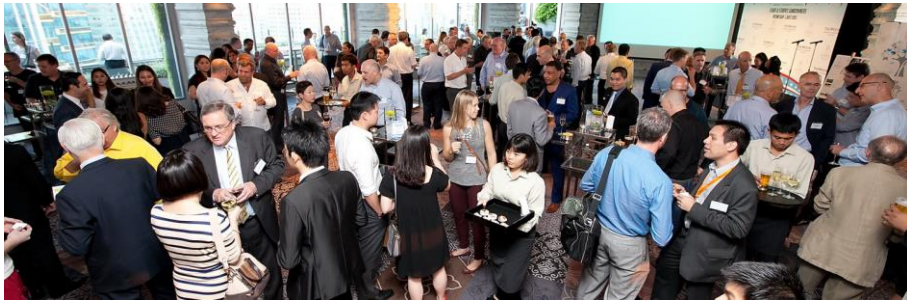




Business



Connections



Community

# Annual Report 2015

# AustChamThailand

Business | Connections | Community

## Vision

AustCham is Business  
Connections, Community

## Mission

AustCham will continue to build and  
strengthen relationships and effectively  
advocate and represent the mutual  
business interests of its members and  
associated communities

## Identity

Inclusive  
Responsive  
Collaborative  
Respected

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## President's Report



**Brenton Mauriello - President**

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Friends and colleagues, there is an old proverb 'May you live in interesting times' and this certainly continues to be the case for business in Thailand. The period of uncertainty that followed the 2014 coup was followed by an all too brief period of economic growth in early 2015 that soon slowed. Some sectors, particularly manufacturing, remain under considerable pressure and the last 12 months will be remembered as a time of significant challenge for many of our members, particularly on the Eastern Seaboard.

This leads us to the annual question "What has your Chamber been doing and what does it intend to do, to help members address these challenges?"

It remains my firm belief that the strength of AustCham comes from its members and that collectively we can effect change to address the challenges that our businesses face. The Chamber has an increasingly effective voice in shaping the policies implemented by government departments and agencies and the Board is dedicated to encouraging greater engagement from AustCham members and other agencies such as Austrade and the Board of Trade to bring about change that benefits all members. It is with the goal of giving voice to our strong member network that we recently reinstated a sub-Committee structure at Board level to provide specific sector focus to advocacy and information sharing. I encourage members to participate in these Committees.

There is a lot the Chamber has been involved in to help advocate for the interests of our members over the last 12 months. We continue to work closely with other Chambers, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Thai Board of Trade, the Ministry of Commerce and the Board of Investment.

During 2015 we conducted an inaugural Business Survey to seek member input on the local business landscape, growth drivers and challenges to business viability. This provided valuable data that we have been able to leverage off to advocate for much needed regulatory reforms to business visas and work permits. We intend to conduct this survey annually to track the changes and challenges faced in our business community so that advocacy efforts will be strengthened by data based evidence.

Courtesy of a grant from the Asian Business Engagement Plan we hosted a Business Forum to mark the tenth anniversary of the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) to highlight the significant business interests between Australia and Thailand and explore ways to further leverage the strong bilateral commercial relationship in ways to contribute to both countries' economic prosperity. Under the same grant we were able to host eight industry workshops to share knowledge and identify emerging issues in the tourism and hospitality, auto-manufacturing, creative industries and vocational education and training sectors. I thank Greg Wallis for the strong support provided to the Chamber by Austrade which has made these activities possible. A special thanks is also extended to our Australian Ambassador to Thailand; HE Paul Robilliard whose personal and official support for AustCham and our members is deeply appreciated.

I look back on the volume and scale of events delivered by our small Chamber Office team in 2015 – an international business forum, a gala dinner, industry workshops, member briefings, luncheon presentations, large community events as well as our 'bread and butter' monthly networking events. The success of these events can be measured by attendance numbers and last year over 5000 people attended AustCham events. This speaks to the strength of our business network. I thank the Chamber Office for their continued commitment and hard

work and acknowledge and thank our corporate and venue sponsors whose collective support made these events possible.

