

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

(with select events in 2020)

For EABC AGM 6 August 2020

EABC ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

European Association for Business and Commerce



The Activity Report 2019 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 and 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 its Working Group Chairs meeting has been a catalyst (in collaboration with Working Group Chairs) for the advancement of effective advocacy.

The EABC Activity Report 2019 is in three parts:

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

General Advocacy Dialogues and Events

- EUIPO
- BOI
- EUD
- OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER
- EU-ABC MISSION TO THAILAND

- SELECT EVENTS FOR 2020

Working Group by subject matter

- AUTOMOTIVE
- CROSS SECTORAL ISSUES (CSI)
- DIGITAL ECONOMY/ICT
- ENERGY
- FOOD AND BEVERAGE
- HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS
- INSURANCE
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
- RAIL AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE
- SMES
- TOURISM
- TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

EABC Affairs

- AGM
- FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND FOREIGN BUSINESS ACT SEMINAR
- EABC MULTI-CHAMBER BUSINESS NETWORKING
- ADVISORY COUNCIL FIRST MEETING
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
- ASEAN-EU BUSINESS SUMMIT
- ADVISORY COUNCIL FIRST MEETING

EABC Pays Tribute To The Contributions Of A Remarkable Person, Dr. Deunden Nikomborirak, Research Director At The Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)



GENERAL ADVOCACY DIALOGUES AND EVENTS

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION HOSTED BY EU AMBASSADOR (15 JANUARY 2019)



A New Year celebration hosted by Ambassador Tapiola, EU Ambassador to Thailand, Our President, Mr. Stefan Molnar merrily attended the event, together with many friendly European and National Chambers of Commerce. Strengthened European business presence in Thailand.

EABC SEMINAR ON FOREIGN BUSINESS ACT (26 FEBRUARY 2019)



EABC organized FBA seminar aims to provide an understanding of the workings of the regulation of foreign investment and insights into what EABC can be done to contribute more to the competitiveness of the Thai economy. The seminar also include Moderated Business Roundtable – major issues. Dialogue, then Q&A.

Speakers include Dr Giuseppe Busini, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, Mr.

Vuttikrai Leewiraphan, Director-General, Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce, Dr Deunden Nikomborirak, Research Director, Economic Governance TDRI, Mr Chaiwat Keratisuthisathorn, Tilleke & Gibbins and Mr Bob Fox, Chair, JFCT & EABC Digital Economy/ICT group.

CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AT THE EU DELEGATION (15 MARCH 2019)



EABC was invited to participate in a roundtable meeting organized jointly by the EU Delegation and the Asia Foundation, to discuss the China's Belt and Road Initiative at the EU Delegation.

MEETING WITH AMRO (8 MARCH 2019)



EABC was honored to have a meeting with AMRO representatives, Dr. Ruperto Majuca, Dr. Lee Jae Young, Ms. Pyae Nandar Aung, Mr. Yang Yang-Hyeon, and Ms. Wanwisa May Vorrarikulkij.

Topics in discussion included the current update of Thai economic situation as well as the update of the FTA negotiations between Thailand and EU. EABC representatives, Mr. Bob Fox and Mr. Antoine Gustin addressed specific questions, while Mr. Karri Kivela referred to Mr. Philipp Dupuis' last interview in Bangkok Post concerning the current status of the FTA negotiations.

THE DINNER RECEPTION FOR THE GREECE BUSINESS DELEGATION (31 MAY 2019)



Mr. Karri Kivela, EABC Executive Director was invited by Mr. John Fotiadis, Chairman of the Hellenic-Thai Chamber of Commerce to join the Dinner Reception for the Greece Business Delegation and representatives of Board of Trade, Board of Investment and other Thai Government organizations at Hyatt Sukhumvit.

