



AMBASSADOR

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
BANGKOK

18 November 2020

Mr Benjamin Krieg  
President  
AustCham Thailand

*Ben*

Dear Mr ~~Krieg~~

As you are aware, on 13 November Prime Ministers Morrison and Prayut signed a Joint Declaration elevating the Australia-Thailand relationship to a Strategic Partnership.

The Strategic Partnership is a significant moment in the bilateral relationship, giving due recognition to the deep and wide-ranging ties between Australia and Thailand. The Strategic Partnership encapsulates our deep and broad links covering political and security engagement, economic growth, sectoral collaboration and people to people ties.

AustCham Thailand members will be particularly interested in the commitment Australia and Thailand have made to expand cooperation in: trade and investment; regional connectivity; science, technology and innovation; digital transformation; and resilient and sustainable logistics and supply chains. These were identified by Australia and Thailand as areas showing potential for bilateral collaboration and growth, and are important to both countries' COVID-19 economic recovery.

The next step in the Strategic Partnership is the development of a Plan of Action, which will implement the commitments made in the Joint Declaration (note the text of the Joint Declaration will be made available on the Embassy website after it has been counter-signed by each Prime Minister). As we take forward the Strategic Partnership, the Embassy looks forward to continuing our close collaboration with AustCham and to ensuring the needs and ideas of the Australian business community are reflected in this important work.

In further good news, our efforts to strengthen economic ties through the Strategic Partnership were complemented by the signing on 14 November of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Alongside the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), RCEP will enhance commercial opportunities between Australia and Thailand, as well as the broader region.

I am happy if you share this message with AustCham members.

Yours sincerely

*Allan McKinnon*

Allan McKinnon PSM