

# COMMERCE

Magazine of the Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce | Volume 2/2022



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## Re-opening Thailand

*Restrictions Dropped – Tourism Revived?*



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## President's Message

Welcome to the second edition of Commerce Magazine for 2022, for which the theme is 'opening up'. The theme is very well chosen, as travel restrictions have been lifted in many countries, and it feels like we have finally been released from the COVID-19 jail. Personally, I have taken advantage of the relaxation of the entry requirements in the Netherlands and Thailand, and visited the Netherlands after spending two years in Thailand. It was really enjoyable to visit family and to experience the Dutch spring with the first rays of sunshine after winter, green grass, colourful tulips, and leaves coming out of the buds. It was a truly wonderful experience which gave the impression that a new era has started.

Starting a new era leads to reflection and new resolutions. One issue is whether we will fall back into our old habits before COVID-19 or take the lessons learned during the Covid-19 pandemic on board. Personally, I am reflecting on my travel habits and on how to organize our office space. In regard to the latter, we have seen that working from home is very efficient. However, personal contact is missing and on-the-job training for junior staff is limited. Naturally, a hybrid working style, where staff spend two to three days in the office, could be a good solution. Such a working style also raises issues about the office environment, as leaving desks empty a good deal of the time does not seem very cost efficient. However, assigning personal desks might be a selling point to attract and retain talented staff.

Some reflection regarding personal travel also needs to be done, as overseas meetings through MS Teams, Zoom, or other tools are very efficient and effective. In the long run though, personal contact, which is an important factor in doing business, is missing. Reflection on this issue should include not only personal effectiveness, but one's personal contribution to improving the environment. Choosing to fly to go on holiday or to attend a meeting, or to have a meeting electronically instead, is part of that personal contribution. Thus, while our individual decisions may not tip environmental issues one way or the other, a bucket of water is filled one drop at a time, as they say.

Although the issues raised regarding travel and office environment are ones that I am dealing with personally, I know that you will have other issues that you need to consider. However, I hope that this has got you thinking about how you can address those issues and apply the lessons learned to the post-COVID-19 era.

**Rob Hurenkamp**  
President of the NTCC

Don't wanna miss out on any NTCC networking events?  
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# Orange Carpet facility

While the COVID-19 vaccination rollout programmes in many countries are becoming successful, many countries have gradually eased travel restrictions and other measures. International travel has picked up again and so has business travel. As this NTCC Commerce Magazine is about re-opening, we would like to bring the service of applying for a business visa under the Orange Carpet facility to your attention again.

### What is the Orange Carpet facility?

The Orange Carpet facility is a service of Embassies worldwide to make the application process for business visa for the Netherlands easier. It is intended for employees of companies who have to travel to the Netherlands on a regular basis. Dutch companies that have a subsidiary in Thailand or Thai companies that have a subsidiary in the Netherlands are eligible for the program. Once admitted to the Orange Carpet facility, employees can apply for a business visa through a simpler procedure. First time visa applicants, however still need to provide the full documentation.

### The benefits of the Orange Carpet visa facility are:

- After the first visa application, the business visa application procedure for employees of registered companies is easier.
- There is no need to supply a confirmed flight reservation, hotel reservation or proof of financial means at the time of the visa application.
- There is the possibility of receiving a multi-year multiple entry visa. This depends strongly on the travel history of the applicant, the multi-year and multiple entry visa is not issued by default.

### Applying for the Orange Carpet facility

If your company would like to make use of the Orange Carpet facility, you can apply by filling in the form on the website

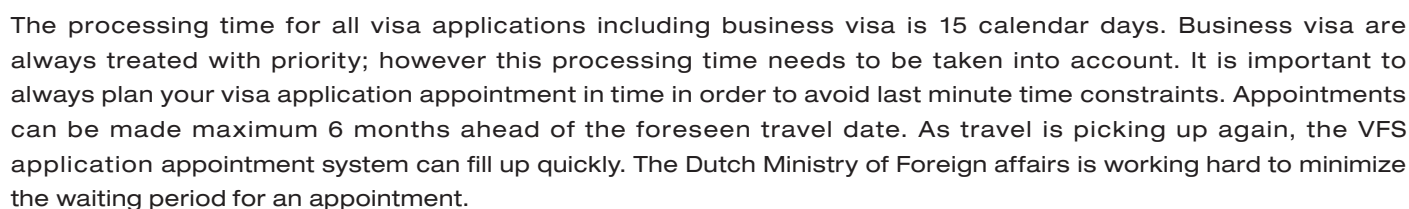
<https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/documents/publications/2017/01/31/thailand-orange-carpet>

After assessment by the economic department of the embassy, the company will be informed if it qualifies for the Orange Carpet facility. NTCC members are not automatically eligible for the Orange Carpet. If the assessment is positive and if the company accept the terms and conditions, VFS will be informed that the company is eligible for the Orange Carpet facility.

Important conditions, for participating companies, the company that guarantees the return of the employee, bears the financial consequences of the trip, and ensures the traveler is in possession of the correct documents that can be requested by immigration officers at the border to prove a legitimate stay in the Schengen area. The company is obliged to inform the Embassy of any irregularities with respect to travel of employees.

When applying under the Orange Carpet facility, applicants apply for a regular Schengen Business visa. There is no Orange Carpet visa.

Please note that according to Schengen regulations your main destination in Europe determines which Schengen Embassy or Consulate should issue your visa. In other words, only if the Netherlands is the main destination you should apply for a visa at a Dutch Embassy or Consulate General. The visa issued will permit you to travel to all 26 Schengen countries, unless stated otherwise on the visa.



More details of the Orange Carpet facility in Thailand can be found at <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/thailand/travel/orange-carpet-visa-facility>

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## The Okura Prestige Bangkok

Niek Hammer



### **Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.**

Dutch native Niek Hammer, a dedicated and passionate hospitality professional with broad knowledge of complex F&B and Room Division operations holding a Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management and a Master's diploma in International Service Management, began his career in 1996 at Hotel The Grand, a Westin Hotel & Resorts International property in Amsterdam and later spent two years at Chateau Elan Winery & Resort, a Marriott International hotel in Braselton, Georgia USA. From 2000–2005 and again from 2008–2016 he worked at Hotel Okura Amsterdam, rising to Assistant F&B Director in his first stint and later to Deputy General Manager with F&B oversight as well. Prior to joining The Okura Prestige Bangkok in 2019, Niek worked at Hotel Okura Macau where he held the General Manager's position for three years.

The Okura Prestige Bangkok is a unique hotel, offering 240 guest rooms & suites, three restaurants, spa, fitness & pool, function rooms as well as a bakery shop, where we combine Japan's rich service culture with Thailand's world famous standards of hospitality. Baron Kishichiro Okura, our founder, wanted to open an international hotel where Japanese

traditions would meet western comforts and rather than only a place to stay, it was to be a luxurious haven where everyone feels welcome that lives & breathes 'Omotenashi' the art of Japanese hospitality that is both omnipresent yet non-intrusive and respectful of distance. That sense differentiates us and makes people to experience a sense of Japan while being in Thailand as we see Japanese hospitality as an art, 'The Art of Okura in the Spirit of Omotenashi' as our way to honor traditions, authenticity and craftsmanship. Okura's art of craftsmanship is expressed in the culinary diversity of our restaurants, such as Yamazato, our award-winning signature restaurant is based upon the centuries-old traditional 'Kaiseki Ryori' (Japanese haute cuisine) as well as Elements, our Michelin-starred restaurant that serves French cuisine with Japanese influences in a relaxed, informal setting.