ECOMMERCE & GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (6 JUNE 2019)



EABC was invited to attend a Thailand-EU Seminar on E-commerce and GDPR, organized by The Mission of Thailand to the EU, in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, with the objective of providing a

better understanding in e-commerce, particularly the EU Digital Single Market Strategy. H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola (Ambassador of EU to Thailand), along with H.E. Mr. Manasvi Srisodapol (Thailand Ambassador to EU), and Dr. Pichet Durongkaverroj (Minister for Digital Economy & Society) delivered opening remarks. EABC's Chair of Digital Economy/ICT, Mr Bob Fox, delivered a presentation on Global issues with Data, and Expanding Business into the EU. EABC has long been involved with the development of Thailand's new Personal Data Protection Law and how the GDPR applies to Thailand. EABC was involved with the seminar on Data Privacy and the GDPR, held in Bangkok in November 2018 and continues to play a key advocacy role in developments in Data, Privacy, Cybersecurity, Digital Skills, Cross border trade, a trusted internet and related issues.

SPANISH BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN BANGKOK (11 JUNE 2019)



Spanish Ambassador, H.E. Emilio de Miguel Calabia (in the middle) invited the Spanish business people to his Residence. Spanish business community in Bangkok are starting their Chamber of Commerce this Fall and EABC has been in close contact with the Spanish Embassy Trade counselor and with their Business representatives in Thailand.

**EU BUSINESS AVENUES TO S E ASIA:
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES BUSINESS MISSION
(21 JUNE 2019)**



For the third year running, EABC played a leading role in providing insights into engaging in the Digital Economy in Thailand and arranging for a select number of Thailand-based, European-connected ICT SMEs to give short overviews of their experience in being established. The whole event was centred around some 50 visiting European ICT SMEs. Mr Bob Fox, Chair, Digital Economy/ICT Working Group presented on 'Engaging in the Digital Economy in Thailand'. The overall event is organized by the EU.

**MEETING WITH HEALTHCARE & LIFE SCIENCES
REVIEW (25 JUNE 2019)**



Mr. Karri, EABC Director had a pleasant meeting with Ms. Magdalena A. Kantor (Project Director) and Ms. Manon Canicio (Project Coordinator) of the Thailand Healthcare and Life Science Review 2019, discussing the collaboration and commitment of European Companies to Thailand and the potential of Thailand becoming the investment hub in the region.

**A CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE
PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
(19 AUGUST 2019)**



EABC participated in the regular update on IP issues run by the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP), Ministry of Commerce, on The Executive Director, Chair and members of EABC's IPR Working Group and chair of EABC's Digital Economy/ICT Working Group had the opportunity to provide perspectives and concerns on topics including patents, trade marks (eg plain packaging), copyright (eg responsibility of on-line intermediaries for IPR infringements) and related areas.

OCPB MEETING (20 SEPTEMBER 2019)



EABC met with the Office of Consumer Protection Board (OCPB) in support of a case of revocation of on-line licence. A new requirement that on-line merchants provide a bank guarantee had not been communicated well and a number of companies, including EABC member, Adidas Thailand, were not aware of the requirement and had technically failed to comply, with significant consequences, including revocation of licence, barring of directors and cessation of on-line sales. EABC had taken up the

case and written to OCPB in late July, seeking a fair resolution. At the meeting the Secretary-General of OCPB announced that OCPB had reviewed the case of EABC member, Adidas, and determined that only a minor technical breach had occurred and that the company could re-apply for a licence with the same entity and directors, subject to paying a modest penalty. At the 20 September meeting were Mr Karri Kivela, Executive Director of EABC, Mr Bob Fox, chair of EABCs Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, two representatives of the German Embassy, the EU Delegation as an observer and two Adidas representatives. EABC and others expressed gratitude to OCPB for its most reasonable decision. At the request of the OCPB, EABC agreed to follow up to communicate the message about these developments, to other companies affected where there was known information

A SEMINAR ON OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THAILAND IN NEGOTIATING THE THAI-EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (23 September 2019)



EABC attended a seminar organized by Department of Trade Negotiations on Opportunities and Challenges for Thailand in Negotiating the Thai-EU Free Trade Agreement at Anantara Siam Hotel. This seminar was held according to Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit’s decision to revive negotiation with the European Union on the FTA, which have been on hold since 2014. Department of Trade Negotiations is conducting a study on the pros and cons of the

trade agreement and it will be finalized within November.

