



EABC ACTIVITY REPORT

EABC Annual General Meeting 2022

20
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www.eabc-thailand.org

European Association for Business and Commerce

The Activity Report 2021 aims to give a fair, balanced and accurate *sample* of relevant EABC activity. EABC's core business is Advocacy. Advocacy involves developing recommendations (positions), aiming to build consensus in the foreign business community, supporting bilateral European chambers; dialogue with government agencies backed up by written submissions and participation in conferences, seminars, workshops, trade fairs in Thailand and regionally. The overall objective is about enhancing the volume and quality of trade between Thailand and Europe, and Investment. EABC's Advocacy Development Group and Working Group Chairs have been a catalyst for the advancement of effective advocacy.



The EABC Activity Report 2021 is in three parts:

1. General Advocacy Dialogue and Events
2. Working Group by subject matter
3. EABC Affairs

General Advocacy Dialogues and Events

- EU Delegation
- EU-ASEAN Business Council
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Digital Economy and Society
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Transport
- Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives
- The BOI-Foreign Chambers of Commerce
- EUROCHAMBRES
- Thai Europe Business Council (TERBC)
- The European Business Organisation Worldwide Network (EBOWWN)

Working Group by subject matter

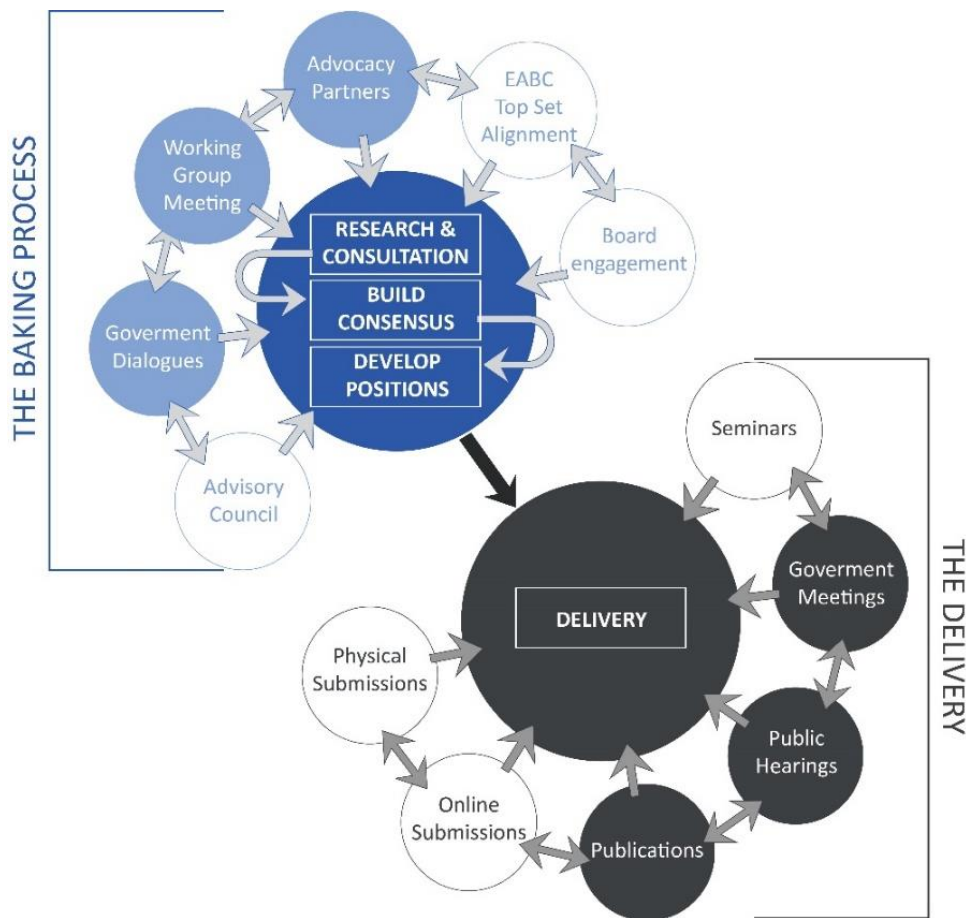
(selected events only)

- Automotive
- Cross Sectoral Issues (CSI)
- Digital Economy/ICT
- Food And Beverage
- Healthcare And Pharmaceuticals
- Industry
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Rail And Road Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Transport And Logistics

EABC Affairs

- Annual General Meeting 2021
- EABC/FTCC Pre-Christmas Cocktail

ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Some time ago EABC workshopped and produced an Advocacy Development strategy. Essential elements: **Baking**: knowledge and experience to understand the issues, socialise the issues and dialogue with policy and law makers; understand best practice both from Europe and elsewhere; frame recommendations, build consensus in the European and other foreign business community and use a variety of means to engage on and **Deliver** the message and develop outcomes.

EABC works with like minded Advocacy Partners (not everyone!) to strengthen consensus.

EABC Working Groups are not about promoting business of their members but bring experience to bear to provide useful contributions. Some issues are considered 'evergreen'; not solved in one sitting.

