



# EABC Activity Report 2020

A Year of Accomplishments.

For EABC Annual General Meeting 2021

# European Association for Business and Commerce

The Activity Report 2020 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 Working Group Chairs have been a catalyst for the advancement of effective advocacy.



The EABC Activity Report 2020 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
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Thailand Development Research Institute
- The European Union Intellectual Property Key [EUIPO]
- Department of Trade Negotiations
- Department of Business Development
- Department of Intellectual Property
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

## 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 Infrastructue
- Tourism
- Transport And Logistics

## EABC Affairs

- Advisory Council
- Annual General Meeting 2020
- Co-Events with European Embassies, Chambers of Commerces and friends
- Event invited by Stakeholders

## GENERAL ADVOCACY DIALOGUES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENT

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**World Bank – Lunch Round Table on Thailand Economic Monitor at the World Bank on (22 January 2020)**



EABC attended the Lunch Round Table on Thailand Economic Monitor at the World Bank on 22 Jan 2020. Discussions included recent economic developments and outlook, Thailand Economic Monitor Program, as well as key findings from the focus chapter on productivity for prosperity.

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



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 joint EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) EABC 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)**



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 Bob Fox and Mr Georg Wolff.

### **EABC Covid-19 impact on European business in Thailand (April 2020)**



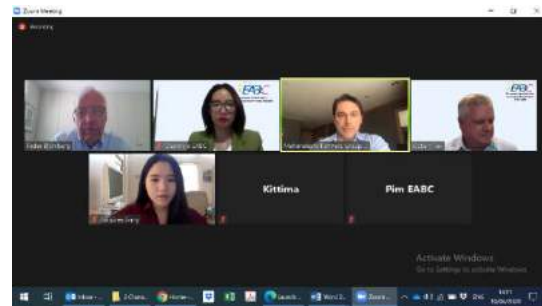
EABC ran a survey to assess impact of COVID-19 on European business in Thailand as well as how Government measures meet company's objectives, and whether other measures are needed. Result has been uploaded on EABC website and shared by various Chambers.

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



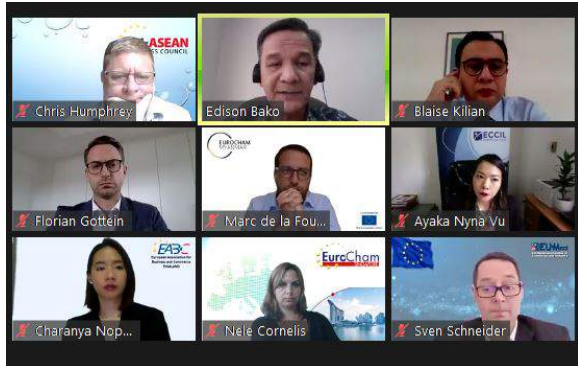
EABC delegates leading by Mr. Jan Eriksson, Dr. Thavirap Tantiwongse, Mr. Bob Fox, Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet, Mr. Peter Rankl, Dr. Kittima Sriwatanakul, Ms. Wanalee Kunthon together with Mr. Gonzalo Herrera, Attaché from the EU Delegation in Thailand and Dr. Hugh O’Connell, ICDL Thailand had a virtual 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)



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-ASEAN 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)



Representatives from EABC 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.

### Virtual Meeting with Thailand - Europe Business Council (TEBC) under JSCCIB (8 August 2020)



Mr. Jan Eriksson and EABC working group chairs, conducted the first virtual conference with Thailand - Europe Business Council (TEBC), led by its Chairman, Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach.

Thailand-Europe Business Council (TEBC), established under Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB), is a non-profit organization that aims to develop trade and investment between Thailand and Europe through developing industrial and development policies help promote trade and investment

between Thailand and Europe. The meeting was an introductory session highlighting on the EABC and TEBC's activities, missions and possible further collaboration. The meeting was a good opportunity that allowed the EABC to present its credentials and give an opportunity for the TEBC to meet EABC people.