EU-ARISE PLUS PROJECT (7 OCTOBER 2019)



EABC was honored to have a meeting with three representatives of ARISE Plus – Thailand Project. The ARISE Plus – Thailand Project is aimed at supporting country-specific interventions to complement the ARISE PLUS Regional programme and the overall ASEAN regional integration process. The project will focus on the topics of Competition, Public procurement and trade-oriented organic agriculture. The overall Objective is to support inclusive and sustainable trade growth and poverty reduction in Thailand, while contributing to economic integration in the ASEAN region.

STUDY ON INTERNATIONAL BIDDING PROCESS IN THAILAND (16 OCTOBER 2019)



EABC held a productive meeting with the representatives of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP together with Comptroller’s General Department (CGD), Ministry of Finance is undertaking the study on identifying impediments to tendering by international bidders, after the new public procurement act has been enacted in 2017. The

main objectives of this study are to help the CGD understand the constraints nature of international participation in tendering and making practical improvements that would promote such participation. UNDP is supporting the CGD by providing technical assistance to this study and has secure the availability of expert who will conduct a focus group mission and interviews among stakeholders. To promote the fair business environment and enhance competitiveness in Thailand, they sought EABC's support to discuss on our view and experiences of foreign business activities, particularly on companies from the EU whom may have been participated in the international bidding process with the Thai Government.

MEETING WITH CUSTOMS ATTACHE FROM THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN THAILAND (22 OCTOBER 2019)



EABC led by Mr. Roderich Hoffmann, Mr. John Quarmby, Dr. Thomas E. Fernandez, and Dr. Charanya Nopnukulvised, had the opportunity to meet with the Customs Attache from the Embassy of France in Thailand, Mr. Denis Bertuit, to discuss about facility of doing business in Thailand in relation to Thai Customs Administration.

DIGITAL THAILAND BIG BANG 2019 (28 OCTOBER 2019)



EABC was invited to the Digital Thailand Big Bang 2019. From the great success of the event throughout the past two years, Digital Thailand Big Bang has created a tremendous flow and alertness among people of all ages, including foreign partners, in the topic of changing the country with the technology of Thailand. Exclusively, in 2019, Thailand has been given the role of ASEAN Chairman once again after a decade to host the annual ASEAN Summit which is organized by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—an arena for international cooperation to carry out cooperation activities among all 10 member countries in economy, society, culture, security, technology, innovation, etc. H.E. Gen. Prayut Chan-O-Cha, the Prime Minister, was one of the many speakers of the event.

DIALOGUE WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE NEGOTIATION (1 NOVEMBER 2019)



EABC was invited by DTN to take part in meeting on “Opportunities and Challenges of a possible Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Thailand and the European Union”. The objective of this meeting was to engage local business including European companies established in Thai market early on in the process, and gather opinions and relevant information for future decision making on the resumption of FTA talks. A follow up high level submission about EU-TH FTA content was provided to DTN following the meeting.

WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL BIDDING PROCESS IN THAILAND (15 NOVEMBER 2019)



EABC delegates attended a workshop on enhance Competitiveness in Public Tendering workshop organized by UNDP. This workshop had presented the finding from the first mission of what may be a possible impediments for Eriksson, President of EABC and co-organised by EEC Office and EABC.

foreign companies to join international bidding in public procurement.

EABC PRESIDENT DELIVER A SPEECH AT “SPEED OF CHANGE” EVENT (26 NOVEMBER 2019)



Jan Eriksson, President of EABC outlined the regulatory changes Thailand may need to consider to keep up with the Topics discussed included resolving issues regarding the tax regime, attracting more foreign investment, the workings of the legal system and the rule of law, access to work permits and visas, and human capital development and anti-corruption practices.