We have continued to grow the Thai-Australian Alumni network alongside our business networks. In 2015 new relationships were forged with Australian universities and we are proud to call the University of New South Wales a member and the Universities of Canberra, Wollongong, RMIT and Deakin University our educational partners. With the assistance of the Australian Embassy and Alumni Partner Blackmore's we again hosted the annual Alumni Awards and I am delighted to announce that this week we will launch the new Australian Alumni website – this will be swiftly followed by the new AustCham website, a project made possible by the Asian Business Engagement Plan Grant.



AustCham continues to be regarded as an inclusive Chamber and our Board of Directors represents the diversity of our membership base. I thank the current Board for their support since I took on the role of President last September and take this opportunity to pay tribute to Leigh Scott-Kemmis, the former President, for the remarkable contribution he made to the Chamber during his tenure as President. I would also like to provide

special thanks today, to ML Laksasubha Kridakorn (Khun Lak) who, having served on the Board for six successive years, recently announced her retirement from the Board. Khun Lak has an outstanding record of service to the Chamber and I am delighted to announce that she has agreed to serve as an adviser to the Board in an ongoing capacity so that we will continue to benefit from her counsel particularly in the areas of Alumni and tourism and hospitality.



During 2015 we returned to a more standard membership churn and the Chamber's financial position remains strong with a comfortable surplus recorded

in 2015. We will be making investments in the Chamber's office infrastructure in 2016 to better service members.

In conclusion, the Chamber is looking forward to an improved business environment in 2016. We have an Australian Bank now operating in Thailand, major Thai corporations investing in Australia, and discussions taking place with the Ministry of Commerce regarding trade liberalisation in the services sector, all contributing to a general sense of cautious optimism.

*March 2016*

## Treasurer's Report

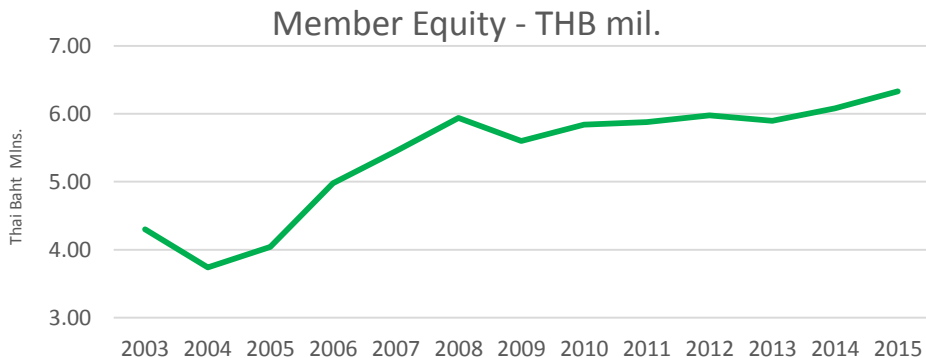


**Peter Emblin - Treasurer**

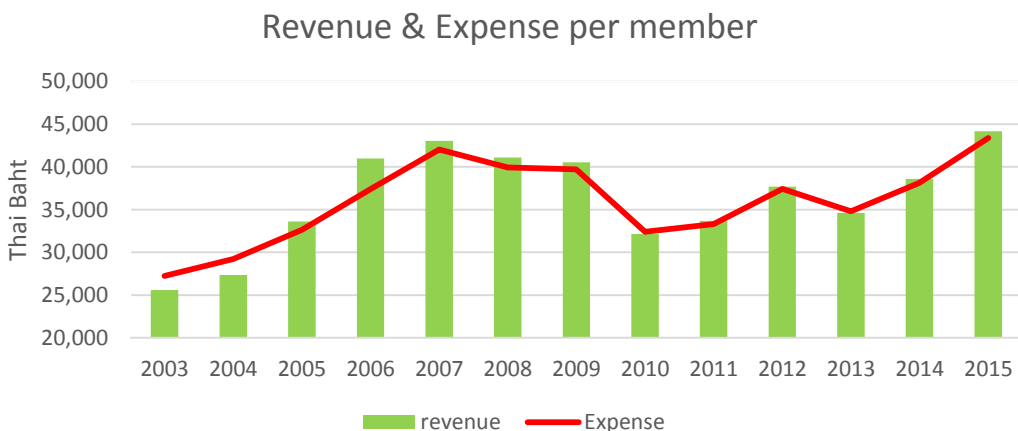
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It gives me great pleasure to introduce to members their Chamber's financial report for the year 2015. Before I deliver my first report as Treasurer I would like to thank the previous Treasurer, the late Mr. Warwick Kneale, for the solid state in which the Chamber's financial position stands and also the Chamber's staff for their support and forbearance in helping me to understand the complexity of the Chamber's accounts, and in the diligent way they manage members interests.

