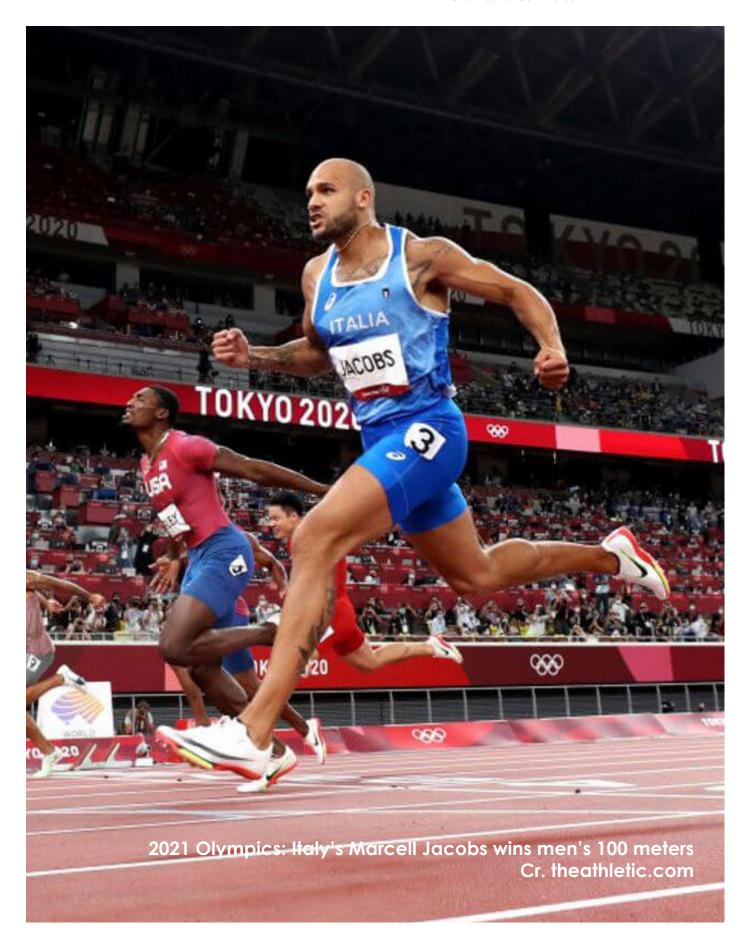




The Business Magazine of the Thai - Italian Chamber of Commerce





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Dear Valued Members

I am delighted to present the August 2021 Issue of our Informa Magazine. As Italians we view August as the vacation month, thus, the TICC would like to express its strong support and encouragement to all of our members and affected Thai institutions as Thailand navigates another wave of COVID-19. Each wave has been a test of adaptability and innovation, but I am confident that the Italian and Thai business communities will be able to make it work and lead to significant improvements.

In this issue, I would like to express my gratitude to the participants who contributed us articles for this edition of INFORMA, as a result of which we are now able to publish monthly magazines. Thailand Board of Investment, Bumrungrad, CPS Group, Frigel, Legor group, Chatamue, Gistda and Moodart fashion school, other informative pieces from our member companies are among the papers in this edition. We will also include an article from a business association that will provide useful information for our Thai members and local producers as it includes information to overcome the ongoing logistical challenges and multiple COVID-19 era custom regulations.

Thailand's mass immunization effort for COVID-19 launched this month, based on the current local situation. Our member, T.Man Pharma has also shared with us the Propolis product a power of nature against COVID-19. We are optimistic that the local situation will continue to improve as a result of this news, and we expect that normality will soon return. The TICC crew has made significant progress in our transition to online media outlets, despite the ongoing pandemic and public health limitations. In this regard, we encourage our members, followers, and network to subscribe to/follow our YouTube channel and Facebook page for the most up-to-date information and intriguing initiatives. Our prior webinars, as well as regular updates to the TICC's website and Facebook page, are available on our YouTube channel.

As TICC member and President, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members for their unwavering support and active participation in TICC. In the coming years, we wish for nothing but the best. Furthermore, I wish everyone safety and good health, and I strongly recommend you to get vaccinated as soon as possible. I hope to see you in the near future.