### **Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?**

As of November last year, upon the introduction of the 'test & go' scheme, we have seen business improving month-on-month and the appetite for guests, both corporate and leisure, to return to Thailand was very strong. The recent easing of measurements and lifting of the testing upon arrival has uplifted the business and at the moment the pick-up pace in the month for the month is even exceeding pre-pandemic levels and the outlook for the remainder of this year is looking promising. With more and more countries lifting its entry restrictions, international travel is resuming and the arrivals into Thailand are rising and people really want to travel again to explore the world. On the contrary we do have to realize that we are still far away from the 39 million visitors Thailand welcomed in 2019 and although you can debate whether that number is sustainable, arrivals for Q4 are anticipated at around one million per month, which is still a fraction of what it used to be before. Nonetheless the tourism & hospitality industry is eager to showcase the beauty of the country, the culture and reclaimed hospitality to the world again. Thailand has everything to offer, from buzzing Bangkok to the beautiful tropical islands, delicious street food and some of the best beaches in the world. Hospitality is in the DNA of the people in Thailand and known as the Land of Smiles this is deeply embedded in the culture and it is therefore not surprising that people are finding their way back to Thailand as we have many returning visitors.

### **Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?**

Above all, a team is the most fundamental part of our industry and it is because of our 'software' that people continue to come back to our hotel and why we have been able to maintain our positioning in the market. With the great support of Asset World Corporation, our owning company, and its commitment to Building a Better Future by bringing pride as well as an enjoyable, happy, and collaborative working environment to its employees, we have been able to keep our team together throughout the pandemic. Travelers coming into Thailand need to realize that this is regrettably not the case everywhere and it will take time before the hospitality & tourism industry has recovered as its fullest. Although business in Bangkok continues to grow, other areas of Thailand will take longer to recover and also in Bangkok the landscape has changed and a number of shops, restaurants are still closed or have gone out of business. With the easing of restrictions and uplift of business, the shortage of labor is a challenge as many Thai have found different jobs and way to survive during the pandemic. Although I believe that it will recover over time, for the short term this definitely a concern for the hospitality & tourism industry.

### **Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?**

We can start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Thailand's vaccination rate has increased tremendously and booster shots are easily available, the ongoing increase of vaccinations across the global with 60% of global population vaccinated and many countries are easing travel restrictions mainly based on the lower risk of Omicron.

The Okura Prestige Bangkok is continuously monitoring the evolving situation on Covid-19 closely and is following the directions of the World Health Organization and relevant local health and government authorities. As ever, the comfort, safety and health of our guests and associates is always our primary concern and we have high standards for health and safety in both our back and front of house areas and also provide various additional measures to provide a safe and clean environment. Also sustainability has become an important topic in Thailand and the past two years have shown that too much tourism might also not be right direction.

## Ascott International Management (Thailand)

Koen Vermeersch



### **Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.**

My name is Koen Vermeersch, and I am concurrently Area Manager, Bangkok and have been with The Ascott Limited for 8 years in China and Thailand combined.

The Ascott Limited is a member of CapitaLand Investment. It is one of the leading international lodging owner-operators with properties across Asia Pacific, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the USA. Its portfolio of serviced apartment, coliving and hotel brands includes Ascott The Residence, The Crest Collection, Somerset, Quest, Citadines, lyf, Préfrénce, Vertu, Harris, Citadines Connect, Fox, Yello, Fox Lite and POP!.

### **Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were cancelled?**

Even though Test and Go was cancelled on the first of May, May and June are typically low seasons.

Accordingly, we are expecting to see a strong positive effect starting from July onwards. To welcome our visitors during that period, we are opening two new properties, which include Ascott Thonglor Bangkok and Ascott Embassy Sathorn. Another property with our lyf brand located in Sukhumvit 8, first in Bangkok, will reopen in September. At the same time, we will continue to be active on all platforms, as we always are. We have always been operating during the pandemic because of our long-stay guests.

However, we noticed some changes in terms of corporate influx. International corporate companies are currently sending, or planning to send their staff to Bangkok for both long and short stays. The liveliness of Thailand's tourism industry as per previous Covid levels probably will only come back in a few years as the pandemic still exists and inflation is also a common issue, which affects the way people spend their money.



### **Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?**

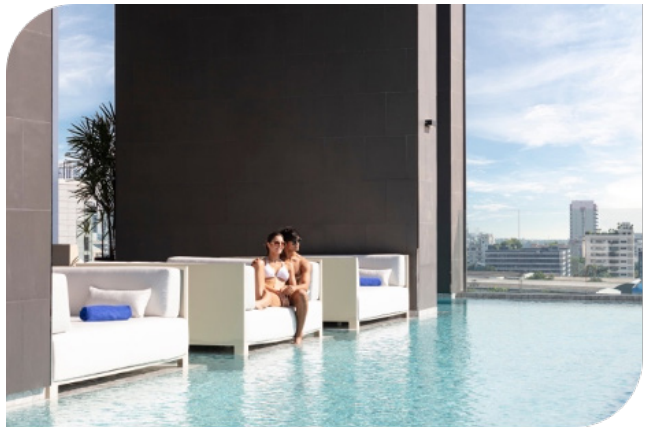
Yes. In terms of service, we will of course, maintain our service quality. As we did not lay off any staff, they have been with us for a long time and are well trained, so they are able to provide our customers with a consistent service. Moreover, we are able to bring back our buffet breakfast service for our guests and residents. During COVID, breakfast would normally be delivered to the guest room.

We will continue to follow the safety measures from the Thai government and additionally we are audited every 6 months by Bureau Veritas demanding additional international safety requirements. Our employees will continue to wear masks and gloves and make sure to sanitize our properties on regular basis. They are all vaccinated, and they are checked weekly. On top of that, we are certified with SHA Plus and we use certain protocols to assure our guests' safety.

### Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?

On July 15th, we will be opening Ascott Thonglor Bangkok located on Sukhumvit main road, Bangkok's upscale and lively neighbourhood with a wide variety of finest cafes, lifestyle venues, international schools, multinational corporations and other city attractions. Ascott Thonglor Bangkok offers easy access to BTS Skytrain with just 5-minute walk to Thong Lo station and situated in close proximity to city's expressway network, giving this luxury serviced residence and hotel an unbeatable location. Ascott Thonglor Bangkok has 451 spacious apartments with a choice of deluxe hotel rooms, studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom or three-bedroom. Ideal for both short and extended stays, residents will enjoy elegantly designed rooms with a touch of comfort and convenience complemented with an impressive assortment of premium amenities to ensure relaxation.

Luxuriate in the expansive swimming pool with a refreshing beverage, focus on fitness in the fully-equipped gymnasium, unwind with some quality time in the Resident's Lounge whilst the children enjoy the Children's Playroom or simply relax in the green spaces with a good book under the holy fig tree.



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# InterContinental Phuket Resort

Bjorn Courage



## Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.

My name is Bjorn Courage, General Manager of InterContinental Phuket Resort and the President of Phuket Hotel Association. My 25-year experience includes many iconic hotel brands such as IHG, Hilton, Waldorf Astoria, Six Senses, and Mandarin Oriental.

InterContinental Phuket Resort created on a vacant land a visual and architectural representation of 'Thai-ness.' The hotel became a platform to re-tell the 'Traibhumikatha', the oldest Thai book, which sets out an explanation of three planes of existence as per Thai mythology – Underwater world, Human World, and The Heaven. We offer 221 exquisitely appointed rooms, suites and villas over an expansive land extending from the beachfront to the hills of Kamala, with amazing views of the Andaman Sea, and surrounded by tropical mountains. All guest rooms offer breathtaking views of the ocean, the lagoon or the surrounding mountains and the very best in luxurious amenities.

