

Activity Report

2023

European Association for Business and Commerce (the European Chamber of Commerce Thailand)

The Activity Report 2023 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 2023 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
- European Service Forum
- The European Business Organisation Worldwide Network (EBOWWN)
- BOI
- South-East Asia IP SME Helpdesk
- Thailand-Europe Business Council (TERBC)
- OECD
- ARISE Plus
- International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)

Working Group by subject matter

(selected events only)

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

EABC Affairs

- Annual General Meeting 2023
- Breakfast Talk on Doing Business in Myanmar 2023
- EABC Networking Event: Collaborate & Connect
- EABC Luncheon Seminar: "The Next Phase of EU-Thailand Free Trade Negotiations"
- Webinar on "Ecosystem Development for Sustainable Travel & Tourism,"
- EBO ASEAN Webinar on EUDR
- EBO ASEAN Webinar on Circular Economy
- First Joint European Networking Cocktail
- Second Joint European Networking Cocktail

GENERAL ADVOCACY DIALOGUES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



On 18 January 2023, Dr. Charanya Nopnukulviset, Operations Director participated in the first meeting of EBO ASEAN to strengthen collaboration and discuss about future plan and activities for 2023.



On 24 January 2023 – EABC had an opportunity to meet with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) regarding the 2023 OECD Economic Survey of Thailand at EABC Office. EABC led by Mr. Bob Fox, Board member and Chair of Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, Mr. David Beckstead, Chair of Energy Working Group, Ms. Khemika Ratanakul, Chair of Food, Agriculture and Beverages Working Group, Dr. Charanya Nopnukulviset, Operations Director, and Ms. Wararangkana Hicks, Policy Manager participated in the meeting. The meeting was productive and consisted with fruitful discussion. EABC's Working Group Chairs also had the opportunity to share perspectives on various topics; Business conditions, Business climate, and Green Growth in Thailand.



On 29 March 2023, EABC's President, Mr. Farid Bidgoli, and Board members of EABC, had a constructive meeting with Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, Chairman of Thailand-Europe Business Council (TERBC) and his team at the EABC Office. The discussion aimed to identify areas related to EU-FTA, on which our two organisations could cooperate together. It was a very productive exchange, and will lead to new potential collaboration between EABC and TERBC more in the future.



On 11 May 2023, EABC representatives led by Mr. Jan Eriksson, Vice President, Mrs. Paranee Adulyapichet, Vice President, Mr. Tomasz Mazur, Board Director, and Dr. Charanya Nopnukulvisud, Operations Director attended Friends of Europe Reception at Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok. Thank you EU Delegation for this exclusive invitation. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Europe Day 2023.



On 18 May 2023, EABC delegates led by Mr. Jan Eriksson, Vice President, Mr. Bob Fox, Board Director and Chair of Digital Economy/ICT Working Group and Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager attended the Sustainability for Business Forum 2023 organised by The Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Swiss-Thai Chamber of Commerce (STCC), and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce (SweCham) at The Landmark Bangkok Hotel. Mr. Bob Fox shared his ideas and knowledge as Moderator of the CEO Panel Discussion, a key highlight of the event at #SBF2023. The session provided an exceptional opportunity to gain insights from the top business leaders in the field.



On 24 May 2023, EABC delegates led by Ms. Paranee Adulyaphicet, EABC Vice President, Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager and Mr. Napatr Kunachitpimol attend the AGRICONNECT Conference & Exhibition 2023 organised by DLG (German Agriculture Society) and VNU Asia Pacific, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

The conference aimed to address the challenges facing Southeast Asia's agriculture industry with influential stakeholders to be better prepared for tomorrow's challenges in the Agri-business and tackle the impacts on the environment. Ms. Paranee also had an opportunity to share her knowledge and expertise in agriculture and sustainability during the round table discussion on Sustainability in Southeast Asia Agriculture: Challenges in sustainable

production and opportunities for German agribusiness companies, jointly organised with the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany (BMEL).