INVESTING IN THAILAND: EXPLORING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EEC (4 DECEMBER 2019)



EABC Delegates led by Mr. Jan Eriksson, Mr. Georg Wolff, Mr. Robert Fox, Mr. Roderich Hoffmann attended the seminar on Investing in Thailand: Exploring Investment Opportunities in the EEC. The event was opened by Mr. Jan

BUSINESS & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LUXEMBOURG (17 DECEMBER 2019)



On the occasion of the official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of H.E. Mr. Etienne Schneider, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Economy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, EABC Operations Director and Policy Manager were invited to attend a high-level seminar entitled “Business and Investment Opportunities in Luxembourg,” held in collaboration with the Thai Chamber of Commerce, at the Sukhothai Hotel in Bangkok. The objective of this seminar was to strengthen and deepen trade and business relations between Thailand and Luxembourg, as well as to present Luxembourg and its thriving economy, with a special focus in the fields of automotive, logistics, manufacturing, clean & health technologies, ICT, and digital innovation

EABC ACTIVITY 2020

OECD consultation – Discussion of draft Investment Policy Review of Thailand (7 February 2020); and on-line follow up 12 February



EABC attended a conference organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Investment Policy Review of Thailand, held on 7 Feb 2020, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok with an on-line follow up on 12 February. The discussion revolved around Thailand’s competitiveness and the role of investment, investment treaties, and the promotion of responsible business conduct.

EU-ASEAN Business Council Mission Trip to Thailand (17-19 February 2020)



The 2020 EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) Business Mission to Thailand was the largest thus far to the Kingdom, bringing together nearly 100 representatives from over 30 leading European corporations. The mission, which took place over three days from February 17-19, highlighted Thailand’s vision for the years ahead and the

wide array of opportunities present for European business.

Constructive dialogue took place with the following top decision-makers: Prime Minister, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, EU Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola, Minister of Finance (MOF), H.E. Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), H.E. Dr. Suwit Maesincee, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), Mr. Narapat Kaewthong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Transport (MOT), Mr. Suchart Chokchaiwattanakorn, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Thailand (BOT), Mr. Ronadol Numnonda, Director-General of the Customs Department, Mr. Krisada Chinavicharana, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Energy (MOE), Dr. Prasert Sinsukprasert, Executive Investment Advisor of the Board of Investment (BOI), Mr. Chanin Khaochan.

Department of Trade Negotiation Dialogue (10 March 2020)



On 10 March 2020, EABC had a meeting with DTN with the purpose for EABC, as European business community, to learn more about understanding of local businesses view towards TH-EU FTA. IFD project lead also attended the meeting to present the key findings of the

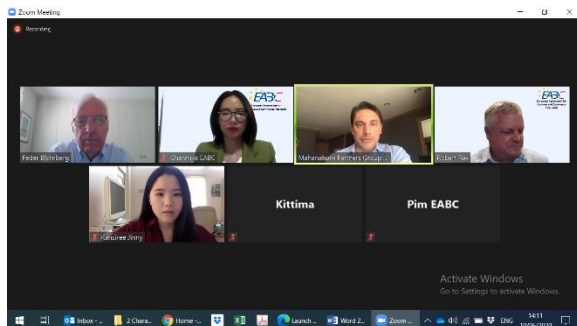
report. The meeting was attended from EABC by Mr Georg Wolff and Mr Bob Fox.

Dialogue with Office of the Permanent Secretary for Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (29 May 2020)



EABC delegates leading by Mr. Jan Eriksson, Dr. Thavirap Tantiwongse, Mr. Bob Fox, Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, Mr. Peter Rankl, Dr. Kittima Sriwatanakul, Ms. Wanalee Kunthon together with Mr. Gonzalo Herrera, Attaché from the EU Delegation in Thailand and Dr. Hugh O’Connell, ICDL Thailand had a virtual dialogue with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soranit Siltharm, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) to discuss about a collaboration in research and innovation between Thailand and Europe.