I am pleased to report in the difficult economic environment that the Chamber, and its members, faced in 2015 the Chamber was able to grow Member Equity to 6.33 MTHB in 2015, compared to 6.08 MTHB in 2014. These are held primarily as cash reserves of approx. 3.0 MTHB to fund the Chambers day to day operations and 3.60 MTHB is held in deposits with financial institutions to ensure that the Chamber has reserves to face an uncertain global and local economy and possible capital requirements. These reserves have been built up over many years and it is credit to the prudence of previous boards.



The audited Financial Statements for the 2015 year show a modest operating surplus of 245,182 THB 12% below budget primarily due to the lower number of members during 2015. This result was achieved by a constant focus on cost versus value to deliver the maximum value to members.



This was achieved despite a continued decline in the number of members. The key to the Chamber, and not just from a financial point of view, is its members with membership revenue providing more than 40% of total revenue. Initiatives put in place in mid-2015 started to show results with the number of new members increasing as we approached the year end.

Traditionally all members annual dues fell due in April, which made budgeting and cash flow management difficult. To alleviate this in 2015 the Board introduced annual membership based on month of joining for new members, and a one month bonus for members who opted to renew early. These programs to date have meant more than 10% of the Chamber’s cash flow has moved to throughout the year rather than in one lump sum and we hope to see this trend continue.



Due to primarily timing issues, and the one off nature of funds contributed to the Chamber under the Commonwealth of Australia Asian Business Engagement Plan in 2014 and a payment of funds to The Convoy for Kids Charity there was a decline in the Chamber’s net assets from 9.0 MTHB to 7.85 MTHB, offset by a corresponding decline in liabilities from 2.9 MTHB to 1.6 MTHB.

The two other revenue streams that support the Chamber are its sponsors and its events. The Chamber looks to offer members all its events at competitive pricing and it is only through the support of your sponsors that it is able to do this, so please remember them. Sponsors contributed over 20% of revenue, the balance coming mainly from events. In 2015 sponsorship gross revenue was 110% higher than in 2014 but due to the increasing cost of delivering high cost events the net margin from sponsorship was breakeven.

In 2016 we have reviewed our sponsorship program to offer greater value to sponsors by limiting the number so we can better assist them and also enhance the value their sponsorship gives to the Chamber.

During 2015 the lease on the existing AustCham office expired, and was temporarily extended, and the office fittings and fixtures are now fully depreciated. Future Boards will need to review the lease and whether the current office is suitable for the Chambers need and this may result in future capital expenditure.

On Behalf of the Board I would like to thank all the Chamber members for their support and engagement whether as an ordinary member, a sponsor or as a participant in an event. AustCham is proud to help its member's interests in furthering a strong Australia Thai relationship. The Board as active members of the Thai business community are fully aware of the impact the current economic climate is having on members and continues to strive to offer members as much value as possible, while being financially prudent.