The Introduction chapter to the 2022 European Business Position Paper includes a description of European business at its best and understanding the role, relevance and importance of EU policy, law and regulation.

On the EABC website, there is a part about Advocacy [here](#) and the 2022 European Business Position Paper [here](#)

GENERAL ADVOCACY DIALOGUES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance organised by Fiscal Policy Office on Finance Issue (12 January 2021)



EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance

Fiscal Policy Office and Bank of Thailand

On Finance

Starting from a courtesy meeting with Minister of Finance on 27 November 2020, a more detailed follow up was held on 14 January 2021. This virtual meeting was attended by representatives from the Fiscal Policy Office, Bank of Thailand, and the Ministry of Finance. The discussion on finance topics included the use of electronic (and digital) signatures, digital governmentelectronic signatures use in financial transcatons, and smart contracts. have checked on the agenda of the meeting and semes to be relatively the same to what was wrote initially

EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance organised by Fiscal Policy Office on Digital Economy (18 January 2021)



EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance

Fiscal Policy Office, Revenue Department and Bank of Thailand

on Digital Economy

EABC had a virtual meeting with the Ministry of Finance on Digital Economy. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Revenue Department, Fiscal Policy Office, Bank of Thailand, and TRD. Digital technology can improve Thailand's competitiveness.

The EABC's policy recommendation covered the topics of the Digital Economy, eCommerce tax, e-tax filing system, State-owned enterprises & competitiveness in the telecommunication sector, and Cross-border payments. TRD has kindly offered to share draft materials about the eCommerce Tax which came into into force early September 2021.

EABC Webinar on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) (21 January 2021)



Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

A new trade agreement that will shape global economics

Date: 21st January 2021

EABC, in collaboration with the European Business Organisation Worldwide Network (EBOWWN), successfully organized a webinar on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) via Zoom with more than 300 participants.

Mr. Bob Fox, EABC Vice President and Chair of Digital Economy/ ICT Working Group of EABC, also joined as a panelist to share the perspectives of RCEP in Thailand. Together with experts from 12 European Chambers and Business Councils, who had discussed and evaluated the opportunities of the agreement, key achievements and limitations to the European companies in third markets.

EABC Meeting with the Trade and Economic section of EU delegation in Thailand on the topic of Intellectual Property Rights (22 January 2021)



Meeting With Trade and Economic section of EU delegation in Thailand On Intellectual Property Rights

EABC had a virtual meeting with the Trade and Economic section of EU delegation in Thailand on the topic of Intellectual Property Rights. This meeting was coordinated by three EABC Working Groups: Intellectual Property Rights, Digital Economy/ICT and Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals and lead by the IPR Working Group. The discussion included policy and legislative developments, enforcement and other IP related issues. Geographical Indicators (GI) will become a more widely supported topic in this area.

EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance organised by Fiscal Policy Office on Tax and Customs (28 January 2021)



As part of four working group level meetings with the Ministry of Finance (including Finance on 14 January, Digital Economy on 18 January, and Healthcare on 20 January, EABC held the fourth virtual meeting with the Fiscal Policy Office, Excise Department, and Customs Department as part of its continued engagement with the Ministry of Finance of Thailand. This meeting was coordinated by two EABC Working Groups: Food and Beverages and Transport and Logistics. EABC recommends policies to promote greater participation in the tax system to achieve Thailand 4.0 vision, infrastructure, and skills investment are which are all needed; hence, we support a tax system that is competitive, efficient, inclusive, and fair. This discussion covered the topics of customs facilitation for multi-model transports and excise tax reform in tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.

EABC Meeting with Minister of Finance (29 January 2021)



EABC delegates led by Mr. Luca Bernardinetti, Mr. Jan Eriksson, Mr. Georg Wolff and Mrs. Paranee Adulyapichet had a meeting with H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Finance, and six other representatives of MoF as part of its continued engagement since the Courtesy Meeting with His Excellency on 27 November 2020 and the four follow up meetings in specific areas – Finance, Digital, Healthcare, Excise Tax/Customs.

EABC appreciates His Excellency's consideration of EABC's proposals, which included the digitalization of financial interaction, e-commerce tax, e filing and payment in the tax system, reform of the new telecoms SOE '(NT)', sustainable healthcare financing, and customs & excise tax reform. EABC will work closely to advocate trade and investment policies enhancing transparency, fairness, and business competitiveness in Thailand and meet with His Excellency in two months.

Embassy of Hungary in Thailand & Hungarian Chamber of Commerce organized Business opportunities in Thailand & Practical Advices for Businesses Webinar (4 February 2021)



EABC participated in the the "Business opportunities in Thailand: Practical Advices for Businesses Webinar" organized by Embassy of Hungary in Thailand and Hungarian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Luca Bernardinetti, EABC President gave a presentation on the "Business Environment in Thailand: opportunities and how to do business".

Followed by the panel discussion with distinguished guests; Mr. László Bódi Vice-President Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Chusak Chuenprayoth, Vice Chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Sonklin Ploymee, Deputy Secretary General, Thailand Board of Investment.