On 15 June 2023 – EABC had a meeting with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD – OCDE), regarding corporate governance of state-owned enterprises, at EABC office and Zoom. The meeting provided valuable insights into the role of state-owned enterprises in the Thai economy, the challenges faced by the private sector in the business environment, and key focuses for the improvement of both state-owned and private enterprises.



Mr. Farid Bidgoli, EABC President sat down with Mr. Franc Han Shin, Business News Correspondent from Thai PBS World to discuss on foreign investors from minimum daily wage to stock market performance, including the EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. The interview delves deep into the pressing issues impacting the business landscape.



On 16 June 2023, EABC led by Mr. Matt Grose, Chair of the Insurance Working Group, Ms. Taliya Lakornsri, Vice Chair of the Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group and Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager, participated in the meeting of the ARISE Plus Thailand project on CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS at Pullman King Power Bangkok. The project aimed to support inclusive and sustainable trade growth in Thailand, while contributing to economic integration in the ASEAN region. One of the specific objectives of the project is to improve efficiency of public expenditure, by contributing to “Enhanced capacity of the CGD for the application of the public procurement framework in accordance with international standards.”



Dr. Charanya Nopnukulvised, Operations Director participated in the EBO Worldwide Network Annual Meeting in Brussels as a representative from EBO Thailand from 19-21 June 2023. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jason Collins from EBO Australia.

The constructive discussions with esteemed officials from the European Commission; DG GROW, DG INTPA, BusinessEurope including sharing best practice with other Executive Directors from other European Chambers across Worldwide. Together, we explored key topics relevant to each of our respective countries. We engaged in insightful conversations

that revolved around international partnerships and trade, aiming to establish strong foundations for future collaborations.



On 22 June 2023, EABC led by Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, Vice President and a Chair of Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group and Ms. Taliya Lakornsri, Vice Chair of the Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group, participated in the “WORKSHOP ON COMPETITION POLICY AND HEALTH CRISES” as part of the ARISE Plus Thailand project at Pullman King Power Bangkok.

The project aimed to support inclusive and sustainable trade growth in Thailand, while contributing to economic integration in the ASEAN region. One of the specific objectives of the project is to improve the efficiency of public expenditure by contributing to “Strengthened capacity of the Trade Competition Commission of Thailand (TCCT) for the application of the competition regulatory framework in accordance with international best practices.”



On 6 September, EABC delegates led by Mr. Box Fox, Board Member and Chair of Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, Mr. Matthew Grose, Chair of Insurance Working Group and Dr. Charanya Nopnukulviset, Operations Director attended the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)’s annual conference of the Southeast Asia Trade and Development Forum 2023 under the theme of “Conquering the Polycrisis Challenges” at the Athenee Hotel.

The Opening Ceremony was presided over by Prof. Dr. Somkit Lertpaithoon, Chairman of ITD. The forum addressed crucial aspects, such as enhancing trade resilience through global trade system fortification and supply chain diversification, reinforcing international cooperation and governance through multilateral efforts, promoting green technologies and sustainable practices for sustainable trade, and navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by digitalization.



On 4-5 October 2023, Mr. Bob Fox, Board Member and Chair of the Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, along with Charanya Nopnukulviset, Ph.D., Operations Director, participated

in the Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Rights in Asia Conference (CSERA). This significant event was co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment Programme).

The CSERA conference served as a dynamic platform, bringing together a select group of influential figures, including business leaders, investors, policy makers, academics, and civil society champions. These thought leaders converged to engage in profound discussions on the pivotal roles played by businesses and governments in upholding and reinforcing the newly recognized right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

One of the key focuses of this conference was the exploration of emerging regulatory norms. These encompassed diverse areas such as biodiversity impacts and disclosure, environmental and human rights due diligence, decarbonization strategies and carbon markets, and ESG reporting.

