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THAI - ITALIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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INFORMA

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A Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends,

March has been a vibrant and engaging month for the Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce, marked by a diverse range of initiatives that celebrate Italian excellence while strengthening business, cultural, and institutional ties between Thailand and Italy.

The month began on a convivial note with Una Domenica Italiana, an authentic Italian-style Sunday held in Bangkok in collaboration with Molino Casillo, iO Italian Osteria Hansar, Aprilia, and Ducati. The event brought together members, families, and friends to experience the warmth of Italian hospitality and lifestyle, reinforcing the Chamber's commitment to fostering community engagement alongside business connections.

On the international front, the 16th edition of BuyWine Toscana, held at the historic Stazione Leopolda in Florence, once again confirmed its importance as a leading B2B platform for Tuscan wine. Organized by the Tuscany Region in collaboration with the Florence Chamber of Commerce, the event gathered global buyers and local producers, further strengthening Tuscany's position as a key player in the global wine market. Continuing its support for the fashion and creative industries, the Chamber hosted the Torino Fashion Week 2026 Roadshow in Bangkok. The event introduced Thai companies, designers, buyers, and distributors to one of Europe's most dynamic fashion networking platforms, opening new avenues for

collaboration and international exposure.

The Chamber also celebrated Italian culinary excellence through the 3rd Edition of the BEST Tiramisù Professional Competition 2026, organized in collaboration with Thaifex HOREC Asia during the fair at IMPACT Muang Thong Thani. Held under the patronage of the Italian Institute of Culture in Bangkok, the competition highlighted the creativity and craftsmanship of professionals in the hospitality sector while promoting one of Italy's most iconic desserts.

A key milestone of the month was the successful organization of the Chamber's 48th Annual General Meeting at the Amari Bangkok, which welcomed over 140 participants from the Thai and Italian business communities. The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Andrea Conti, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Italy in Bangkok, underscoring the strong and enduring institutional relationship between Italy and Thailand. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our members, partners, and institutional stakeholders for their continued support and active participation. Your engagement remains fundamental to advancing our shared mission and strengthening the ties between our two countries.

Arrivederci,
Federico Cardini
President

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is produced by the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce**

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The Chamber

The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC), founded in 1978, is an independent, private, non-profit organization of Italian and Thai businessmen and professionals, duly constituted and registered in accordance with legislative regulations in Thailand and fully recognized by the Ministry of Economic Development and International Cooperation in Italy.

The Chamber, with its headquarters in Bangkok (Thailand), is proud to host a wide network of companies and entrepreneurs from all around the world -mostly Italian and Thai businesses, which allow TICC to pursue its objectives of enhancing commercial cooperation between Italy and Thailand. The Chamber constantly organizes activities, meetings, seminars, missions, and networking events to facilitate the promotion of economic, industrial, and cultural collaborations.



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COVER STORY

Charming Stone Building with Blooming Wisteria

Spring spills gently over the stone walls of the Italian ancient villages, where time seems to slow beneath cascades of violet bloom.

Wisteria drapes the building like a living tapestry, softening every edge. The rustic bricks, weathered by centuries, glow warmly under the sun, holding memories of countless seasons now awakened again.

Spring here is not rushed - it lingers, it breathes, it unfolds slowly. In these hidden corners of Italy, blooming is an art, where history and nature entwine in effortless harmony, and every blossom feels like a quiet celebration of life returning.

Cover Image

© Wine Food Travel / Pexels



OTHER COUNTRIES

How Iran War Impacts Asia's Economy and Why It Involves All the World

Retrieved from *Time*, 16 March 2026

The economic consequences of the U.S. and Israel's war with Iran are spreading globally. Governments are preparing for a renewed surge in inflation caused by disruptions in the world's most critical energy route, the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has effectively closed in response to American and Israeli strikes. Across several Asian countries, authorities have shut schools, advised employees to remain at home, and urged citizens to adopt fuel-saving measures as they expect rising oil prices to drive up costs across almost all sectors, including food, transport, and electricity.

Sustained High Oil Prices May Slow Down the AI Boom, WTO Warns

Retrieved from *the Guardian*, 19 March 2026

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** warns that the war in Iran and the resulting surge in oil prices could weaken the global economy, especially by slowing the rapid growth of the AI sector. Because artificial intelligence relies heavily on energy-intensive data centres, higher energy costs could make investments less sustainable. The report highlights the conflict as a major global economic risk, alongside rising costs for energy and fertilizers, which could also affect food production. As a result, global trade growth is expected to slow significantly in 2026.

THAILAND

BOI Urges Businesses to Prepare for a New Global Order as Conflicts Drive Up Energy and Logistics Costs

Retrieved from *The Nation*, 17 March 2026

Thailand's **Board of Investment (BOI)** is urging businesses to prepare for a new global economic order shaped by escalating conflicts. Rising wars are already driving up energy, freight, and logistics costs, increasing the risk of raw material shortages and price volatility. BOI Secretary-General **Narit Therdsteeasakdi** warned that these pressures are not temporary, but part of long-term geopolitical shifts that will continue to reshape global trade, investment, and supply chains.

Thailand Targets 50% Clean Energy in 2026 Following Delays to the 2025 Feed-in Tariff Rollout

Retrieved from *Asian Business Review*, 20 March 2026

Thailand's draft 2026–2050 Power Plan targets over **50%** clean energy, positioning 2026 as a recovery year after feed-in tariff delays slowed renewable deployment in 2025. The strategy focuses on expanding renewables, improving tariff clarity, and strengthening market mechanisms to restore investor confidence, while also advancing early regulatory work on emerging technologies like SMRs and CCS. Policy developments in 2025, the Draft Climate Change Act and the Utility Green Tariff-laid the groundwork for a more structured and flexible clean energy market. Together, these steps mark a shift from policy ambition to practical market implementation.

Thailand's Healthcare Sector Shows Strong Growth Despite Global Tensions

Retrieved from *Bangkok Post*, 27 March 2026

Despite a decline in Middle Eastern patients due to ongoing conflict, analysts remain optimistic about Thailand's healthcare sector, supported by its strong position as a medical and wellness hub and a rapidly ageing population. Hospitals with high exposure to Middle Eastern patients may face short-term pressure. However, growth is supported by high-spending medical tourists, relaxed visa policies, and the government's long-term medical hub strategy. The sector is expanding beyond traditional care, with rising investment in elderly services, smart living technologies, and regional wellness hubs. KGI projects **4.6%** growth in 2026, though risks remain from reduced patient inflows and rising drug costs.