### **The Consultative Meeting on UNDP's support on Business and Human Rights in Thailand (8 September 2020)**



On 8 September 2020, UNDP Thailand convened a Consultative Meeting on UNDP's support on Business and Human Rights (B+HR) in Thailand in Bangkok. UNDP Thailand presented key areas of support under B+HR project for 2020 and beyond, and explored opportunities on potential collaboration and partnership with stakeholders on business and human rights.

At the event, there was a rich discussion among the participants on the proposed interventions and included a strong focus on supporting the Thai government and businesses to transform their commitment on Protect, Respect, Remedy framework under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

Speaking at the event, Dr. Netithorn Praditsarn, Deputy Secretary General,

Global Compact Network Thailand said, "To drive the implementation of the UNGPs, it is important for major companies to take the lead as a role model and send positive signal for small and medium sized companies to undertake their responsibility on respect human rights in accordance with the UNGPs."

### **EU ASEAN Business Council Round Table Meeting with Vice Minister of Commerce (15 September 2020)**



The EU ASEAN Business Council of which EABC is a member held a webinar with Vice Minister of Commerce, Dr. Sansern Samalapa on 15 September 2020. Questions were posed by Mr Donald Kanak, President of EU ASEAN Business Council and Mr Bob Fox, Director EABC and chair Digital Economy/ICT Working Group of EABC. The event MC was Mr. Chris Humphrey (Executive Director of EU ABC), The Vice Minister gave assurances that the Thailand 4.0 vision was alive and well and even more important in the current pandemic situation. The meeting explored wide-ranging areas, including Trade Agreements (progress of EU FTA, CP TPP, RCEP), COVID-19 Economic Recovery & ASEAN Economic Integration, Current Economic policies/issues, Foreign Business Act, Trade Competition, Data/Digital Economy, and Customs issues.

### ICC Thailand Networking Dinner (8 October 2020)



EABC President, Mr. Luca Bernardinetti, attended the International Chamber of Commerce Thailand Executive Board Meeting, the General Meeting, and the Networking Dinner. Among the attendees were Khun Kalin Sarasin, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, Khun Kobsak, Secretary-General of the Thai Bankers Association, and representative from the Federation of Thai Industries.

### Regulatory Guillotine: Economic Stimulus by Regulatory Reform (14 October 2020)



Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), together with EABC and JFCCT, held a public seminar “Regulatory Guillotine: Economic stimulus by regulatory reform”. More than 90 participants via Facebook livestream and many (including press) attended physically at the TDRI office. Fast Track Regulatory Reform (Guillotine) is a way to review laws and regulations in Thailand, striving to reduce unnecessary processes or barriers to the establishment and the operation of business in Thailand. The "Simple and Smart License" project produced over 1,000 changes, ready for implementation. Speakers at the seminar on 14 October included Professor Dr. Borwornsak Uwanno , Mr. Pakorn Nilprapan, Mr. Kitti Tangchitmaneesakda, Dr. Kiratipong Naewmalee, and Mr. Bob Fox, Chair, Digital Economy/ICT group (EABC & JFCCT) and Vice President of EABC, with endorsements from Mr Luca Bernardinetti (President EABC) and Mr Stanley Kang (Chairman JFCCT). The event was moderated by Dr Somkiat Tangkitvanich President of TDRI.

**EU IP Key EU Business Observations on Copyright and Related Rights Protection in Thailand (11 September 2020)**



EABC as one of the key speakers on “EU Business Observations on Copyright and Related Rights Protection in Thailand.” The participating parties, included but not limited to personnel from relevant organisations such as the EU IP KEY SEA, TECA, and the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP), had fruitful discussions on the legislative developments, issues with enforcement, and online infringements of the Copy Right Law in Thailand and Europe.