The resort has five exclusive choices of Food & Beverage outlets:

- **Jaras** – Our modern Thai cuisine restaurant, which perfectly combines traditional service and stunning views of Kamala beach for an unforgettable experience.
- **Pine Beach Bar** – Vibrant, sophisticated and chic beach bar and lounge. Sunset beach bar, well known for its exquisite Pizzas, Sunday Brunch and specially crafted cocktails.
- **Devas' Lounge** is a luxurious and impressive venue with an authentic high tea experience.
- **Tengoku** offers veritable Japanese cuisine inspired by the ancient techniques and presentation of Osaka's cooking masters and brought to you with a contemporary and fun twist.
- **Pinto restaurant** is our marketplace-inspired dining venue. From lavish buffet breakfasts to freshly prepared lunches and dinners, Pinto offers exquisite dining throughout the day.

## Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?

Since 1 May 2022, Travellers are allowed to enter the kingdom without the need to show proof of a negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours of arrival, no RTPCR & hotel quarantine on the day of arrival coupled with abandonment of Test & Go process. We foresee a positive and substantial uplift of tourists' arrival into the Phuket Island. Key countries incoming are Australia, UK., US, Middle East, India, France and Singapore. This is a positive sign and good news for tourism industry in Thailand including Phuket and all of PHA members are excited to welcome the influx of international visitors.

## Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?

During the course of 2 years of pandemic, many businesses were forced to shut down but now reopening as the country has eased the restrictions for international travelers. After this gap of 2 years, the travelers can expect even better service quality from the hospitality industry and staff. Experience beautiful local sightseeing & nature after a healing period of 2 years. Some positive changes that we can expect after the re-opening the country with the cancellation of travel restriction are...

1. The new normal of travelling such as hygiene and safety policy to ensure safety of both the guests and our colleagues towards the Covid 19.
2. The restoration of beauty of natural habitats of many of the islands in Andaman Sea.

## Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?

Whether it is your first time in Phuket or re-visiting with friends and family, you are sure to be swept off your feet with the multitude of experiences the island has to offer. Phuket has something for everybody ... serenity, peacefulness, wellness, party, island hopping, adventure sports and much more. Phuket is among the world's finest beach destinations, with fine white sands, nodding palm trees, glittering seas and lively towns. It has something for everyone starting with a wide array of tastes and budgets, with number of activities and sightseeing options to choose from, an eclectic choice of dining and plenty of partying options. Phuket has international airport with many direct flights from many countries and only 1 hour and 20 min flight from Bangkok. It is very convenience for travelling and a nice beach destination that has many things to offer. It is the perfect choice to visit after the pandemic time.

# Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa

Bruno Rotschaedl



## **Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.**

My name is Bruno Rotschaedl, I am the Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa's new General Manager. I am responsible for looking after the overall operations and business strategy of the resort, ensuring that initiatives undertaken are in positive alignment with the Renaissance brand and that progress continues at an efficient and coordinated pace toward the goals. Bringing an enormous amount of experience to the table, I have acquired the sharpened acumen and strong operational skills to see overall results achieved, having worked in hospitality all of my adult life, a period of 30 years, and held numerous leadership positions in top-rung hotels around the world.

Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa is located at the seaside town of Pattaya in Thailand. Situated in the attractive and tranquil beach of Na Jomtien district, the low-rise resort offers a premium and fashionable beachfront retreat within easy reach of the city's attractions. At Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa, you'll find a place where simple delights become memorable moments. Where distinctive style flirts with touches of whimsy. And where unparalleled service and uncommon sophistication always provide a unique experience.

## **Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?**

As per the recent announcement from Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the official estimate for foreign arrivals this year has been readjusted. Based on reported incoming international bookings, the new target has been raised to 1 million visitors expected each month, as of June until the end of the year. The improvement is attributed to loosening of pandemic-related entry restrictions, particularly canceling the compulsory RT-PCR testing, effective as of 1st May.

The announcement has been well received among hoteliers and those in related tourism sectors in the country. We are starting to see increase in forward bookings in Q3 and Q4, a positive lift in stays during the festive season, which includes the big Western holiday of Christmas as well as New Year's Eve in 2022-2023.

## **Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?**

Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa is well prepared to welcome back our international travelers. We look forward to a wonderful reunion with our returning guests, especially those who used to visit regularly. We will be delighted to meet new guests and travelers as well, who may have never visited Thailand before, or had come before but are going to experience their first stay at Renaissance Pattaya.

During the pandemic, we placed special emphasis on training programs and skill developments of our associates. This was an opportunity to ensure the core value of the brand is understood and delivered thoroughly. Of course, safety measures are the first and highest priority. Therefore, the goal was not only to bring all our associates into competency at the highest levels of service but safety as well, and to maintain these levels. In this respect, we have implemented new systems that focus on developing the team while keeping our high quality of service and continual safety.

## **Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?**

2022 is a year to reconnect, with families, friends, colleagues and clients. We have launched an excellent next-level MICE package called "Time is Now". It is designed to complement Renaissance Pattaya's fully-equipped meeting venues and the inspiring views from Thailand's eastern shoreline. The package allows meeting planners to choose from a range of cost saving options to value added benefits such as complimentary team building activity, upgrade to a themed coffee break and much more.

I am also very proud to share that Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa, which would usually be regarded as the perfectly situated premium beachside resort, has recently been awarded 2 symbolic MICE industry certifications: TMVS (THAILAND MICE Venues Standard) and AMVS (ASEAN MICE Venues Standard). Both certificates are the official countrywide and region-wide recognition of a hotel which offers world-class accommodations and facilities most suited for MICE, a benchmark to be considered by international MICE meetings and events planners.

# Banyan Thailand

Tjeert Kwant and Rob Pijper



## Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.

Banyan Thailand is a healthy active lifestyle community and championship golf club nestled between the mountains and the sea near Thailand's glittering gulf coast.

Just 2.5 hours' drive from Bangkok and only 5 minutes away from the beach, this spectacular development features a collection of private villas and exclusive residences, creating outstanding options for guests seeking an extended vacation or savvy investors.

The award-winning 18-hole Banyan Golf Club is ideal for experienced players and beginners alike, including expert tuition at The Banyan Golf Academy, and the

onsite Be Well medical centre promises world-class health services. The Banyan Privilege Club offers a wealth of benefits, including exclusive discounts and privileges with a wide range of local partners.

## Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?

Since the discussions started about easing the travel restrictions, we noticed an increase of homeowners and (overseas) members who came to live and/or play at their second home and golfclub at Banyan. However, the bookings and interest we received from the "normal tourists" were still far below pre-pandemic levels.

When the announcement on the 1st of May was made to drop the "Test&Go" quarantine, we experienced an increase of overseas inquiries for our different business units and secured a healthy number of bookings. Once the first tourists have experienced a smooth process entering the Kingdom of Thailand, the word will spread fast amongst the others who are still monitoring the situation which will boost their confidence.

## Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?

Although we have had a challenging time, we have always aimed to achieve the best customer service experience for each aspect of our business. No compromises have been made on the quality of service, training of resources and our standard operation procedures and almost all our team members stayed with us throughout the pandemic. This is not to say that there can't be any improvements, on the contrary, customer satisfaction is a continues process by listening to our clients and to adapt where needed. Guests should always feel a warm welcome and feel that we exceed their expectations, that's our number one priority.

## Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?

For the ones who plan to visit Hua Hin, we like to invite you to come and experience our service and products. Whether it is to play a round of golf or learn to play, combined with a lunch at our Terrace restaurant or a drink at our Irish Mulligan's Pub. Or you can come to stay with us in our 2 bedroom rental villas with private or lagoon pool, or if you like to own your getaway, come and have a look at our luxury Residences where we still have some plots available to customize and build your dream villa.