Interview session on Public Procurement Act's (United Nations Development Programme and EABC) (10 June 2020)



On Wednesday 10 June 2020, Mr. Robert Fox (Chair of Digital ICT Working Group), Dr. Kittima (Vice Chair of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare

Working Group) and Mr. Luca Bernardinetti (member of EABC), were interviewed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for expertise on public procurement.

EU-AEAN Business Council webinar ASEAN Fight Against COVID-19: A European Perspective (11 June 2020)



EU-ASEAN Business Council hosted the first Inter-Chamber Webinar on 11th June 2020 from 15.00-16.00. The Executive Directors from the various European Chambers of Commerce in ASEAN provided an update on the latest developments and provide insights on how to navigate the complexities of new economic trends which may surface, post COVID-19. EABC was represented by Operations Director.

EU IP Key Virtual Roundtable on Industry and Intermediary Cooperation Against Online IPR Infringements in Thailand (12 June 2020)



On Friday 12th June 2020, Mr. Franck Fougere, Chairperson of Intellectual Property Rights and Mr. Bob Fox, Chairperson of Digital Economy/ICT Working Group each presented and shared information on the issues and challenges faced by IPR owners in Thailand in terms of online infringements in the “Virtual roundtable on Industry and Intermediary cooperation against online IPR infringements in Thailand” organized by the EU IP KEY Southeast Asia. The roundtable was a discussion among representative from Department of Intellectual property rights (DIP), EU Delegation, online platform and IPR owners in Thailand.

EABC WORKING GROUPS

AUTOMOTIVE



AUTOMOTIVE WORKING GROUP WITH TEBA & EUD

On 30th Jan, EABC together with TEBA – Thai European Business Association Automotive Working Group have participated in the consulting meeting with EU Delegation on standards for automotive issues. The EABC has also been informed of new project coming to Thailand.



TEBA & EABC JOINT AUTOMOTIVE WORKING GROUP MEETING

On Tuesday Morning (Jun 4th), EABC and TEBA held our joint Automotive Working Group Meeting at Michelin meeting room. The Meeting was attended by companies such as Bosch, BMW, Continental, CNH Industrial Services (Thailand), Mercedes-Benz, Michelin, P.C.S holding, TUV Rheinland, and Triumph Motorcycles.



POSITION PAPER DEVELOPMENT WITH TEBA

On Tuesday Morning (18th Jun), EABC Director and the Automotive Working Group had a joint meeting with Thai-European Business Association (TEBA) with the aim to finalize EABC position paper 2019 development.



AUTOMOTIVE WORKING GROUP WITH TEBA & EUD

On 27 September 2019, EABC together with TEBA – EABC Automotive Working Group participated in the consulting meeting with EU Delegation on standards for automotive issues. The EABC has also been informed of new project coming to Thailand.

CROSS SECTORAL ISSUES (CSI)

Europe trade body wants end to TM30



The European Association for Business and Commerce has proposed an immediate end to the TM30 as being inept and T30H change of passport address immigration form.

TM30

On 17 September 2019, EABC went public with recommendations about the immigration form TM.30, that it should be revoked. The Bangkok Post published EABCs message and detailed recommendations on 18 September and the 22 September edition included two Post Bag letters in support, referring to EABC.

DIGITAL ECONOMY/ICT



DIGITAL ECONOMY/ICT GROUP MEETING

EABC Digital Economy/ICT Working Group jointly with JFCCT's Digital Economy/ICT Committee, chaired by Mr. Bob Fox, held a regular monthly meetings from Jan 2019 – Dec 2019 in total 12 Working group meetings.

Topics included: Digital Governance, Cybersecurity – State accountability for actions, Data Privacy, Digital Government, Digital Literacy, Infrastructure & Industry reform including wholesale and SOE reform, 5G: Spectrum planning, Fake News, On line Governance and Privacy. Several government and other external meetings were held,



TNCC EVENT “ SCALING YOUR SME”

On Thursday, 26 September 2019, Mr. Bob Fox, Working group chair was moderator at the event of Thai-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with dtac at dtac's HQ at Chamchuri Square in Bangkok. Close to 120 participants including 14 booth exhibitors attended at the event which looked at SME digitization, new market entry and organic growth of the SME.