**EU-ASEAN Business Council Meeting with Thai Customs Department (17 November 2020)**



EABC president and EABC members participated in the virtual meeting (organized by EU-ASEAN Business Council) with Mr. Chaiyut Kumkun, Principal Advisor on Customs Control Development and representative from relevant division from Thai Customs department. The discussion topics cover perished goods in a Free Zone, paperless customs / documentary compliance, penalties in the customs code in line with Revised Kyoto Convention, local distribution and transit with mixed goods, Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) as a sandbox as well as the RCEP and its customs-related developments.

**Welcoming Dinner of Mr. Petros Sourmelis, Minister Counsellor- Head of Trade, EU Delegation (23 November 2020)**



On 23 November 2020, EABC President Mr. Luca Bernardinetti attended a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of the European Union, H.E. Mr. Tapiola Pirkka, to welcome Mr. Petros Sourmelis, Minister Counsellor - Head of Trade of the E.U., to Thailand. The dinner was attended by Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations; Mr. Thosapone Dansuputra, Director-General of the Department of Business Development; Ms. Jittima Srithaporn, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Intellectual Property; Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, Chairman of Thailand-Europe Business Council; and Mr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Vice Chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Committee on Europe.

**Meeting with Minister of Finance (27 November 2020)**



EABC President, Vice Presidents and working groups chairpersons attended a courtesy meeting hosted by H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, the Minister of Finance of Thailand, along with representatives from Fiscal Policy Office, Customs Department, Revenue Department, Excise Department and State Enterprise Policy Office. As Thailand is undergoing an economic challenging time during this COVID-19 period. EABC expressed our great concern regarding economic recovery, business continuity, safe boarder opening, among other investment incentives, policy and regulatory recommendations such as sustainable healthcare financing, tax reform, financing SMEs.

### **BOI-Foreign Chambers of Commerce Consultative Meeting (16 December 2020)**



EABC President, Mr. Luca Bernardinetti, attended the BOI-Foreign Chambers of Commerce Consultative Meeting, held by the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) at the Grand Ballroom, InterContinental Bangkok. Our Vice President Mr Bob Fox, in his JFCCT role, presented much of the topics, remotely from ASQ in Bangkok. H.E. Mr. Supattanapong Punmeechaow, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, was the chairperson of the meeting, together with Ms. Duangjai Asawachintachit, BOI Secretary-General, and foreign chambers of commerce in Thailand. This meeting was a successful opportunity to discuss issues affecting Thailand's business environment (in particular Services Liberalisation / Foreign Business Act, Safe Border Opening and Fast Track Regulatory Reform and Work Permit / Visas issues), and learn of the most recent BOI policies and measures. His Excellency took great interest and requested follow – ups, in particular on work permit / visa issues of immediate concern.

### **Courtesy Meeting with Director-General of Department of Intellectual Property (18 December 2020)**



EABC attended the courtesy meeting with Mr. Vuttikrai Leewiraphan, Director-General of Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Commerce. EABC's Intellectual Property Rights working group together with DE/ICT working group (led by Mr Bob Fox) Healthcare Pharmaceuticals working group (led by Ms. Paranee Adulyapichet) and members, presented key points of relevance about each Working Group, and discussed topics of mutual interest, to promote increased dialogue and understanding between the European business community and the DIP.

### Europe Means Business in Thailand organized by EUD and German Ambassador (18 December 2020)



EABC President Mr. Luca Bernardinetti, Board of directors, and Working Group Chairpersons attended the Christmas Reception Event under the theme 'Europe Means Business in Thailand', co-hosted by the Ambassador of Germany & Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand. The event was well attended by representatives from the government, European diplomatic missions to Thailand, European bilateral chambers of commerce, and European & Thai businesses.

### Asia Does Not Wait: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership [RCEP] (21 December 2020)



Mr. Bob Fox, EABC Vice President and Chair of Digital Economy/ ICT Working Group of EABC participated as one of the distinguished panellists in a webinar on "Asia Does Not Wait: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)" organized by European Chamber in China, and including some other EuroChams in the region. RCEP includes a wide range of provisions from intellectual property and financial services, to e-commerce bringing about inevitable impact on businesses and support for China's OBOR plans. This Roundtable delved into RCEP and its implications for Asia, the economy and foreign business in China and the region. Mr. Bob Fox shared the perspective of RCEP impacts on Thailand and its economy.