Private Jet Demand Surges Across Asia

Retrieved from *Bangkok Post*, 30 March 2026

Business jet demand is rapidly increasing in Thailand and Southeast Asia, partly driven by disruptions to commercial flights and the need for more flexible, time-efficient travel. The global market is expanding steadily and is expected to grow significantly by 2033. In Thailand, wealthy individuals, business leaders, and politicians are increasingly using or owning private jets, supported by improving aviation infrastructure and rising foreign investment. Companies like MJets report that clients often begin with charter services before purchasing aircraft.

ITALY

Italy's Service Sector Growth Slowed in February, According to a Survey

Retrieved from *Reuters*, 4 March 2026

Italy's service sector grew in February but at a slower pace, with the **HCOB Services PMI** easing to 52.3 from 52.9, still indicating expansion for the 15th consecutive month. The broader composite PMI also improved to 52.1, supported by a rebound in manufacturing and continued services growth, suggesting steady but modest momentum in the economy. New export orders returned to expansion, and employment reached its highest level since July, although overall new business growth showed only a slight slowdown.

Markets Suffer as Iran Conflict and Energy Shock Hit, with Milan Falling 6.5%

Retrieved from *Il Sole 24Ore*, 6 March 2026

The war in Iran and the resulting escalation across the Middle East weighed heavily on European stock markets, with all major indices ending the first week of March in negative territory. On the Milan stock exchange, only three stocks closed the week in positive territory. Lottomatica was the top performer (**+21%**), as the market rewarded its 2025 results, which showed a **45%** increase in net profit to €369 million. Eni ranked second (**+4.4%**), supported by the strength of the oil sector, while Leonardo also performed well (**+3.2%**).

Italy's February Inflation Revised Downward to 1.5%

Retrieved from *Wanted in Rome*, 17 March 2026

Rome's VIVE complex, including the Vittoriano and Palazzo Venezia, is hosting Italian Railways (1861–2025), celebrating 120 years of the Italian State Railways and their role in the country's history. The exhibition in Sala Zanardelli and Giardino Grande features paintings, sculptures, photos, and videos, with works by Fergola, De Nittis, Boccioni, and film excerpts from Visconti to Fellini. An immersive **"Journey Through Time"** lets visitors experience different eras of Italian train travel.

Exor Sells Its Entire Stake in GEDI, Including La Repubblica and Radio Stations DeeJay, Capital and m2o, to Greece's Antenna Group

Retrieved from *RaiNews.it*, 24 March 2026

KGroup, the owner of Antenna Group—an international media company active in content production and entertainment—has acquired **100%** of **GEDI** from Exor. The deal includes the newspaper *la Repubblica*, as well as Radio DeeJay, Radio Capital and Radio m2o, along with HuffPost Italia, National Geographic Italia, Limes, and the advertising company Manzoni. *La Stampa* is not part of the transaction: under the agreement, it will be sold to the SAE Group, together with its printing facilities and local advertising network.

MOLINO CASILLO PIZZA MASTERCLASS: PROMOTING PREMIUM “MADE IN ITALY” FLOUR FROM PUGLIA



Bangkok, 26 February 2026 – The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)**, in collaboration with **Molino Casillo** and **iO Italian Osteria Hansar**, successfully hosted the exclusive B2B event “**Molino Casillo: Pizza MasterClass – Promoting Made in Italy Premium Flour from Puglia Region**” in Bangkok.

Designed for HoReCa professionals, the masterclass welcomed chefs, hotel representatives, restaurant owners, and F&B decision-makers eager to explore the excellence of authentic Italian flour in professional kitchens. The event showcased the quality, versatility, and craftsmanship of **Molino Casillo**'s premium flour from Puglia, Italy.

The program opened with a brand presentation highlighting **Molino Casillo**'s heritage, product range, and commitment to innovation rooted in traditional Italian milling expertise. Participants gained valuable insights into how flour selection influences texture, flavor, fermentation, and consistency in pizza and focaccia production.

Followed a live masterclass led by Chef **Gianluigi Griguzzo** of **iO Italian Osteria** and **Chef Alfonso Cantarelli**, brand ambassador from **Molino Casillo**, featuring step-by-step

demonstrations of dough preparation, fermentation control, stretching techniques, and baking processes. The chefs emphasized how **Molino Casillo** flour enhances structure, aroma, and authentic Italian taste, with practical applications tailored to the Thai market.

Organized in collaboration with **Jagota Brothers Trading Co., Ltd.**, the official distributor of **Molino Casillo** in Thailand, the event also served as a networking platform to strengthen commercial ties within Thailand's hospitality sector.

TICC reaffirms its commitment to promoting **Made in Italy** excellence in Thailand and extends its sincere appreciation to all partners and participants for contributing to the event's success.



www.molinocasillo.it



www.io-osteria.com

UNA DOMENICA ITALIANA WITH MOTOGP



Bangkok, 1 March 2026 – The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)**, in collaboration with **Molino Casillo**, **iO Italian Osteria Hansar**, **Aprilia**, and **Ducati** brought the spirit of Italy to Bangkok with **Una Domenica Italiana** - an authentic Italian-style Sunday shared with friends, family, and fellow enthusiasts.

Set in the warm and lively atmosphere of **iO Italian Osteria Hansar**, the event came to life as a vibrant celebration where real flavours, convivial tradition, and motorsport passion blended into one memorable afternoon. Guests were invited to slow down and experience the essence of an Italian Sunday - where food, connection, and culture take centre stage.

At the heart of the experience was a thoughtfully curated culinary journey, showcasing the richness of Italian gastronomy through dishes prepared with premium flour by **Molino Casillo**. Each creation highlighted the excellence of 100% Italian wheat and the craftsmanship behind authentic baking, delivering flavours true to Italy's culinary heritage.

From fragrant pizzas and golden panzerotti to handmade orecchiette and mini bignè, the menu was designed for

sharing, embracing the spirit of togetherness that defines the Italian table.

As the afternoon unfolded, the atmosphere shifted with the live **MotoGP** race screening, where the thrill of the track met the pleasure of the table. The experience was further elevated by the presence of iconic Italian motorbikes from **Aprilia** and **Ducati**, showcasing the unmistakable style, performance, and engineering excellence of Italy.