The Digital Economy/ICT Working Group through its chair also participated in organizing, speaking or moderating as follows:

EU-ABC Mission to Malaysia 2019

EU Business Avenues in S E Asia June 2019

EU-Thailand eCommerce & GDPR 6 June 2019

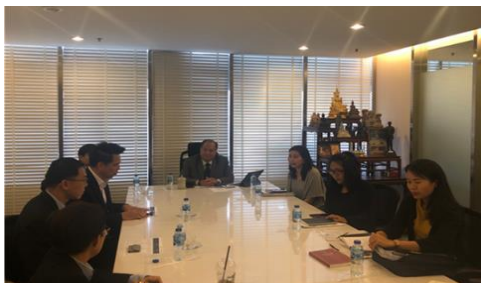
EU IP Key – Paper delivered at Responsibilities for on-line intermediaries.

Moderator of Digital Panel – EU-ABC regional Summit Bangkok October 2019

Swedish Chamber Smart Cities Symposium – moderator of all three sessions.

The Digital Economy/ICT group was very active in EABC events as organizer or speaker, which are described in other parts of this Report and some are listed in the box at left.

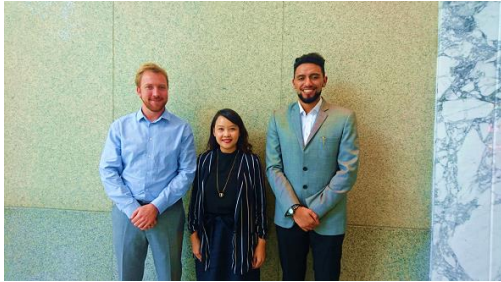
FOOD AND BEVERAGES



MEETING WITH EXCISE DEPARTMENT

On 27 March 2019, EABC delegates led by Mr. Chaladbum Temkasem, Ms. Charanya Nopnukulvised, along with Food and Beverages Working Group had a meeting with Mr. Nutthakorn Utensute, Director Planning Bureau and senior government officers at Excise Department. Topic in discussion included a new regulation for Alcohol beverages.

HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS



WORKING GROUP MEETING

On 23 January, EABC's Healthcare & Pharmaceutical WG, led by Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet (Chairperson / Bayer) and Mr. Jan R. Christensen (Vice Chairperson / Zuellig Pharma) held a small meeting with Mr. J. Sebastian Cortes-Sanchez, representative of Asian Trade Centre (ATC), seeking supports from EABC to grasp a better understanding of the key issues in ASEAN market, particularly in Healthcare sector. Topics discussed in the meeting included his current projects in ASEAN, the structure of Thai Pharmaceutical sector, and barriers to entry of foreign business in healthcare industry.



WORKING GROUP MEETING NO.4/2019

On 8 August 2019, EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Working Group held a formal meeting at EABC Office. Topics in discussion included sharing update on EABC & EUABC Healthcare paper & ASEAN NTM paper, review of past engagement – EU Delegation meeting/ IPR meeting with Department of Intellectual Property, E-Health/Digital healthcare vs. Privacy law, planning forward for 2H 2019 – key stakeholder engagement.



WORKING GROUP MEETING NO.5/2019

On 5 September 2019, Main topics in discussion included position paper launch event date, the upcoming EABC Healthcare and Pharma WG event and proposal for additional Roundtable with MOF, MOPH, MOH, SSO, & Healthcare Services.



HEALTHCARE WORKING GROUP MEETING WITH ADB

27 May 2019, EABC and two representatives of our Healthcare Working Group, Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet and Mr. Jan Christensen met with the representatives of Asian Development Bank (ADB). We discussed the ADP concept paper on Supporting regional economic cooperation in the GMS region through the Healthy Special Economic Zones project. The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are driven by migrant workers. There is a great need to improve the migrant health in the GMS and this can be done by coordinated approach to the problem.