Two members of EABC; Mr. Domenico Antico, V.P. Marketing and Sales Asia Pacific of SEKO and Mr. Jan Eike Graeff, Managing Director of Scheuch Asia (Scheuch Group) provided their insight and experience in the Panel discussion of how to start a business in Thailand from private sector case studies and best practices. Along with Mr. Thanusak

Phungdet, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Varodom Pitakanonda, President of the Chiang Mai Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Gergő Kiss, CEO of AIM&Hell Co. Ltd.

Third Roundtable on Digital Dialogues on Privacy' Series (11 February 2021)



Digital Dialogues on Privacy' Series – jointly-hosted by the Asian Governance Foundation (AGF), the German-South East Asian Centre of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG) and Facebook Inc. This series of ongoing roundtables first tackled Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), with a focus on a preview of its upcoming subordinate legislation. The third roundtable focused on Notice and Consent Requirements in the PDPA and its Subordinate Legislation (which is in development).

Roundtable 3 was held on 11 February 2021 on Notice and Consent Requirements in the PDPA and its Subordinate Legislation (which is in development) a closed door roundtable of experts.

Roundtable 4 was held on 1 April 2021 about data subject rights, sensitive data, and children's data in the PDPA, a closed door roundtable of experts.

EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox participated in the second, third and fourth roundtables.

A Thailand-EU Free Trade Agreement – dialogue and consultation with Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiations (20 August 2021)



EABC board members and working group chairs participated in this virtual meeting with Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiation (DTN) and her team to update on EU-Thailand FTA development. This discussion included; An update on EU-Thailand FTA explorations, current development relevant to a Joint Understanding Document (JUD) and EABC proposals based on expected chapters in an EU-Thailand FTA. Mrs Auramon addressed a number of pre-advised questions with valuable insights. EABC maintains a page about EU-Thailand FTA developments (<https://www.eabc-thailand.org/an-eu-thailand-free-trade-agreement/>)

DTN and EABC have agreed to engage continually about a future Thailand-EU FTA, including focus on specific topics such as IPR, Digital, Health Care, manufacturing and enhanced trade engagement and to play a role in assisting with resolving issues.

Thailand-Hungary Business Forum 2021 Webinar (15 September 2021)



On 15th September 2021, Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) Frankfurt Office, Royal Thai Embassy Budapest, and Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) held Thailand-Hungary Business Forum 2021 webinar on the topic of "New Path for Business Partnership in Thailand".

The meeting was led by EABC President Mr Jan Eriksson. EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox together with various industry representatives had shared their experiences and insights in a business practice session on how to pursuing a business partnership in Thailand.

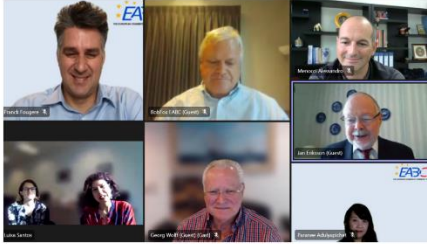
The ALB Virtual Thailand In-House Legal Summit 2021 (22 September 2021)



EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox spoke at the ALB Virtual Thailand In-House Legal Summit 2021. This forum addressed issues including emerging risks and compliance challenges in Thailand, regulatory updates, new skill sets required, the evolving roles of general counsel and how can general counsel continue being relevant to the business. Mr. Bob Fox shared his expertise in the topic of "Laws which Work: Enhancing the Rule of Law".

EABC meeting with Business Europe (24 September 2021)

BUSINESSEUROPE EABC EABC MEETING WITH BUSINESSEUROPE



EABC board members and working group chairs participated in this virtual meeting with Ms. Luisa Santos, Deputy Director General and Ms. Eleonora Catella, Deputy Director of Business Europe to discuss ideas and promote an increased dialogue between EABC and BusinessEurope on future Thailand-EU FTA. The meeting was very productive and contributed to the future positive engagement between both organizations which share many committees and working groups focusing on the same areas of work.

Thailand Virtual Mission Trip 2021- Ministry of Finance (27 September 2021)

EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL EABC MINISTRY OF FINANCE H.E. MR. ARKHOM TERMPITTAYAPASITH MINISTER OF FINANCE



On 27th September 2021, EABC and EU-ASEAN Business Council held the first meeting of the joint EU-ASEAN Business Council / EABC Virtual Mission Trip to Thailand 2021 with H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Finance and related departments in Ministry of Finance.

The discussion included a large number of topics; post-pandemic economic recovery, excise tax policy, sustainable healthcare financing, investment policy, insurance issues, state owned enterprise reform, combating illicit trade, customs procedures and tax policy.