More than an event, **Una Domenica Italiana** was a celebration of the Italian lifestyle, a seamless fusion of gastronomy, culture, and motorsport passion, shared in true Sunday spirit.



www.molinocasillo.it



Thailand

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BUYWINE TOSCANA 2026 CONFIRMS ITS STRATEGIC ROLE FOR REGIONAL WINE EXPORTS



The 16th edition of **BuyWine Toscana**, held at the historic Stazione Leopolda in Florence, has once again confirmed its role as a key international B2B platform for Tuscan wine. Organized by the **Tuscany Region** in collaboration with the **Florence Chamber of Commerce**, the event brought together global buyers and local producers, reinforcing the region's position as a leading wine export hub.

Over the course of the two-day event, more than 4,000 B2B meetings and 20,000 tastings were recorded, showcasing 1,300 labels across 46 appellations, including **Toscana IGT**, **Chianti Classico DOCG** and **Chianti DOCG**. The 2026 edition welcomed 175 international buyers and 190 wineries, whose combined production exceeds 45 million bottles annually. Since its inception, **BuyWine Toscana** has steadily grown, hosting a total of 3,800 international buyers and over 3,500 Tuscan wineries. This consistent expansion highlights the strength of a format that effectively connects supply and demand, with over 80% satisfaction in meeting agendas and 88% alignment between producers pricing and buyer expectations.

The event continues to be particularly valuable for small and medium-sized enterprises: 60% of participating wineries produce fewer than 100,000 bottles annually, underlining BuyWine's role as a gateway to international markets. At the same time, the strong return rate of exhibitors (70%) combined with a 30% annual turnover ensures both continuity and dynamism. Sustainability also played a key role, with nearly half of the participating wineries certified organic or biodynamic, and

many others holding additional sustainability credentials. The presence of buyers from established markets such as the United States, Canada, Germany and Japan, alongside growing interest from Asia (Thailand) and Latin America, reflects the global appeal of Tuscan wine despite ongoing geopolitical and market uncertainties.

Beyond business, the event extended into six Wine Tours, offering international operators the opportunity to experience Tuscany's territories firsthand—further strengthening the link between product, culture and place. Looking ahead, **BuyWine Toscana** aims to expand its format for 2027, continuing to support the internationalization of the region's wine sector. The next key milestone for Tuscan producers will be their participation in Vinitaly on April 12.



Regione Toscana





FOCUS

FROM BANGKOK TO MILAN: HOW THAILAND'S LUXURY BOOM FUELS THE POWER OF "MADE IN ITALY"

Over the past decade, Thailand's fashion industry has undergone a quiet but profound transformation. Once largely dependent on tourist spending and seasonal retail cycles, the market has matured into a hybrid ecosystem shaped equally by domestic consumers, digital platforms, and global luxury influences. At the center of this evolution lies a powerful and enduring symbol of prestige: "Made in Italy."

Thailand's luxury fashion segment has demonstrated steady growth, reaching approximately one billion dollars in value in recent years, with projections pointing toward continued expansion over the next decade. While growth briefly stalled during the pandemic years, the rebound has been swift and decisive. The return of international tourism—particularly from China—combined with rising disposable income among Thai consumers has created a more resilient and diversified demand base. Bangkok, long established as a regional shopping destination, has strengthened its position as a luxury hub, with high-end retail districts continuing to attract both global brands and affluent shoppers.

Historically, Thailand's luxury retail sector was heavily reliant on international visitors. Tourists, especially those from mainland China, have played a critical role in driving high-value purchases, often motivated by price differentials and the assurance of authenticity. Even today, flagship malls and duty-free environments remain central to the luxury experience. Yet the past five years have revealed a structural shift. Domestic consumption has accelerated, supported by a growing upper-middle class and a younger generation of consumers whose purchasing behavior differs markedly from that of their predecessors.

Thai consumers are increasingly sophisticated, blending global luxury with local sensibilities. Women continue to account for the majority of spending, particularly in apparel and accessories, but the men's segment is expanding rapidly, driven by demand for watches, footwear, and leather goods. Meanwhile, Generation Z is reshaping the market's

cultural dynamics. Digital-native and highly brand-aware, these consumers are less concerned with overt displays of status and more interested in authenticity, sustainability, and resale value. Their engagement with fashion often begins online, even when the final transaction takes place in-store.

Product categories reflect this evolution. Apparel remains the largest segment, supported by both tourism and local demand, while leather goods—especially handbags and small accessories—serve as key entry points into luxury consumption. Jewelry and watches have gained traction as investment-oriented purchases, and sneakers have emerged as a cultural and financial asset within a growing resale ecosystem. Across these categories, Italian craftsmanship continues to occupy a privileged position. The appeal of "Made in Italy" in Thailand extends beyond mere brand recognition. It represents a convergence of heritage, design excellence, and artisanal quality that resonates strongly with both tourists and local consumers. Italian fashion houses have long cultivated an image of timeless sophistication, and in the Thai context, this image carries significant symbolic weight. Ownership of Italian-made goods is often associated with discernment and global cultural capital, reinforcing their desirability across multiple demographic segments.

Trade flows between Italy and Thailand reflect this demand. Imports of Italian luxury apparel, leather goods, and accessories have remained robust, supported by the expansion of mono-brand boutiques and the continued prominence of European luxury groups in prime retail locations. These products are not only consumed by high-net-worth individuals but are increasingly accessible to aspirational buyers seeking entry-level luxury items. In this sense, Italian fashion serves both as a marker of elite status and as a gateway into the broader luxury ecosystem.

At the same time, the channels through which these goods are sold have evolved significantly. Physical retail remains essential, particularly for high-value transactions and

experiential engagement. Flagship stores in Bangkok's leading malls offer curated environments that emphasize storytelling and personalized service. However, the digital transformation of Thailand's retail landscape has been rapid and far-reaching. With one of the highest internet and social media penetration rates in Southeast Asia, the country has become fertile ground for e-commerce and social commerce. Platforms such as **Instagram**, **TikTok**, and **LINE** play a pivotal role in shaping consumer preferences, while online marketplaces and brand-owned websites facilitate seamless purchasing journeys.

This convergence of online and offline channels has given rise to an omnichannel model in which discovery, evaluation, and transaction are no longer confined to a single space. Consumers may encounter a product through a social media campaign, examine it in-store, and ultimately complete the purchase online—or vice versa. For Italian brands, this shift presents both an opportunity and a challenge, requiring them to maintain their aura of exclusivity while adapting to increasingly digital modes of engagement.

Looking ahead, Thailand's fashion industry is poised to consolidate its position as a regional center for luxury consumption. Government strategies aimed at attracting high-value tourism, combined with continued urban development and digital innovation, are likely to sustain growth. Nevertheless, competition from other Asian markets, along with concerns over pricing and counterfeit goods, will require careful navigation.