Arrivederci!

Federico Cardini President

ABOUT US

The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) is a private, non-profit organization which has a network of companies from all around the world but mostly focusing on Italian and Thai companies with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.

The main goal of the Chamber is to enhance cooperation between Italy and Thailand, by developing programs of common interest in order to increase the awareness between organizations and public administrations in the two countries. In order to reach its goals, TICC constantly organizes activities, seminars, commercial missions, networking events and meetings to promote the development of commercial activities as well as industrial and cultural collaboration between organizations and entrepreneurs both Thai and Italian.

TICC is a member of Assocamerstero (the association of Italian Chamber of Commerce abroad) (http://www.assocamerestero.it), the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT) (http://www.jfcct.org) and is one of the founding partners of the European ASEAN Business Center (EABC)





Sleepy employees are 70% more likely to be involved in workplace accidents. Sleep-deprived drivers are 33% more likely to have an accident on the road. Nurses working the night shift made 32% more mathematical errors than nurses working the day shift. The operators working in the night of Chernobyl Nuclear plant catastrophe was later found to have too little sleep. Other nuclear plants have histories of failures caused in part by sleepiness. You have higher chance of making wrong decision if you don't get enough good quality sleep.

CONTENTS







8 THAILAND BOI APPROVES ENHANCED INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE R&D AND HRD



Propolis a Power of Nature against COVID-19

BECOMING WORLD CLASS: PAT'S GREEN PORT PROJECT

PROPOLIS A POWER OF NATURE AGAINST COVID-19

LIST OF ADVERTISEMENTS



mr.pig





P. 2

P. 4

P. 9

P. 17











P. 18

P. 27

P. 28

P. 31

P. 32





Today, the world of the 21st century has undergone many changes. Both in terms of communication and technology that affects our daily lives. Looking around, you can see that almost everything is driven by technology and energy. Therefore, we forget the most important thing is green space and fresh air. Especially in Bangkok when you picture it, you will only see lots of buildings, temples, shopping malls and other buildings which have reduced parks and greenery in Bangkok. It is evident that the amount of green space is almost three times less than the standard set by the World Health Organization (WHO). There should be more than 9 square meters of green space/person, but Bangkok has a green area to population ratio of 3.54 square meters/person. This will not only affect the overall condition of Bangkok but also affects the atmosphere and global warming due to a large amount of greenhouse gases. Compared to capital cities in other countries, they have planted trees or built parks to compensate for the loss of trees. For example, in New York City, the midst of the city that never sleeps in the USA, there is Central Park which is the largest park in the world.

However, the fact that Bangkok does not meet the standards from the WHO does not only affect the atmosphere it also affects the weather in Bangkok. For example, from the end of 2020 till the beginning of 2021 Bangkok had some of the highest numbers of PM 2.5 dust in the world.

In Bangkok, the rate of pm 2.5 was the 3rd highest in the world in December which affects the living conditions of many Bangkokians. The Permanent Secretary for Bangkok, Mrs. Silpasuay Raweesangsun, did not have a calm attitude about the situation in Bangkok. She also recognized the importance of trees and green spaces in the city. Therefore, they would like to create the Green Bangkok 2030 project by inviting government agencies, the private sector, educational institutions, and network partners to join the committee to create quality and sustainable green spaces under participation from all sectors.

Pol Gen Asawin Kwanmuang, Governor of Bangkok has announced its intention to increase green areas in Bangkok to achieve the target within the year 2030 on December 15, 2019, at Wachirabenjathat Park. Some areas can be developed into green areas, such as vacant land, vacant spaces under expressways, empty space by the water, empty space by the railroad, empty sidewalks including planting trees around the electric train pole. but it is still important that we choose the right species of plant such as Koi, English Ficus, dragon tongue, rabbit arch, yellow betel nut, Claudia because they can grow without obstructing the visibility of road users. It can cover the landscape and reduce dust in the air as well. In addition, trees are planted that can catch dust well according to the results of a study of the National Research Office (NRCT), such as Kratomthong, Klanang Pim, Sethi Ruen Nok, and more ferns

The operation started with planting trees and increasing the park area of Bangkok. Currently, the project is underway, namely the Suan Yen Pen Suk project, Ladprao area of 10 rai, and the garden project from Phu Pha to Mahanati, Chatuchak District, area of 26 rai. There are also 11 pilot areas in the Green Bangkok project, which are parks in each district. Also, the office PTT Head Office Area under the expressway, Bang Son BTS Station, Bang

Sue District, etc. If the construction is completed, there will be approximately 108 rai of green area.

