THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE STCC

I hope you had a good start into 2015 and it is a great privilege and honour to address you in our second newsletter of 2015 in my capacity as President of the Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce (STCC).

Our outgoing President Luzi A. Matzig, also known under his Thai name Lersan Misitsakul, passed on the baton of the leadership of the STCC and will now have more time at his hand to pursue his passion of building up successful businesses and piloting his airplane across the skies of Asia. On behalf of the STCC board of directors I extend our appreciation to Luzi Matzig for his valuable contribution to the STCC over the last three years and I am happy to report that he will still be taking an active part on the STCC board in his new role as Vice President.

As many of us are still working on closing the books for 2014 and setting up action plans for this year ahead, we become more and more aware that it is difficult to assess strategic risks and threats that might affect our businesses and which are beyond our control. Over a month ago we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Tsunami of the Indian Ocean. The Tsunami claimed the lives of more than 225,000 people and millions of people were left without homes and shelters. 110 Swiss citizens lost their lives in Thailand and as I just happen to be in the insurance business, it was the first time in my career that I had seen such an enormous devastation and loss of properties and lives, such as hotel buildings totally
THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

destroyed, including the tragic loss of life of all of its staff and hotel guests. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families who have been dealing with the after effects of that tragedy over the last 10 years.

Another “Tsunami”, to be precise a financial Tsunami, hit Switzerland on Thursday, 15 January, to quote the words of the outspoken CEO of the Swatch Group, Nick Hayek. At that day, Thomas Jordan, Chairman of the governing board of the Swiss National Bank (SNB), announced the shock decision to remove its cap against the Euro, which had been in the place since the height of the European debt crisis three years ago. The abandonment of that cap, which pinned the currency at 1.20 Swiss Franc a Euro, resulted in 29 % loss of value of the Euro against the Swiss Franc immediately after the announcement, the biggest single day move in a developed market as traders can recall. It took the markets totally by surprise and unleashed a quake across financial markets, which caused turmoil in currency markets, banks losing millions of dollars and foreign exchange trading houses facing insolvency. The SNB, which less than a month ago vowed to enforce the exchange rate floor with “the utmost determination”, suddenly announced that it was no longer needed. That day the SNB lost roughly 70 billion Swiss Franc on its diverse currency holdings, and the Swiss Pension funds lost a combined of 30 billion Swiss Franc, out of total assets of 700 billion Swiss Franc. Of course, those are paper losses and one has to see how the Swiss Franc, which is definitely overvalued, will fare against the Euro in the next couple of months. Many of us have their own opinions on that decision, and I definitely have a firm one as well, whilst Paul Krugmann, Nobel prize laureate and amongst the most influential economists, asserts that the SNB is abandoning its commitment to fight deflation, losing major credibility with international markets and making it harder for the other central banks to make credible commitments. He calls it a major mistake and one could agree that the timing of this “bombshell” decision was perhaps ill timed and that there might have been better ways to abandon the currency peg. For my part, I was somehow surprised for how long the SNB was able to intervene and keep the currency peg in place and thus it shows again that any interference in markets, being it currency markets or commodity markets such as rice, are difficult to manage and currency pegs are just not sustainable over the long run. It was a bold decision on behalf of the SNB and truly states its independence in making monetary decisions, which by itself
THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

is positive. It might well be that our national top bankers have seen more variables to these problems than we as ordinary people have and in couple of years we might know the answer to that question. However, in any way, shape or form we may look at it, it is a major problem for Swiss exporters, who send 60% of their products to the EU, such as the machinery, metal, pharmaceutical and watch manufacturing industries, and obviously the tourism industry. The lesson to be learned is that the business environment has become more unpredictable, and when one is suddenly faced with a 20% drop in revenues, many well managed Swiss companies will face a difficult challenge to manage their budgets and expenses in 2015.

