



Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand

(DRAFT)

Minutes of the JFCCT Presidents' Council Meeting

Danish-Thai Chamber of Commerce

Wednesday, 28th August 2019

Venue: Arnoma 1, 3rd Floor, Arnoma Grand Bangkok Hotel

Participants

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| 1. H.E. Mr. Uffe Wolffhechel | Ambassador of Denmark to Thailand |
| 2. Mr. Peter Sand | Trade Counsellor Royal Danish Embassy |
| 3. Mr. Stanley Kang | JFCCT Chairman |
| 4. Mr. Ron Livingston | JFCCT Vice Chair |
| 5. Mrs. Vibeke Lyssand Leirvag | JFCCT Vice Chair |
| 6. Mr. Bob Fox | JFCCT Digital Economy/ICT Committee, Chairman
and JFCCT Policy Co-Ordinator |
| 7. Dr. Supareak Charlie Chomchan | JFCCT SME Committee, Chairman |
| 8. Dr. Kongkiti Phusavat | JFCCT Education & Skills Committee, Chairman |
| 9. Mr. Stefan van der Sluys | JFCCT International Trade Committee, Chairman |
| 10. Mr. Eric Brand | JFCCT Tourism Committee, Chairman |
| 11. Mr. John Casella | JFCCT Honorary Treasurer |
| 12. Mr. Peter Waagensen | Danish- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 13. Mr. Paris Kouyoumdjian | Armenian- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 14. Dr. Sutharm Valaisathien | BeLu- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 15. Mr. Marcelo Souza | Brazil- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 16. Ms. Caroline Kwan | Thai- Canadian Chamber of Commerce |
| 17. Mr. Surapong Srethbhakdi | Thai- Chinese Chamber of Commerce |
| 18. Mr. Jari Hietala | Thai- Finnish Chamber of Commerce |
| 19. Mr. Thomas Sanchez | Franco- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 20. Mr. John Fotiadis | Hellenic- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 21. Mr. Danny Yu | Thai- Hongkong Trade Association |
| 22. Mr. Yuttapoom Doolyabhandit | Thai- Israel Chamber of Commerce |
| 23. Mr. Andrea Gallucci | Thai- Italian Chamber of Commerce |
| 24. Dr. Hugh O'Connell | Thai- Irish Chamber of Commerce |
| 25. Mr. Ravi Sehgal | India- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 26. Ms. Ha Song Hee | Korean- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 27. Mrs. Hwee Khim Boo | Malaysian- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 28. Mr. Ramesh Narsinghpura | Mexican- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 29. Mr. Hans van den Born | Netherlands- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 30. Mr. Kandhapong Jeowkok | New Zealand- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 31. Mr. Axel Blom | Thai-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce |
| 32. Ms. Nichapa Phoroi | Thai- Russian Chamber of Commerce |
| 33. Mr. Robin Loh | Singapore- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 34. Mr. Dilan Samarakoon | Thai- Srilanka Chamber of Commerce |
| 35. Mr. Anders Lundquist | Swedish- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 36. Mr. Bruno G. Odermatt | Swiss- Thai Chamber of Commerce |
| 37. Mr. Ozkan Sarikaya | Thai-Turkish Chamber of Commerce |
| 38. Mr. Phairush Burapachaisri | The Board of Trade of Thailand |
| 39. Mr. Rani Panday | The Board of Trade of Thailand |
| 40. Ms. Yosita Noknoi | JFCCT |

41. Ms. Wanlapa Yamapai

JFCCT

Apologies:

1. German-Thai Chamber of Commerce
2. Indonesia- Thai Chamber of Commerce
3. Japanese Chamber of Commerce
4. Macedonia Chamber of Commerce
5. Thai- Taiwanese Business Association

The meeting starts at 12:00 hrs.

Mr. Peter waagensen, President of Danish-Thai Chamber of Commerce welcomed all participants and introduced H.E. Mr. Uffe Wolffhechel, the Ambassador of Denmark to Thailand to present the diplomatic and economic aspects of the relationship between Denmark and Thailand. Then he passed back to the JFCCT chairman.

**Agenda Item I Approval of the Minutes of the Presidents' Council Meeting
held on Monday, 10th June 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been sent out prior to the meeting. It was approved by participants.