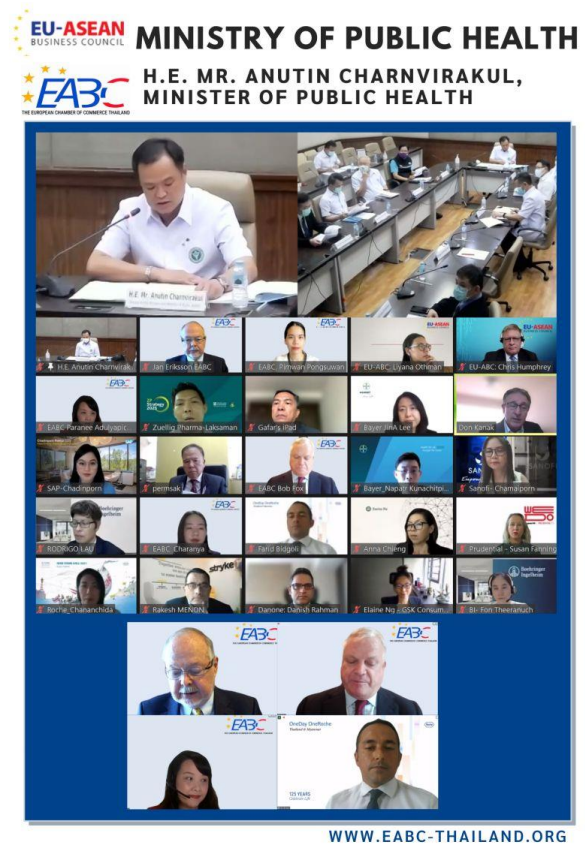
EABC will continue to engage with Ministry of Finance via the established working groups on finance, digital economy, Sustainable healthcare financing and excise tax/customs.

Thailand Virtual Mission Trip 2021- Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives (28 September 2021)



EABC and EU-ASEAN Business Council held the second second business roundtable in Thailand with Mr. Narapat Kaeothong, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives and related departments in the Ministry for Agriculture and Cooperatives. The discussion included grass roots economic development and promotion campaign, agriculture and farming sustainability, Thailand’s COVID-19 prevention best practices in food production for export, capitalising on RCEP advantages in processed food and etc.

Thailand Virtual Mission Trip 2021-Ministry of Public Health (29 September 2021)



EABC and EU-ASEAN Business Council held the third meeting as part of business mission to Thailand with Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Minister of Public Health and related departments in the Ministry of Public Health.

The discussion included E-Pharmacy & Digital Health, Vaccination as a key element in economic recovery, Healthcare Funding & Sustainable Finance and Management of COVID-19 outbreak and reduction of Covid-19 incidence.

Thailand Virtual Mission Trip 2021-Ministry of Transport (6 October 2021)



EABC and EU-ASEAN Business Council held the fourth meeting as part of business mission to Thailand with Mr. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport and related departments in the Ministry of Transport.

The discussion included COVID-19 travel bubbles, MoT's infrastructure plans, improving logistics efficiency, including Thailand's ranking in the Global Logistics Performance Index, Development in the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement and Eco-Friendly Transport.

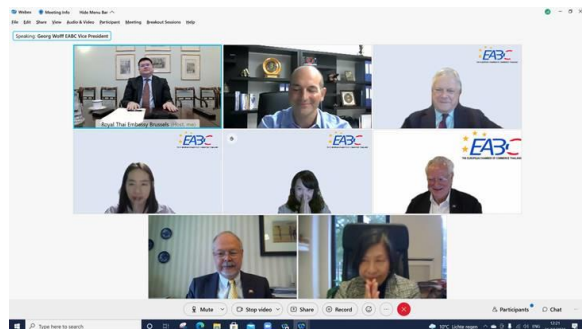
During the meeting, Mr. Georg Michael Wolff, Vice President and Chair of Rail & Road Infrastructure Working Group proposed to set up a Thai - European working group with the MOT for continual engagement; His Excellency has agreed, which bring a good news to the European business community.

EABC Meeting with EUROCHAMBRES (19 October 2021)



EABC board members and working group chairs participated in this virtual meeting with Dr. Christoph Leitl, President, Mr. Ben Butters, Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Dominic Boucsein, Head of International Trade and Foreign Policy of EUROCHAMBRES to discuss ideas and promote an increased dialogue between EABC and EUROCHAMBRES for business advocacy and long-term economic development including future Thailand-EU FTA. The meeting is very productive and contributing to the future positive engagement between both organizations.

EABC Meeting with Royal Thai Embassy Brussels on 21 October 2021



On 21 October 2021, EABC board members and working group chairs participated in this virtual meeting with H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee, Ambassador of Thailand and Head of Mission to the EU to discuss the opportunities for future collaboration to enhance business and investment from European companies in Thailand. They also exchanged views on relevant issues relating to investment and the preparations for the resumption of Thai-EU FTA, including liberalization and market access, BCG economy and sustainability, as well as the fast track regulatory reform.

Meeting of EABC – Thai Europe business council (TERBC) under JSCCIB (26 October 2021)



EABC organized a meeting with Thai Europe business council under JSCCIB to discuss the business and economic situation in Thailand as well as the progress of the Thailand – EU Free Trade Agreement which is a top priority for EABC and businesses in the private sector.