Last but not least there are some positive effects, such as imports to Switzerland are getting cheaper and for Swiss visitors Thailand has become now an incredibly attractive destination. Many Swiss retirees living in Thailand will be cheerful and for those who collect the Old Age Pension cheque from the AHV or pension cheque from their companies, the monthly payout just increased overnight by 20 %, courtesy of the SNB!

Locally, the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) voted to retroactively impeach former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from office, but spared the former Senate Speaker and House Speaker. The National Anti-Corruption Committee (NAAC) had petitioned the NLA to impeach Ms Yingluck, accusing her of dereliction of duty for failing to stop the enormous losses and corruption of the failed rice-pledging scheme, which costs the government to some estimates of experts over 600 billion Baht, a staggering figure. Ms Yingluck will be banned from holding a public office for 5 years. Just before that decision, the Office of the Attorney-General’s Office signed an order to indict her in the Supreme Court’s criminal division for Persons Holding Political Positions. In the criminal case, she is accused of dereliction of duty for failing to stop losses and corruption in the rice-pledging programme. Overall investors are sticking to their bullish bets on Thailand, and if the plans for investing 92 billion $ in Thailand’s infrastructure, such railways, ports, bridges and roads, are managed effectively and swiftly in the coming months, then it should have an impact on the economic growth for this year, which the government predicts to be around 3% to 4 %, according to the latest projections of the Ministry of Commerce. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Prayud Chan-o-cha the political situation has stabilized and one can be cautiously optimistic about the business prospects in 2015.

On Thursday, 29 January, the STCC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Rembrandt hotel and a great deal of members attended this event. Our guest speaker, Dr. Supate Amornvivat, Chief Economist at Siam Commercial Bank, provided us with an excellent overview of the economic situation in Thailand, and it was a delightful presentation with a stimulating Q/A session, which definitely was the highlight of our AGM. In this issue of the newsletter you will find more information and some great pictures about this notable event and I express our gratitude on behalf of the STCC board to those who attended the AGM and extended their support to the leadership team of the STCC.

With that in mind I wish you and your business lots of success in these turbulent times and if you have any issues regarding our Chamber’s activities that you would like to address, then please do not hesitate to contact me at president@swissthai.com.

I thank you for your support of the Swiss Thai Chamber.

With the best wishes

Bruno G. Odermatt
President

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President STCC
president@swissthai.com
Tel: +66 2 652 1911
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AN EFFICIENT 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the Swiss Thai Chamber of Commerce was held on January 29 at the Rembrandt Hotel, Bangkok.

The quorum was established with 31 registered votes and meeting began with the opening speech of Luzi Matzig, the president’s review of 2014. Activities included business lunches and festivities such as the Swiss National Day. The treasurer, Mr. Chandana Liyanage, reported sound books with a small financial surplus. Indeed a healthy chamber of commerce.

The 2015 budget was approved with no objections from the floor. Then it was on the president to announce the leadership swap. Bruno Odermatt will be the new president of the STCC and Luzi Matzig will continue to serve as Vice president. Bruno thanked Luzi for his service to the chamber for the last three years. Under Luzi’s leadership the chamber continued it’s successful track record in helping, supporting and enhancing the Swiss Thai business community. After about 40 minutes the meeting came to an end. An efficient 2015 Annual General Meeting.

The highlight of the evening was still to come though. Dr. Sutapa Amornvivat, Chief Economist and First Executive Vice President at Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Limited, Economic Intelligence Center, gave an outstanding presentation about the current economic situation.

Dr. Sutapa understood to capture the audience with her charm but probably more importantly with a blunt and honest assessment of Thailand’s economic situation compared with neighbouring countries. Winston Churchill comes to mind: “Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.”

Dr Sutapa touched many hot topics such as the development of the demographical landscape, the vision of the Thai government to improve the life of its citizens, the middle income trap etc. All issues covered honestly and credibly.