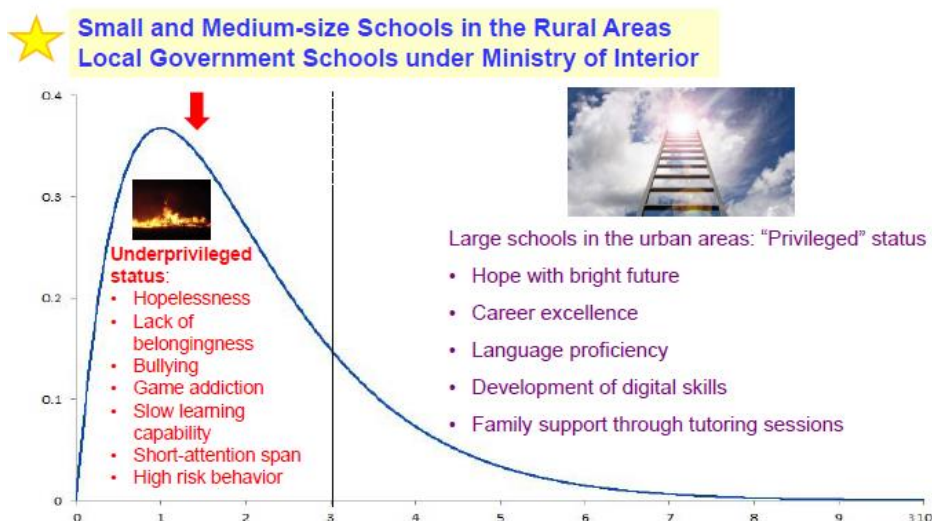
Agenda Item II Update from Committees/Working group

- **Education and Skills**

Dr. Kongkiti Phusavat, Chairman of the Education and Skills Committee provides an update as following.

Pedagogical Study: Pilot Project with Bangkok Metropolitan Schools (together with a network of schools in Kalasin, Surin, and Chiang Rai)

- Khun Vibeke with SHOM on the inputs into product development from science education (May 2019-Present)
 - Embassy of Luxembourg on support community engagement through science/ environmental education
 - Embassy of Indonesia on supporting the promotion of schools' product
- Khun Vibeke and Khun Ragi IRatnam for providing entrepreneurship training to teachers and students from BMA schools (June 2019)
- Khun Stanley Kang for taking part in receiving Princess Sirindhorn's visit to BMA school (July 2019)
- Dr. Hugh O'Connell for preparing digital skill training for underprivileged students (planned October 2019)
- Dr. Hugh O'Connell for arranging possible collaboration of BMA schools with Indorama on waste management (Pending)
- Khun Vibeke with Thai Norwegian Chamber of Commerce on in-kind support of science experiment and education (Pending)
- Dr. Hugh O'Connell for arranging possible training for teachers from BMA schools on dealing with slow learners and depressed students(Pending)



Note: Science education for underprivileged students implies:

- Lack of readiness in facility such as laboratory
- Need to blend science skills more than advanced science knowledge to deal with daily problems such as waste, water pollution, etc.
- Need to provide hope/belief through product development as part of science experiment and also through interactions with others

- **Digital Economy / ICT; and covering General Topics- Work Permit & Visa, TM.30, Guillotine**

The chairman asked Mr Fox, Digital Economy/ICT Chair, for the committee update and related updates. Mr Fox referred to a two-sided paper report.

5G developments

The same issues as reported previously are on-going and receiving our attention. A dialogue with the new Minister has been formally requested.

MVNO – engaged in public hearing 26 July; made submission to NBTC 19 August.

Rural broadband and rural digital development

Committee is co-ordinating development of a 'Digital Economy Centres' proposal which needs to take in the Net Pracharat project developments and the current sub-optimal approach to national broadband.

Digital Laws – developments on some key laws

Personal Data Protection Act – Engaged on Data Protection Guidelines.

Cybersecurity Act – we are working on inputs for a Code of Conduct.

Digital Taxes / eCommerce Reviewing overall strategy on Digital Taxes. Proposed changes to Revenue Code for VAT (our submission Feb 2018) still with CoS. From May 2019, TRD also mooting direct tax via WHT method. Dialogue sought

Global internet report – Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network publication; more inputs by Sep.

Laws portal for members www.jfct.org/information-for-digital-economy-committee-members/

On line health and Digital Literacy/ Fake news Fake News Centre formed; an interest of new Minister. We have done recommendations and will submit shortly.