The Welcome remarks and introduction of EABC participants is given by EABC President, Mr Jan Eriksson and followed by the TERBC participants Introduction and updates on TERBC priorities & recent activities by Mr Chaiwat Kovavisarach, Chairman of TEBC. Afterwards, Mr Bob Fox, EABC Vice President, continued with the EABC presentation of 2021 Activities, working groups and approaches to an EU TH FTA together with Importance of Fast Track Regulatory Reform. Mr George Wolff later joined in the part of Procurement while Mr Alessandro Menocci and Mr Luca Vianelli elaborated more on the details in measures and regulation related to European Green Deal policy.

Thailand Virtual Mission Trip 2021- Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (8 November 2021)



EABC and EU-ASEAN Business Council held the fifth meeting as part of business mission to Thailand with the attendance of Mr. Chivat Thanakamanusorn, Minister for Digital Economy and Society and related departments in the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society.

The discussion included Digital Government, Digital Economy, PDPA and PDPA sub regulations, Digital regulation, Telecoms Industry Structure which underpins the Digital Economy and Digital Health Services. Mr Bob Fox, EABC Chair of Digital Economy/ICT was engaged on most questions.

BOI-Foreign Chambers of Commerce Consultative Meeting (10 November 2021)



M.L. Chayotid Kridakon, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister chaired the BOI-Foreign Chambers of Commerce Consultative Meeting, held by the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), led by Ms. Duangjai Asawachintachit, BOI Secretary General, and foreign chambers of commerce in Thailand, led by Mr. Stanley Kang, Chairman of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand.

The meeting discussed issues affecting the business environment, including the most recent BOI policies and measures. The topics included Services Liberalisation,

Doing Business Easily/One Stop Service (including Visas and Work Permits), Digital Transformation, Human Resource Development and BCG/ESG and EV.

Mr Bob Fox was spokesperson for most of the business-led topics.

EABC Meeting with Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO) (19 November 2021)



EABC board members participated in this virtual meeting with Mr. Ronnarong Phoolpipat Director-General Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO) to discuss services sector development in Thailand.

The discussion included policies for Services Liberalization, Economic Recovery, Foreign Investment, Skills, Business Continuity, Competitiveness, Foreign Business Act List 3, Ease of Doing Business, Fast Track Regulatory Reform, EU-Thailand FTA, Trade facilitation for intra-ASEAN trade and EU-ABC/EABC Mission Trip.

EABC: Thailand Virtual Mission Trip 2021- Ministry of Commerce (26 November 2021)



EABC and EU-ASEAN Business Council held the sixth meeting as part of business mission to Thailand with Dr. Sansern Samalapa, Vice Minister for Commerce and related departments in the Ministry of Commerce.

The discussion included E-commerce in Thailand, policies on importation and exportation, E-Pharmacy and E-Health in Thailand, multilateral & bilateral trade deals, food delivery platforms regulation, digitalization of compliance, services liberalization & FBA, and also IP protection.

The Grand Opening of Bei Otto The German Institution (1 December 2021)



The president of EABC -The European Chamber of Commerce Thailand Mr. Jan Eriksson participated in the Grand Opening of Bei Otto, the German Institution, a legendary German restaurant. Several honourable guesses also joined the grand opening event including Mr Chuan Leekpai, the current President of the National Assembly of Thailand, Mr George Schmitt, German Ambassador to Thailand and Dr Eva Hager, Ambassador of Austria to Thailand.

EABC WORKING GROUPS

AUTOMOTIVE

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE :
**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
BUSINESS PRACTICES IN
THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR
IN ASIA**

22nd July 2021
15.00-16.30 PM (UTC+5/Thailand time)
Online via Zoom

Register in advance at:
<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/1wepfu2ggDwpGIMm0vz9p7c2jFujLUUEUvblb>



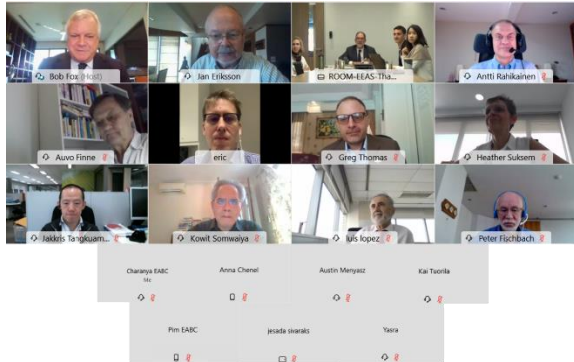
The Business Roundtable: Socially Responsible Business Practices in the Automotive Sector in Asia

On 22nd July 2021, European Association for Business and Commerce (EABC) together with the Thai European Business Association (TEBA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) through the support of “Responsible Supply Chains in Asia” (RSCA) programme held the Business Roundtable: Socially Responsible Business Practices in the Automotive Sector in Asia with more than 40 participants from leading companies and suppliers in the automotive sector in Thailand.