Although some of her assessments were depressing, she managed to convey a positive light at Thailand’s economical future. With such honesty, Thailand is indeed on a good way. The balanced view was applauded by the audience and her answers in the Q&A session confirmed the broad and in-depth knowledge of this outstanding Thai economist. Thank You Khun Sutapa for an interesting and enlightening evening.
ECONOMY REPORT BY DEUTSCHE BANK

OIL WINDFALL

• Economic outlook: Despite attempts by the authorities, investment is unlikely to surge as regional and global economic uncertainty mounts. Attempts to revive tourism may meet with only partial success as Russian tourists in particular see their affordability decline.

• Main risks: Poor exports and investment outturn could offset much of the upside from oil price decline. The authorities could fail to take advantage of the price decline by ignoring fiscal structural reforms that are critically of need.

The Thai economy continues to remain weak, but some tentative signs of recovery can be seen. Monthly consumption data show positive yoy growth consumer goods purchases, while job creation has picked up lately, perhaps on the back of various public sector initiatives. Manufacturing production is still in negative territory though, while exports continue to disappoint.

The ongoing dramatic decline in global energy prices should be a major positive for Thailand, given that the country spends close 10% of GDP on energy imports. A substantial improvement in the trade and current account position is in the pipeline therefore, even after taking into account a likely lackluster exports picture. Indeed, we now think the current account could post a surplus of 2.5% of GDP, which could act as a valuable support to the baht as regional currency selloff intensifies ahead of Fed policy normalization.

The latest household expenditure survey reports that households spend 5% of their budget on energy consumption, which can readily fall to 4% this year, constituting a saving of 0.7% of GDP. But with household debt around 80% of GDP, the immediate question is if households would divert the savings to boost discretionary consumption or pay down debt. With consumer confidence getting buoyed in recent months, we think that a non-trivial boost to consumption is certainly on the cards.

One key source of weakness from the commodity price correction is the fact that Thai-
ECONOMY REPORT BY DEUTSCHE BANK

land’s two key exports, rice and rubber, are seeing downward price pressure. As the following chart demonstrates, these negative developments will weigh in on exports this year.

With the economy still not in a sound spot and inflation pressure dissipating due to the energy price correction, has window for some monetary accommodation opened up? Note that real rates, whether they are calculated using headline or core inflation, rose during the course of 2014, and are primed for further increased in the coming months. From a cost-benefit point of view, a rate cut now seems to entail a compelling trade-off given the lacklustre nature of the economic recovery.

As the Bank of Thailand embarks on headline inflation targeting (1-4%), the first few months of that endeavor will see sub-1% inflation, as per our forecast. Given the sharpness of the fuel price decline, there is bound to be some spillover that would keep in check a broader range of prices. Indeed, sub-1% inflation is here to stay for a number of months, in our view.

Inflation could bottom out by mid-year though,

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Source: CBDC, Deutsche Bank
Note: (1) Credit to the private sector $500bn. (2) Consolidated central government accounts, fiscal year ending September. (3) Excludes unguaranteed SOE debt.
especially if the authorities choose to take advantage of declining prices by reforming energy pricing and taxation. Core inflation looks set to remain above 1%. If no further weakness emerges in the economy, the monetary authority may well choose to preserve its rate cut ammunition for the time being.

In the context of investment, we note that the Public-Private Partnership Policy committee, chaired by the deputy prime minister, has recently approved five laws to facilitate PPPs. Rules governing the calculation of project value, procedures to invite private firms into joint investments, the screening process, contract standards, and fast-tracking of joint investments by private firms in projects worth less than THB1bn have been spelled out under this initiative. These measures are aimed at expediting domestic infrastructure investment, and they come on top of the eight measures that were approved last year (mostly with respect to project value calculation).

Thailand has reached out to China, Japan, South Korea, and the UK for infrastructure investment projects, with the key initiatives involving railway track improvement, Suvarnabhumi airport expansion, and the development of deep-sea ports. Further decline in political uncertainty would be essential to get the big ticket items going, in our view, but attempts to revive the investment environment is welcome nevertheless.