Mr. Bob Fox also participated as a distinguished panelist in the session titled “Climate Action 101: Emission Reduction Strategies”. He shared invaluable insights related to digitalization in addressing net-zero goals.



On 17 November 2023, EABC led by Dr. Charanya Nopnukulviset, Operations Director and Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager attended Thailand Health Roadshow on “Better Health Today For Tomorrow” organised by EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) at the Intercontinental Bangkok.

EABC Vice-President and a Chair of Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group, Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet had an opportunity to share her valuable insights and expertise on “Enhancing Innovative Healthcare Financing in Pursuit of Sustainable Healthcare” and joined

the Panel Discussion during the Session “Building a Sustainable Healthcare System and Enhancing Accessibility in Thailand.”

The event was filled with fruitful discussions and ways to reduce the mounting burden on the healthcare system and improve the health of Thai’s citizens, including the development of Thailand’s healthcare infrastructure and ecosystem to enable it to thrive and achieve public health outcomes sustainably through continued innovation and collaboration.



From 29 November - 1 December 2023, EU-ASEAN Business Council successfully organised the EABC/EU-ABC Mission Trip to Thailand 2023. Our delegation had an honour to engage with key governmental sectors, including the EU-Delegation to Thailand, fostering connections with government entities; Ministry of Economy and Society, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Energy, Bank of Thailand, Ministry of Industry, Customs Department, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Transport, Board of Investment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Ministry of Finance

Following the formation of new government, the meetings allowed us to gain firsthand updates on policy directions directly from government sectors, sought recommendations for potential partnerships, obtaining clarification on regulations, exploring strategic investment opportunities, and collaborated on reducing barriers to trade.



EBOWWN held the second annual global meeting online on 4 and 6 December 2023. The Meeting, which brings together representatives of over 50 European Business Organizations worldwide provided the unique opportunity to learn how other member chambers operate, collaborate, and grow. The Meeting also provided the unique opportunity to engage with EU officials from DG Grow, INTP, and CNECT on topics of mutual interest.



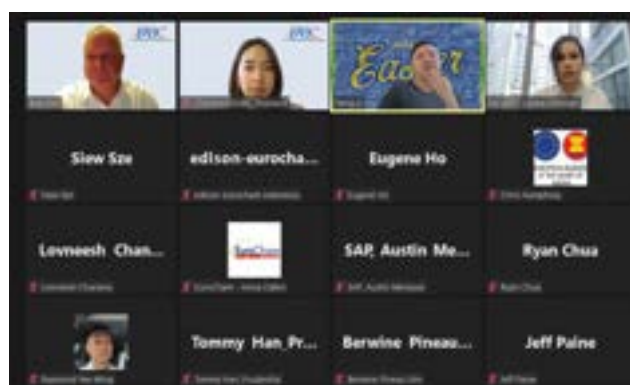
On 12 December 2023, the EABC Food, Agriculture, and Beverages Working Group, along with the Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group, engaged in a productive meeting with the Regulatory Guillotine Committee, led by Dr. Thongtong at the OPDC office. During the session, EABC had the opportunity to present the proposal from these Working Groups titled "EABC's Proposal For Reviewing Laws and Regulations To Reduce Unnecessary Burdens And Obstacles To Occupations And Business Operations," including 5 Parent Law Level and 13 Subordinate Legislation Level, contributing to the ongoing efforts to enhance regulatory efficiency and business facilitation with a focus on food, beverage and healthcare areas.



On 18 December 2023, EABC and TEBA had a fruitful meeting with Mr. Bernd Lange, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade, and his esteemed colleagues at the EU Delegation office. The discussion focused on the ongoing EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. EABC shared insights on challenges faced by European businesses in Thailand while operating in the Thai market, as well as the expectations from the EU-TH FTA. The open dialogue fostered a better understanding of the complexities involved, paving the way for collaborative solutions.