CROSS SECTORAL ISSUES (CSI)

Inputs for Rule of Law/Good Law Making/Consultation

DIGITAL ECONOMY/ICT



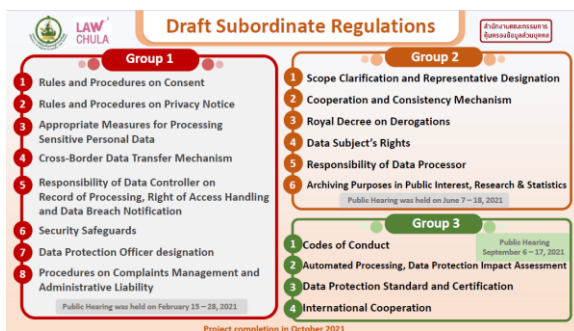
Special Meeting with the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand on Digital developments in Thailand.

The meeting occurred on the 18th February 2021 and it involved discussions on EU and Thailand’s developments on digital related topics such as the current status of EU-Thailand FTA exploration, industry evolution and formation of National Telecom in Thailand, e-Commerce Tax, PDPA, Cybersecurity and Digital skills. In the future, enhanced understanding of DSM Digital Single Market, EEC European Electronic Communications Code, Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive) and updates on GDPR developments may be explored.



PDPA Public Hearing Submissions

The chair of the Digital Economy / ICT Working group Mr Bob Fox and some colleagues participated in three PDPA Public Hearing in February, May and July 2021 on three sets of topics at concept level, organized by the Academic Service Center of Chulalongkorn University (Unisearch) and the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Digital Economy and Society (MDES Ministry) acting as the interim office of the Personal Data Protection Committee (PDPC). These details will form the basis of the voluminous regulations, forms and procedures which apply to data privacy laws.



Three groups of topics at Concept level for PDPA Sub Regulations



Meeting and webinar with IAPP Thailand

The International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) Thailand chapter meeting and webinar about Privacy, and development of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) was held on 25th March 2021. The Digital Economy/ICT Working Group is heavily involved with the development of subsidiary legislation for the PDPA which comes into force 1st June 2022.



An eCommerce Tax for Thailand; EABC inputs to operational drafts and guidelines

EABC's Digital Economy/ICT group has been engaged since 2017 with the development of an eCommerce Tax for Thailand. Amendments to the Revenue Code have been passed and now the Revenue Department is preparing guidelines, the on-line registration platform and operating procedures. The Revenue Department set up an on-line comment facility. To assist with appreciation of the issues and to achieve some consensus with responses, an information session was held on 29th April with submission made by EABC on 30 April. Following that, a 'white label' approach which enabled members to make their own submission, was done.

DIGITAL SERVICE PLATFORMS DECREE

THE FUTURE OF THAILAND'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

An exclusive webinar hosted by Asia Group Advisors and the Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

September 30, 2021 at 10:00-11:30 AM (ICT)



Digital Service Platforms Decree: The Future of Thailand’s Digital Economy Roundtable

A Digital Services Platform Governance Decree was proposed mid 2021 and EABC has been engaged at every turn. Fundamentally the Decree has some useful policy fundamentals but there has been concern about over-reach. The first submission was mid July. On 30th September, Asia Group Advisors and Thammasat University's Faculty of Law held a webinar on Digital Service Platforms Decree: The future of Thailand's Digital Economy, with a panel of four. EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox together with ETDA Executive Director Dr. Chaichana Mitrpant, Professor Thitirat Thipsamritkul from Thammasat University and Vice President of the Digital Council of Thailand shared their perspectives on the recently released second draft Royal Decree on “Governance of Digital Service Platforms Business which Requires Notification” and its broader implications towards Thailand’s post-pandemic digital economy and platform economy development direction.



EABC: Telecoms World Asia 2021

On 16th November, turning the increasing demand for content into a growing digital business model was held as part of the Telecoms World Asia 2022 conference. EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox was a moderator.



Telecoms World Asia 2021

On 17th November, EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox was a moderator on “Creating new revenue streams with 5G networks” as part of the Telecoms World Asia 2021 conference.

Topics included commercialization of 5G from Singaporean model, 5G national plan via Thailand’s Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, 5G innovations in Agricultural industry, possible national development opportunities from 5G, monetization of 5G, the roles of the government sector in infrastructure cost and sharing of 5G, and new revenues streets.



EABC: Cyber Security and Ransomware in Thailand

On 25th November 2021, the Parliamentary Committee on Telecommunications and Digital Economy and Society held a roundtable meeting on ‘Cyber Security and Ransomware in Thailand’ in order to discuss preventive measures and guideline to counter the current cyber threats. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Kanlaya Rungwijitchai, Member of Parliament for Saraburi, Pracharath Party and a Chairman of the Commission on Telecommunications and Digital Economy and Society and Mr. Chiwat Thanakamanusorn, Minister for Digital Economy and Society.

Mr. Bob Fox, EABC Vice President and a chair of EABC/JFCCT Digital Economy/ICT group provided the Group’s insights and recommendations on a multi-disciplinary approach to combatting the scourge of Ransomware (which is the #1 threat in the ENISA – EU Cybersecurity Agency’s 2021 Threat Report, and other threat reports).