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## 28 April | Annual General Meeting 2022

### Congratulations to all new board members!

by Pattarada Sangnark, Marketing and Communications Manager, Netherlands–Thai Chamber of Commerce

On the 28th of April 2022, the annual general meeting, took place at the Peninsula Bangkok, was successfully ended, with over 50 participants. As the pandemic situation is finally getting better, this event was organized with the full support from our members.

AGM 2022 was kicked off by an opening speech from Mr. Rob Hurenkamp. He gave a presentation about NTCC's strategy, which included our values, vision, mission, and goals. After that, the participants had some insights into what the previous board members delivered throughout the past two years. Following that, NTCC's executive director, Mr. Hans van den Born, reviewed the activities report of 2021, which referred to not only events organization, but also visit to the Netherlands and efforts on vaccination.

The financial performance of 2021 was also presented at the AGM, and the balance sheet, as well as the profit and loss statement, were approved by the majority of the participants. Likewise, we also received an approval for the nomination of the auditor.



**“You will get what you believe” – Mr. Emile Ratelband**

Before the election of the board of directors started, Mr. Emile Ratelband, the CEO & Founder of Ratelband Research Institute, energetically gave a speech to motivate the candidates. Moreover, he allowed the audience to be involved, which led to enthusiasm and brought great attention back to the stage.

Each candidate delivered their speech powerfully, despite the time limit. Unfortunately, some of the candidates were not able to join the AGM. Accordingly, they provided their speech through video instead. Most importantly, these election procedures were under the guidelines of the NTCC's bylaws.

The election has now come to an end, and NTCC would like to congratulate and welcome our new board of directors 2022–2024!

#### **President:**

Mr. Rob Hurenkamp – Mazars (Thailand) Ltd.

#### **Vice Presidents:**

Mr. Manuel Madani – Priva

Mr. Tak Sriratanobhas – Mitr Phol Sugar Corporation., Ltd.

#### **Board Members:**

Mr. Marcel Canters – Lasermed Co., Ltd

Mr. Niek Hammer – The Okura Prestige Bangkok

Mr. Aik Jin Heng – Trouw Nutrition (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

Mr. Gideon Moolenburgh – Grant Thornton Thailand

Ms. Apinya Ngammor – Kamthorn Surachet & Somsak Co., Ltd.

Mr. Nattapong Poosodsri – Orffa (Thailand)

Mr. Ernst-Otto Smit – Green Wood Travel Co., Ltd.

Mr. Marthijn Smit – Oryx Stainless (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

Mr. Jagannathan Srinivasan – Signify Commercial (Thailand) Ltd.

Ms. Suphakarn Varinpramote – CM Town



Mr. Rob Hurenkamp will continue as our president and we are pleased to welcome Mr. Jagannathan Srinivasan and Ms. Suphakarn Varinpramote to the board for the first time. Unfortunately, Ms. Erna Geerligs and Mr. Niels Ammerlaan will not be a part of the board. NTCC appreciates both of their dedication commitment during the past few years.

NTCC has a strong belief that we will continue to raise with the commitment of our newly elected board members. After the election, the participants spent their night chatting with each other, with some cocktails and buffet provided by Peninsula hotel. Finally, NTCC would like to express our appreciation to Actio Global Consultancy Co., Ltd. for sponsoring this event and our venue partner The Peninsula Hotel.

Annual General Meeting 2022







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### Bangkok office

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Telephone: +66-2617 6450-3

# What about other sectors?

Hospitality and real-estate management were not the only sector that was struggling due to the pandemic. Airlines, travel agencies, and other organization that rely on foreign travelers were also in the similar situation. How will Thailand’s businesses change after entry restrictions were dropped? Discover the answers from our members’ interview.

## Recreational Bangkok Biking

Andre Breuer



**Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.**  
Andre Breuer, born and raised in The Hague Netherlands and living and working in Bangkok, Thailand since 1996. Founder and director of Recreational Bangkok Biking since April 2004.

Recreational Bangkok Biking Co., Ltd. is one of the first pioneers in bicycle tours in Bangkok. Nowadays we operate tours in Ayutthaya, Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

**Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were cancelled?**

We see that bookings are coming in and are looking forward to rise to the levels of pre-covid and/or even exceed them.

**Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?**

Yes, quality and service levels remain the same. We even have a selection of new trips on the shelves ready to be launched only waiting the correct moment. One concern we have (and that’s also the reason we don’t launch new products yet) is to attract more/new staff. It’s likely that there will be a shortage of workers/guides which could limit the availability of our products and or lower the service levels/quality. We’re working on it to avoid this happening.

**Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?**

A bicycle tour is the most eco-friendly way to explore the area you’re visiting. RBB-specialists in adding value to your stay in Ayutthaya, Bangkok and Chiang Mai.



## VNU Asia Pacific

Igor Palka



**Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.**

Igor Palka, Managing Director of VNU Asia Pacific

**Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were cancelled?**

Starting May 1, 2022, the easier entry regulations into Thailand will no longer require any PCR-tests for all travelers. This is a significant sign for the trade exhibition industry, welcoming overseas business professionals travelling to Thailand in order to meet with the right buyers through our powerful B2B platforms in various industries. VNU Asia Pacific's international trade shows witness currently a significant growing interest and participation from abroad.

Visitors, domestic as well as international, will certainly be coming from regions with direct flight connections and easy entry regulations in their respective home country on return. Luckily, we see easier entry regulations in most countries in Europe, MEA and APAC countries. Especially for the second half of the year, we expect our international participation to be very close to the level of the years 2018 and 2019, with further growth in the year 2023.

This theory will however be proved very soon by our first physical exhibition this May namely AGRITECHNICA ASIA & HORTI ASIA 2022, the trade fairs for the Agriculture and Horticulture industries. From 25th to 27th May, we plan to welcome 8,000 participants from worldwide at the BITEC venue here in Bangkok.

**Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?**

The exhibition industry was obviously severely affected and paused for more than 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, we never stopped connecting people, brands and markets through our digital platforms that we established and continuously developed for each show vertical.

But B2B trade fairs are driven by human interaction, emotions and face-to-face networking. This means, Thailand, as the gateway to the ASEAN region, is ready to welcoming all travelers back to the in-person business with full customer experiences same, if not even better, as in the past. Through digital features, tools and apps, certain onsite experiences or connections around the globe can be facilitated easier and are nowadays certainly more accepted than before the pandemic outbreak.

Obviously COVID-19 is still and will remain a concern or challenge, hence, we as the organizer, take care of all necessary health and safety protocols, as the health of all our participants remains the highest priority in addition to creating business opportunities. With clear communicated rules and regulations for all exhibitors, onsite staff and visitors, we can guarantee a smooth and safe professional environment while visiting any of our trade fairs.

**Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?**

We are certain, that 2022-2023 will be the years of economic revival in Thailand. Our trade show platforms have been a crucial sales and marketing tool for centuries and will remain to be the ideal sourcing and networking platform in future, in a physical and digital form. The benefits of visiting our exhibitions, are lead-generation, numerous new business opportunities with new potential partners or dealers from various regions, exploring showcased innovations, trends, and technology, knowledge-sharing with industry experts in a tailored environment and real networking. So, if you're looking for alternative ways to market your business – something that isn't reliant on technology or mainstream appeal – one of our trade shows could be for you.

Especially, as Southeast Asia's exhibition and conference industry is recognized as the ideal gateway to various industries in one of the most attractive regions worldwide. VNU Asia Pacific organizes the physical and digital exhibition and conference platforms across industries in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and more countries in future. Feel free to reach out to us for market and industry trends and how to get associated with our client base, for new business opportunities or partnership opportunities with regard to our related trade shows or if you simply required support in running your own conferences. We are happy to help!