What remains clear is that the relationship between Thailand and Italian fashion is not merely transactional. It is rooted in a shared appreciation for aesthetics, craftsmanship, and the cultural narratives embedded in luxury goods. As Thailand's consumers become more discerning and its market more complex, the enduring appeal of "Made in Italy" suggests that heritage and authenticity will continue to hold significant value in an increasingly fast-paced and digitized world.



EAST

MILANO
GALLERIA

WEST

TORINO FASHION WEEK 2026 ROADSHOW PRESENTED IN BANGKOK



Bangkok, 12 March 2026 - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce** hosted the **Torino Fashion Week 2026 Roadshow**, introducing opportunities for Thai companies, designers, buyers, and distributors to participate in one of Europe’s most dynamic international fashion networking events.

The event welcomed around 30 participants from the fashion, textile, and creative industries, highlighting the growing interest in international collaboration between Thailand and Italy. This initiative represents a unique business opportunity brought to Thailand by the **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** together with **Torino Fashion Week** and **Torino Moda**, and promises once again to position Turin as a hub of global fashion innovation where emerging designers and established companies meet to explore new collaborations and market opportunities.

Now in its 11th edition, **Torino Fashion Week** continues to grow as a global platform connecting fashion entrepreneurs, designers, and textile innovators from over 47 countries. The upcoming edition will take place in Turin, Italy, from 1 to 3 July 2026, bringing together industry professionals for an intensive program of B2B meetings, exhibitions, and international collaborations.

During the roadshow presentation in Bangkok, **Mr. Michele Tomea**, General Manager of the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce** and **Ms. Angela Panachakorn**, CRM and Marketing Manager, illustrated the participation opportunities available for companies interested in joining the event. The presentation highlighted two main pathways: the Exhibitor Program, dedicated to designers and fashion brands wishing to showcase their collections internationally, and the Buyer Program, designed for importers, distributors, and retailers seeking new products and partnerships in the global fashion market.

The event will gather professionals from the textile industry, sustainable fashion innovators, and creative designers, offering a unique opportunity to discover new fabrics, sustainable materials, and advanced textile technologies. These innovations are increasingly used not only in clothing but also across accessories, footwear, jewelry, and interior design.

Torino Fashion Week represents a highly curated international platform where creativity meets business. Through its role as coordinator of the initiative in Thailand, the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce** aims to lead a delegation of Thai companies and buyers to Turin in 2026, strengthening commercial links between the Italian and Southeast Asian fashion ecosystems.

During the roadshow, participants also had the opportunity to hear testimonials from industry representatives, who shared their experiences and insights about the event’s international networking potential.

Registrations are now open for both buyers and exhibitors interested in participating in the **Torino Fashion Week 2026** B2B programs. Importers and distributors of fashion products can apply to join the Buyer Program, while designers and brands interested in presenting their collections internationally are invited to apply as Exhibitors. The event is supported by **Unioncamere Piemonte**, **Camera di commercio di Torino**, and **Green Pea Sustainable Lifestyle Center**.

For further information about participation in the **Torino Fashion Week 2026** delegation, interested companies can contact the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce**. The Chamber would also like to thank the valuable support of **Food Gallery Limited** and **Pizza Massilia Thailand** for their sponsorship of the event.

BUONDEE EPISODE 11: CAMPANIA, PUGLIA, SICILY A SOUTHERN ITALIAN WINE JOURNEY



Bangkok, 13 March 2026 - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)** is delighted to announce the return of its signature F&B format event, **“BuonDEE” Episode 11**.

BuonDee, meaning **“good”** in both Italian and Thai, is a project designed to promote Italian food, beverages, and dining etiquette in Thailand, enhancing participants’ culinary and cultural experiences.

The latest event in the series featured a collaboration with **Next Step Wine**, a wine distributor in Thailand. In this eleventh episode, **BuonDee** returned to its roots with an authentic wine tasting featuring eight different wines made from native Italian grape varieties.

The tasting session was led by **Ms. Dalila Cecchetti**, Certified Sommelier (AIS/WSET) and General Manager of **iO Italian Osteria Bangkok**, who guided participants through a journey across Campania, Puglia, and Sicily—three of Southern Italy’s most renowned wine regions.



During the event, participants had the opportunity to taste eight carefully selected wine labels:

- Tenute Bosco** - Etna Bianco DOC
- Fontanavecchia** - BiondoRe, Falanghina del Sannio DOC
- Polvanera** - Gioia del Colle Bianco DOC
- Tenuta Viglione** - Rosato Maioliche, Puglia IGT
- Fontanavecchia** - Piedirosso, Sannio DOC
- Tenute Bosco** - Etna Rosso DOC
- Polvanera** - Gioia del Colle Rosso DOC
- Tenuta Viglione** - Marpione, Gioia del Colle Primitivo Riserva DOC

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Next Step Wine Co., Ltd.**, **Fontanavecchia**, **Polvanera**, **Tenuta Viglione**, **Tenute Bosco**, and **Sinisi** for their ongoing partnership in this exciting series of events. Stay tuned for more updates as TICC continues to bring the rich flavors and traditions of Italy to Thailand.



48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue Partner



POST PRESS RELEASE

TICC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026



Bangkok, 26 March 2026 - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)** successfully held its **48th Annual General Meeting** at the **Amari Bangkok**, welcoming over 140 participants from the Thai and Italian business communities. The event was honored by the presence of **Mr. Andrea Conti**, Deputy Head of Mission of the **Italian Embassy of Italy in Bangkok**, whose participation highlighted the strong institutional ties between Italy and Thailand.

A key highlight of the evening was the election of the new Board of Directors. The voting process was conducted with full transparency, with vote counting carried out live in front of the assembly through both real-time video projection and paper ballot verification.

The newly elected Board of Directors for the 2026-2029 term consists of the following directors, who were appointed to their respective roles during the first Board Meeting held on April 7:

- **Mr. Federico Cardini** - President
- **Ms. Mallika Margherita** - Vice President
- **Dr. Francesco Pensato** - Vice President
- **Mr. Chakrit Benedetti** - Vice President
- **Mr. Alberto La Lumia** - Honorary Treasurer
- **Mr. Filippo Cassabgi** - Director
- **Ms. Panitta Srisa-ard** - Director
- **Mr. Yongyudh Teeravithayapinyo** - Director
- **Mr. Enzo Massimo Chiappa** - Director
- **Mr. Antonio Rosario Sanna** - Director
- **Mr. Chayaporn Phornprapha** - Director

The TICC extends its sincere congratulations to the newly elected Board members and expresses its gratitude to all participants for their active involvement and continued support.