*March 2016*

# Audited Financials

## Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce

### Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2015

#### ASSETS

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	3,507,608	4,047,672
Short-term investments at Financial Institutions	3,603,168	3,603,168
Accounts receivable	99,022	-
Other current assets	281,784	812,250
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>7,491,582</b>	<b>8,463,090</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Leasehold improvements and equipment-net	111,717	240,070
Intangible assets –net	15,417	70,912
Other deposits	239,665	231,145
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>366,799</b>	<b>542,127</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>7,858,381</b>	<b>9,005,217</b>

#### LIABILITIES AND MEMBER EQUITY

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Deferred membership fees and other income	747,682	430,625
Accrued expenses	366,205	531,283
Hellfire Pass Fund	25,044	89,753
Community Project Fund	70,164	218,556
Convoy Project fund	109,187	729,691
Asian Business Engagement Plan Grant	-	739,199
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,318,282</b>	<b>2,739,107</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITY</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Provision for employee retirement benefit	207,822	179,015
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,526,104</b>	<b>2,918,122</b>
<b>MEMBER EQUITY</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Balance at beginning of year	6,087,095	5,914,876
Operating surplus	245,182	172,219
Balance at end of year	6,332,277	6,087,095
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBER EQUITY</b>	<b><u>7,858,381</u></b>	<b><u>9,005,217</u></b>

## Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the year ended December 31, 2015

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Membership and registration fees	6,086,772	6,315,672
Event income	5,928,214	6,387,694
Publication subscriptions	-	95,637
Sponsorship income	3,165,000	1,492,500
Interest income	51,747	139,912
Other income	25,800	3,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>15,257,533</b>	<b>14,434,415</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2015 THB</b>	<b>2014 THB</b>
Cost of events	6,412,405	5,423,359
Staff salaries and benefits	6,336,995	6,351,001
Rental and service fees	943,742	913,424
Depreciation and amortization	203,043	277,220
Other expenses	1,116,166	1,297,192
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,012,351</b>	<b>14,262,196</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b><u>245,182</u></b>	<b><u>172,219</u></b>

## 2015-2016 Board of Directors

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**Leigh Scott-Kemmis**  
*President*  
(Mar 15 –Sept 15)



**Brenton Mauriello**  
*President*  
(Sept 15 – Mar 16)



**ML Laksasubha Kridakorn**  
*Vice President*



**Josh Hyland**  
*Vice President*



**Peter Emblin**  
*Treasurer*



**Angus Kent**



**Chris Larkin**



**Alan Polivnick**



**Simon Shale**



**Panita Vongkusolkrit**



**Wayne Williams**



**Charles Wrightman**

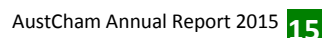
## Committees of the AustCham Board 2015

<b>Membership</b>	Brenton Mauriello, Josh Hyland
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Charles Wrightman, Peter Emblin
<b>Communications</b>	Simon Shale
<b>Australian Alumni</b>	M.L Laksasubha Kridakon, Brenton Mauriello, Josh Hyland, Panita Vongkusolkrit
<b>CSR</b>	Panita Vongkusolkrit and Josh Hyland
<b>Chamber Governance / Legal</b>	Alan Polivnick
<b>Advocacy</b>	M.L. Laksasubha Kridakon, Chris Larkin, Alan Polivnick, Josh Hyland
<b>Hospitality and Tourism</b>	Wayne Williams, M.L Laksasubha Kridakon, Angus Kent
<b>Manufacturing</b>	Simon Shale and ESB Coordinator (Trevor Dick)
<b>Professional Services and Consulting</b>	Alan Polivnick, Angus Kent, Greg Wallis

### Major Events

- i. AustCham Ball** Wayne Williams, Panita Vongkusolkrit  
*Australian expat community representatives:*  
David Trigg, Amanda Mironow, Bridget Welch
- ii. AFL Grand Final** Wayne Williams, Josh Hyland  
*Thailand Tigers representatives:*  
Warwick Baglin, Ben Giles, Brendan Cunningham
- iii. AustCham Golf** Charles Wrightman

**AustCham thanks the 2015 Corporate Sponsors whose support was fundamental to the numerous events and activities conducted by the Chamber.**



**2015 saw the Chamber host business seminars, breakfast briefings, business dinners, a ministerial lunch and a business forum.**

Business briefings addressed a diverse range of topics from human resources, to crisis preparation, emerging markets across the Mekong, current and emerging issues for local business, Thai Tourism and ASEAN Open Skies, Australian tax and superannuation for expatriates as well as a presentation by the Australian Embassy, “Why ASEAN, Why Now”.