Forthe year 2021-2022, according to the investment plan of Bangkok, the city people will use the service of 12 more green gardens, which come from the people's faith - NGOs donate 6 small and large plots of land with a total area of 123 rai, consisting of Half rai of land in front of Hua Lamphong Temple, along the Chao Phraya River, Khlong San District 2 rai, Rim Chao Phraya District, Bangkok Noi District 3 rai, Phutthamonthon Sai 3 Road, a large plot of 98 rai, in Soi Wachiratham Sathit 35, the medium size 14 rai, and another 4 rai of land in Soi Srinakarin 24.

The host of the operation is "BKK Environment Office." Upon request, there will be an assessment of the suitability of the area. Land plot physical, accessibility, delivery time Then it is the last step in the development of land plots into green areas.

Personally, the author thinks that not only adding green areas or raising trees will solve all problems, but also, we must look at the matter of limiting the area to build buildings, places not to spread more non environmental buildings and invade green areas in the future. In addition, Bangkok needs a city planning system that separates the different places better and more efficiently. It may make Bangkok comparable to "the city of the gods built" according to the slogan of Bangkok itself. Because if there is a good urban planning system, there will be more green spaces and it will help with congestion or concentration of population in each district as well as traffic congestion which is one of Bangkok's top problem.

However, having begun to develop more green areas to Bangkok is considered the starting point of the treatment to getting a greener city which will keep Bangkok livable and attractive to residents and tourists. Therefore, everyone should be aware of the importance of not only following the rules of the WHO, but to protect the planet, reduce pollution and purify the air for good health and the peace of mankind in the future. Let this Bangkok be "our Bangkok", Bangkok that is pleasant to live in for all times to come.



THAILAND BOI APPROVES ENHANCED INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE R&D AND HRD, AND TO ATTRACT SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING, DIGITAL ACTIVITIES AND SMART PACKAGING

The Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) at a meeting today approved a series of measures to encourage more investment in research and development (R&D) and engage the industry more actively in human resource development (HRD). Enhanced incentives are also offered to attract investment in the growing semiconductor, digital and packaging industries.

As Thailand is aspired to become more innovation-driven, private sector R&D plays a very significant role. In order to encourage companies to step up their R&D, the BOI has proposed to the board that projects that invest or spend at least 200 million baht or 1% of their total sales of the first 3 years be entitled to a longer tax breaks (maximum 13 years) with no corporate income tax exemption ceiling. The number of additional years of tax holidays depends on the amount of R&D spending/investment. Moreover, companies that participate in apprenticeship programs or spend on advanced technology training can also enjoy greater tax incentives.

"We see R&D and HRD being the most critical factors in strengthening the country's competitiveness", Ms Duangjai Asawachintachit, Secretary General of the BOI, said after the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-ocha.

The Covid-19 crisis has further highlighted the importance of high technology and the digital economy, from the rising demand for electronics products of all sorts, to the increased usage of digital services and platforms. Amid the pandemic, the semiconductor industry has experienced demand hike and companies are looking for more resilience in the global supply chain. Thailand, with electronic products as the country's top export products, aims to attract more semiconductor manufacturing. Front-end capital and technology-intensive manufacturing such as wafer fabrication will be given 10-year tax holidays while advanced integrated circuits, IC substrate and printed circuit board projects with machinery investment of at least 1.5 billion baht will be offered 8-year tax break.

