thailand: national parliamentary elections were held on December 23rd which signaled the country's return to democracy. In spite of a number of inquiries into allegations of vote-buying and the fact that former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and more than 100 of his former party members were banned from politics for five years,the elections were generally regarded as free and fair. In fact despite these handicaps, the People's Power Party (PPP) the " successor" to Mr.Thaksin's now defunct Thai Rak Thai Party, managed to obtain a majority in the house of representatives thus demonstrating that they remain popular with a large part of the electorate.

Together with five smaller parties the PPP will form a coalition government headed by Prime Minister-designate Samak Sundaravej a veteran politician who has held numerous posts including Interior Minister and Governor(Mayor) of Bangkok.The new government will have to tackle many serious economic and social problems such as Thailand's response to the weakening global economy, the strong Baht currency, increase in cost of living and the continuing insurgency in the three southern provinces .In order to boost investor confidence we hope that the new government will take quick and decisive ,positive action .The STCC would like to wish the government much success in its endeavors.

Internally, the STCC's last events in 2007 were the attendance by our board at the showing of the film "The Alps" on November 6th, a dinner with Prof.H.J. Leibundgut from the ETH University, Zurich on November 22nd who spoke to us on "Energy saving and alternative energy" and lastly our Stamm of December 13th .

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On January 22nd ,2008 the STCC started its activities with our AGM held at the Nai Lert Park Hotel.It was well-attended by 53 members and guests and for dinner we had a most interesting speaker in the person of Mr. Daniel Küng, CEO of OSEC the Swiss trade and investment promotion agency. Mr.Küng's talk is attached to this newsletter for the information of all members. (see Swiss Embassy News)

I would also like to congratulate our two new directors Dr.Rolf Ammelburg, CEO of Roche Thailand,and Mr. Claude Scheffer ,General Manger of the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel ,who were elected at the AGM.Mr.Robert Vultier ,director ,was transferred back to Switzerland and therefore resigned from the Board. I thank Mr.Vultier for his valuable contributions to the STCC.

On behalf of the board I belatedly wish all members all the best for 2008, we hope for your participation and input in the coming months.

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

• Business / Economy News

In the third quarter of 2007, the Thai economy held its ground and expanded by 4.9%, which is slightly better than the performance of the first and second quarter, with 4.3% and 4.2% growth respectively. Overall the Thai GDP grew by 4.5% in the first three quarters, which is still respectable, but, in terms of economic growth, puts Thailand at the tail end compared to its neighbors in Asia-Pacific Region. In the first 11 months, export rose by 18% year on year, whereby exports still remain the key growth engine for the economy in 2007. Indicators for private consumption like consumption of goods, value-added tax revenues and electricity usage have steadily recovered in the third and fourth quarter 2007, which is a positive sign. The newly formed government is encouraged to boost productive investments, such as infrastructure projects, which would encourage private investments.

The Bank of Thailand (BOT) maintained its benchmark interest rate at 3.25 %, as domestic consumption and investment had shown signs of recovery. It appears that the BOT adopted a wait and see approach for the time being. The BOT maintained its economic growth forecast in a range of 4.5% to 6% for 2008, but cautioned that the US sub-prime mortgage crisis had shaken global credit markets and spurred fears of a US economic recession, which could affect Thailand as well. Global stock and currency markets saw a dip in January on recession fears and after the intervention of the US Federal Reserve with a surprise short-term interest rate cut of 0.75%, the largest cut in more than two decades, the financial markets calmed down and most financial analysts believe that the sub-prime crisis will have limited impact on the Asian economies. It appears that the Thai economy has become resilient enough to withstand an economic downturn in the USA, since Thai exports to the US accounted for just 12% to 13% of total exports, which reflects the success of local exporters to explore market opportunities and sell to new markets.

Experts hope that oil prices will fall and remain below the US\$ 100 per barrel barrier; otherwise inflation will increase beyond the predicted range of 3% to 4% for 2008. The BOT projects core inflation, which excludes energy and fresh food prices, at 1.3 % to 2.3% for 2008. Despite the political uncertainties throughout 2007, investment

applications submitted to the Board of Investment hit a record level of Baht 655 billion in 2007, which reflects an increase of 32% over the prior year. It appears that investors are still confident in investing in Thailand and into the infrastructure to support their investments.

Bruno Odermatt, Bangkok, 29. January 2008

• Legal Matters

How to explain the technology transfer plan in order to obtain a representative office license (4)

Definition of Technology Transfer

The Foreign Business Committee has prescribed the following definitions in relation to technology transfer:

(1) **Technology** means a technique, skill, experience or means utilized or adapted for production, trade, services, marketing, administration and management.