The Chamber also delivered a series of business events made possible by an Australian Government Asian Business Engagement (ABE) Plan Grant. The objective of the ABE Grant was to assist member-based business organisations, and through them, enable small and medium sized enterprises, to harness opportunities emerging in the Asian region.

### Industry Workshops

Eight industry specific workshops were held in the areas of automotive manufacturing, the creative industries, hospitality and tourism and vocational education and training. The industry workshop model provided opportunities for participants to share knowledge and experience about emerging issues related to doing business in their specific sector.



## Business Forum



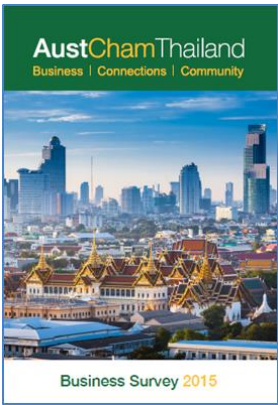
**The Australia – Thailand Business Forum: Perspectives on Investment and Trade** was held in June 2015 with 120 guests representing Thai and Australian businesses, academics and officials. The Forum marked the tenth anniversary of the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) and highlighted the significant business interests between Australia and Thailand while exploring ways to contribute to both countries' economic prosperity. The Forum was made possible through the kind support of Australian Embassy Bangkok, the Australian Trade Commission and the Australia-Thailand Institute.



Moderated by Mr James Wise – former Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, keynote speakers included HE Mr Sommai Phasee – Minister of Finance, Kingdom of Thailand and HE Mr Paul Robilliard – the Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand along with international guest speakers Mr Innes Willox – CEO Ai Group and Mr Niels Strazdins – Head Research Manager, Export Council of Australia.

The Forum also provided a significant new Australian based connection for AustCham with the Chamber assisting Asialink at Melbourne University to develop the Thailand Business Starter Pack, a publication intended to provide guidance to Australian companies looking to establish operations in Thailand. All participants were provided with a draft copy of the Thailand Business Starter Pack and opportunity to provide advice to prospective Australian business was built into Forum proceedings. Comments were reflected in the final publication along with case studies from different AustCham member companies highlighting different opportunities and challenges.

# Inaugural AustCham Business Survey



Senior business representatives of the 299 member companies of AustCham were surveyed in the latter part of 2015 with a great 30% response rate achieved. The survey results benchmarked business characteristics, identifying the strengths of the current business environment as well as key issues and business challenges in Thailand. It also provided a valuable insight into the detailed make-up of the AustCham membership with the top four sectors: Travel and Hospitality, Consultants, Manufacturing and Professional Services accounting for 55% of the membership.

The **most significant challenges** for respondents were: political stability, work permit and visa matters and wage pressures.

The **key business drivers** were seen as opportunity to grow sales, proximity to customers and Thailand position as a regional hub.

## Growth opportunities in the region

According to respondents **Thailand**, followed by **India**, then **Australia**, Vietnam and Indonesia have the greatest growth opportunities.

Top 3 countries for growth opportunities



Ultimately the survey demonstrated the membership share a strong commitment to business in Thailand and, despite business challenges, hold a cautiously optimistic outlook for the future.

**Sundowner events** continued to provide excellent business networking opportunities in 2015 with over 4000 attendees participating in the eleven Bangkok Sundowners and three Eastern Seaboard Sundowner events hosted by the Chamber. These events were made possible by venue sponsors– Mode Sathorn, Grand Hyatt Erawan, Centara Grand Phratamnak Pattaya, Siam@ Siam, Amari Watergate, Anantara Siam, Pattaya Marriot Resort and Spa, The Westin Grande, Eastern Grand Sathorn, Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park, Courtyard by Marriott South Pattaya, Shangri La Bangkok, and Four Points by Sheraton Bangkok.