The BOI also approved a revamp of its promotion policy for businesses operating on the supply side of the digital economy by focusing on hiring and developing IT workforce as well as upgrading companies to relevant international standards. Companies applying for BOI privileges under the single reorganized category called "Development of Software, Digital Services Platform or Digital Content" will be eligible for 8-year tax holidays, with the yearly ceiling reflecting additional hiring of Thai IT personnel, training expenses and costs of international standard certifications, such as ISO 29110 and CMMI Level 2 and above.

"On the digital business side, the improved investment promotion aims to encourage the development of a broader pool of qualified Thai IT specialists, and to allow the creation of more competitive local platforms and IT operations," Ms Duangjai said.

Thailand, which has already made significant investment in its digital ecosystem, including by taking the lead in ASEAN in building a 5G infrastructure, has long attracted investment from around the world in the electronics sector, with a promotion policy that covers the entire supply chain. Thailand is currently the 13th largest exporter in the world for electronic products and parts.

To ensure that Thailand's packaging industry stays on top of the global trends in the sector and to encourage investment in technology and environmental sustainability, as emphasized in the Government's Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) model, the BOI today approved enhanced investment incentives for the production of so-called smart packaging and environmentally friendly packaging, including recycled materials.

The BOI also approved a revised scope for the International Business Center (IBC) and Trade and Investment Support Office (TISO) categories with the aim to allow for more flexible operations by foreign multinationals operating regional and international offices in Thailand. The revised scope of both categories will allow companies that do not operate a treasury center to provide lending to affiliated companies in and outside Thailand under the relevant exchange control regulations.

The board also approved five investment applications, with a combined investment value of 49.9 billion baht, as per the following details:

- 1. Hin Kong Power Company Limited received approval for a power generation project, with an investment value of 32.5 billion baht. The natural gas-fired plant, located in Ratchaburi Province, will have a production capacity 1,540 megawatts.
- 2. B.Grimm Power (Angthong) 2 Limited received approval for a power generation, and steam production project, with an investment value of 5.3 billion baht. The project, located at World Food Valley Thailand Industrial Estate in Angthong Province, will have a capacity of 145 megawatts of electricity, and 30 tons / hour of steam.
- 3. B.Grimm Power (Angthong) 3 Limited received approval for a power generation and steam production project and natural gas pipeline project, with an investment value of 5.2 billion baht. The project, located at World Food Valley Thailand Industrial Estate in Angthong Province, will have a capacity of 145 megawatts of electricity, and 30 tons / hour of steam, while the natural gas pipeline will have a capacity of 13,914 million standard cubic feet / year.
- 4. Top SPP Company Limited received approval for a power generation and steam production project, with an investment value of 4.35 billion baht. Located in Chonburi Province, the project will have a capacity of 120 megawatts of electricity and 294.2 tons / hour of steam.
- 5. Toyobo Indorama Advanced Fibers Company Limited received approval for a high tenacity synthetic filament yarn project, with an investment value of 2.6 billion baht. The project, located at Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate in Rayong Province, will have an annual production capacity of 9,300 tons. This special type of fabric is commonly used as a raw material for airbags.



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The Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) has continuously developed and promoted the Green Port Project to support its mission and strategy to conduct port businesses in parallel with environmental protection. The project enhances recognition among stakeholders while supporting growth and sustainable development. PAT also aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage stakeholders, including employees, customers, port users, and communities, to participate in reducing the impacts of port operations on the environment. Key aspects of the Green Port Project are as follows:

Environmental Policy

PAT's environmental policy seeks to enhance its organizational administration to meet required safety standards and avoid any environmental impacts. PAT has issued the environmental policy in order to achieve sustainable development, reduce global warming, and increase confidence among port users.

On September 1, 2017, PAT announced its Sustainable Waste Management Policy to provide the framework for environmentally-friendly management and to support sustainable development. This also supports the national policy under which waste management has been declared a National Agenda.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

PAT has implemented a number of measures aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases suchas carbon dioxide. These include:

Promotion of Shift Mode Logistics Development:

PAT supports the government's policy in promoting the modal shift of transport from road to water and rail transport. Shift mode logistics is expected to decrease the number of trucks travelling to and from Laem Chabang Port, as well as relieve traffic congestion and reduce the incidence of road accidents. The Policy also supports a reduction in fuel consumption, which will consequently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 20G Coastal Terminal at Bangkok Port and the Single Rail Transfer Operator (SRTO) at Laem Chabang Port have been developed by PAT to not only maintain the environmental quality but also to enhance the positive image of both ports.