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Thailand’s Prime Minister and head of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) General Prayuth Chan-Ocha announced plans to reform Thailand’s tax system. As part of the reforms, the PM proposed an inheritance and property tax. The new taxes are expected to address the income disparity gap between Thailand’s rich and poor.

In 1933 Thailand had initiated a scheme for the collection of inheritance taxes, however, due to strong opposition the scheme was scrapped in 1944. Since then many similar proposals to incorporate inheritance tax into Thailand’s tax system have been considered, however, none of the proposals became written into law.

The current version of the proposed bill is called the “Draft Bill on Inheritance and Gift Taxes” and has been approved by the NCPO and forwarded to the Council of States for their review and approval. Should the bill be passed by the Council of States, it will then be submitted to the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) for ratification.

What is an inheritance tax?

An inheritance tax is a tax that is levied on a person(s) who inherits money, property or other assets from the estate of a person who has died. An inheritance tax is assessed on the beneficiaries of the deceased estate.

Some countries that have an inheritance tax include:

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- France: (droits de succession)
- Germany: (Erbschaftssteuer)
- Ireland: Inheritance tax (Cáin Oidhreachta)
- Italy: tassa di successione (Inheritance tax).
- Japan: souzokuzei (Inheritance tax)
- The Netherlands: Successierecht (Inheritance tax)
- United Kingdom
- United States

Some jurisdictions formerly had inheritance taxes, but have since abolished them:

- Australia: A capital gains

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**NEWS BY DFDL**

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- Australia: A capital gains
tax is payable on the sale or transfer of assets.
- Austria
- Canada: A capital gains is payable on the sale of transfer of assets
- Hong Kong
- India
- New Zealand

Singapore: abolished for deaths occurring on or after 15 February 2008

What can we expect from the Draft Bill on Inheritance and Gift Taxes?

It is expected that revenue from a successful implementation of inheritance tax into Thailand’s tax system could be significant. Despite the proposed inheritance tax rate being a closely guarded secret, some experts believe that progressive rates are likely to be implemented on domestic assets that are passed to heirs, such as land, houses, buildings, bonds, shares, securities, monies in savings accounts and vehicles. At this point it is unknown what assets, if any, will be exempted from the inheritance tax. It is however, expected that a list will be provided via a Royal Decree upon the implementation of the inheritance tax.

The inheritance tax is expected to apply to (i) an individual who is a Thai national, (ii) an individual who is not a Thai national, but has domicile in Thailand, (iii) a juristic person who has its head office in Thailand for three consecutive years before the date it is entitled to the inherited assets or (iv) an individual who is not a Thai national, but is to receive inherited assets located in Thailand.

From what is currently understood, the draft bill proposes that an individual who receives assets via disposition by will or intestacy with a net value under THB 50 million will be exempt from the inheritance tax. Assets exceeding a net value THB 50 million but below THB 200 million will be subject to 10% and individuals who inherit assets with a net value exceeding THB 200 million will be subject to a rate of 20%. It is not clear how the assets will be valued and if any additional relief will be granted.

The draft bill provides certain tax exemptions for an individual or organization who receives the assets via a will and declares an intention to use the inherited assets for the purpose of religion, education, public interest or government.

The inheritance tax proposal, if successful, could result in Thailand’s wealthy seeking to realize
NEWS BY DFDL

assets or transferring assets before the law becomes effective. Only time will tell if the draft bill makes it into Thai law, but for now, it seems that the NCPO are insistent in bringing reform to the country. If successful, it is likely that the inheritance tax will be implemented in 2015.

What tax planning is available to Thai residents in light of the new proposed inheritance tax?

At this stage it is difficult to know for sure what the final bill will look like. However, based on the experience of other jurisdictions with an inheritance tax, residents will typically seek planning on:

- Succession: how will the assets be managed after death. For example, the assets may not pass until a certain age or year is reached.
- Asset protection: protection of the assets from potential future creditors
- Tax planning: Assets may be held in a tax efficient structure such as a trust in a tax favorable jurisdiction where no inheritance will be applied to the assets.