ADB is planning a Border Zone Health Fund (BZHF). This means cooperation between ADB (grants and loans), Ministry of Public Health and other participating ministries and development partners from private sector and philanthropists.



ON-LINE ANTI-COUNTERFEITING MEASURES SEMINAR

23 July 2019, Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) organised an information day on 19 July ('Workshop on Anti-Counterfeiting Measures in the Digital Era') attended by three EABC Working Group Chairs (IPR, Digital Economy/ICT and Health&Pharma) and the Executive Director. The event covered the collaboration amongst on-line market place operators, rights holders, and enforcement agencies.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)



NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) WORKING GROUP

EABC would like to congratulate a new Chairman of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Working Group, Mr. Franck Fougere, Managing Partner of Ananda Intellectual Property. Wanalee Kunthon from Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. will continue to serve as vice chair of IPR Working Group.



DEBRIEFING THE 7TH MEETING OF THE IP DIALOGUE

On Monday November 4th, EABC attended a debriefing at the EU Delegation about the 7th meeting of the IP Dialogue between Thailand and the EU that took place on September 13th.

RAIL AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE



WORKING GROUP MEETING

On March 28th, a delegation of EABC Working Group Rail & Road Infrastructure led by chairman Mr. Georg Wolff, visited the Ministry of Transport. In a meeting of the German-Thai Railway Partnership chaired by the Minister of Transport H.E. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith and the Ambassador of Germany, H.E. Georg Schmidt, the establishment of a German-Thai Railway Association (GTRA) was agreed and the invitation letters to all major stakeholder in the Railway sector.

SME



A FORCE FOR SMART SMES TO GROW STRONG

On 5 July 2019, K. Thitiwat Thanapornnithinan, member of SME Working Group attended BOI seminar with Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) for investment and funding support for SMEs. In the seminar, BOI revealed more on what are measurements, and how will they encourage innovation.



SME NIGHT: SHARE, MEET AND ENJOY

Our EABC SME: Share, Meet and Enjoy Night on 29 August 2019 at ABar, 37th Fl. of Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park brought together over 100 prestigious guests, which was well exceeded our expectations! It was something different and the response from everyone who attended has been extremely positive. SME: Share, Meet and Enjoy Night on

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS



CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT MEETING

On 20 March 2019, EABC led by Mr. John Quarmby, Mr. Roderich Hoffmann, Mr. Chaladbum Temkasem, and Ms. Charanya Nopnukulvised, had the opportunity to meet with the Director of Legal Affairs Bureau of the Customs Department, Mr. Manoch Rodsom, to discuss about the EEC Investment, Free zone, and distribution center.



EABC TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS MEETING WITH EUD

On 31 October, EABC Transport and Logistics Working Group, led by Mr. Roderich Hoffmann had a formal meeting with the EU Delegation to Thailand. The purpose was to receive updates from businesses in these sectors and exchange views on the ongoing business developments.



DISCUSSION WITH EASTERN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (16 DECEMBER 2019)

EABC Policy Manager, Ms. Pimwan Pongsuwan, joined forces with Mr. Roderich Hoffmann, Chair of the Transport & Logistics Working Group, and Mr. Chet Suksang, Trade and Economic Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, at a discussion with the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), on the customs procedures to ease the running of a distribution center in Thailand.

EABC AFFAIRS

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND FOREIGN BUSINESS ACT SEMINAR



On 26 February 2019, EABC organized Foreign Investment & the Foreign Business Act: A deep dive into understanding Thailand's foreign investment regime, history and priorities at Radisson Blu Plaza Bangkok. This seminar is a deep dive into an understanding of the workings of the regulation of foreign investment and insights into what can be done to contribute more to the competitiveness of the Thai economy. The seminar was devised and organised by the Digital Economy/ICT Working Group.

EABC MULTI-CHAMBERS BUSINESS NETWORKING



On 27 March 2019, EABC together with BCCT, Austcham, BeLuThai, CanCham, FTCC, GTCC, NTCC, TFCC, TNCC, and TSCC hosted EABC Multi-Chambers Networking at Vertigo TOO, Banyan Tree. Members of EABC and other European chambers are invited to join this event in order to have an opportunity of meeting new people in business networking.