The strong turnout and engagement at this year's AGM reaffirm the Chamber's role as a dynamic platform for fostering business relations, collaboration, and growth between Italy and Thailand.

Proudly Supported by Our Sponsors



THE BEST TIRAMISÙ: PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2026



Bangkok, 11 March 2026 - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)**, in collaboration with **Thaifex HOREC Asia**, successfully hosted the 3rd Edition of the **BEST Tiramisù Professional Competition 2026** during the Thaifex HOREC Asia Fair at IMPACT Muang Thong Thani. The event was held under the patronage of the **Italian Institute of Culture in Bangkok**.

Following the success of its previous editions, the competition once again brought together chefs and culinary professionals from across the hospitality industry to showcase their finest interpretations of Italy's most beloved dessert: Tiramisù. The competition challenged participants to create the most delicious, creative, and visually appealing tiramisù, with entries evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges based on flavor, texture, presentation, and originality. The **BEST Tiramisù Professional Competition** represented a unique opportunity for tiramisù enthusiasts and culinary professionals in Thailand to celebrate one of the most iconic desserts of Italian gastronomy. Loved in Italy and around the world, tiramisù stands as a symbol of the Italian culinary tradition. The competition paid tribute to this timeless dessert by inviting participants from diverse culinary backgrounds to demonstrate their skills, creativity, and mastery in crafting the perfect tiramisù.

The competition featured two categories:

- *Traditional Tiramisù* - prepared according to the original Italian recipe with coffee.
- *Creative Tiramisù* - where participants were free to express their creativity without ingredient restrictions.

A total of **25 professional competitors**, representing a wide

range of restaurants and culinary establishments, took part in the event, demonstrating exceptional talent, passion, and dedication.

Special congratulations to the winners of the two competition categories:

- Traditional Category - Chef **Enrico Pantorno, SO/ Bangkok**
- Creative Category - Chef **Thanawat Choopraserdchok, 357 Enterprise Co., Ltd.**

The awards have been presented to the winners by **Mr. Filippo Cassabgi**, Member of the Board of Directors of the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)** and Director of **Acqua Panna & San Pellegrino** in Thailand. His commitment to this initiative has been steady from day one and his guidance essential for the well realization of the event.

The success of the event was also made possible thanks to the participation of an esteemed panel of jurors:

1. **Mr. Andrea Bernardi - Via Emilia Restaurant**
2. **Mr. Matteo Fontana - VIU at St. Regis Bangkok**
3. **Ms. Patty Pichaya - Nine Pastry**
4. **Ms. Kankanit "Candice" Wichiantanon - RadarList**
5. **Ms. Maria Sica - Italian Institute of Culture (IIC)**

The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)** would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the sponsors who contributed to making this event possible: **Acqua Panna & San Pellegrino, Latteria Soresina S.C.A. Lavazza, Global Food Products Co., Ltd. (GFP)**. Their commitment to promoting **Made in Italy** ingredients and their constant pursuit of the highest quality standards represent an important example of dedication to Italian culinary excellence.



ESPRESSO MARTINI, PLEASE

ESPRESSO MARTINI

*Finlandia Vodka, Caffè Vergnano
Espresso, Sugar syrup, Coffee liqueur*

ITALIAN ESPRESSO MARTINI

*Finlandia Vodka, Caffè Vergnano
Espresso, Almond syrup/ Amaretto,
Coffee liqueur, Orange zest*

TWISTED ESPRESSO MARTINI

*Finlandia Vodka, Caffè Vergnano
Espresso, Open ingredients,
Coffee liqueur*



Drink responsibly



POST PRESS RELEASE

ESPRESSO MARTINI, PLEASE: COFFEE COCKTAIL WORKSHOP WITH CAFFÈ VERGNANO 1882



Bangkok, 20 March 2026 - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)**, in collaboration with **Caffè Vergnano 1882**, presented “**Espresso Martini, Please!**”, an engaging and immersive coffee cocktail workshop celebrating Italian coffee excellence and modern mixology.

Bringing together coffee enthusiasts, industry professionals, and lifestyle aficionados, the workshop offered a unique journey into the world of Italian coffee culture. Participants explored the fundamentals of authentic Italian espresso, gaining valuable insights into coffee origins, extraction techniques, and the elements that define a perfect cup.

The highlight of the session was a hands-on experience in crafting the iconic Espresso Martini. Guided by industry experts, attendees learned how to balance flavors, work with premium coffee blends, and refine presentation techniques to create a cocktail that is both elegant and expressive.

Beyond the practical experience, the workshop fostered a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship behind both coffee

and cocktails - demonstrating how tradition and innovation can come together to create something truly exceptional.

This initiative reflects TICC's continued commitment to promoting Italian excellence, heritage, and lifestyle in Thailand, while encouraging knowledge-sharing and professional development within the food and beverage community.

TICC extends its sincere appreciation to **Caffè Vergnano 1882** and all partners for their invaluable support in making this event a success.



www.caffevergnano.com

STRENGTHENING THE JEWELRY NETWORK: A 2025 WRAP-UP AND 2026 OUTLOOK BY TICC BANGKOK



In 2025, the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (TICC)** delivered a comprehensive program of strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening the jewelry ecosystem and promoting the excellence of Italian craftsmanship. Over the course of the year, more than 100 industry professionals—including manufacturers, gemologists, institutions, and retailers—were actively engaged. The Chamber’s network experienced remarkable growth, expanding from 8 companies in 2024 to 23 in 2025.