We trust that you find our tax updates and article helpful. If you would like to discuss the inheritance tax or any other tax issues in Thailand with one of our tax lawyers, please feel free to contact us.

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MEMBER INTERVIEW

ALEXANDRE FRENKEL

Alexandre Frenkel and Newsletter editor Peter Sprenger sat together at the Amari Boulevard Lobby and talked 2 hours about Hotels, Thailand and Alexandre.

Alexandre, where did you grow up and enjoy your early years?

I was born in 1967 near Geneva and grew up in a hotelier family. We had a little hotel called “La Tourelle” not far from the city. From early on I was breathing “Hotel Air”. However my initial high school studies were more towards maths and sciences and I graduated from the “Collège Calvin” with a Scientific Maturation certificate. However since this required a long advance inscription I had already decided to do the Hotel School instead of the University and I started the “Ecole Hôtelière” in Lausanne in 1987. Being from the French speaking part and having mainly studied “Hochdeutsch” at school, I therefore made it a point to conduct all my practical trainings in Switzerland in the Swiss-German speaking part to practice the language, which has proven valuable in all future postings. This lead me to the Grand Hotel Victoria Jungfrau in Interlaken, Bellevue Palace in Berne and International in Zurich.

How come you ended up in Thailand?

Back in 1989, during my stage in Zurich, friends who had already been to Thailand on holiday told me that this is where I should go and where things were happening. Through a contact they had made I landed in 1990 to the newly opened “Phi Phi Palm Beach Resort” (now the Holiday Inn). This appeared to be my first time in Asia and first working experience outside Switzerland. I was originally not very impressed by what I saw from Phuket between the airport and the town at that time. It was of course a shock compared to the architectural and urban design I was used to. This initial impression changed quickly thanks to the breathtaking beauty of Phi Phi Islands and the friendliness of the people I encountered, and I was finally very sad to leave 7 months later. Upon my return to Switzerland I finished the Hotel School and graduated in 1991. I already thought I would come back one day, but it took a few twists and turns.

Tell me about those twists and turns

Well, having had my first experience overseas in an independent island hotel, I felt I needed to go for a more structured organization and therefore got my first full time job in reservations upon the re-opening of the history
The historic Langham Hotel in London as the Langham Hilton. This was very valuable and I liked London but had to leave because at that time a Swiss could only get a limited time training work permit in the UK in this type of position. Thanks to a year of Hilton experience, I was then offered a transfer to Hilton Osaka for management training in rooms. This is where I realized that even over 9,500 kilometers from home a basic knowledge acquired in “SchwiizerTuetsch” is even useful in Japan: my GM from Luzern loved to communicate in his mother tongue, and in addition we became the home for Swissair crews in Osaka for over six years, from the time of their first landing at Kansai Airport. What will also remain in my memory is the morning of January 1995, just 20 years ago, when I woke up in a shaking building without any idea of what was going to happen next: this was the great Hanshin (Kobe) earthquake, right next to Osaka. A sign for the future also came at that time as among my guests were General Managers of Amari properties in Bangkok (including the Boulevard) conducting their sales calls to what used to be a very profitable Japanese corporate and market. After over five years in Osaka within a week I moved to the Maldives Hilton on Rangali Island. This was another cultural and mostly working and living environment shock. From busy Osaka to a quiet resort life on the island, it took me a few months to get used to it. The environment was more relaxed, but running the resort operation was another challenge compared to Japan. I nevertheless took this opportunity to also learn scuba diving. After just over a year, still enjoying the Maldives and not being yet “island sick”, suddenly Bangkok called for an urgent transfer to Hilton at Nai Lert Park (now the Swissotel). It was time to move back to city life. This was not for long however as a year later, Hilton was appointed to take over the management of what used to be the Melia Hua Hin, and I was sent
MEMBER INTERVIEW