EABC WORKING GROUPS

DIGITAL ECONOMY/ICT



On 19 January 2023, the kick-off meeting for 2023 for the EU-ASEAN Business Council Digital Economy/ICT group was held. Mr. Bob Fox, Board Director and Chair of Digital Economy/ICT group prepared the agenda and chaired the meeting; Dr Charanya Nopnukulviset, Operations

Director participated. The discussion included Multi location services, cloud and necessary supporting regulation, Digital for Sustainability, Skills and the talent gap, Digital Platforms governance, Digital Taxes – tax collection in eCommerce context, Cross border digital trade, Cybersecurity collaboration.

The group also plans to engage regionally with ASEAN and propose a dialogue with digital ministers or permanent secretaries. The group will also aim to get a better grasp on the potentially confusing and overlapping ASEAN digital instruments. (There is a long list in EABCs 2022 European Business Position Paper at the end of the Digital Economy/ICT Chapter). This engagement is covered in the EABC/JFCCT Digital Economy/ICT Working Group.

The group held 12 formal regular meetings throughout 2023 with attendance typically around 30+.



EABC's Digital Economy/ICT Working Group responds 29 April 2023 to request for input from ASEAN Secretariat (via EU ASEAN Business Council) about a proposed Digital Economy Framework Agreement. EABC has put forward some 12 points for inclusion in subject matter, or about role of a DEFA.



On 25 May 2023, EABC led by Mr. Anthony Hoglund, Board Director / Chair of Tourism WG, Mr. Bob Fox, Board Director / Chair of DE/ICT WG, and Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager attended AI and Machine Learning — Trends and Caveats organised by Spanish-Thai Chamber and JFCCT's Digital Economy/ICT group. This event focused on understanding trends, issues and developments on AI. The main business and personal uses, how broadly does the technology work, what are the ethical requirements and issues, and what should businesses do to benefit and operate ethically. Mr. Bob Fox curated the event and shared his experience and expertise as moderator for a round table discussion on AI including Generative AI; Ethical AI; Machine Learning.



On 25 August 2023, EABC delegates led by Mr. Bob Fox, Board Member and a Chair of Digital Economy and ICT Working Group and Dr. Charanya Nopnukulviset, Operations Director had the honor of attending the Opening Ceremony of HACKaTHAILAND 2023: DIGITAL INFINITY at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC). HACKaTHAILAND, a visionary initiative by the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, stands as a pivotal multi-series project designed to foster the growth of digital skills amongst all members of the Thai community. The dialogue covered AI developments.



On 3 November 2023, EABC Digital Economy/ICT Working Group led by Mr. Bob Fox had an engagement with Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) on Software Development to enhance Thailand's digital industry.

The meeting was constructive consisted of proposal strategies to promote investment in the digital industry, including elevating investment promotion and facilitating digital industry investors. This includes supporting the exclusion of software businesses from the Foreign Business Act, developing work permits for various personnel, and enhancing service units for special channels (Fast Track Process). We would like to extend our gratitude to Mr. Narit Therdsteerasukdi, Secretary-General of the Board of Investment (BOI), along with Mr. Narucha Ruchuphan, Senior Executive Investment Advisor, Ms. Ratchanee Wattanawisitporn, Investment Promotion Division 4, and Ms. Kantarot Laopradith, Expatriate Services Division for the fruitful discussions.

ENERGY



On 5 April 2023, EU-ABC launched “Energy Transition in ASEAN” paper, which is the result of a collaborative effort between EU-ABC, EuroCham Cambodia, EuroCham Indonesia and EABC.



On 14 June 2023, EABC Energy Working Group, led by Mr. David Beckstead, Chair of the Energy WG, and our members Mr. Somesh Shah, Mr. Marty Sinthavanarong, and Mr. Erik

Foppen, had a meeting with the European Union Delegation. The meeting focused on key areas of concern, including providing an overview of the renewable energy sector in Thailand, discussing the outcomes of ERC procurement, exploring the development of Third Party Access, and addressing obstacles to the entry of foreign businesses into the sector.