Skills in the Digital Economy – very helpful dialogue with Education and Skills Committee.

Out-reach to chambers for enhanced participation – in progress.

Dialogues Dialogues – confirmation of date pending: MDES – Minister; DIP D-G; ETDA – President; DGA – Acting CEO; TRD – digital taxes.

Meetings: #8/2019 24 July; next likely 19 Sep. Participation welcome; chamber committees which similar topics are most welcome.

General Topics

New Cabinet

See separate handout. Letters written to some ministers. At 5 Aug Post Forum (7 new ministers) – no mention of foreign investment or ‘doing business’ enhancements. Several references to ‘Thais first’. In a 19 (or so) member coalition; politics tend to be local and more populist.

Smart visa at 31 July: 122 applications; with 94 issued and 28 either rejected or in the pipeline.

New BOI policies in response to global trade disruptions

BOI is forming a task force to retain foreign investment. Solutions: 1 Customised promotion package to compensate their loss from the trade war; 2 Persuade them to invest in the EEC, and 3 Provide them with stimulus packages for SMEs.

JFCCT Quick Bites is a proposed summary of key advocacy points; mentioned at 10 June meeting.

Guillotine Project – The Simple & Smart Licence (SSL) website www.sslicense.go.th/en has the same submission form as on JFCCT website; and also supports review of issues. Small group foreign business community update from TDRI/FTI 8 July. Some 1,067 reviews done; now implementing five per month. If all were implemented, two thirds of private sector annualised cost of some USD 3bn would be saved. New Regulatory Impact Assessment Act – in force 1 December.

TM.30 Much commentary and activity. JFCCT team has researched, conferred with many experts, two law firms: (i) white paper background - internal (ii) Submission to Immigration Commission and Minister of Interior (iii) Recommendation Summary (iv) Press Release (v) Messaging strategy - internal. To be covered separately in this Presidents’ Council meeting.

Recent Events (since Presidents’ Council 10 June)

- UN Responsible Business & Human Rights Forum 12-23 June; segment on technology
- (Tourism Committee meeting – next stage of development) 12 June
- Ministry of Digital Economy & Society – MoU for Digital Manpower for Thailand 4.0 - 12 June
- Dialogue with US State Dept and Amcham on 5G - 13 June
- ConnecTec Asia 18 – 20 June – annual regional event including CommunicAsia
- Digital Economy/ICT meeting #6/2019 20 June
- EU Business Avenues to SE Asia – ICT SME showcase 21-22 June; Committee chair spoke
- Guillotine Update – small group with TDRI, FTI – 8 July
- World Bank release event for quarterly TEM (Thailand Economic Monitor) -8 July
- BCCT Legal & Tax Committee at T&G- 10 July – spoke on Guillotine and TM.30
- DIP seminar (‘workshop’) about on-line infringements – 19 July
- Digital Economy/ICT meeting #7/2019 24 July
- MNVO public hearing-NBTC – 26 July (submission 19 August)
- Post Forum; seven new ministers - 5 August
- Cyberspace Jurisdiction conference all day – Bond University 9 August
- DIP foreign business update 19 August

- Digital Economy/ICT meeting #8/2019 22 August
- OPDC small group meeting on TM.30 – 26 August

Up coming Events

- GNSS – Galileo satellite briefing 29 August
- JFCCT-NACC Annual seminar 30 August
- TEDx Chiang Mai 7 Sep
- ASEAN-EU Business Summit 9 September – afternoon - Okura
- IP Key – On-line intermediaries responsibility – EUIPO – 11-12 September
- TCEB – Netherlands chamber, JFCCT – Chiang Mai – 20 September

- **International Trade**

Mr. Stefan, Board Member of the International Trade Committee provides an update as following.

FTA / RCEP / ASW Update

1. <https://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/Economy/30370481>

The Trade Controls on Weapons of Mass Destruction (TCWMD) Act, Thailand's export control regulation on dual-use and military items, received Royal assent and was published in the Royal Gazette on April 30, 2019.

The Act will become effective on January 1, 2020 as Thailand implements its international obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 to counter the global proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The TCWMD Act places upon Thai Customs the task of controlling the export of goods that can be used for military ends or to produce weapons. The Act aims to prevent the goods from being acquired by sanctioned entities and/or used for the production of weapons of mass destruction abroad.