**Joint events** with other Chambers again featured on the calendar to provide members with the opportunity to broaden networks and attend seminars. Highlights included the annual luncheon address by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand as well as a dinner address by the Deputy Prime Minister on the Digital Economy.



**Eastern Seaboard** events were held monthly throughout the year in partnership with other Chambers. AustCham hosted three of these events and took the opportunity to also hold member meetings and briefings in advance of Sundowners. In July, the Chamber partnered with the Auto Focus Group to deliver a presentation by Mr Tom Wilson, reflecting on his 20 years of



management experience with General Motors manufacturing in Asia, followed by a presentation by Mr Frank Holzer who provided an auto sector specific economic update. In September, Eastern Seaboard based members were invited to meet with the Australian Ambassador and AustCham Board

to share their insights into local business conditions.



The Chamber thanks Trevor Dick for his continued service as the Eastern Seaboard Coordinator for AustCham. At the time of printing, discussions were underway to identify a new series of boardroom style meetings to enable members to share their experiences, discuss emerging issues and advocate for the interests of Eastern Seaboard based businesses.

### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

AustCham has a great history of helping many charitable projects and has a fundamental desire to be a socially responsible organisation and actively support initiatives that seek to benefit Thai society. In August 2015, the Chamber launched a new CSR Policy to document guiding principles and governance arrangements for the Chamber's CSR program. The primary avenues of fundraising continued to be charity auctions or raffles held in association with major events and a 50THB allocation from each entry ticket to the monthly Sundowners.

**By the end of 2015 AustCham members had helped the Chamber CSR program raise 250,000THB.**

Feedback was sought from the membership via survey to identify which causes would be the recipient of 2015 CSR fundraising efforts and to determine the dispersal of fundraising.

**The following seven causes were provided with donations:**

- ❖ Habitat for Humanity received a donation of 23,000THB
- ❖ Sister Joan Foundation received a donation of 27,000THB
- ❖ The Beaumont Foundation received a donation of 35,000THB
- ❖ Operation Smile received a donation of 35,000THB
- ❖ The Mechai Pattana School received a donation of 40,000THB
- ❖ The Mae Sot Blind Centre received a donation of 45,000THB
- ❖ Born to Live received a donation of 45,000THB

## Community Events



**ANZAC Day 2015.** The first community event of 2015 was the well-attended ANZAC Day visit to Kanchanaburi. 2015 marked the Centenary of ANZAC and AustCham members and families joined over 3,500 people on the pilgrimage to remember and honour the fallen at dawn in the

cutting at Hellfire Pass.

**AFL.** The Coffee Club AFL Grand Final event was held at the Amari Watergate this year and run in partnership with the Thailand Tigers. The Amari pulled out all stops to replicate the MCG in their Ballroom, six screens were installed to give a surround feel, 'stadium favourites' featured on the menu along with fresh baked Lady Pie goodies and corporate boxes were installed for attendees after a special VIP experience. It was a great family day and best of all, there was freshly ground coffee available all day from the Coffee Club Baristas!



The AustCham Ball and AustCham Golf events were not held in 2015, instead they were rescheduled for early in 2016 in a conscious decision to realign the AustCham Ball with Australia Day and to make the best of the 'winter' weather for AustCham Golf.

## 2015 Annual Report

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The Australian Alumni program unites and supports graduates of Australian universities and other Australian institutions of higher learning by providing opportunities for Australian Alumni to leverage their Australian education for personal and professional success.

The Australian Alumni is managed by a sub-Committee of the AustCham Board in collaboration with the Thai- Australian Association. This year AustCham Board members ML Laksasubha Kridakorn, Brenton Mauriello, Josh Hyland and Panita Vongkusolkrit were responsible for overseeing Alumni activities.