as part of the task force to take over and re-brand the property, which was done at the end of 2000, at the start of a full renovation. In mid 2002, this being almost completed, I was offered another transfer, this time to Beijing. Moving to China was tough after Hua Hin, for me mainly due to the pollution. This was definitely a happening city, and the two Directors positions occupied in Beijing were interesting (Operations and Business Development), plus I had the opportunity to discover other parts of the country. However when based on previous contacts, Amari called in 2004 for the position of Resident Manager at the Watergate, there was not much hesitation to return to Thailand which I already considered as a second home. I then decided to leave Hilton after 13 years to Amari (now Onyx), which was a much smaller, but famous and respected company where a lot could be learnt. After less than two years in Bangkok, Mr Rufli, our MD at that time, then offered me my first General Manager assignment at the Amari Emerald Cove in Koh Chang, where I remained for five years and... Met my wife. In 2011 I transferred back to Bangkok to take over the Amari Boulevard, the group’s longest established city property and now the home of the STCC Stamm every 2nd Thursday of the month.

What is your outlook of Thailand as a tourist destination?

Besides the stunning beauty of the surroundings, Thailand’s unique selling point remains it’s people. If the Thais can preserve their friendliness, their openness to foreigners, this country in general and the tourist industry in particular will have a good future. However there are scary signs that greed and a changing society are threatening the foundations of those unique selling points. I am still optimistic that Thailand will not change overnight and that there are people in power who are not driven by short term economic gains.

If you were in power, what would you change?

I would abandon the current paradigm of volume tourism. Just going with the numbers will kill the destination. Sustainability and more attention to quality should be promoted. Thais are very concerned about image and they do very well presenting themselves in a beautiful manner. However many places are degrading and no attention is paid to maintaining the beauty. Many places with potential and even so-called “new destinations” are already messy. I guess this all has to do a large part with education. And that would be probably the most important topic on the “to do list”. Invest more on this and on the concept of a long term vision.

Alexandre, Thank You for taking time for our STCC member interview.
CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 18th December 2014, RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok invited all friends of the school to its Christmas party – traditionally a very popular event. And once again a lot of guests enjoyed the festive atmosphere and also the cool weather.

The event commenced at 3pm with Christmas workshops organized by the students of the school with many activities and crafts in front of and inside the different classrooms.

Afterwards, guests were greeted in the school amphitheatre by Mr. Dominique Tellenbach, the Principal of RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok. Then Dirk Stepf, the head of P.E., had the pleasure to honour the athletes of the school who, in the past year, had won cups and prices in different competitions and tournaments. It was also the right opportunity for the student council to present their new “SMV shirt”, designed by Samira Bauer, a student of grade 9.

Later everyone enjoyed the Christmas performances presented by the students. Amy Boondej and Marvin Fischer, two students of grade 11, were guiding through the festive programme.

Father Jörg Dunsbach and Pastor Ulrich Holste-Helmer read the nativity story accompanied musically by the music teacher Verena Bock who was performing the famous Christmas song “Silent Night” on the piano.

It was also the right occasion to say “goodbye” to all students and the two interns leaving RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok at the end of the year 2014.

From 6pm onwards a Christmas buffet offered typical Christmas dishes and the visitors were entertained with live music performances by the students in front of the school building.
RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

SECONDARY SCHOOL ICESKATING TRIP

All students from Grades 7 – 12 of RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok took part in our annual iceskating event on Thursday, January 15th, 2015. Together with their teachers they once again visited the ice rink at the Mega Bang Na Shopping Mall. All students and their teachers enjoyed the day and the unique chance to experience “winter” here in tropical Thailand.

LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES

In today’s international society, having skills in foreign languages has become increasingly important. To help our students to document their language abilities, RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok has implemented several Language Certificate programs in the school curriculum.

Our students may certify their language skills in the four areas listening, reading, speaking and writing according to levels A1-C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CFER) by renowned external language testing institutions:
- Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD) Stufe I und II
- Cambridge Certificates KET, PET, First, Advanced and Proficiency – RIS Swiss Section is, by the way, an official Cambridge test center!
- Diplôme d’études en langue française (DELF)
- Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE)

For more information please contact the school.