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND BEVERAGES



On 14 February 2023, EABC delegates led by Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, Mr. Bob Fox and Ms. Khemika Ratanakul had a courtesy meeting with Mr. Narit Therdsteerasukdi, Secretary General of BOI at the office of the Board of Investment. This collaborative discussion centered around key areas of concern regarding Food, Beverages, and Agriculture. Both organizations were able to share their perspectives and expertise, resulting in a valuable exchange of ideas and insights. We would like to extend our gratitude to Mr. Narit and his team; Mr. Wirat Tatsaringkansakul, Deputy Secretary General and Ms. Tanita Sirisup, Executive Director for the fruitful discussion to improve the foreign investments in Thailand.



On 2 May 2023, EABC Food, Agriculture and Beverages Working Group led by Ms. Khemika Ratanakul, Chair of Food, Agriculture and Beverages Working Group, Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, Chair of Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group, our members, Mr. Thomas Sanchez, Ms. Nantiya Narkwachara, and Mr. Napatr Kunachitpimol had a meeting

with the European Union Delegation. This collaborative discussion centered around key areas of concern regarding, legislative updates in Food & Beverages sector, including the agriculture sector.



On 24 August 2023 – EABC led by Ms. Khemika Ratanakul, EABC Food, Agriculture, and Beverages Working Group Chair, Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager, and Ms. Supitcha Wongsakamhang, Advocacy Trainee attended The 29th Food & Hospitality Thailand (FHT) at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok.



On 20 November 2023, EABC led by Ms. Khemika Ratanakul, Chair of Food, Agriculture, and Beverages WG and Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager attended a seminar on “New Dimensions in Tourism with Food and Drink Culture” organised by Aec10News. The seminar aimed to address the economic stimulus guidelines set forth by the government, following Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin’s announcement regarding the extended operating hours of entertainment venues until 4:00 a.m.

HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS



On 10 February 2023, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group Taskforce on E-Pharmacy held a meeting at The Pharmacy Council, Ministry of Public Health. The meeting was very fruitful and productive, and consisted of various topics on; E-Pharmacy, Online Pharmacy and DIGITAL Pharmacy.



On 27 February 2023, EABC Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group led by Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, Vice President and Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Working Group Chair had a meeting with European Union Delegation at the Athenee Tower. This collaborative discussion centered around key areas of concern regarding, Sustainable financing, Self-care policy, IP- patent act & patent backlog, and EU FTA updates.



On 23 March 2023, The EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Working Group led by Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, EABC Vice President and Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Working Group Chair had an in-person meeting with The Comptroller General's Department. We would like to extend our gratitude to Mr. Rachata Ounsuk, Director of Legal Affairs Group on Civil Servants Medical Welfare Department of the Comptroller General's Department and his team for constructive discussions regarding the Sustainable Healthcare Financing and Risk-Sharing Agreement.



On 9 May 2023, The EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Working Group had a hybrid meeting with The Fiscal Policy Office at EABC Office and MS Teams regarding Risk-sharing and Managed-Entry Agreement discussion. We would like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Onnicha Sawangfa, Director of International Financial Policy Sector, Fiscal Policy Office and her team for constructive discussions on way forward for the Sustainable Healthcare Financing in Thailand.



On 29 June 2023, EABC organised the EABC Luncheon Policy Session: “Civil Servant Medical Benefit Scheme; Policy Direction, and Way Forward for Sustainable Financing and Patient Access,” at Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel. Our gratitude also goes to our speaker, Mr. Rachata Unsuk, Director of Medical Benefits Legal Affairs Subdivision, Comptroller General’s Department, for sharing his invaluable perspectives and expertise on these crucial matters. His contribution greatly enriched the fruitful discussions.