An audit was conducted of the current Alumni membership and new partnerships established with Australian Universities. Assisted by a grant from the Australian Embassy Bangkok, work commenced on the upgrade and redevelopment of the Australian Alumni website with the new platform set to launch early in 2016.

### 2015 Membership Snapshot

#### Total Australian Alumni Members

**1003** with over 30 nationalities represented.

82% Thai and 13% Australian.

**Top 5 Universities** represented in the Alumni membership

1. Wollongong University
2. UNSW
3. Sydney University
4. University of Queensland
5. Monash University

Four Alumni events were delivered in 2015 providing networking opportunities and business themed seminars as well as the annual Australian Alumni awards.

These events would not have been possible without the continued support of Blackmores and the Australian Embassy Bangkok – a special thanks to both for their ongoing commitment to Australian Alumni.

The **Australian Alumni Awards** Gala Dinner was held in June 2015. The Awards continue to provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the significant achievements of alumni whose endeavors reflect the best of Australian education and Australian Alumni.

HE Mr Paul Robilliard the Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand addressed guests during the gala dinner. Other speakers included Khun Prom Sirisant - a UTS, School of Business graduate with a Master of Business in



International Marketing as well as a Macquarie University graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Associate Professor Dr Somchet Thinaphong - a Colombo Plan Scholar and graduate from the University of Tasmania. Both speakers provided heart-felt and entertaining reflections about their experiences of studying and living in Australia and how those experiences had contributed to their professional success in Thailand.

The 2015 Alumni Awards recognised the achievements of four Alumni across 4 award categories.

BLACKMORES®



Australian Embassy  
Bangkok

## **The Award Recipients for 2015 were:**

**Young Alumni - Community Engagement Award** - Khun Roisai Wongsuban is a human rights and humanitarian advocate on behalf of migrants, refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers and survivors of human trafficking. Her work focuses on contributing to improving the life circumstances of displaced Burmese living in Thailand. Khun Roisai holds a Post Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership from Deakin University, Melbourne and a Master of International Development and Environmental Analysis from Monash University, Melbourne

**Alumni Leadership Award** - Dr Peter Morley has used his education to improve health care services in Bangkok by creating and leading the team at Bumrungrad International Medical Coordination Office. He has also contributed to humanitarian efforts in temporary refugee camps along the Thailand-Burmese border in the Kanchanaburi province. In addition to his professional practice, he operates a self-funded charity that provides scholarships and self-sustaining and fund generating school projects to 7 rural communities in Thailand. Dr Peter holds a Diploma of Aeronautical Engineering from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor Degree in Medicine and Surgery and a Master's Degree in Public Health from Monash University, Australia

**Alumni Entrepreneurial Award** - Khun Chakkaphant Manutsathit has demonstrated leadership in the development of innovative initiatives in technological efficiency and productivity improvements. His recent innovations have focused on sustainability, which has contributed to his company being recognized for its corporate social responsibility activities. Khun Chakkaphant holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Queensland.

**Alumni of the Year** - Dr Pichaet Wiriyaichitra has devoted his career to researching the medicinal properties of Mangosteen peel. His research over 3-decades has led to the development of medicinal products that remedy physical ailments such as acne, psoriasis, inflammation and arthritis as well as the discovery of the cancer fighting properties of Mangosteen and towards the development of an anti-HIV supplement. Dr Pichaet holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours from the University of Western Australia and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Tasmania.

# Australians keen on more investment here: survey

KINGDOM RANKED HIGHEST FOR GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES IN REGION

## Australia sees Thailand as growing regional hub

16 Jun 2016 at 03:29

### FOREIGN INVESTMENT

## AustCham poll confirms commitment to Thailand

PAWEE SRINAI

Australian investors will feel positive about Thailand and want to stay here for economic political stability, which they say would support investment in general.

There are challenges to a survey by the Australian Thai Chamber of Commerce (AustCham).