### Meeting with DBD (22 December 2020)



An informal discussion was held with Mr Thosapone Dansuputra, Director-General Department of Business Development and Mr Worwait Sing-In, Director, Foreign Business Administration Division, of DBD, Ministry of Commerce, Mr Bob Fox, EABC and Mr Paul Scales (Irish Chamber) to explore points in the EABC submission and better understand DBD's objectives in relation to the Foreign Business Act.

As the EABC submission notes, DBD has proposed removing from List 3, three business activities – Type 1 telecoms licence activity, treasury activities, software development. EABC proposes that List 3 changes would support services liberalisation and be part of the tools for economic recovery.

## EABC WORKING GROUPS

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### AUTOMOTIVE



#### **New Challenges - New Year 2020**

TEBA together with EABC Automotive Working Group has organized a working group meeting followed by a networking event on “New Challenges-New Year 2020” on 29th January at Rembrandt Hotel & Suites, Bangkok. Keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Prinn Panitchpakdi, Deputy Leader & Head of the Economic Team, Democrat Party.



ILO-TEBA/EABC: Collaboration project in topics of Responsible Business of automotive companies members of TEBA/EAB

## CROSS SECTORAL ISSUES (CSI)



CSI have contributed to BUSINESS CONTINUES materials that regularly updated on EABC website

Input for Guillotine Project

Input for CP TPP Submission on 31st August 2020 – EABC 's CP TPP proposed recommendation to the CP TPP Study Committee

## DIGITAL ECONOMY/ICT



### Meeting with ETDA

Members of the Digital Economy/ICT Working Group met with senior officials of Electronic Transactions Development Agency on 18 August 2020 to present and discuss the Working Group's submission on electronic payments and file formats, electronic signatures and electronic invoices.



### Meeting with DGA

The Digital Economy/ICT Working Group also met with the Digital Government Development Agency (DGA) twice in the year to progress the development of whole-of-government, interoperable model with single sign on.



### Telecoms World Asia 2020 conference

On 28th October 2020, “Data, Investment and Technology: Establishing Thailand at the centre of the Greater Mekong Subregion” was held as part of the Telecoms World Asia 2020 conference. Speakers were Sean Bergin, President of AP Telecom, Dr Tiranee Achalakul, director of the Government Big Data Institute GDBi - DEPA (Ministry of Digital Economy and Society), the intelligence service provider for government agencies in Thailand and Natasak Rodjanapiches, Vice Chairman, Creative Digital Economy Subcommittee, Board of Trade Thailand. Mr. Bob Fox, Chair of Digital Economy/ICT Group (JFCCT and EABC) and Vice President EABC, was a moderator.



### First Episode of ‘BEING DIGITAL’ WEBINAR SERIES

The first part of the webinar series BEING DIGITAL was held on 28th October by Zoom Webinar. The series is co-organised by EABC and JFCCT and supported by seven European bilateral chambers and three other foreign chambers. The first Episode of ‘BEING DIGITAL’ series webinar was on ‘DIGITAL TOOLS: Electronic Meetings, Electronic Signatures’.



## Second Episode of 'BEING DIGITAL' WEBINAR SERIES

The second episode of 'BEING DIGITAL' WEBINAR SERIES: Digital Government 'The key building block for Thailand 4.0 and enabler for economic recovery' was held on 8th December 2020 by Zoom Webinar. The series is co-organised by EABC and JFCCT and supported by thirteen bilateral chambers.