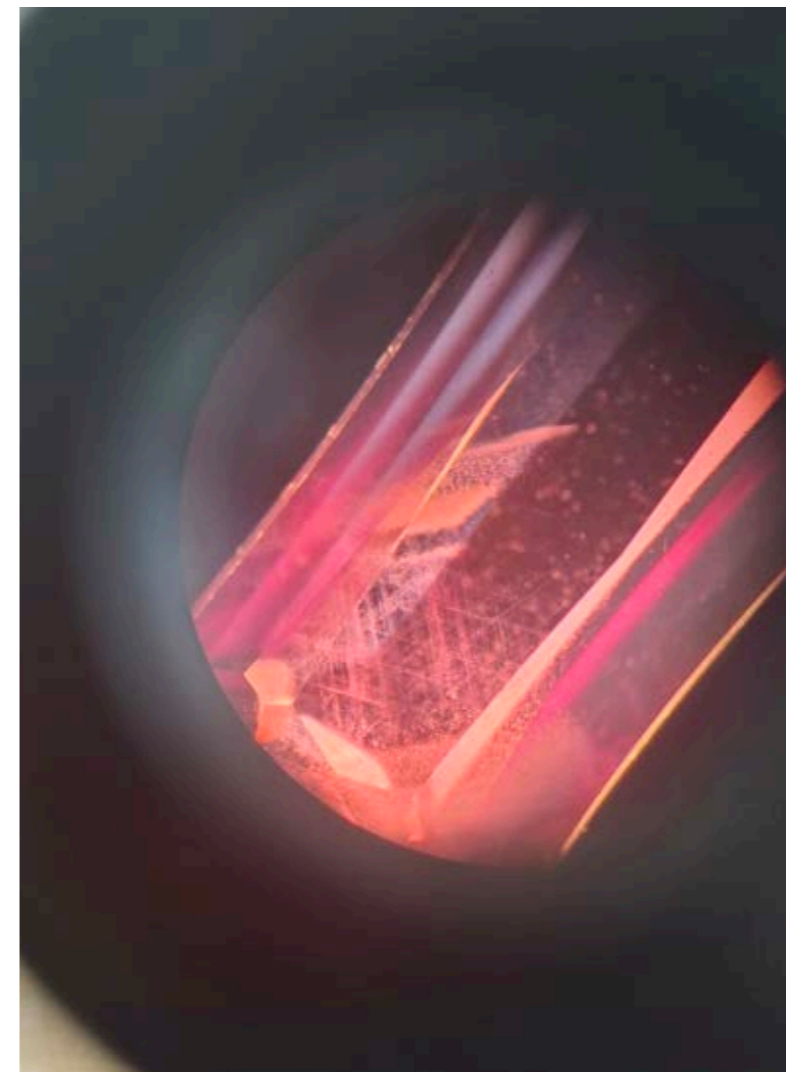
Education remained central to TICC’s mission as **GIT** and **AIGS** major player in our network. Throughout 2025, a series of seminars and industry events were successful, combining technical expertise with networking opportunities. Highlights included a seminar on natural diamonds in February with **Nice Diam Co., Ltd.**, a luxury roundtable in September gathering 25 industry professionals, and the “**From Mine to Market**” seminar in November, focused on corundum, with the participation of leading expert **Samir Sukadia** from **Swadi Stit Co., Ltd.** Additional sessions explored international market trends, investment opportunities, and the evolving dynamics of the global jewelry sector.

A major milestone was the establishment of a fully equipped gemological office within the new TICC Connect hub. Supported by **Meagems (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**, the facility provides advanced instruments such as microscopes, refractometers, and testing equipment for precious metals, as well as secure storage for industry operators. This space has become a

key resource for companies seeking technical support and professional evaluation services.

The Chamber also reinforced its presence across major international trade shows. In Bangkok, TICC actively participated in the January, April, and September exhibitions, including **Jewelry & Gems ASEAN Bangkok** at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, organized by **Informa Markets**, where a dedicated Chamber booth showcased Italian excellence. This strategic partnership was successfully renewed for 2026. Internationally, TICC took part in **OroArezzo**, further strengthening ties with the Italian exhibition system, and supported Thai companies such as **Sparkling Gems Co., Ltd.**, **Monili Co., Ltd.**, and **Marigold Jewelry** in accessing **VicenzaOro** through collaboration with **IEG EXPO**. Additional initiatives included participation in the Chanthaburi International Gems Festival, with the great support and fully sponsored by the **Gems & Jewelry Institute of Thailand (GIT)**, involving member companies **Monili Co., Ltd.** and **Meagems (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**, but hundreds more at the venue.

TICC’s activities were further enhanced through collaboration with a wide network of partners representing the entire jewelry value chain. Key institutional partners included the **Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences (AIGS)** and the **Gems & Jewelry Institute of Thailand (GIT)**. Technical support was provided by **Gesswein Siam Co., Ltd.**, while **Global-Findings.com (Thailand) Co., Ltd.** contributed to the supply of jewelry components. Logistics operations were supported by **Ferrari**



Logistics Asia (Thailand) Co., Ltd., a specialist in high-value goods transportation.

A central role was played by gemstone companies such as **A. B. Impex Co., Ltd.**, **Nice Diam Co., Ltd.**, **Sparkling Gems Co., Ltd.**, **Swadi Stit Co., Ltd.**, and **Thai Stones Manufacturing Co. Ltd.**, alongside cutting specialist **Vogem Co., Ltd.** In the manufacturing sector, companies including **Arezzo Refinery**, **Felicia Design Co. Ltd.**, **Marigold Jewelry**, **Midas Touch Co., Ltd.**, **Monili Co., Ltd.**, and **Mosaic Jewelry Co., Ltd.** contributed to showcasing the excellence of Italian and Thai craftsmanship. Retail and distribution were represented by **Meagems (Thailand) Co. Ltd.** and **The Jewelry Network Co., Ltd.** distributor of **FOPE**.

The Chamber also strengthened its communication strategy through partnerships with leading media outlets such as

Preziosa Magazine (in Italy) and **Bangkok Gems & Jewellery Magazine**, ensuring broad visibility for its initiatives and members. Collaboration with international platforms such as **Palakiss**, **IEG**, and **Informa Markets** further reinforced TICC’s positioning within the global exhibition landscape. Creative direction and high-end merchandising expertise were supported by industry professional **Matteo Dellavalle**.

Through these initiatives, TICC Bangkok has confirmed its role as a strategic hub for education, collaboration, and business development in the jewelry sector. By connecting Thailand and Italy, the Chamber continues to foster innovation, strengthen international partnerships, and support the sustainable growth of the industry.

Pictures Credit © Meagems (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

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REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM CONDOMINIUM RENTALS IN THAILAND



Introduction

Thailand has witnessed a fundamental shift in travellers' accommodation preferences, driven largely by digital platforms such as Airbnb.

This evolution has led many condominium owners to profit from the demand for short-term stays, effectively transforming residential units into de facto hotel rooms. Under current Thai legislation, the daily or weekly rental of a condominium unit is unequivocally unlawful and exposes operators to criminal penalties. Yet, the government is actively considering a legislative overhaul that could, for the first time, create a legal pathway for condominium units to be operated as commercial accommodation.

This article provides an analysis of the current Hotel Act B.E. 2547 (2004) and the Condominium Act B.E. 2522 (1979), examines recent enforcement actions, and examines the proposed Accommodation Act, a draft law that could reshape Thailand's real estate and hospitality sectors.