On 7 November 2023, EABC organized the Luncheon Policy Session: Moving Towards Sustainable Financing and Healthcare Access, presented by our Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group. This event aimed at encouraging collaboration between the government and private sectors to create policies that improve public access to healthcare services. We would like to extend our thanks to our speakers: Prof. Lotte Steuten, PhD Deputy Chief Executive Office of Health Economics, The United Kingdom and Assoc. Prof. Puree Anantachoti, Ph.D, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University. We extend our gratitude to representatives of the Ministry of Public Health, Comptroller General Department, Central Office for Healthcare Information, Food and Drug Admissions/NDI/NLEM, and Fiscal Policy Office for their presence. A special thank you to our sponsors, AstraZeneca, Janssen Cilag, and Roche, for their valuable support.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)



On 24 March 2023, Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) held a Consultation meeting on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in Thailand via Zoom. Mr. Vuttikrai Lewiraphan, Director General of DIP presided the opening remarks and welcomed all the participants in the meeting. EABC IPR Working Group members including Chair Digital Economy/ICT group had the opportunity to share their thoughts and perspectives on various topics; Patent Act, Copyright Act, GI Act, Customs issue, MOU issue, Data Protection, AI developments and IP Enforcement. The meeting was also joined by representatives from EU Delegation to Thailand, US Embassy, USABC and AMCHAM.



On 27 March 2023, EABC IPR Working Group led by Ms. Ploynapa Julagasigorn, IPR WG Chair, Mr. Bob Fox, Board Director / DE-ICT WG Chair, Mr. Franck Fougere, Managing Partner at Ananda IP, and Ms. Pavinee Bunyissara, Partner at Nishimura & Asahi had a meeting with the European Union Delegation at the EUD Office. This collaborative discussion centered around key areas of concern regarding, legislative updates in the IPR sector, MOUs, Copyright & Data Protection, IP enforcement, and a summary of the DIP Consultation meeting.



On 28 March 2023, Ms. Ploynapa Julagasigorn, EABC IPR Working Group Chair, Mr. Bob Fox, Board Director and Digital Economy/ICT Working Group Chair attended the Exchange of Good Practices on Limiting Advertising on IP-Infringing Websites and Mobile Applications in Thailand organised by IP Key SEA. Ms. Ploynapa had the opportunity to share the EU Business Perspective on the Thailand MOU on Online Advertising and Intellectual Property Rights together with Ms. Chalin Aryapitak, Legal Officer, Practitioner Level, Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand and Ms. Mafalda Alves Inverneiro Fortuna Do Couto, Legal and Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission



On 18 August 2023, EABC led by Ms. Pavinee Bunyamissara, Chair of IPR Working Group; Ms. Warangkana Hicks, EABC Policy Manager; and Ms. Saowanee Leewijitsin, our esteemed member; attended Intellectual Property Fair 2023 (IP Fair 2023) at Samyan Mitrtown.



On 31 August 2023, EABC led by Ms. Pavinee Bunyamissara, Chair of IPR WG, Mr. Franck Fougere, our esteemed member and former Chair of IPR WG, and Ms. Warangkana Hicks, Policy Manager attended the destruction ceremony of counterfeit products organised by Department of Intellectual Property (DIP).

RAIL AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE



On 24 January 2023, an official meeting between German diplomats and the GTRA (German-Thai Railway Association) was held at the German Embassy to follow up on the Railway Cooperation Joint Declaration of Intent between Thailand and Germany. The EABC was represented by Board Director Tomasz Mazur and Chair of the Rail & Road Infrastructure Working Group Georg Wolff. Representatives from SRT, BTS, and the Rail Transport Department of the Ministry of Transport joined the discussion. The focus was on priorities and strategy to support the Thai authorities in bringing railway operations in line with the German / European level. Since GTRA and EABC are pursuing the same goals here, it was decided to cooperate in future activities.