Important events in the second semester of the school year:

- 25.02.2015 Open House Day (7:30 – 14:40)
- 11.06.2015 Flea Market (11:10 – 12:45)
- 12.06.2015 Graduation Ceremony
- 13.06.2015 Matura Ball
- 19.06.2015 Last Day of School

Please visit our website – www.ris-swiss-section.org – and get more information about our upcoming events.
RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

OPEN HOUSE DAY

The only
International School
with a Swiss/German Curriculum
in Bangkok (since 1963)

1:2
1 program,
2 classroom languages:
choose between
German and English

Wednesday
25th February 2015
7:30am to 2-4pm
@RIS Swiss Section –
Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok

For more information please visit us at www.ris-swiss-section.org

RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok
phone: (66)2 518 6346, 42-44 eMail: admin@ris-swiss-section.org
6/1 Soi Ramkhamhaeng 184 Rd., Minburi, Bangkok 10510

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16
Tsunami Memorial at Khao Lak, December 26th, 2014

December 26th, 2014 marked 10 years since the violent Tsunami met the coastlines of Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka which injured and took the lives of a great number of citizens and tourists.

Memorial at Khao Lak beach with survivors and relatives of victims of the Tsunami, as well as representatives of embassies and churches abroad of German language countries in Thailand. Photo: Michael Lenz

“Paradise had turned into a hell” – it was with these words that survivors attempted to describe the morning hours of December 26th, 2004 as several, fatal Tsunami waves demolished the coastline of southern Thailand, resulting in death and devastation. Support for survivors and relatives of victims became a focus of the ministry of German Protestant Church in Thailand – in addition to many other organisations – during the following months and years, and was paramount in the work of Pastor Burkhard Bartel and his wife Isolde.

A decade later, more than 100 people gathered at the German language memorial services at Khao Lak to commemorate those deceased and injured as a result of this disaster. But it was also an opportunity to hear how survivors were able to resume life – despite traumatic injuries and losing all that they held dear.

The German language memorials were organized by the foundation „Never Ending Hope“ (a cooperation of church-organised emergency care and Red Cross in Germany) with contributions from embassies and churches abroad of German language countries present in Thailand.
This day of commemoration came to a touching close with the official memorial ceremony of the Thai Government the evening of December 26th. This service was attended by ambassadors and guests from a great number of different nations. And exactly at the moment as the candles of commemoration were lit a heavy rain began: “Tears from heaven ...”
Herzlich willkommen!

Evangelische Gemeinde
Deutscher Sprache in Thailand
Pastorin Annegret Helmer
Pastor Ulrich Holste-Helmer
Mobil: +66 (0) 8 1815 9140
E-Mail: ev.kirche.th@gmail.com
Internet: www.die-bruecke.net

Deutschsprachige
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Mobil: +66 (0) 8 11 58 98 12
Email: post@gemeinde-bangkok.com
Home: www.gemeinde-bangkok.com

Regelmäßige Gottesdienste:
am ersten und dritten Sonntag im Monat
um 11 Uhr im Gemeindehaus Bangkok
125/1 Sol Sitthi Prasat, Rama IV (Nähe MRT Lumphini)
am zweiten und letzten Sonntag im Monat
um 11 Uhr im Begegnungszentrum Pattaya
Naklua Road, zwischen Sol 11 und Sol 13

Regelmäßige Gottesdienste:
onnitals um 10.30 Uhr
in der Kapelle des St. Louis Hospitals Bangkok,
Sathon Road (Nähe BTS Surasak)
am ersten Samstag im Monat um 11 Uhr
im Redemptoristenzentrum Pattaya
Kapelle neben der Lobby, Sukhumvit Road
ทุกหยดน้ำคุณภาพที่ทุกครอบครัวไว้ใจ

ราคาส่ง 02-789-9090

บริการส่งในเขตกรุงเทพฯ และปริมณฑล

ขนาด 18.9 ลิตร