The specific goods that will be subject to the control measures depend on the goods lists, which are still under consideration by the Department of Foreign Trade (DFT). Three lists have been announced so far: a list with dual-use items (items with both a civil and military purpose), a list with military goods and a self-certification list. It is expected these lists will soon be published, prior to the Act coming into force.

In the first two lists, goods are classified with export control classification numbers (ECCN) in line with international agreements and the US and EU export control regimes. Exporters of these goods will have to request a licence from specified government authorities prior to shipping out and provide the reasons for export. Attempts to export in-scope goods without a licence will lead to blocked shipments at the border and penalties.

The self-certification list contains HS codes (customs tariff codes) that are also used in the traditional customs declaration process of goods during import and export. Exporters of goods with HS codes that

2. https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1695332/maybank-thai-gsp-perks-at-risk?utm_source=newsletter_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_term=business

Thailand and Indonesia are at risk of losing special trade status that gives developing economies preferential access to the US market, according to Maybank Kim Eng Research.

Thailand is the second-biggest beneficiary of the decades-old Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), while Indonesia is the fourth-largest, Maybank analysts led by chief economist Suhaimi Ilias wrote on Friday. The US recently [dropped India](#) and Turkey from a list of GSP countries.

The US review of Thailand's status focuses on issues such as market access for American pork and workers' rights. For Indonesia, it includes intellectual property rights and trade and investment barriers.

Major exports for Thailand under GSP include air conditioner components, rubber gloves, processed food, non-alcoholic beverages, motorcycles, reading lenses; for Indonesia under GSP, rubber tires, jewellery and chemicals.

3. https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1712688/time-for-asean-to-focus-on-integration?utm_source=newsletter_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Business

As storm clouds hang over the global economy, Asean is perceived as one of the fastest growing and more stable economic regions. This presents an opportunity to strengthen relationships with other partners, such as through China's Belt and Road Initiative and the US-initiated Free and Open Indo Pacific Plan, which is backed by Australia, India and Japan.

Southeast Asia's economy today is worth US\$3.1 trillion and the region comprises a market of more than 640 million people. It is a hotbed of innovation and entrepreneurship and is forecast to become the world's fourth largest economy by 2030.

By taking advantage of these strengths, Asean can deliver more consistent opportunities and economic results across the association when its members commit more fully to regional integration.

Currently some members are committed to open and free trade with regional counterparts, while others remain cautious about real-world concerns, such as how certain homegrown industries may not yet be

4. https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1712640/china-exodus-a-boon-to-asean?utm_source=newsletter_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Business

More manufacturers have relocated from China to Southeast Asia over the past few years, largely because labour costs on the mainland have become less and less competitive. The trend has been reinforced by the China-US trade war that began in 2018. A new research report by the property consultancy JLL indicates that Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia are winning more manufacturers moving out of China.

Foreign direct investment in the manufacturing sectors of Southeast Asian countries has risen strongly in the last three years to US\$46 billion, according to JLL. Relocations of manufacturing companies from China to take advantage of lower labour costs have contributed to this growth.

Offering the availability of high-quality workforces and competitive wages, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia are winning more manufacturers expanding or relocating not only from China but also from Korea and Japan, JLL said.

Thailand and Malaysia, for example, have a "mid-tech" workforce for

5. https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1712588/india-enthusiastic-about-sealing-rcep?utm_source=newsletter_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Business

Asean's plan to complete talks this year on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) got a boost after India, one of the dialogue partners outside Asean, gave a positive political commitment to support negotiations that are to conclude in November.

According to acting commerce minister Chutima Bunyapraphasara, who just returned from a three-day visit to India, the country welcomed the chance to finish all negotiations relating to the RCEP later this year.

The conclusion of the talks is expected to be announced at the Asean summit held in Bangkok in November, Ms Chutima said.

She and Enggartiasto Lukita, Asean secretariat and Indonesia's minister of trade, met Piyush Goyal, India's commerce and industry minister, to discuss ways to speed up the negotiations, especially in the opening of goods, services and investment, so that the pact is in place by year-end.

"India has been asked to become more flexible on the talks," she said.