### Thailand: Virtual Workshop on Data Flows

Tuesday 15 December

#### Session 3: Digital Investment

**Bob Fox**  
Chair, Digital Economy/ICT group of JFCCT and EABC  
JFCCT Policy Co-Ordinator; Vice President, EABC

### Thailand: Virtual Workshop on Data Flows

On 15th December 2020, Mr. Bob Fox, EABC Vice President and Chair of Digital Economy/ICT Working Group of EABC joined the panel on Digital Investment in a virtual workshop on Data Flows Governance National Dialogue: Thailand hosted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) from Geneva. The session was fruitful with discussion on data flow governance at a domestic level, regional cooperation mechanisms, and international collaboration. The Digital Economy/ICT Working Group has also contributed to WEF's Background materials which are published as part of the event.

### Cybersecurity Act - Second Legislation

On 21st December, representatives of the Digital Economy/ICT Working Group (led by Mr Bob Fox) held a dialogue with the drafters of the five subsidiary laws under the Cybersecurity Act, Professor Dr Metha Suvarnasarn, President TISA and Dr. Pattarawan Prasarnphanich. The subsidiary legislation is undergoing public hearing. Issues include governance, managing the three threat levels, community engagement and education, and infrastructure being designated as Critical Information Infrastructure. Recognition was paid to Ms. Ajarin Pattanapanchai Permanent Secretary of MDES for supporting the dialogue.





### Digital Freelancer Smart Visa

Representatives of the The Digital Economy/ICT Working Group held a small business community dialogue on 21st December on BOI's current proposals, which are still at draft stage. The Working Group, led by Mr Bob Fox, made a group submission on 21st October. A Freelancer smart visa has the potential to support engagement in Thailand of talented people mainly in digital development areas.

### FOOD AND BEVERAGES



### EABC - Spanish Embassy & Spanish-Thai Chamber of Commerce Meeting

On 2th July 2020 – in topic of barrier to food import and issue of re-certification of food import; status to be advised



Illicit Alcohol Talk at IP KEY Event "EU Product Specification Seminar for IPR Enforcement Authorities in Thailand" – 10 European companies participating (EABC members and non-members) during 4 – 5th November 2020



### **Meeting with Economic & Trade Section of the EU Delegation to Thailand**

28th October 2020 – Mr. Alberto Ibeas had meeting with Trade and Economic Section European Union Delegation to Thailand to update various topics in the sector.

## **HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS**



**CONGRATULATIONS**



**Dr. Kittima Sriwatanakul**

from B.Braun (Thailand) Ltd.

Vice Chair of the Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group

### **Appointment of Vice working group chair**

Dr. Kittima Sriwatanakul from B. Braun (Thailand) elected as new Vice Working group Chairperson



### **Meeting with Deputy Director General of Fiscal Policy Office on Sustainable Healthcare Financing**

On 16th June 2020, EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Working Group had meeting with Miss Ketsuda Supradit, Deputy Director General of Fiscal Policy Office and Representative from The Comptroller General's Department on the topic Sustainable Healthcare Financing For Better Access and Treatment of Thai Patients at Ministry of Finance.



### **EU Delegation - EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Working Group Meeting**

3 July 2020 – EABC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Working Group had meeting with EU delegation as part of regular engagement, topics included sharing on the COVID-19 situation related to healthcare sector, Regulatory approval, public procurement, logistic facilitation, EABC outreach to the Minister of Public Health, E-Pharmacy, E-Health record, Telemedicine, Discussion & exchange from EABC meeting with the Department of Trade Negotiation –EU FTA, Other topics for sharing and consultation, EABC outreach to the Ministry of Finance & FPO on alternative healthcare financing model (risk-sharing or manage entry agreement model), Member interest in EU-Philippines project – simplified registration for OTC medicines and Member interest on ARISE Plus, ongoing collaboration – technical support to Thailand



### **Workshop on Blueprint to support COVID-19 Recovery**

On 21st July 2020, EABC Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Working Group held the Working Group Workshop on Blueprint to support COVID-19 recovery period (Telemedicine, E-Pharmacy & E-Health record). The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and brainstorm ideas and expertise from members to recreate the Blueprint tailored to Telemedicine in Thailand which will be proposed to the Ministry of Public Health in the upcoming meeting with EABC.