The Current Legal Framework: The Prohibition on Short-Term Condominium Rentals

The illegality of short-term condominium rentals in Thailand is anchored in two primary legislative pillars: the Hotel Act and the Condominium Act. These statutes, when read together, create a formidable legal barrier against the operation of unlicensed accommodation within residential condominium buildings.

The Hotel Act B.E. 2547 (2004): Definition and Criminalisation

The Hotel Act B.E. 2547 (2004) serves as the main regulatory instrument for the hospitality industry.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, a "hotel" is defined as "an accommodation established for business purposes of

providing temporary accommodation services for travellers or any other person in exchange for compensation". This definition is intentionally expansive, focusing on the commercial provision of temporary lodging rather than the physical characteristics of a building. An individual or entity that rents out a condominium unit on a nightly or weekly basis is, by definition, operating a hotel. Section 15 of the Hotel Act prohibits the operation of a hotel business without a licence, while Section 59 prescribes the applicable criminal penalties.

The penalties for such unauthorised operation are severe. A first-time offender is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht, or both. Critically, the law provides for an additional daily fine of up to 10,000 Baht for each day the violation continues, ensuring that ongoing non-compliance incurs a cumulative financial penalty. This punitive structure is designed to deter persistent violations and underscores the seriousness with which Thai law treats unlicensed hotel operations.

The Condominium Act B.E. 2522 (1979) and the 2008 Amendment: Restricting Commercial Use

The Condominium Act B.E. 2522 (1979), as amended, establishes the legal framework for the ownership and management of condominium property. A critical provision, Section 17/1, Paragraph 2, states unequivocally that "no person shall be permitted to operate their business in the condominium except for the provided specific area of the condominium building". This clause prohibits the use of individual condominium units for commercial purposes, including operating a hotel. The rationale is to preserve the condominium's residential character and protect the quiet enjoyment of all co-owners. A violation of Section 17/1 attracts a fine of not more than 50,000 Baht, with an additional daily fine of not more than 5,000 Baht for each day the contravention persists.

The cumulative effect of these two statutes is an absolute

prohibition. A condominium building is legally registered for residential use, and the commercial operation of a hotel within its units is impermissible. This position has been reinforced by the Department of Lands, which has issued a circular clarifying that condominium buildings and their units cannot be used or converted for hotel operations. In practical terms, this means that condominium registration is incompatible with hotel-style use and leaves little room for any "condotel" or mixed-use residential hotel model within the current legal regime.

Recent Enforcement Actions: A Zero-Tolerance Policy

The prohibitions of the law have been translated into practical reality through a series of coordinated enforcement actions. Throughout 2025 and into 2026, Thai authorities have intensified their crackdown on illegal daily condominium rentals. In February 2025, a government spokesperson issued a public warning to foreign investors that purchasing condominium units and renting them to tourists on a short-term basis constitutes a criminal offence. The Interior Ministry has been explicit in its communications, reaffirming that daily condominium rentals, akin to hotel operations, are illegal under the Hotel Act.

These warnings have been followed by several publicised legal actions. In March 2025, authorities prosecuted four illegal condominium-hotel operations in Bangkok's Pratunam and Suthisan districts, followed by another four in the Sukhumvit area. In Pattaya, the Ministry of Interior directed the Department of Local Administration to aggressively pursue legal action against foreign-owned condominiums offering daily rentals. The Condominium Juristic Persons, the legal entities that manage condominium buildings, have also been tasked with informing residents of the legal restrictions and, in many cases, have passed internal regulations explicitly prohibiting daily rentals to protect residents' privacy and security. A Thai court judgment in early 2026 confirmed the legality of these actions, clarifying that only monthly rentals are exempt from the Hotels Act, as a room rented by the month is not classified as a hotel room.

These enforcement measures demonstrate a clear and sustained policy of zero tolerance towards unlicensed short-term accommodation in residential condominiums.

The Proposed Accommodation Act: A possible change in direction

Recognising the tension between a thriving short-term rental market and an outdated legal framework, the Thai government is actively developing new legislation. The proposed Accommodation Act, currently in draft form and undergoing public consultation by the Council of State, aims to overhaul the country's hospitality regulation. The draft Act is a direct response to the evolution of the tourism industry and the emergence of new accommodation types, including homestays, hostels, and serviced apartments, that do not fit neatly into the traditional definition of a "hotel".

The core innovation of the draft Accommodation Act is the introduction of a tiered, risk-based regulatory system. Operators would be classified into different categories based on the scale and nature of their operations. For instance, a proposed classification includes "Small (≤ 8 rooms)" operators, which would encompass homestays and, crucially, long-term

condominium rentals. Most significantly for the condominium market, the draft Act would enable condominiums to legally rent out units on a short-term basis by simply registering with the authorities, without the need to obtain a full hotel licence. This would represent a major shift from the current absolute prohibition.

However, the draft Act has not been without controversy. The Thai Hotels Association (THA) has raised significant concerns, warning that the proposed changes could infringe on the rights of permanent residents and compromise tourist safety. The THA has also argued that the law should limit non-hotel properties to a maximum of eight rooms and no more than 30 guests at any one time. These industry objections highlight the delicate balance facing the government as it seeks to adapt to new business models while protecting the interests of traditional hoteliers and the safety of all guests. As of early 2026, the draft has not yet been formally promulgated in the Royal Gazette, and its final form remains subject to political and industry negotiation.

The Foreign Investment Dimension

The legal debate over short-term rentals is intimately linked to Thailand's views on foreign investment. The Foreign Business Act B.E. 2542 (1999) lists hotel operations as a business restricted to Thai nationals or entities with Thai majority ownership. A foreigner or a company with foreign majority shareholding cannot operate a hotel business without obtaining a Foreign Business Licence (FBL), a process that is both onerous, costly and not always successful. This restriction applies equally to any foreign investor seeking to operate a short-term rental business through a condominium unit, as such an activity would be classified as a hotel business under the Hotel Act. The proposed Accommodation Act, by potentially reclassifying small-scale condominium rentals as a distinct category of accommodation, could open a pathway for foreign investment currently blocked by the Foreign Business Act, a development that would have profound but positive implications for the real estate market.

Conclusion

The laws governing short-term condominium rentals in Thailand are in flux. The current law, as embodied in the Hotel Act and the Condominium Act, provides no legal avenue for daily or weekly rentals, and recent enforcement actions confirm that this is not a dead letter. Operators face criminal penalties, including imprisonment and significant fines. However, the proposed Accommodation Act represents a potential shift, offering a legal pathway for condominium units to be registered as small-scale accommodation providers. Whether this reform will be enacted, and in what form, remains to be seen. For now, the prudent course for any condominium owner is to adhere to the existing law, which by limiting rentals to a monthly basis rather than daily or weekly stays.