"India has welcomed the request but asked the dialogue trading partners to heed its calls to open the service sector more. Thailand as Asean chair has requested India to specify the lists of services it wants bloc members to

6. https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1694780/moodys-ageing-labour-issues-dog-thailand?utm_source=newsletter_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_term=business

Despite a strong fiscal position and low external vulnerability constituting credit strengths amid recurring political uncertainty, Thailand's ageing society, moderate competitiveness and labour shortages will weigh on economic growth and public finances over time, says Moody's Investors Service.

"Absent materially higher migration, population ageing will weigh significantly on growth potential," Moody's said in a report. "Moreover, while data indicate that Thailand's education standards are higher than the average for countries with similar incomes, they remain lower than some rating peers and Asian neighbours.

"In the absence of ongoing policy reform, this will exacerbate demographic and skills constraints, and weigh on economic competitiveness."

Similar to some neighbouring Asean countries, Thailand's economy faces major structural challenges such as moderate competitiveness, gaps in human capital development and a rapidly ageing population.

Thailand's per capita income is lower than Malaysia's, partly because of Thailand's high dependence on agricultural employment, which makes up nearly one-third of overall employment, and is less productive than other industries, according to the report.

ASEAN Single Window Conference 24th June 2019

The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) can connect and integrate national windows of the 10 ASEAN member states. This will enable streamlined electronic data submission for cargo clearance and lower the cost of doing business across the region. The ASEAN Single Window will also increase transparency in customs systems and improve customs compliance.

The submission of electronic format of the Certificate of Origin (Form D) under ATIGA (ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement) is a critical component of the ASW

Status of the Single Window implementation in ASEAN

Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brunei have already implemented the Single Window system.

Myanmar is working with US Aid , JICA and the Government of Netherlands to implement the Single window system. Implementation expected within 2020.

Philippines using Tradenet.gov.ph as their national single system for electronic data submission. Tradenet is connected to the ASW and is being tested. The submission of Form D is still a challenge and expected to be resolved by end 2019.

Cambodia National single Window has gone live on the ASW and testing of the system is in progress. They expect a soft launch in July 2019 and are committed to a 2019 end full implementation of ASW, however some delays can be expected.

Laos also working on the Single window system and committed to 2019 implementation, however in reality can expect this to be happen in 2020.

Conclusion – Even though all ASEAN countries are in the process of implementing Single window custom clearance and harmonizing the same with ASW , we should not expect the system to be in place in all ASEAN given the challenges with infrastructure, Costs, Form D acceptance, Training and attitude change from the Customs authority and Business.

Challenges with Form D (electronic certificate of Origin as per ATIGA) in Thailand – presentation by Khun Vichai (Director of Freight Express)

- Form D – Certificate of Origin requires that at least 40% of the product is manufactured in the Country of Origin and not transshipment of Goods manufactured in another country. Many exporters (especially SME) are challenged by this definition and how to comply with the same.
- The Customs broker does not get documentation fees if Form D is implemented so they oppose the same.
- In Laos , Myanmar and Cambodia they need to send the Form D to the Capital for verification and this causes delays at the border and hence exporters are reluctant to use Form D
- There are different HS codes within ASEAN countries and Customs officer does not accept the HS code of the origin country. ASEAN should agree to accept destination country HS Code
- Customs brokers charge a high fees for changes in Form D – in Malaysia the cost is 100 USD.
- For any change in Form D – Shipper, HS code , Date etc – the reference number for the Form D is changed in the system – this makes it difficult for the Exporter / Customs officer to track the correct Form D
- Dept of Foreign Trade (DFT) keeps a record of Form D in the system for 3 years. In case of a dispute the Customs can challenge cases upto 5 years old. Hence Exporters prefer to keep the paper copy of Form D
- There are delays in getting Form D from the system as the system is slow , or incorrect or incomplete information. As of today 85% exporters use paper Form D and 14% use self certification. Only 1 % of exporters use electronic Form D
- Form D acceptance is used as a non-tariff barrier to Trade. Malaysia has 600 Form D applications from Thailand exporters pending
- The ASW cannot link to China , Korea and Japan electronic Form D certification.

Survey for Competitiveness of Thailand to be circulated amongst the JFCCT members after meeting with the EU Trade Commissioner.

New Customs Act – Several Issues

- We need a meeting with Thailand Customs about two months after formation of the new government to clarify the following

JFCCT needs to follow up with Customs regarding the Advance Ruling Process as presently it takes nearly 6 months as compared to the Customs stated deadline of 30 to 60 days after application. However, for the application to be accepted it takes a long time.