(2) **Technology transfer** means the adoption of technology for use or for adaptation in a business operation. The transferor must transfer techniques, skills, experience which would enable the transferee to adopt such transferred elements for use or for adaptation in production, trade, services, marketing, administration and management; depending on the characteristics of each type of business.

(3) **Transferor** means a foreigner licensed to operate a business under the Foreign Business Law.

(4) **Transferee** means a Thai national performing work in the transferor's organization and a Thai national who performs work in a juristic person which has trade relations or has engaged in trade transactions with such organization as well as educational institutions and other relevant institutions in Thailand.

The Committee will take into account of the characteristics of each type of business by considering either one or many factors based on the plan details submitted. After a foreign business license has been granted, a report of the operations undertaken under the technology transfer plan must be filed at the Foreign Business Committee, the Department of Business Development at least once a year.

(dhira@hutterdhira.com)

• Executive Director's News

Renewal of one-year - Non-Immigrant B – Visa at Immigration

(note: this does not apply if Visa is renewed at the BOI one-stop-office):

During the year 2007 several new requirements have been introduced by the immigration office which have to be met in order to renew the NonImmigrant B 1-year Visa.

Among others, please note that

- a) the copies of the Personal Income tax receipts have to be verified by the revenue department (**takes about 3 weeks**)
- b) the copies of the Social Security fund receipts have to be verified by the social security Fund officer
- c) the audited statement of the preceding business year has to be signed in original by the auditor.

Therefore start early enough to get the newest update from immigration and collect the necessary documentation in order to be ready upon renewal application submission.

Thomas Gerber
Executive Director

Swiss Support Swiss – eine neue Hilfsorganisation in Thailand

Seit Anfang des Jahres 2007 befassen sich fünf Mitglieder der SSB (Swiss Society Bangkok) mit der Gründung einer neuen Hilfsorganisation, die den Schweizerinnen und Schweizern, welche sich in Thailand niedergelassen haben, zu Diensten kommen soll. Nach intensiver Vorbereitungszeit kann die Organisation ab sofort ins Leben gerufen und somit in Anspruch genommen werden.

Die Anzahl Schweizerinnen und Schweizer in Thailand lebend nimmt aus verschiedenen Gründen stetig zu. Es ist deshalb nachvollziehbar, dass ebenso häufiger Fälle auftreten, in denen Unterstützung in persönlichen Belangen hilfreich sein könnte.

Die Anlaufstelle bietet in erster Linie Beratung und vermittelt fachkompetente Kontakte und andere Adressen. Unsere Dienstleistung liegt darin, Menschen beratend zu unterstützen und in ihren Unsicherheiten und Nöten als Gesprächspartner zu begleiten. Finanzielle Unterstützung zu leisten liegt ausserhalb unserer Möglichkeiten. Wir haben die Organisation dem Grundsatz entsprechend

aufgebaut, keine Geldeinnahmequellen zu suchen und somit auch keine finanzielle Unterstützung zu leisten.

Unsere neu gegründete Hilfsorganisation bietet unentgeltlich Dienstleistungen an, welche von anderen Organisationen nicht angeboten werden. Wir verstehen uns in unserer Arbeit als Partner – daher liegt es nahe, dass wir eine konstruktive Zusammenarbeit mit verschiedenen Organisationen (z.B. Schweizer Club in Phuket) und der Botschaft pflegen. In diesem Sinne sind wir dabei, ein Netzwerk aufzubauen, welches bald in ganz Thailand Unterstützung bieten kann.

Alle Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter der Hilfsorganisation „Swiss Support Swiss“ leben seit längerer Zeit in Thailand, sind Mitglieder des Komitees der SSB und bringen somit ein wertvolles Know-how mit. Wir sind interessiert, den Schweizerinnen und Schweizern unseren Möglichkeiten entsprechend eine bestmögliche Leistung zu bieten.

Wir sind wie folgt erreichbar:

E-Mail: sssbkk@gmx.ch
Mobile: 085 8 476 176

Interessierte Personen, die in unserer Arbeitsgruppe aktiv mitwirken wollen, laden wir herzlich ein, sich an die oben aufgeführten Kontaktmöglichkeiten zu wenden.

Wir danken allen für die wohlwollende Unterstützung der Organisation „Swiss Support Swiss“ und hoffen, eine Plattform geschaffen zu haben, die allen dient – allen voran den Schweizerinnen und Schweizern, die hier in Thailand leben und mit ihren verschiedenen Fragen in der neuen Hilfsorganisation eine unterstützende Anlaufstelle finden.