### About VNU Asia Pacific

VNU Asia Pacific is part of VNU Group, a globally operating exhibition company with offices in Utrecht, Shanghai, Bangkok and consolidates the international exhibition business of Royal Dutch Jaarbeurs. In Southeast Asia, Jaarbeurs formed a Joint Venture with TCC Group, a leading corporate conglomerate in the fast-growing region. From its business hub located in Bangkok, VNU Asia Pacific covers all key exhibition markets in South East Asia. VNU Asia Pacific has a constantly expanding portfolio with currently 24 trade shows and event formats both online and face-to-face platforms including brands from the AgriTech, Animal Husbandry, Animal Companion, Food, Life Sciences, Biotechnology, 5G and IoT and Disaster Resilience industries.

For more information, visit [www.vnuasiapacific.com](http://www.vnuasiapacific.com)



## KLM is proud to be recognized with the 2022 APEX World Class Award

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 Fly Responsibly

Royal Dutch Airlines



# Air France KLM

Estee Ng



## Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.

My name is Estee Ng and I am the Country Manager for Air France and KLM in Thailand and Malaysia. I have been working for the company for 22 years, I am Malaysian and based in Kuala Lumpur.

Both airlines have a rich history in Thailand, in fact when KLM celebrated 60 years of scheduled flights to Bangkok in 1989, the newest Boeing 747-400 was named 'City of Bangkok' in tribute to this milestone. At the naming ceremony in a hangar at Schiphol Airport at the time, the aircraft was blessed in a traditional Thai ceremony. KLM was presented with a bronzen plaque by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and it was affixed in the aircraft. After the aircraft went out of service in 2019, KLM CEO Pieter Elbers returned the plaque to Thailand in a ceremony held at Suvarnabhumi Airport to honour KLM's 90 years of flights between Amsterdam and Bangkok. Air France began offering regular flights to Thailand with Air Orient, Air France's predecessor, on 30 August 1930. Bangkok was one of the 18 stopovers on the route between Paris and Ho Chi Minh on 30 August 1930.

## Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?

From May 2022, travel has rapidly become easier throughout South East Asia. Entry measures everywhere are being eased for those travellers who have proof of full vaccination or people who have proof of COVID-19 infection and recovery. We have therefore seen a healthy uptake in travel. We have finally turned a corner and can fly our customers to the destinations of their choice in the safest and most comfortable manner possible. With the huge demand for travel from South East Asia, after countries rapidly opened up, we are experiencing capacity issues. Unfortunately, other parts of the world opened up earlier and our network has put many of our aircraft on those routes. So after a very difficult two years, it is almost 'business as usual' and in the course of 2022 we hope we can resume to serve all our destinations again, including our South East Asian network, which we hope will be return how it was before the pandemic.

From Bangkok we have been offering daily KLM flights to Amsterdam and are currently offering 3 different 'tail-ends' with KLM from Bangkok to Manila, Taipei and Hong Kong. Air France offers 4 weekly flights from May to August including a tail-end to Ho Chi Minh. Our direct Air France Paris to Ho Chi Minh service will be reinstated this winter and we hope we can reinstate our non-stop KLM flights to Manila, Taipei and Hong Kong. We will then have more capacity available to and from Bangkok.

## Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?

Travellers can expect a safe, healthy and clean travel experience on KLM. Caring for our customers and employees is our top priority. However, we hope our customers will also join us on making their travel more sustainable. We acknowledge the urgent need to limit global warming, and have committed to the targets defined in the Paris Climate agreement to reach our sustainability goals. To limit global warming, greenhouse gas emissions must drastically decrease within the next 30 years. Air France and KLM have already reduced their carbon emissions by 6% in absolute terms between 2005 and 2019, despite a 32% increase in traffic. However, this is insufficient, and we must continue to reduce our emissions at a faster rate.

Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is the main lever for decarbonizing air transport. Produced from non-fossil fuel sources such as cooking oil or agricultural waste, they reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% on average during the production process. The production of SAF is currently very limited due to the lack of a sufficiently developed industrial sector, and their price is 4 to 8 times higher than fossil fuel. As of 2022, all flights departing from the Netherlands and France will incorporate the equivalent of 1% of SAF. We aim to incorporate 10% of SAF by 2030 and achieve 63% by 2050. So if a company or individual wishes to travel responsibly with KLM and Air France, they can do this in a number of ways.

To accelerate the usage and production of SAF, corporate customers can join the "Corporate SAF Program". The annual contribution will be invested in the sourcing of SAF. At the same time, the company can reduce their carbon footprint from business travel and contribute to its sustainability goals. Individual customers have also the option to purchase an amount of SAF or/and to contribute to the KLM's "CO2ZERO" or Air France's "Trip and Tree" programme. All these options aim for an eco-responsible travel with KLM and Air France and for making aviation greener.

## Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?

Now that travel rules have relaxed around the world, there is no doubt that summer 2022 is going to be a busy one. The desire to travel is there, despite the ongoing uncertainties in the world. We look forward to adjusting our operations and adapt to new opportunities. KLM has announced the roll out of premium economy class and is reconfiguring all long-haul aircraft in the next year. We hope to roll out more eco-initiatives – including signing a first 'Corporate SAF' contract in Thailand.

We look forward to welcoming many NTCC customers back onboard our flights soon.

Air France KLM

Vorawat Building 21st Floor 849 Silom Road Silom  
Bangrak Bangkok 106500 Thailand

[www.klm.com/Thailand](http://www.klm.com/Thailand)

## Travel Exclusive Asia

André van der Marck



### **Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.**

My name is Andre. I've been in Thailand since 2005. I used to work for other International DMC's as well as Tour Operators, then started my own company in 2016. In May 2020, we have rebranded into "Travel Exclusive Asia" and we take care of international tourists, who want to come to Thailand for a holiday. However, we work exclusively with B2B partners overseas, who then sell the trip to either the customers or retail agents. We are known for providing both group and individual travel to remote areas of Thailand mainly the European market, Australia, America, and New Zealand.

### **Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?**

After "Test&Go" was canceled, the feedback has been encouraging so far. The number of bookings is raising, mainly for July and August. The travelers include a lot of families with teenage children, which barely happened before Covid. We also noticed a positive trend that the average spending per booking is higher. This change could benefit small business owners, like restaurants or massage shops, and second-tier cities. I hope that Thailand's economy could be stimulated, but we still have a long way to get back to the situation before the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the current situation is not as wild as I hope it could be. The government came up with the decision to re-open the country quite late, compared with other countries in South East Asia. When this entry regulation came out, the summer booking season for European travelers has already passed.

### **Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?**

The service quality is definitely not the same. The main challenge of this matter is the employees. Some hotels are unable to manage to get the right people to the right job. On the other hand, I believe that the tourism industry will not be changed to the term "New Normal", but we are going "Back to the Normal". People will come and explore the beautiful city of Bangkok, go to the Erawan waterfalls, do an elephant experience, and so on. We will go back to the way it used to be, but with more social responsibility.

On the concerning side, firstly the war between Ukraine and Russia affects the tourism industry worldwide. Russian used to travel to Phuket and Pattaya a lot, and this group of travelers is currently missed. At the same time, we also still lack flights from China because of their strict policy. Apart from that, the booking prices are also much more expensive, but we are trying our best to maintain the rate within a certain limit.

Despite all challenges, I am very positive about the future of Thailand's tourism industry. Re-opening is a bold step forward, and 2023 will be an amazing year for all of us. The number of visitors could even reach higher than 44 million, which is what we used to receive.

# Green Wood Travel

Ernst-Otto Smit



## Please introduce yourself and give us a short introduction of your company.

My name is Ernst-Otto Smit, I'm the general manager of Green Wood Travel. We do inbound tourism for the last 30 years, mainly from the Netherlands and Belgium. We focus on individual travelers, and the traveling programs are tailor-made. The programs are specified separately, so people can see how much they will be paying for the plane ticket, hotel, and other costs.