### **EABC Luncheon Seminar On Thailand Telehealth Transformation; Telemedicine, Telepharmacy & Healthcare Big Data**

On 3 December 2020, the EABC’s Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Working Group has organized the EABC Luncheon Seminar: “Thailand Telehealth Transformation; Telemedicine, Telepharmacy & Healthcare Big Data” at Sheraton Grand Sukhumvit. Over 70 guests from Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, IT, legal industries has explored upon the knowledge of Big data and AI in the public health sector, Telemedicine and Telepharmacy developments in Thailand, as well as the understanding of the Unified National Health Data Platform. The Q&A session was fruitful with question and discussion from the audiences and member of the working group. Our speakers who have been contributing significantly in the healthcare sector in Thailand; Assoc. Prof. Tiranee Achalakul, Ph.D, Director of Government Big Data Institute (GBDi), Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), Assoc. Prof. Adune Ratanawichitrasin, M.D., Assistant Secretary General of Medical Council Thailand, Dr. Suchart Chongprasert, Director of Medicines Regulation Division, Thailand Food and Drug Administration and Dr. Lersak Leenanitikul, Deputy Director of ICT Center, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.

### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)**



### **EABC IPR Working Group Consultation with EU Delegation**

30/04/2020, EABC had a meeting with the Department of Intellectual Property Rights (DIP) co-ordinated by EABC’s IPR Working

Group. The discussion topics are among legislative development of patent acts, copyrights act and MOU on Enforcement Infringement against Online IPR as well as European businesses role in IP Enhancement.



**Meeting with DIP on legislative developments, issues with enforcement, and online infringements**

On 26th August 2020, The EABC with the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and representatives from the Intellectual Property Working Group participated in the Annual Consultative Meeting on the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Thailand held by the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP). The event was chaired by the DIP's Director General, Mr. Thosapone Dunsuputra. This year's discussions focus on legislative developments, issues with enforcement, and online infringements. The Working Group had the opportunity to provide alternative perspectives and express concerns from the private sectors.



**EU IP Key EU Business Observations on Copyright and Related Rights Protection in Thailand (11 September 2020)**

EABC as one of the key speakers on "EU Business Observations on Copyright and Related Rights Protection in Thailand." The participating parties, included but not limited to personnel from relevant organisations such as the EU IP KEY SEA, TECA, and the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP), had fruitful discussions on the legislative developments, issues with enforcement, and online infringements of the Copy Right Law in Thailand and Europe.



### **EU Product Specification Seminar for IPR Enforcement Authorities in Thailand**

4 - 5 November 2020 – IP KEY Event “EU Product Specification Seminar for IPR Enforcement Authorities in Thailand” – 10 European companies participating (EABC members and non-members)

During the seminars, EU enforcement experts presented new developments in the latest methods of investigating and prosecuting infringement cases both in physical and online marketplaces. During the program, EU businesses operating in the SEA countries also shared information with the IPR enforcement authorities from each country on how to identify infringing goods, in order to be able to take action against them.



### **Meeting with DIP on various IPR issues**

On 4th November , EABC had a meeting with the Department of Intellectual Property Rights (DIP) co-ordinated by EABC's IPR Working Group. The discussion topics are among legislative development of patent acts, copyrights act and MOU on Enforcement Infringement against Online IPR as well as European businesses role in IP Enhanc

## RAIL AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE



### Interview with EEC

On 5th August, Mr Georg M. Wolff, EABC Vice President and the Chairperson of the Rail & Road Infrastructure Working Group, conducted interview as the representative of EABC Thailand in collaboration with the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), on the topic of “Supply Chain, Logistics Connectivity, and Targeted Industries in the EEC.