President Brian Maurella said 74% of respondents said they would stay in Thailand, and even expand to Thailand.

The 70% said the deliberate requirement to remain in Thailand and stay in the country is a major obstacle to doing business in Thailand.

Mr Maurella said the survey showed that most business need political stability as the most important challenge for companies in Thailand, while other concerns include work permit issues for local talent, property and completed procedures for business licensing and taxation.

"I think more is the time for the Thai government to tackle these problems in order to encourage foreign investment," Mr Maurella said.

Two factors are another major factor for investors to consider when starting a business in Thailand.

AustCham may offer slightly better when foreign investors because its members can largely find and maintain a local workforce.

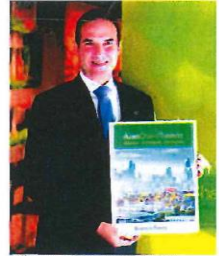
These Australian firms normally set up a considerable amount of budget for investment in Thailand, Mr Maurella said, which foreign companies that have small amounts of investment budget are more concerned about the world that can be easily withdrawn.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Thailand has been a member of the Thai government since 1990, and has been a member of the Thai government since 1990.

"We are not just a trade body," he said. "We are a body that we can use to help our members to do business in the country."

According to Mr Maurella, Australian investors in Thailand are generally happy and engaged in the business, with total investment reaching more than 100 billion baht in 2015, up from 90 billion in 2014.

Of AustCham's members, 49% are registered as global entities and have been in line with the Thai government's policy to promote the economy as a regional hub. Australian investors are encouraged to do business in Thailand, and Maurella said.



Brian Maurella, president of AustCham Thailand.



stCham President Leigh Scott-Kenniss comes guests to the Eastern Seaboard Downers event at the Breeze Beach Club, ntara Grand Phratamnak.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS: The AustCham Stars & Stripes Downers, an evening get-together organised by Australian chamber members in honour of their American fellow expats on American Independence Day, was held recently at The Westin Grande Sukhumvit Bangkok. From left, Sempol Na Nakorn, hotel manager; Australian Ambassador Paul Robillard; Alexandra Cullum, executive director of AustCham Thailand; Nongluck Naruman, hotel director of sales and marketing; and Martin Reich, hotel complex General manager.

## ออสเตรเลียปัมใบอนุญาต ยึดไทยฐานอาเซียน

คณะรัฐมนตรี (ครม.) อนุมัติเห็นชอบร่างกฎกระทรวงว่าด้วยการออกใบอนุญาตประกอบธุรกิจในประเทศไทย

ตามที่คณะรัฐมนตรี (ครม.) อนุมัติเห็นชอบร่างกฎกระทรวงว่าด้วยการออกใบอนุญาตประกอบธุรกิจในประเทศไทย เมื่อวันที่ 17 มิถุนายน 2559 นั้น ปัจจุบันร่างกฎกระทรวงดังกล่าวอยู่ระหว่างการพิจารณาของคณะกรรมการกฤษฎีกา และคาดว่าจะสามารถออกประกาศใช้ได้ในเร็วๆ นี้

ร่างกฎกระทรวงฉบับนี้ มีเจตนารมณ์เพื่ออำนวยความสะดวกแก่ผู้ประกอบการต่างชาติในการเข้ามาประกอบธุรกิจในประเทศไทย

โดยร่างกฎกระทรวงฉบับนี้ จะครอบคลุมถึงผู้ประกอบการต่างชาติที่เข้ามาประกอบธุรกิจในประเทศไทย ทั้งในรูปแบบของนิติบุคคลและบุคคลธรรมดา

## AustCham hits the Breeze at Centara Grand Phratamnak

Friday, 27 March 2015

Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce (AustCham) plans to resolve visas and work permits which is a particular issue where the AustCham Board of Directors are advocating for change. According to AustCham's Business Survey, 70% of respondents ranked difficulty in processing work permits and visas as an obstacle which also effects to a decision for investment in Thailand.