**EABC Meeting with
Ministry of Finance**

Fiscal Policy Office , Excise Department
and Customs Department

On Tax and Customs

**EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance
organised by Fiscal Policy Office on Tax and
Customs**

As part of four working group level meetings with the Ministry of Finance, EABC held the fourth virtual meeting with the Fiscal Policy Office, Excise Department, and Customs Department as part of its continued engagement with the Ministry of Finance of Thailand.

This meeting was coordinated by two EABC Working Groups: Food and Beverages and Transport and Logistics. EABC recommends policies to promote greater participation in the tax system to achieve Thailand 4.0 vision, infrastructure, and skills investment are which are all needed; hence, we support a tax system that is competitive, efficient, inclusive, and fair. This discussion covered the topics of customs facilitation for multi-model transports and excise tax reform in tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. EABC is grateful for the insightful perspectives shared by the representatives from the relevant departments. We look forward to have a follow up meeting in February with relevant bureau for each proposed topics.



EABC Meeting with Ministry of Finance organised by Fiscal Policy Office on Healthcare

EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Working Group had a virtual meeting with the Ministry of Finance, the Fiscal Policy Office and Comptroller General's Department on Healthcare Issues. The discussion focused on strengthening the partnership between public-private collaboration. The topic includes sustainable healthcare financing, financial risk with the government in reimbursement for patient treatment costs, advanced technology in healthcare, the improvement of patient treatment outcomes and quality of life. EABC looks forward to having a further dialogue on the discussion on "Sustainable Healthcare Financing" with the Royal Thai government and relevant partners in the future.



Meeting with Assoc. Prof. Adune Ratanawichitrasin, M.D., Assistant Secretary General of Medical Council Thailand

The meeting toward progress of telemedicine was held on 5th March 2021. The discussion included collaboration between Medical Councils and stakeholders in telemedicine, progress in ongoing development, and opportunity for contribution from industry to help improving individual's health and the digitalization of healthcare system.



Meeting with Dr. Lersak Leenanithikul, Deputy Director of ICT Center, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health

The meeting on progress of Unified National Health Data Platform. Was held on 10th March 2021. Topics of discussion included; ongoing challenges of digital health platform, development of MOPH’s eHealth strategy and opportunity for collaboration from industry sector to help facilitating and supporting projects of government sector.



Meeting with Assoc. Prof. Tiranee Achalakul, Ph.D, Director of Government Big Data Institute (GBDi)

The meeting on digital healthcare was held on 11th March 2021. Topics of discussion are as following; current status and progress for implementation of Health Information Exchange (HIE) which will be launched in May, GBDi's future plans on telemedicine and drug delivery system, ongoing challenges in working process and also the opportunity for collaboration with pilot program from private industry.



In-person meeting with the the Comptroller General's Department

On 30th March 2021, EABC Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group had an in-person meeting with the Comptroller General's Department, at the Ministry of Finance to follow up on the topic of Sustainable Healthcare Financing - Risk-Sharing Agreement.

The working group has advocate toward alternative / innovative mechanisms that the private companies shares the financial risks at national level with the government in patient treatment costs. EABC committed to continue working closely with the Thai Royal Government to ensure adequate and sustainable Healthcare Financing as a key to ensure economic growth.



Thailand Food and Drug Administration Meeting

On 10th November, Thailand Food and Drug Administration hosted a Hybrid meeting with members of EABC Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group to discuss and exchange about Biologic Median Price Guideline. Earlier in June 2021, EABC also submitted EABC Position paper on Biologic Median Price guideline based on international practices and researches to the FDA, in which we presented to the FDA in this meeting.



EABC: Workshop on Risk Sharing Agreement Models

On 19th November, EABC Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group held a workshop on Risk Sharing Agreement Models with and Fiscal Policy Office and Comptroller General’s Department from Ministry of Finance.

The workshop focused on key requirements for the establishment of the risk-sharing framework as a public - private partnership for an innovative solution for sustainable healthcare financing & access. Detailed SWOT analysis from each participant’s perspective was also shared and discussed.

INDUSTRY



Meeting with Office of Industrial Economic Policy (OIE), Ministry of Industry meeting

On 8th December, EABC Industry Working Group participated in this virtual meeting with Mrs Siripen Kiatfuengfoo, Deputy Director-General of Office of Industrial Economic Policy (OIE) to discuss about the developments in industry sector strategy in Thailand, service sector investment, greener supply chains, investment in the manufacturing sector, exportation, and vaccine plan for the industry sector.

INSURANCE



EU-ABC workshop with the Office of Insurance Commission in Thailand

On 1st October, EU-ABC held an online workshop with the Office of Insurance Commission in Thailand focusing on healthy aging, digital access to insurance and digital literacy.