## Is there indeed a positive outlook that you are noticing now that certain travel restrictions were canceled?

We do notice some positive effects, but there are still some challenging factors. The survey has shown that most of the European trend to travel within Europe. One of the reasons behind this is that people are worried about the new Covid variant from South Africa, so traveling somewhere near home will be more convenient, in case another lockdown happened. This is the reason why Thailand does not have much European influx this year, but it will improve in the next season. We have to give it some time. To go slowly and carefully, especially with the life of people is not a bad thing. I think 2024 will be a good year for this industry. The local business owners who shut down their businesses will come back as well.

People should travel now. Thailand is a beautiful country, there is no overtourism, and now this nation is opening.

## Could the travelers expect a similar service quality or experience as before the pandemic? Any particular concerns or positive changes?

I don't think that it will change much. In comparison with other countries, Thailand's service quality is already high and that allows Thailand to be a popular destination. Some companies may face recruiting challenges. People who lost their job during the pandemic may not come back to the industry. That's why the company should start providing proper training and salary for newcomers.

Talking about the concern, the tourism industry itself is a roller-coaster and anything could happen. Starting a business as a travel company in this period will be hard because customers require high-standard travel and a guarantee that their money will be spent appropriately. The industry will be filled with big players, and I personally think that this is a pity, as most of the time innovation comes from the small players.

## Is there anything you wish to share with our readers?

I really wish we could get more sustainable tourism in Thailand, which requires some policies from the government. It's imaginable that we could reach a similar amount of tourists as before Covid, but is it good for the environment? My recommendation would be, do not stop the market completely, but there should be a limitation for the future generation.



Green Wood Travel Co., Ltd.

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<https://www.greenwoodtravel.nl>

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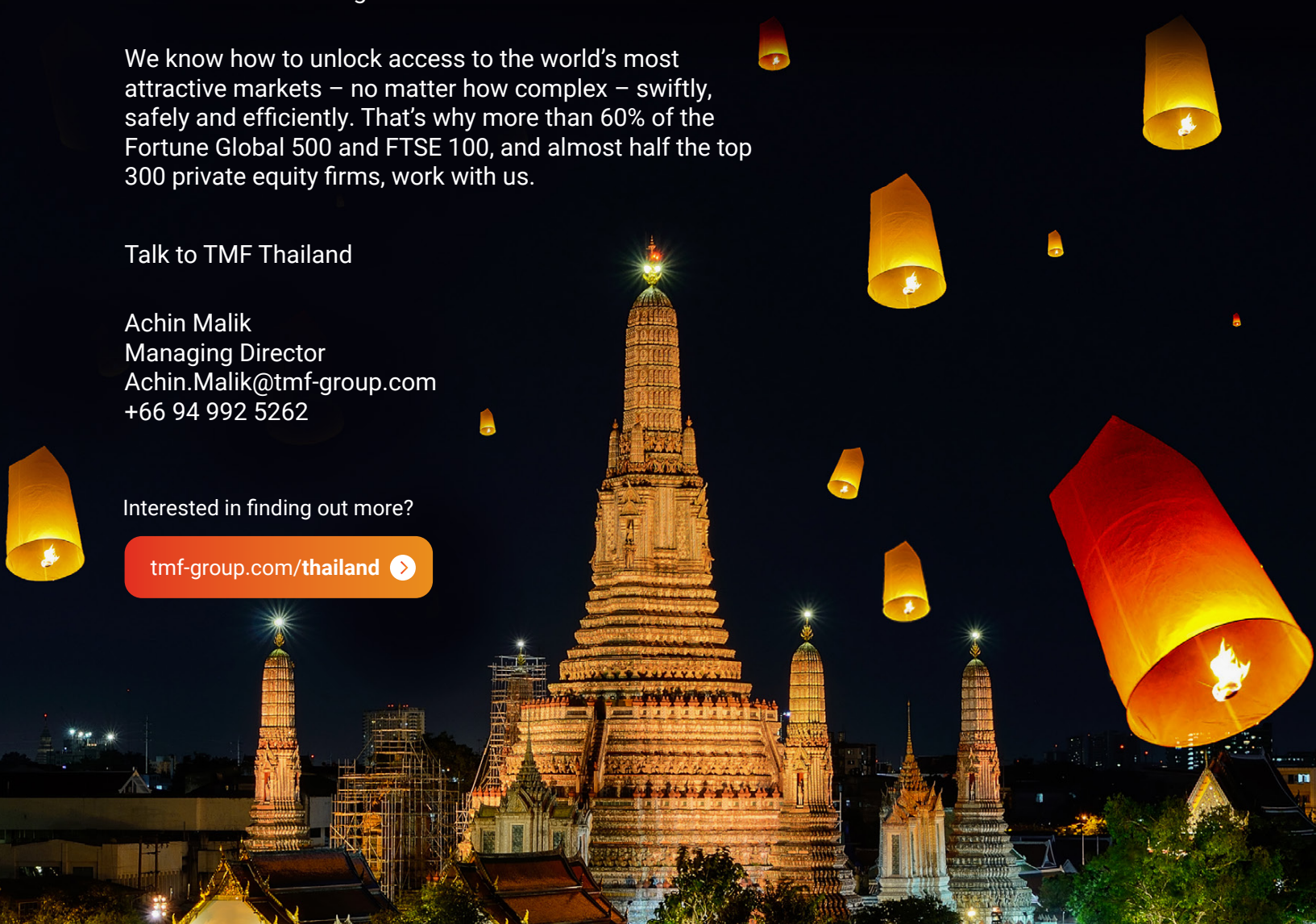
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**Vicky Chan**  
Export  
Manager Asia

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Managing Director

We are supplier for raw materials for animal feed since 2005. Our aim is to search for the agricultural goods from both domestic manufacturer and import, not only for the possibly and reasonably fair price, but also to screen for highest quality and provide them to the end-users. Therefore, it is also our task to approach the maximum pleasantness of our customers with our goods in their hands. For the AEC, Siam Agri Supply along with our group and alliances based currently in Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Singapore, are looking forward to be your reliable partner for your marketing in the AEC, since we're searching for new friendship as well as the best quality raw material goods from all over the world, mainly to maintain the reliable trading partnership in the long term.



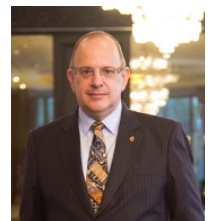
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**Wim N.M. Fagel**  
General Manager

Lumphawa Amphawa is located 5 km. far from the famous travel destination "Amphawa Floating Market" and convenient to travel. Our resort decorated in Modern-chic Style surrounded by the natural canal, and the stream throughout resort. With a natural scenic view of coconut tree, you will feel the natural fresh air, tranquility, and private, which you can enjoy your relaxation within the natural here. Other facilities that will enrich your happiness is Romlumpoo Restaurant, we serve tasty local menus and delicious Thai food. A coffee shop named Lumphawa Tasawang, Salt Chlorinator Swimming Pool, Pedal Boat, and Game Room.

## Recent NTCC Events



### 4 April | NTCCafé

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, NTCCafé was organized at The Play Deck, Oriental Residence Bangkok, Saffron Collection. The guests spent their time talking, chilling, enjoying their drinks and snacks together by the open-air lounge and cool swimming pool. We appreciate everyone for being a part of this amazing event.