JFCCT should also discuss with Customs regarding the Advance Ruling on Valuation of Imports and Certificate of Origin

Number of days allowed for Re-export of Goods in Transit to be increased to 60 days

Other Government Dept Meetings

We have revised the Agenda and resubmitted to FDA, requesting a meeting – follow up

Any other items

- EU Trade Representative – request a courtesy meeting with him for the Trade Committee in light of recent announcement about the resumption of EU FTA negotiations. How can JFCCT influence the FTA progress through a joint working group with EU Ambassador.
- Meeting with Thai Institute of Industrial Standards – TISI – Q4
- Export Control Act for Dual Use items- Request a meeting with Department of Foreign Trade to share the highlights / changes in the Act with the Foreign Business Community asap
- How to attract investments to Thailand as a consequence of the USA – China Trade war – we will send out a questionnaire – 5 advantages and 5 disadvantages – to do manufacturing in Thailand compared to Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia. Send the questionnaires to the President and ED of all Chambers by 5th August with a reply in 2 weeks.

Next Meeting – 5th September at the Indian Chamber of Commerce

- SME

Dr Charlie, Chairman of the SME Committee provides an update as following

1. The meeting was held on Thursday 8th August 2019 10:00-11.30 Hrs. at Malaysian Thai
2. UPDATE ON CURRENT SME NEWS

2.1 MINIMUM WAGES

A group of business leaders has reiterated their opposition to any plans by the government to raise the daily minimum wage to 400 baht nationwide, warning a nationwide flat rate will deliver a heavy blow to the Thai economy in the long run and weaken the country's competitiveness. Poj Aramwattananont, vice-chairman of the Thai Board of Trade, said While the economy remains fragile because of a strong baht and the ongoing trade war, the government's wage policy should be made on a gradual basis. the country's competitiveness would weaken as wages in Thailand are already considered relatively high among Asean countries. The government needs to answer why the wage rise will be flat at 400 baht per day nationwide with appropriate reasons under the 10 key indicators that gauge a wage hike, such as exports, investment, inflation, exchange rate and oil price.

2.2 STARTUP

The government will continue its efforts to promote Thailand as a global startup investment destination, bringing together Asean collaboration and attracting global venture capital to the region through NIA. NIA will also continue its policy of building a "new economic warrior" by increasing awareness of startup businesses and increasing the number of corporate venture capital to grow the funding pool to 50 billion baht (US\$1.2 billion). This year NIA will this year focus on multiple sectors of startups which include MAR (music, art and recreation)

tech startups to support Mice (meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions) as well as entertainment, streaming and over-the-top services. Bangkok is "not yet a mature ecosystem", but it has the potential to become "dynamic and strong" if it addresses its weaknesses, according to a 2018 report by non-profit organisation Enpact. Bangkok ranked second in the report's Startup Friendliness Index (SFI) for emerging economies. Suvit Maesincee, the higher education, science, research and innovation minister, has vowed to establish a Young Startup fund and roll out three new regulations to strengthen startups to spur the innovation-driven economy. Thailand ranked 43 out of 129 countries in the Global Innovation Index this year according to WIPO. The ministry will establish a Young Startup Fund that gives youths grants for interesting ideas while studying at university so they can later contribute to startups. The fund will draw from the government, private partners and the technology and innovation-based Enterprise Development Fund, which currently has 2 billion baht available.

2.3 TAXES

Capital Gain Tax: The imposition of a capital gains tax on equity investments is being studied. The Revenue Department must consider the pros and cons of taxing gains from selling shares. The tax would boost the government's coffers but could affect the capital market's fundraising efficiency.

Personal Income Tax: The Fiscal Policy Office is conducting a study on the government's personal income tax cut campaign promise. Korn Chatikavanij said the government should not forge ahead with the proposed reduction of individual income tax at all rates because it will hit the country's revenue enormously and shrink the tax base. He proposed to reduce personal income tax by 10% for every tax bracket except those who earn more than 5 million baht a year.

Stamp Duty Tax: The department aims for the stamp duty tax for five main agreements to be paid via electronic channels by 2021. The five are hire for work, loan or bank overdraft, power of attorney, proxies for voting at a company's meeting, and guarantees.