On 17 March 2023, EABC Rail and Road Infrastructure Working Group led by Mr. Georg Wolff, Working Group Chair, Mr. Tomasz Mazur, EABC Board Director and Mr. Herve LEMOINE, Managing Director of Dextra Manufacturing had a meeting with EU Delegation. This collaborative discussion centered around critical areas of concern regarding, strategy, actions, achievements, and way forward in the field of Rail & Road in Thailand, including EU FTA negotiations.

TOURISM



Regularly attended the meetings with JFCCT Tourism Committee. Major topics are MICE, greener tourism, and many more. Reskilling of the workforce was also major focus in the tourism and hospitality sector post-pandemic the committee covering this agenda item throughout the year along with other working groups.

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS



On 9 August 2023, EABC Transport and Logistics Working Group led by Mr. Roderich Hoffman, Working Group Chair, and Dr. Thomas Fernandez, our esteemed member, had a meeting with EU Delegation. The meeting focused on key areas of concern, including providing an overview of transport and logistics sector, the goals for customs facilitation, obstacles to develop the Thai customs progress, and prospects of EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement on customs development.



On 29 November 2023, EABC Transportation and Logistic Working Group had a meeting with the Deputy Director General of the Thai Customs Department, Mrs. Kitjaluck Srinuchsart to discuss various topics from; Update on the further progress of ACTS; Reward and penalty system; Status of digitalisation of the Department and; Customs Department's key priorities.

EABC AFFAIRS



On 9 March 2023, EABC Thailand and EuroCham Myanmar organized a Breakfast Talk on Doing Business in Myanmar 2023 at Bangkok Spaces, Chamchuri Square. We would like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Lucia Balogova, Counsellor, Economic and Trade Section from the European Union Delegation, Mr. Jan Eriksson, Vice President of EABC, for their valuable opening remarks that set the tone for a productive and engaging morning, and Mr. Thitiwat Thanapornnithinan, EABC Board Director for his generous sponsor on the event location. The event received positive feedback, with significant contributions from our speakers, Karina Ufert, Chief Executive Officer of EuroCham Myanmar, and Thet Zaw Htwe, Head of Policy and Strategy of EuroCham Myanmar, for sharing their expertise regarding Myanmar's current business operating environment.



On 27 April 2023, EABC organised the Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by the Networking Cocktail at Amara Bangkok. We would like to extend our gratitude to H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union, who delivered the opening remarks at our Networking Cocktail. We are very grateful to all the sponsors who have provided financial and

in-kind support to the event: MultiCORE, Dextra, L'Oréal, AS Group, Aviation Pro, The Ascott, B.Braun, L'Oréal, The Ascott, Amara Bangkok, Loka Beer and Diageo Moët Hennessy Thailand.



On 30 May 2023, EABC organised the EABC Networking Event: Collaborate & Connect at Regus, 66 Tower. We would like to extend our thank to Mr. Lars Wittig, Country Manager, SVP ASEAN, Taiwan, S. Korea, IWG Plc who delivered the opening remarks at our networking event. We are very grateful to our venue sponsor: International Workplace Group (IWG) and our beverage sponsor: Loka Beer for their generous support.



On 9 June 2023, EABC organised the EABC Luncheon Seminar: “The Next Phase of EU-Thailand Free Trade Negotiations” at Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit. Our gratitude also goes to our speakers who shared their valuable perspectives on the EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement during the Panel Discussion on Next Steps and Future Prospects: H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Thailand; Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce; Mr. Wisarn Supphavesa, Senior Advisor at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI);

Professor Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Professor of International Relations, Senior Fellow of the Institute of Security and International Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Furthermore, we extend our deep appreciation to sponsors who provided financial support to make this event possible: Spica Co., Ltd and Diageo Moët Hennessy Thailand.