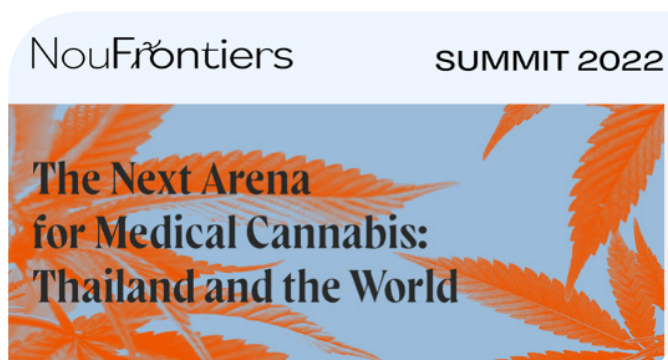
Most importantly, special thanks to Actio Global Consultancy Co., Ltd. for sponsoring this event and the first round of drinks for the NTCCafé in the April edition.



### 9 May | NTCCafé

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the NTCCafé took place at Penthouse Bar & Grill, Park Hyatt Bangkok. The guests had a delightful time, engaging in conversations, enjoying various snacks and drinks, while admiring the beautiful night view of the city.

We would like to thank everyone who joined the event, and we truly hope to see you again on our next NTCCafé!



### 24 May | NouFrontiers Cannabis Conference

We brought together global pioneers of the cannabis industry to the NouFrontiers Cannabis Conference at The Okura Prestige Bangkok, on Tuesday the 24th of May 2022. In the conference, the best practices of cannabis from Canada, the Netherlands, and beyond were shared. Laying the ground for Thailand's future in the cannabis industry is crucial through reflection in a global perspective.

The international speakers included:

- Terry Booth – CEO of Audacious (AUSA)
- Ryan Doran – CEO of Cannabiz Agronomics
- Joel Fuzat – Senior Vice President at ALPS
- Ben Niehaus – Managing Director of SpexAI
- Thomas Larssen – President at ALPS
- Dr. Kevin Mehr – Chief Scientific Officer at 3 Rivers Biotech
- Sebastian Dam – Medisun

Moderators:

- Manuel Madani – General Manager, SEA at Priva
- Su Zhang – Partner Program Manager at Priva

Thailand has the buzz of the newly lit cannabis industry since the legalization of its medical use and application in early 2020. Many local and international players have entered the market, research institutes are deep diving into knowledge transfers, and the government's signal shows full-steam ahead. The next few years are pivotal towards the birth and bloom of the industry. It was a great opportunity for the new horizon to ride the wave of the future in healthcare, and we are grateful to met you at the first NouFrontiers Summit!

The attendees had a chance to learn, connect, and build their cannabis business from the ground up, from Thai soil to the world in donation for the Thailand's blind football team.

NTCC appreciate the sponsorship from Van der Hoeven Horticultural Projects B.V., Alps, SpexAI, 3 Rivers Biotech, NLinBusiness, and Audacious (AUS).

## Member News



We've all been waiting for the moment: no more testing or quarantine restrictions as the country is fully reopened to international travellers. The only remaining requirement is the Thailand Pass, which requires a COVID-19 vaccination certificate and insurance coverage of at least 10,000 USD.

**Amari Phuket** is your private getaway for romance and serenity, located in the secluded part of Patong Beach, offering a private paradise overlooking the Andaman Sea. The resort's iconic Italian restaurant, **La Gritta**, remains resilient as guests continue to savour authentic flavours and embark on new degustation experiences. The signature One and Two Bedroom Club Suites offer guests access to the exclusive "Clubhouse" with an infinity pool with 270-degree views of Patong Beach, the FIT centre, daily complimentary tea, coffee and cookies, food and drinks service and pre-dinner cocktails and canapes in the evening.

Adventurers and family travellers seeking activities and fun will find OZO Phuket their one-stop destination for surfing and recreation. Other family-oriented activities include backyard camping, paddle boarding, cooking classes, hot pot dinners and picnics on Kata Beach. The resort's newest addition is the **Banana Beach/Coral Island Getaway**, offering a full-day snorkelling trip, kayaking via speedboat or a weekend catamaran cruise with sunset sparkling wine.



### Recruitment going crazy after re-opening

The Great Resignation was a term we learned about last year. It described the mass exodus of employees, first in the US, then in Australia and Europe.

As Thailand is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and that is the good light, many companies are again hiring. However, most companies are struggling to find enough people and enough of the talent they now need.

Contingency recruiters (paid only if a candidate is hired) are overloaded, and their consultants work with 10 and some 20-40 job searches.

Executive search, exclusive partnerships with clients and typically used for management positions, are also seeing an increase in enquiries and job searches.

As a client, you must make sure exactly what the recruiter can deliver. How much time will be given to your search? What about the timeline for submitting candidates?

More and more companies are using online assessment tools to help analyze a candidate's work behavior and cognitive skills. The top ones include Predictive Index and Hogan.

By Tom Sorensen

Managing Partner of Tom Sorensen Recruitment (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

Email: [tom.s@tomsorensen.in.th](mailto:tom.s@tomsorensen.in.th)

Web: [www.tomsorensen.in.th](http://www.tomsorensen.in.th)



### FINALLY!

**It's Movers & Shakers that moved Pattaya's social scene back into SHAKING!**

And what a BLAST it was with over 325 corporate guests at the new Courtyard by MARRIOTT hotel, Pattaya North! One of Thailand's most exciting social networking events has rocked the scene once more.

The title sponsor SERENITY DEVELOPMENTS, formed in 2019 by principals Gavin Perfect and Stuart Sutton, along with managing director, Khun Rattikhan Sutton, powered this superb function with co-sponsors ARC, Central Premier Group, MODA Windows & Doors, PARISId-bLINE and Woodpecker Furniture.

This M&S event was jointly promoted by the following Chambers of Commerce Thailand:

BCCT – NTCC – BeLuThai

CONTACT Main-Sponsor:

[www.serenitydevelopments.asia](http://www.serenitydevelopments.asia)

[info@serenitydevelopments.asia](mailto:info@serenitydevelopments.asia)

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+66 (0)89 659 8777 (Thai/Chinese)

More info on exclusive M&S events:

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[kc@towncountryproperty.com](mailto:kc@towncountryproperty.com)

+66 (0)86 666 7238



### Wait?... A BACKPACKER?!

It was November '21, I was sitting on the terrace of the Cali-Mex Bar & Grill on Soi 11, I spotted the first backpacker with a friend of mine. We ordered a shot of tequila and celebrated this moment!

How crazy is that? It was a euphoric moment, and to celebrate seeing a backpacker? This is literally how deep the country was going because of the pandemic, and how happy we were.

It was the re-start of Thailand, and boy, did we notice at Cali-Mex! In the meantime we have been able to expand to 5 properties around Bangkok, with our current flagship property being the Silom Branch which we were able to re-open again in April '21!

I am aware that perhaps in the West, things are opening up sooner than here, but all small positive things may not be taken for granted. Even though Thailand is opening slowly, they are opening up, and I am looking forward to the moment we can see the touristic hotspots flooded with tourists in their elephant trousers again.

It's been a tough 2 years for Thailand and the world, but with a positive mindset we can overcome anything!

Thomas Bernhard  
General Manager Cali-Mex Thailand



### Adapting to the “Re-opening Thailand” with UV-C

As we learn to live with the Covid-19 pandemic, UV-C disinfection technologies can help.

Covid-19 is here to stay. As our societies begin to open up again, we must learn to do one thing: live with the new normal. But this is difficult when cases remain high and vaccine uptake declines. We need to introduce technologies and policies that work to strengthen the protections offered by masks, social distancing, and jabs without replacing them entirely.

The obvious solution to living with an airborne disease is ventilation, but this can be energy-inefficient and costly, with heating bills rising as schools and offices are forced to keep windows open to encourage airflow. But because we spend much of our time living, working, and socializing indoors, buildings must be both healthy and efficient to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases. Clearly, we must improve ventilation through new engineering techniques—and that's where UV-C comes in.