Adoption of Alternative Energy: PAT promotes the use of alternative energy within the organization. As part of this plan, in 2017, wind turbines were installed at Laem Chabang Port to generate electricity for port activities.

Energy-saving Projects: PAT participates in a number of projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency in the government sector, which are funded by the Energy Conservation Fund. Activities undertaken so far include:

- 1) Replacing 338 conventional light bulbs with sub-500-W LED flood lights;
- 2) Installing three inverter motor units for 55-kW cool water pumps; 3) Changing three high-efficiency chilling system units of over 350 tons of refrigeration.

Implementation of these projects enables PAT to save 3.7 million units of electricity annually. In 2019, PAT also replaced 53 conventional transformers with low-loss models at Bangkok Port, cutting energy usage by over 427,000 kWh per year, equivalent to a greenhouse gas reduction of approximately 200 tons of carbon dioxide annually. In the same year, PAT applied the slow-steaming concept on three of its dredgers (Sondon 7, 8 and 9), which seeks to deliberately reduce the speed of ships to cut down fuel consumption and carbon emissions. This practice can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 53 tons per year.

Green Area Expansion: PAT has carried out various projects to expand green areas, both the customs fence and around its ports. Projectsinclude Green Area Expansion and Landscape Improvement in the area of Laem Chabang Port, Mangrove and Laem Chabang's Coast Preservation, Reforestation Project of the Green Ecological Area in Sri Nakhon Khuean Khan Park, Bang Pu Mangrove Forest and Coastal Conservation Project, Implementing Mangrove Afforestation and Coastal Conservation Activities at Bang Pu Recreation Center, and Reforestation Project with Ranong Port.

Environmental Management

PAT has initiated several projects aimed at facilitating more effective environmental management. Projects include:





Ship Waste Management and Waste Segregation:

Bangkok Port has revised its Ship Waste and Garbage Management Manual to be in line with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships Annex V of MARPOL 73/78. Ship owners or ship's agents who wish to discharge waste from their vessels in the area of Bangkok Port are required to segregate their solid waste properly, as per Bangkok Port's Ship Waste Management Manual. Besides, Bangkok Port has installed 14 sets of trash bins, each with three compartments including blue bins for general waste, yellow bins for recyclable waste and red bins for hazardous waste, as well as provided information for PAT officials and port users on appropriate garbage separation.

Wastewater Treatment System: PAT has installed a wastewater treatment system which ensures wastewater is treated in accordance with the quality standards stipulated by law before being released to public water resources.

Air Pollution Management: PAT has established measures for dust prevention at its construction sites, encouraging port officials to switch off engines when not in use, vacuuming transit sheds, eliminating dust on road surfaces in the port area, spraying water to minimize the spread of dust, and performing regular checks and maintenance of vehicle engines.

Environmental Information System: PAT has developed an Environmental Information System (EIS) with an aim to collect data

concerning the utilization of PAT's resources, including consumption of fuel, water and electricity supply, waste from operations, and levels of pollution derived from environmental quality measurement and monitoring activities. The information is used in carrying out follow-ups, inspections and assessments on environmental impacts.

In addition, the EIS will enable PAT to analyze and evaluate greenhouse gas emissions from port operations. This information can be evaluated by PAT's executives in order to make the right strategic decisions concerning implementation of projects and measures on energy consumption and the environment. Currently, PAT's executives are able to monitor greenhouse gas emissions via an application on their tablets.

Follow-up Inspections

PAT undertakes follow-up inspections on environmental quality in accordance with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports. PAT regularly monitors and follows up on the impacts of its operations on environmental quality, which may affect the quality of life of port staff, port users and nearby residents. Monitoring of air quality, wastewater quality and levels of noise as well as other related environmental impacts are conducted on a yearly basis at the main ports under PAT's supervision, namely Bangkok Port, Laem Chabang Port, Chiang Saen Commercial Port and Ranong