Das Swiss Support Swiss – Team:

Esther Lehmann (Koordination)
Susy Dürig
Niki Geissbühler
Thomas Gerber
Urs Meyer

• **Swiss Embassy News**

STCC invites OSEC CEO Mr. Daniel Kueng



Mr. Daniel Kueng, the CEO of the Swiss export and investment promotion OSEC (www.osec.ch), headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, has been invited by the Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce as key note speaker to the STCC Annual General Meeting 2008. Mr. Kueng thanked the STCC for being an important and reliable partner for Swiss companies coming to the Thai market and talked about "Switzerland's interdependence with the world and OSEC's role in the promotion of foreign trade". Mr. Kueng showcased that Swiss trade is clearly growing, has a slight trade surplus and stays at currently combined about 330.-Bn CHF. Chemicals and pharmaceuticals, machines and electronics, precision instruments, watches and jewellery make the majority of all exports. Most goes to Europe but Asia is Switzerland's 2nd strongest export market and fastest growing. In this respect he pinpoints that bringing business from Switzerland to other countries in the world clearly creates business and jobs for and in Switzerland. OSEC made a research and identified 43'000 companies in Switzerland ready for export. 75% of all surveyed companies say that they want to make business outside Switzerland within the next five years. OSEC will facilitate these companies with their Trade Officers in the Swiss Embassies, together with the experts in the region.

Profit from the Pool of Experts



The Expert-Platform with now more than 200 experts is a quick and uncomplicated support for Swiss SMEs in building up and out their international business relations. Learn more about how you can

profit from it by visiting www.PoolOfExperts.ch. This tool offers easy registration for experts and is a simple online tool for Swiss SMEs. The PoolOfExperts.ch online directory is a joint venture

by OSEC, the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, Fargate AG and Flare International.

Mr. Thomas Wicki new Regional Director



Swiss citizen Mr. Thomas Wicki is OSEC's new Asia Pacific Regional Director and Head of Swiss Business Hub (SBH) ASEAN with location in Singapore. Mr. Wicki will manage OSEC's mandates to guide Swiss and Liechtenstein SMEs by an Export-Step-by-Step approach to Asia. He has nearly two decades of experience in the Asian region and has been in management position in several international companies. In Thailand Christian Cohn, Trade Officer, brings Swiss companies together with local business partners and experts.

The new Swiss foreign trade promotion starting January 2008



When you look at www.osec.ch you see the new logo of OSEC and the three additional tasks it has received from the Swiss parliament starting from January 2008 onwards. Half a decade ago, the Swiss State Secretariat of Economy and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs together gave the mandat to OSEC to help Swiss companies to export. OSEC is connected in Switzerland to all chambers of commerce in the different cantons. The Swiss Embassies with their trade officers, organized in hubs, cooperate with companies and chambers in their country, seek for experts (PoolOfExperts) and create an external network. The internal and external networks of OSEC constitute the Business Network Switzerland.

In addition of its export promotion mandate, starting from 1st January 2008, OSEC will also do the promotion for import and investment in Switzerland. There are 16 Swiss Business Hubs (SBH) now divided into four regions and coordinated by four regional directors.

Swiss Business Hub (SBH) ASEAN Annual Meeting



The SBH Annual Meeting 21.-22. January 2008 took place in Bangkok. Invited this time, further to the Trade Officers, also were the Swiss Economic Counsellors of the ASEAN region. OSEC CEO Mr. Kueng and new Head of Hub ASEAN Mr. Wicki gave an insight to the future and additional direction settings of OSEC.

Swiss Embassy reception for SBH ASEAN and Board of STCC

The Embassy of Switzerland on 21st January 2008 invited the SBH ASEAN and the Board of the STCC for a reception at its residence. Talks about the current political and economic situation and exchange of business views were enhancing the partnership.

Christian.Cohn@eda.admin.ch

Trade Officer
Embassy of Switzerland

• Photo Gallery



HRH Princess Somsawali graciously presided over the opening of the film "The Alps" on Nov.6th,2007 accompanied by board members of Siam City Cement and the STCC.



Mr.Jacques Lauer,Chargé d' Affaires of the Swiss Embassy, presenting a memento to HRH Princess Somsawali.



AGM (left to right) Dr.Niti Meyer,, Mr.Daniel Küng CEO of OSEC, Mr.Jacques Lauer



STCC Board of Directors

Newsletter 22 / January 2008

- Events Calendar

- Up coming STAMM

Date: Thursday, February 14, 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 2008**

The invoice regarding the membership fee for the year 2008 will be sent out in March. We thank you in advance for 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**

- **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.bankok.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
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8th floor - Indofood Tower
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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, Philippines

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Chairman: Mr. Joel C. Valdes

Hong Kong

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Next Newsletter: March 2008
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president@swissthai.com