



### **Mourning Period in Thailand**

This is a time of deep sorrow for Thai people. In this edition of eAdvance we have compiled the latest guidance for members on protocols and events during the mourning period.

A one year mourning period has been announced for Thai Government officials. For the first 30 days of this period, all flags will be flown at half-mast and for one year, Thai public servants, state enterprises and other officials will wear mourning clothes.

While there has been no request from the Ministry of Commerce or Board of Trade for business to be in mourning, as a demonstration of respect for the Thai people, business representatives should consider wearing black/white or deep colours during the one year mourning period.

### ***Paying Respects***

Public condolence books have been set up at several locations including the Grand Palace's Sahathai Samakom Pavilion (daily 9:00am to 4pm) and City Hall (9am to 4pm) as well as major shopping centres and district offices throughout Thailand (10am to 4pm). The Board of Trade has not yet announced specific arrangements for foreign business representatives. We will share this information once provided.

### ***Events***

Many public events over the next couple of weeks have been cancelled and international business Chambers have followed suit. AustCham will not be hosting social or networking events during the 30 day mourning period (including the 2 November Sundowners which has been cancelled). The traditional end of year Christmas gathering of members at the Ambassador's Residence is still expected to go ahead as scheduled on Tuesday 13 Dec 2016 and members will be sent details shortly. Business and committee meetings are continuing as scheduled and discussions are underway regarding a number of joint Chamber events, particularly for the tourism and hospitality sector in late November. We will keep the AustCham website updated with these details once finalised.

In the broader Australian community:

ANZWG has announced they will be postponing the annual Melbourne Cup Charity Luncheon to 24 January 2017. More details can be found here (<http://www.anzwg-bangkok.org/calendar-of-events> )

The Socceroo vs Thailand Soccer Match scheduled for Tuesday 15 November in Bangkok will be held as scheduled. The Sports Authority of Thailand has asked that Australian fans attending the event respect local customs and in particular:

- Wear respectful clothing in black, white, gray
- Flags, banners, drums, trumpets etc will not be allowed to enter the stadium

Full details can be found here

(<http://www.soccerooos.com.au/tickets/tickets/kgv3r0ngngwo1em5pq1dew9nn>)

### ***Useful resources***

A number of media agencies are publishing updates on events and activities once details are known.

Two useful links are:

<https://www.timeout.com/bangkok>

<http://www.khaosodenglish.com/life/nightlife/2016/10/17/dos-donts-mourning-period-expats-visitors/>

The Nation has also recently published this video on appropriate dress during mourning period:

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/play/8441>