Improving Tax Collection: Dr. Uttama said the Fiscal Policy Office is coordinating the Revenue Department, the Customs Department and the Excise Department to reform and improve the country's tax collection system. Many types of e-commerce and online businesses are among the targets for an expansion of the tax base, according to the minister. The e-commerce tax bill is being vetted by the Council of State, the government's legal arm. E-commerce taxes will soon become standard.

2.4. MYPROMPT QR

Five large commercial banks, comprising of K Bank, SCB, BBL, KTB, and Bank of Ayudhya, plan to adopt MyPrompt QR, a business-scan-consumer QR code payment system, from the fourth quarter of this year to improve the security system. An additional four banks will offer the service at the beginning of next year. MyPrompt QR service is the next phase for PromptPay, enabling consumers to use individual QR codes generated on a mobile banking app, which merchants scan to take payments. The QR will be a one-time code valid for a certain period for a transaction.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Liability of SMEs to comply on Social Welfare Fund, Provident Fund, and Retirement Fund

3.2 ASEAN SME Portal

3.3 OECD-OSMEP: MSME Formalization

3.4 Pitch at the Palace

3.5 Thailand Innovative Venture and Digital Economy Center.

4. PLANNED SEMINAR

Alternative Source of Funding Seminar: Tentatively in October – Draft agenda provided

5. NEXT MEETING (Tentatively) Thursday 12th September 2019 at 10:00-11:30 hrs. at 4th floor,

- **Tourism Committee**

Mr Eric Brand, Chairman of Tourism Committee provide an update as following.

- MoU signing with TCT, Chairman Stanley KANG and President Chairat and other TCT Executives. Please show all the Press clippings and the Internet appearances in the various TRAVELINDEX websites that Khun Bernard Metzger posted.
- Our next JFCCT/TC meeting due on Wednesday 4/9/19 at 10:30 to 12Noon here at Arnoma Grand.
- One TC Working group led by Director Hans van den Born started informal meeting with TCT in the next few weeks and a formal meeting with TCT is scheduled end of September early October (Date/Time/Venue TBA) to start working out some of the issues in our agenda and policy papers.
- Another TC working group led Peter Baines is tackling the elimination of one time use of plastics putting a list of targeted items and then liaising with THA (and Peter Barrett?) to work on a list of ecofriendly products SUPPLIERS with comparable prices and T&C's of purchasing that all HORECA and other Tourism and hospitals can use to gradually eliminate these pollutants.
- First meeting with Khun Pradit from TCT on Friday 30/8/18 to start addressing all the issues covered in the MoU signed on 1/7/19 between TCT and JFCCT/TC
- Meeting on 3/9/19 with one major Plastic Recycling company to explore how to organize and structure plastic collection for recycling
- Second JFCCT/TC meeting on 4/9/19 with a presentation by Peter Baines and Mr Aymeric Lavollee the Danone /Evian Asian marketing manager on their efforts to recycle plastic and development of a program to enroll HORECA and Hospitals in an effort to structure Plastic collection for recycling.
- Congratulations to Thailand on winning 3rd place of World skill competition in restaurant services.

TM 30

The chairman said that TM.30 had caused much unhappiness and was not working, it was not doing the job it was intended to do. From 1979 when it was issued, lots of changes had occurred and making it active again in March of this year had not gone down well. The regulation was enforced inconsistently and the on-line system and apps either did not work well or did not support all functions needed. JFCCT planned to make recommendations and a public statement about it. He asked Mr Fox to outline the proposal.

Mr Fox referred to:

- i) the handout "Recommendations Summary" and on the projector:
- ii) Submission to Minister of Interior and Immigration Commission
- iii) Press Release.

The key message was immediately to remove various categories of foreigner from its scope, and in the medium to long term, to engage in regulatory reform to remove TM.30 (and the associated TM.28).

Chamber events had typically sought to clarify – with an Immigration official present. Mr Fox noted the value of these in aiming to understand the current situation and to table concerns, but they could not be expected to result in material change as the Immigration officials would not have the capacity to do that. Thus the JFCCT submission was addressed to policy makers. He noted that the Guillotine Unit had recommended removal of TM.30 and that if we are to achieve anything close to reaching Thailand 4.0 in our lifetimes, a faster pace of regulatory reform was needed, which did not rely mainly on dialogues with the line agencies which were the keepers of the rules.