ADVISORY COUNCIL FIRST MEETING



On 1 April 2019, EABC organised the first Advisory Council Meeting with European Bilateral Chambers at EU Delegation. The purpose of the EABC Advisory Council is to provide closer understanding among EABC, bilateral European Chambers and Embassies about EABC advocacy work, initiatives and activities in policy advocacy. The Advisory Council comprises European Chambers, European Embassies, EUD, Working Group Chairs, EABC board members. Special host EU Ambassador HE Mr Pirkka Tapiola, and head of the trade and economic section, Mr Philipp Dupuis provided a vision and update. It was chaired by the EABC President Mr Stefan Molnar. As well as fostering closer direct understanding by EABC advocacy champions of the policies and business issues of interest to chambers and European in order to stimulate interest, chambers and embassies are welcome to engage directly in working groups. Outcome of the meeting is closer ties with bilateral chambers, Embassies, in the term of development of collaboration and information sharing. Each Working Group chair provided a brief overview of activities The engagement section was moderated by Mr Bob Fox, Chair Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, and Advocacy Development

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019



On 15 May 2019, AGM 2019 covered the topics which an Association needs to cover each year. Approval of financial statements, confirming Good Standing Status of the Directors and changing Bylaws on the limit use of proxies were done. Activities for the year 2019 were also reviewed. The guest speaker was Dr. Giuseppe Busini, Deputy Head of Mission of the EU-Delegation. A business networking event for members and guests of EABC at Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit followed.

ASEAN-EU BUSINESS SUMMIT



The 7th ASEAN-EU Summit, co-organised by EU ASEAN Business Council and EABC, was held on 9 September 2019 at the Okura Prestige, Bangkok. The welcoming from Mr. Donald Kanak, President of Eastspring Investments and Opening address by H.E. Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola talked of the value of a rules-based world trading order and expressed a positive regard towards a future EU-Thailand FTA. HSBC, lead sponsor, provided a case for data normalization. The two panels – Digital (Moderated by Mr Bob Fox, Chair Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, then Finance (moderated by Dr Kirida Bhaopichitr of TDRI) followed. H.E. Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Finance Minister talked of financing an ageing society. The photo shows Mr Jan Eriksson, then as Vice President of EABC.

ADVISORY COUNCIL SECOND MEETING



On 22 November, EABC successfully held the 2nd Advisory Council, at the EU Delegation. The Advisory Council provides knowledge of EABC status, developments and activities. The Advisory Council comprises Chamber Presidents, senior Embassy Commercial Representative, EABC Working Group Chairs and board members, special host EU Ambassador HE Mr Pirkka Tapiola, and head of the trade and economic section, Mr Philipp Dupuis; chaired by the EABC President Mr Jan Eriksson. Each Working Group chair provided a

brief overview of activities The engagement section was moderated by Mr Bob Fox, Chair Digital Economy/ICT Working Group, and Advocacy Development. EABC see the opportunity for more effective engagement with and better support for stakeholders. EABC proposes that closer collaboration and engagement on advocacy topics would be mutually beneficial. Note and follow up actions are always provided to all constituents.

THE LAUNCH EVENT OF 2019-2020 EABC BUSINESS POSITION PAPER



On 29 November 2019, EABC hosted a launch event of European Business Position Paper 2019-2020. The event was presided by H.E. Dr. Sansern Sampalapa, Vice Minister for Commerce and H.E. Mr Pirkka Tapiola, EU Ambassador. Mr. Jan Eriksson, President of EABC appreciated participants from broad number of industrial sectors as well as participants from the Royal Thai Government. As is custom, each Working Group chair provided a brief overview of activities. The Nation published about the launch of the 2019-2020 European Business Position Paper for enhanced competitiveness, further improvement of ease of doing business, and negotiation of an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. The Position Paper is also on the EABC website with over 2,400 downloads to date.