Ultraviolet-C is a type of radiation that breaks down the DNA and RNA of microorganisms, including viruses and bacteria, and renders them effectively harmless.

Research conducted in 2020 by the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) at Boston University found that Signify's UV-C light sources reduced SARS-CoV-2 virus infectivity on a surface to below detectable levels in as few as 9 seconds.<sup>1</sup>

**Boston University has validated the effectiveness of our light sources as a preventive measure for companies and institutions as they seek ways to provide virus-free environments”**

Signify ( Philips ) UV-C disinfection chambers and lamps can disinfect objects as small as handheld supermarket scanners and as large as entire buses. UV-C upper air disinfection luminaires can inactivate the virus in the upper air while people are present in the room, with features designed to shield them from potentially harmful radiation.

Ultimately, this means that we can bring back face-to-face teaching, business, and play.

For more information or need to consult about how to make your places healthy and safety, Call us 02-089-0050 : Mon-Fri. during office hours or visit us : [www.signify.com/th-th](http://www.signify.com/th-th)



Due to the long awaited news of the 'Reopening of Thailand' MY ABC CLASS is pleased to announce a whole new Online Course for A1 Elementary level Beginner learners for Business English Communications! The course provides solid foundations for learners to understand and be able to use basic English in day to day Business situations! We also instill the confidence to use the language via our platform with in-class Role Plays, Presentations and Interactive teaching methods!

We can help you or your team to get ready to communicate effectively in English for the Grand Reopening of Thailand!

If you are interested to learn more please contact us at [Benjamin.doherty@myabcclass.com](mailto:Benjamin.doherty@myabcclass.com)

## Welcome Back To Thailand!

We share in your excitement and anticipation for the start of this new chapter!

Throughout the pandemic, VitalLife Scientific Wellness Center has been focused on protecting community Health and Wellness. While certain aspects of life may be different, our mission remains the same — to deliver a transformative and groundbreaking Health and Wellness service.

We have offered new service(s) to cater clients in all ages such as:

- Immune Booster Program and Supplement
- Kid and Teenage Wellness
- Sleep Wellness
- Sexual Wellness
- DNA & Genetics
- Telemedicine
- Mommy Wellness
- Brain Health
- Post Covid Wellness Solution

We recently opened **Rakxa**, The **Fully Integrated Wellness and Medical Retreat**.

As we embark on this journey, we want to help you Feel Younger, Look Better and Live Longer!

**VitalLife Scientific Wellness Center is ready to serve you!**  
Explore all service(s)



VitalLife Website



VitalLife Packages



RAKxa

**A Subsidiary of Bumrungrad International Hospital**



## ON THE ROAD (AT LAST)

Philanthropy Connections Foundation (PCF) supports 50 projects in remote areas in Thailand, Burma and Cambodia. It is one of the highlights for the team to accompany sponsors to our projects whenever possible and it has been a very long 24 months since we have been able to do that.

But, at last, travel restrictions have been lifted and we've managed to hit the road a few times in the last couple of months.

For example, one of our sponsors, Bike Tour Asia (BTA), was able to visit the Ban Nai Soi Community Learning Center (BNSCLC) for the 2nd time. Here they had supported a valuable irrigation project over the past year. They were so impressed with the impact their support had that they decided to sponsor three more essential projects here. It is very encouraging to see their commitment to help young people from underserved areas on their path to become 'Change Makers' for their communities.

If you want to be part of our work as well please contact [info@philanthropyconnections.org](mailto:info@philanthropyconnections.org)

To get an idea of what the visit felt like please scan the QR code to watch the video:



## Welcoming travellers back with open arms!

As of may the 1st most restrictions for entering Thailand have been lifted. This is great and fantastic news for everybody involved in the Thailand Tourism industry. Especially the local economies who have been hit hard because of the Covid-19 virus. But there is a bright future ahead for economic growth and we at Green Wood Travel are eager to welcome all travelers back to this beautiful part of the world.

Tourism shutting down because of the virus has been a terrible experience. But it has provided us with insides. For example, the returning of nature to places which were destroyed by mass-tourism. Seeing this makes you think about the future and how we can make tourism more sustainable. Which means not only for nature, but also how to benefit the local economies more and more. Besides that, keeping a destination authentic by guiding families and friend's through the country instead of big groups of people who have a negative effect on the local environment.

Now, at Green Wood Travel the spirits are high as more and more requests are coming in. Seeing tourists return to Thailand is a very positive and uplifting sight. And we hope to welcome more and more travelers every day. And together with them we hope to create a future where tourism is sustainable and will benefit People, Planet and Profit.



## Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa Gives a World-Class Welcome Back to MICE

*Thailand's reopening and region-wide MICE venue recognition, with a next-level MICE package, make this the time and Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa the place to plan meetings and events.*

Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa renews its warm welcome to MICE, upon the current re-opening of Thailand, with an invitation to excellence that can be counted on at the luxury beachside resort, which has recently been awarded AMVS (ASEAN MICE Venues Standard) certification and awaits prepared with a next-level MICE package that makes holding events in Pattaya a nearly irresistible option, aptly entitled "Time is Now".

The AMVS certificate is the official region-wide recognition of world-class accommodations and facilities most suited for MICE, setting a benchmark that enhances the visibility and appeal of certified properties for the planners of meetings and events.

The "Time is Now" to book your MICE event from an exciting menu of complimentary options such as a free team building activity, a 5% discount on the master bill, a complimentary night, a themed coffee break and more, with Renaissance Pattaya's fully-equipped meeting venues and the inspiring views from Thailand's eastern shoreline.



## Recent changes to rules on entering Thailand

The Thai government recently changed the measures related to RT-PCR and ATK tests for people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 entering the country, effective 1 May 2022. Expatriate employees who have a Thai visa and work permit must enter Thailand to extend their visa or renew their work permit before they expire.

If a problem arises and it is not possible to extend the visa or renew the work permit of an expatriate employee before they expire, the employer must notify the Department of Employment and ask it to remove the name of that employee within 15 days of the work permit expiring. If the employer does not do so, it could face a fine of up to THB 40,000. If the employer would like the expatriate to continue working as an employee, the expatriate must apply for a new non-immigrant visa at a Thai embassy abroad, enter Thailand on the new visa, and then apply for a new work permit.

Mazars in Thailand has a team of immigration experts who specialise in providing complete services covering immigration regulations and legal requirements, including advice on staying and working in Thailand. If you need assistance, please contact us at [info@mazars.co.th](mailto:info@mazars.co.th) or visit our website at [www.mazars.co.th](http://www.mazars.co.th)



## Samui Island Escape

Escape to Amari Koh Samui with the unique 2 nights package and take on the half-day tour by our air-conditioned Van to visit the signature Coconut museum learning history of coconut harvest. Enjoy a 90 minutes cooking class session making traditional coconut desserts and other delicacies. Visit Wat Plai Laem and Big Buddha along the way.

Package starts from 9,999 THB Net for 2 adults in Deluxe Room (Stay from now – 5 Jul 2022)

Package Inclusive of:

- Daily breakfast with a wide selection of local and international cuisine
- Half-day tour around the island by Amari air-conditioned Van and enjoy 90-min cooking – class session. Stop by at Wat Plai Laem and Big Buddha along the way with optional visit to a local fresh market.
- Receive 1,000 THB food, drink and spa credit per stay to use at our outlets.
- Complimentary roundtrip airport transfer by Amari Van from Samui International airport.

Conditions:

- Cancellation policy is flexible with a 7 days free cancellation window, if cancelled less than 7 days prior to arrival, 50% of the package penalty apply

Email: [reservations.kohsamui@amari.com](mailto:reservations.kohsamui@amari.com) or  
Tel: 077 915 250

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