Mr Fox also noted that there was a longer policy/white paper if anyone wanted it.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fox for the explanation and the team for the work done and asked Presidents their views. Broadly there were two views:

- a) That the approach was appropriate in seeking removal in the medium to long term but as part of the same recommendation to remove various categories immediately.
- b) That much time could be wasted in trying to deal with changes to removing categories of foreigner from the scope, thus it would be better to press for removal of TM.30 and focus on ensuring that the PM had the issue on his radar and would deal with it.

After discussion, the chairman thanked all presidents for their views. The matter would be briefed to Dr Kobsak with a view to ensuring that the PM was aware of it and could take action. The chairman said he felt it important to propose the changes to scope as an immediate action at the same time keeping removal of TM.30 as the ultimate aim.

It was thus agreed to use the materials as drafted, subject to any minor changes which would be made with the chairman's approval.

Agenda Item III JFCCT Policy Paper

Not covered in the meeting due to time constraints

Agenda Item IV New cabinet

A chart showing current cabinet with some notes, and allocation of DPM level oversight responsibility was shown, for information. A contact plan

Agenda Item V TCEB- Business Innovative 4.0 Forum & Networking, Chiang Mai Connect edition

The chairman invited Mr. Hans van der Born, Executive Director of the Netherlands- Thai Chamber of Commerce to provide the information about the event as following.

Concept and purpose

- Extend the network of all chambers of commerce under JFCCT umbrella
- Platform for synergy between international and Thai businesses in the North
- Support members in their expansion plans to the Northern region of Thailand and vis- versa
- Create a bridge of connections between Bangkok (& Central- TH) based members with the biz community in the North
- Contribute from the international business community to the local economy
- Focus on SMEs matching to support smaller scale business to scale- up nationally

Innovation, Industry 4.0, the 4IR; none of which are foreign terms to today's ever-changing business landscape. Did you know that Chiang Mai's business scene is on the move to uplift traditional industries towards Thailand 4.0? – From the launch of medical districts, unique triple helix [public-private-education] models to upgrade labour-intensive agrofood products, to growing tech communities serving the international market; Chiang Mai is becoming a business haven for SMEs looking to up-scale their innovation and become game-changers.

Are you looking to expand into the top sectors in Chiang Mai?

Join us on Friday 20th September at the Northern Science Park for the largest business event platform connecting the business community in Thailand with the North.

We are calling all players of the following industries!

Agrofood

Health

Tourism/MICE

IoT/Tech

Manufacturing

> CONNECT with 300+ fellow entrepreneurs, established players, SMEs, and Startups – Chiang Mai-based and all around Thailand via the international chamber networks and top business associations

> LEARN from local industry champions; Thai and international companies, on the happenings and investment trends in Chiang Mai

> EXPLORE 30+ innovative showcase booths from top SMEs around Thailand

> DISCOVER - WHY Chiang Mai? from business perspectives of established global players; how livability and the flow/influx of quality, creative professionals will change your minds for relocation

> To Chiang Mai-based companies – this is your chance to connect with potential international business partners from all around Thailand; from the international biz community (Netherlands, USA, Australia, Germany, Singapore, Turkey, Canada, Belgium, France, and more) to Bangkok- & Central Thailand- based companies

Agenda Item VI Cooperation with the Board of Trade

The chairman invited Mr. Phairash Burapachaisri to provide an update the activities of the Board of Trade as following.

Mr. Phairash updated on the upcoming activities of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Thailand as following.

Event : ASEAN Young Entrepreneur Carnival
Date : On 2-3 September 2019
Venue : Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Tower, Bangkok

Event : Symposium on “ASEAN MSME in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities”
Date : On 5 September 2019
Venue : Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen’s Park Hotel

Event : TCC & BoT Annual Get Together Party 2019
Date : On 25 September 2019
Venue : The University of The Thai Chamber of Commerce

Event : ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2019
Date : On 2-3 November 2019
Venue : Exhibition Hall 6, IMPACT Exhibition & Convention Center Muang Thong Thani

Agenda Item VII Other Business

Mr Fox mentioned four events:

30 August NACC annual seminar – morning
7 September – TEDx Chiang Mai – all day at Northern Science Park
9 September – ASEAN-EU Summit afternoon – Okura
11-12 September IP Key – about on-line intermediaries and IPRs

Mr. Ron Livingston, JFCCT Vice Chair thanked the Danish- Thai Chamber of Commerce to host the Presidents’ Council Luncheon meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 14:20 hrs.

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