## TOURISM



- 11 March, JFCCT Tourism Committee agreed to collaboration by including EABC Policy Manager as an observer and liaison with EABC’s Tourism interests to advise JFCCT of main EABC Policy points. Eric Brand as Chair of Committee

- 19 May, EABC Policy Manager first attended JFCCT Tourism Committee via Zoom meeting.
- EABC Policy manager regularly attended the meetings on 22nd July, 4th November and 16th December

## TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS



### Meeting with at the Legal Affairs Bureau, Customs Department

On 21st January 2020, EABC Advocacy held discussions at the Legal Affairs Bureau, Customs Department, on the topics; EEC & customs exemption, transit shipment & progress of CBTA, customs reward system & intent, paperless & E-Customs progress, destroying of goods under customs supervision and valuation of goods for determining the customs value



### **A consultative meeting with Mr. Chaipat**

On 29th January, EABC Transport & Logistics Working Group representatives, together with the EU Delegation, held a consultative meeting with Mr. Chaipat Kumkun, Principal Advisor of Customs Control Development, and technical experts from related divisions at the Customs Department on 29th Jan 2020. The discussion was an exchange of knowledge between two parties, also based on recommendation of the European Business Community in the Transport and Logistics Chapter of 2019 - 2020 EABC European Business Position Paper, to enhance Thailand Customs System, as well as strengthening the relationship between European companies, and the Customs Department in Thailand for closer collaboration.

## EABC AFFAIRS

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020



On 6th August 2020, AGM 2020 covered the topics which an Association needs to cover each year; approval of EABC matters, presentation of EABC activities, report of the President, presentation of candidates standing for election as Ordinary Directors to the Board of Directors and election of Ordinary Directors to Board of Directors. We had welcomed more than 60 valuable guests, including scrutineers from EU Delegation as well as our Founding Partners and Associates from GTCC. Photo shows some of the EABC Directors.

## ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THRIVABILITY SEMINAR HOSTED BY TICC AND EABC



On 26th November 2020, TICC and EABC co-organized the seminar on “Enhancing Sustainable Development towards Thrivability” at Montien Hotel. Our guest speakers are Dr. Sandro Calvani from Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Mr. Antonio Aguilar from Chapman Taylor and Mr. Chris Cracknell from Grant Thornton Thailand who were sharing insightful content regarding sustainability and its challenges. It was our honor to have H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, the European Union Ambassador to Thailand, to attend this event and provide a perspective on our global sustainability.

### ADVISORY COUNCIL 1/2020



The first EABC Advisory Council meeting for 2020 was held electronically on 3rd September 2020, with more than 40 participants. The Advisory Council comprises of Chamber Presidents, Senior Embassy Commercial Representatives, The EABC President, EABC Working Group Chairs and EABC board members. Opening remarks from H.E. Mr Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand, addressing the EU’s trade and investment policy, importance of FTA in current situation, how vital FDI is, as well as economic recovery and the necessity for

border opening, in safe ways (as EABC has proposed). Welcoming remarks from Mr. Jan Eriksson, EABC president which highlighted support and engagement of the wider European business community and the importance of Working Groups as the EABC Core. Ms. Isabelle De Stobbeleur, Counsellor of the EUD Economic and Trade section later provided briefing and outlines on progress of EU FTA, Impact of Covid19 and political developments of both Thai and EU side. EABC Working Group Chairs gave brief presentation in their area of expertise and current focus of the working group, identifying areas for collaboration.

### **EABC AND MULTI-CHAMBER WEBINAR ON ENHANCING HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND DELIVERY THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION**



EABC and Multi-Chamber was held a webinar on “Enhancing Healthcare Access and Delivery Through Digital Innovation” on 1 st December. This insightful and interesting webinar showed how two members’ digitalisation successes have made a difference to access to and delivery of healthcare. DOCQUITY has two domains: doctors’ professional communities and doctor-patient communities which realise gaps in doctor’s maintenance of knowhow and learning and support more focused and relevant care for patients. Roche has made great strides in remote management, remote diagnostics and telemedicine.

Issues include cross border use of data and provision of care, acceptance of remote services delivery, the importance of collaboration between government and private sector in building proper access to healthcare and promote well-being for all. This pandemic induced healthcare evolution from the rise of telemedicine, health education, and other tech initiatives is palpable.