On 2 August 2023, EABC co-organised a webinar on “Ecosystem Development for Sustainable Travel & Tourism,” with the EuroCham Singapore, EuroCham Malaysia, EuroCham Philippines, and Booking.com via Zoom. This session provided valuable insights into ecosystem development, such as raising awareness within local communities, promoting sustainable guidance from the government to private stakeholders, fostering collaboration among all stakeholders, and offering incentives for sustainable practices.

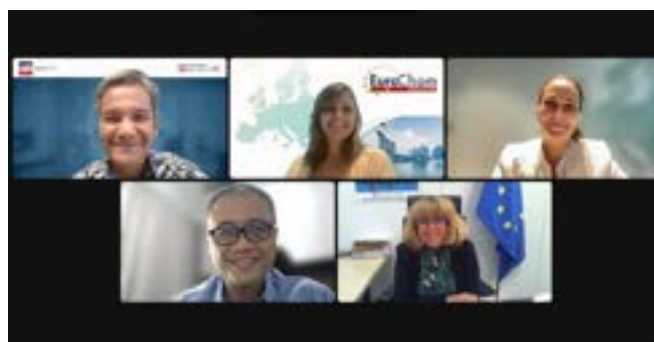


On 31 August 2023, EABC organised its first Joint European Networking event of 2023 at The Athenee Hotel, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Bangkok in the presence of 230 participants. This event was organized in collaboration with 18 European national Chambers in Thailand. We also extend our gratitude to Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Governor of Bangkok for greeting us with his presence, and for a friendly engagement to all participants. We are very grateful to all the sponsors who have provided financial and in-kind support to the event: MultiCORE, Dextra Asia, B. Braun, Diageo Moët Hennessy, Amara Bangkok, Anantara Siam Bangkok,

Bumrungrad International Hospital, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, Samitivej Hospital, YCP Solidiance, Singha Estate and S Hotels and Resorts, L'Oréal Thailand and The Athenee Hotel.



Our recent joint webinar with EBO ASEAN delved into 'Understanding Better: The European Union Anti-Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)' on 22 September 2023. The distinguished speaker, Henriette Færgemann (First Counsellor for Environment, Climate Action, & Digital Cooperation, EU Delegation Indonesia), shared insights into the essence of EUDR. This pivotal regulation mandates rigorous diligence across the value chain for commodities like cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, beef, and timber, ensuring compliance before entry into the EU market. The EU stands ready to collaborate and support both ASEAN SMEs and EU companies in ASEAN, facilitating seamless exports in adherence to EUDR.



EBO ASEAN successfully carried out a webinar entitled, “The Circular Economy Action Plan: Insights and Significance For The Southeast Asian Region”, which featured Mrs. Astrid Schomaker, Director Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism, European Commission Directorate General Environment on 20 October 2023. The webinar was a collaborative effort of EuroCham Vietnam, EuroCham Cambodia, EuroCham Laos, EuroCham Myanmar, EuroCham Malaysia, EuroCham Philippines, EuroCham Indonesia, EuroCham Singapore and EABC Thailand. The webinar was aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of a topic of increased relevance and interest in today’s world and attracted numerous questions from the audience. During her presentation, Ms Schomaker highlighted efforts taken to enhance

stakeholder engagement on the circular economy transition within Southeast Asia through a platform (<https://ce.acsdsd.org/>).



On 30 November, EABC organised the second edition of its Joint European Networking Cocktail, at The Athenee Hotel. This event was organized in collaboration with 15 European national Chambers in Thailand. This event was the opportunity to celebrate the friendship relationships between Europe and Thailand, with the presence of Delegation from EU-ABC to Thailand. The event was a great success, thanks to the support of our sponsors: Luther Thailand, Criterion Asia Recruitment, SCL Nishimura & Asahi Limited, YCP Solidiance Thailand, Pernod Ricard, Getfresh, L'Oréal, Maison Hotel, Macrame by Nicha, Oriental Residence, Rajawongse Clothier, Punjab Grill, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, Singha Estate and S Industrial Estate, The Athenee Hotel, and Waldorf Astoria.