Mr. Jan Rosemeyer, Chief Finance Officer from Allianz Ayudhya Assurance Pcl and EABC Insurance Working Group representative shared his case study on the partnership between Allianz Ayudhya Assurance and BDMS of which collaboration in technology is a key element. Mr. Bob Fox, EABC Vice President and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair spoke on digital literacy and the importance of digital literacy training and development to enable consumers' better informed choice and ease of interaction, and to empower the industry for digitalization, thus with a two-pronged strategy.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)



DIP- MoU in the Protection of Intellectual Property on the Internet

On 19th July 2021, the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) held a virtual meeting on “the MoU in the Protection of Intellectual Property on the Internet No. process, and the collaboration to enhance intellectual property right landscape in Thailand. The meeting was chaired by the Director-General of the Department of Intellectual Property.

IPKey SEA: the technical meeting on “Thailand MoU on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights on the Internet”



On 30th July 2021, Mr. Franck Fougere, Chair of Intellectual Property Rights Working Group, and Mr. Bob Fox, Chair of Digital Economy/ICT Working Group and Vice President of EABC represented the EABC as the key speakers on “EU Business Perspective on the Prospects and Implementation of the Thailand MoU”.

This technical meeting shared the EU’s experience and expertise on the adoption, implementation and monitoring of similar memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in relation to e-commerce platforms and online advertisers, and to promote the signing and acceptance of the MoU by more online platforms and IPR owners in Thailand.



EABC meeting with the Department of Intellectual Property Rights

On 12th October 2021, EABC held a virtual meeting with the Department of Intellectual Property Rights. The objective for this meeting was to discuss and clarify various points, also to show ongoing support which has been key features of the engagement associated with the DIP Fact Sheet. The discussion included a future EU-Thailand FTA, Legislative Developments, Cybersecurity (Ransomare multi-stakeholder model; and IP Enforcement.



EABC: Intellectual Property (IPR) Infringing Goods Destruction Ceremony

On Monday 13 September 2021, the EABC office and the EABC Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) have virtually participated in the Intellectual Property (IPR) Infringing Goods Destruction Ceremony. The event is broadcasted from Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, and on-site destruction at Saraburi Province.

EABC perceives this event as another great leap forward for the issue of IPR infringement in Thailand as it plays a role in ensuring that these infringed goods will not be able to return in the vicious cycle of illicit trade of infringed goods again.

RAIL AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE



German-Thai Railway Association Online GTRA talk

On 20th July 2021, the German-Thai Railway Association (GTRA), which EABC is a founding member held a virtual meeting on “Developing German-Thai cooperation and Tech-Localization for enhancing the service quality and attractiveness of Railway in Thailand”.

Mr. Georg Wolff, EABC Vice-President & Chairperson of the EABC Working Group Rail and Road Infrastructure, together with various industry representatives had shared their experiences and insights on how the German-Thai industry could collaborate to exploit new synergies and enhance the quality and attractiveness of railway services in Thailand.



EABC: The German - Thai Railway Association (GTRA) Official Opening Event

On 2 December 2021, EABC had an opportunity to participate in the German-Thai Railway Association (GTRA) Official Opening Ceremony and the 6th GTRA Workshop. The event offered detailed and in-depth information on High-Speed Rail: The Changing Face of Thai Railways and the series of railway technologies, operations and management.

TOURISM



Regularly attended the meetings with JFCCT Tourism Committee.

Major topics are Border Opening, Greener tourism , Culinary and Medical tourism, Aviation, tourism Safety and many more.

Reskilling of the workforce was also major focus in the tourism and hospitality sector post-pandemic with the committee covering this agenda item throughout the year along with other working groups.

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS



EABC president and EABC Transport and Logistics Working Group held meeting with Director-General of the Customs department.

On 3rd March 2021, EABC president and EABC Transport and Logistics Working Group met with Mr. Patchara Anuntasilpa, Director - General of the Customs Department toward development and enforcement of customs procedures. This meeting was one of the follow up meetings from umbrella meetings with the Minister of Finance.

Topics of discussion included regulatory amendment of Expired goods in a bonded warehouse, EEC as ASEAN wide distribution center, ACTS system, Local distribution and transit with mixed goods, Paperless customs / documentary compliance and Rewards for penalties in the customs code.

EABC AFFAIRS

EABC Annual General Meeting 2021



EABC’s AGM 2021 was held on 10 June 2021. AGM 2021 covered the topics which an Association needs to cover each year; approval of EABC audited financial statements, report of the President, presentation of EABC activities and financial outlook. We had welcomed many members present in person or by proxy. Special thank you to our generous event sponsor; MultiCORE International Group and other EABC sponsors. Screen shows a sampling of members attending.

EABC/FTCC Pre-Christmas Cocktail



EABC together with FTCC organised a Pre-Christmas Cocktail at Volti restaurant & bar, Shangri-La Bangkok on 15th December. This event was a great success with more than 150 guests. Mr Patrice Pischedda, FTCC Vice President and Mr. Jan Eriksson, EABC president provide a welcome address. Mr. Petros Sourmelis, Head of Trade and Economic Section of the delegation of the European Union to Thailand and Mr. Remi Lambert, First Counsellor of the French Embassy also spoke at the event.