The coming months will be critical in determining whether Thailand will maintain its strict separation between residential and commercial use or embrace a more flexible, European-style model that embraces short-term rental options.

For any questions, you may contact Dr. Paul Crosio at Formichella & Sritawat at paul@fosrlaw.com

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BATTERY SWAPPING STANDARDS IN THE IMT-GT: ALIGNING EARLY TO AVOID FRAGMENTATION COSTS



A consultation under the Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle examines how early alignment on battery swapping standards can reduce fragmentation costs and strengthen investment confidence across the subregion.

Electric mobility deployment across Southeast Asia is accelerating, particularly in the two- and three-wheeler segments that underpin urban transport, logistics, and livelihoods. In Thailand alone, the Board of Investment has approved cumulative EV supply chain investments of approximately 137.7 billion baht (USD 4.2 billion). Battery swapping stations are operating in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket, serving commercial fleets. Food delivery and ride-hailing operators are adopting battery-as-a-service models that separate vehicle ownership from energy costs, reducing upfront barriers for informal sector workers. At the same time, manufacturers are expanding conventional charging infrastructure for household consumers, with new electric motorbike models entering the Thai market.

As investment and infrastructure expand, technical, operational, and regulatory approaches are evolving unevenly across countries, creating a narrow window for early coordination before systems lock in. This was the focus of a consultation held alongside the IMT-GT at the Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok in December 2025, examining whether coordination can reduce fragmentation costs.

Battery swapping as a system-level challenge
26

Battery swapping, the exchange of depleted batteries for fully charged ones in seconds rather than hours, concentrates many of the challenges facing electric mobility into a single system. Downtime, safety, lifecycle management, data transparency, user trust, and investment risk all converge around how batteries are designed, deployed, and managed. Battery swapping therefore offers a practical entry point to a broader discussion on interoperability, quality infrastructure, and regional alignment.

The discussion returned repeatedly to three adoption barriers that recur across the subregion: charging time and downtime, total cost of ownership, and safety and reliability.

Battery swapping addresses these three concerns by shifting charging time away from the user and centralising battery management within a service platform. However, confidence in such an ecosystem depends on compatibility across vehicles, batteries, stations, and digital interfaces. When systems remain incompatible, costs rise across the value chain: manufacturers face duplicated engineering, operators manage fragmented inventories, and investors price in higher risk.

Two markets, not one: commercial versus household use.

A key insight is that the electric two-wheeler market is not monolithic, but split into two segments with different economics and technology needs. For high-utilisation commercial riders—including delivery, ride-hailing, and urban logistics—battery swapping offers

a clear advantage. A two- to three-minute swap, versus hours of charging, boosts earning capacity and fleet use. In Thailand, minimising downtime is critical, and SCIB battery development and a UNIDO pilot in Malaysia both point to strong commercial demand.

For household users, the economics differ. With access to home or workplace charging, overnight charging remains the lowest-cost option, making battery swapping—with subscription fees and network dependency—harder to justify. European manufacturers reflect this distinction, with SBMC standards under AFIR focused mainly on commercial and shared mobility.

This segmentation has important policy implications. Swappable battery systems are currently better suited to commercial use, and recognising this helps guide realistic expectations and more effective infrastructure investment.

Diverging national pathways, shared pressures

The consultation showed that national strategies are advancing through different entry points but face similar pressures. Thailand's approach reflects coordinated policy, with EV supply chain investments of 137.7 billion baht and targets of 1,450 swap stations and 12,000 chargers by 2030 under the 30@30 EV Policy. Initiatives like Swap2Gether, launched by NSTDA in 2025, support interoperable standards development. However, Thailand still lacks a finalised battery swapping standard, and some early operators have exited the market. Malaysia has emphasised infrastructure readiness and market enablement.

Its national standard for light electric vehicle battery swapping, MS 2776:2025, sets a voluntary baseline for safety, electrical interfaces, and mechanical dimensions. The standard supports domestic deployment while allowing future cross-border alignment. SIRIM and other national agencies are leading its advancement and supporting prototype development.

Indonesia's perspective reflects its upstream role in the battery value chain. Holding approximately 40 percent of global nickel reserves and benefiting from strategic investments in battery cell manufacturing, Indonesia has positioned electric vehicle infrastructure as foundational to its broader industrial transformation. With an ambitious target of 67,000 battery swapping stations by 2030, the country currently lacks a comprehensive national battery swapping standard, creating both risk and a time-limited opportunity for tripartite alignment before specifications diverge irreversibly.

Across all three countries, fragmentation raises costs, unclear interfaces delay investment, and inconsistent user experience undermines confidence.

Safety, trust, and the consumer question

Safety emerged as a foundational condition for scale, spanning both the physical safety of battery systems and the consumer trust needed for adoption.

At the technical level, battery swapping introduces risks from repeated handling, variable charging, and multi-vehicle use. Without rigorous state-of-health monitoring, degraded cells risk instability. Standardised safety protocols—covering battery management, charge cycles, resistance, and temperature—are therefore integral to interoperability. Where these are absent, risks and potential public backlash increase.

At the consumer level, a key concern is exchanging a new battery for an older, unknown one, reflecting issues of trust and perceived fairness. This is less relevant for commercial riders under battery-as-a-service models, where ownership is separated. For private users, hesitation remains without transparent monitoring and credible assurance.

Battery-as-a-service models address part of this by removing battery

ownership, enabling centralised lifecycle management, monitoring, and end-of-life use.

The European experience offers a reference. The SBMC focuses on interface-level standardisation—mechanical, electrical, and communication—ensuring interoperability and safety across brands while allowing flexibility in internal battery design, positioning safety as a market enabler rather than just compliance.

Interoperability as a timing question

A key technical insight from the consultation was that interoperability need not be treated as a single, binary decision. Participants discussed it as a staged process, with different layers of compatibility carrying different implications for innovation and coordination.

Communication compatibility was widely viewed as a pragmatic early step. Aligning data protocols allows systems to exchange information and support lifecycle tracking, even where physical designs differ. Electrical and physical compatibility were recognised as more complex, requiring iterative refinement over time.

This sequencing matters considerably. Early alignment on foundational elements reduces future adjustment costs while preserving flexibility for national innovation. Delayed alignment shifts coordination from shaping outcomes to retrofitting systems after investments are sunk.

The absence of interoperability is already creating friction across the region. Brand-specific charging and swapping infrastructure limits scalability and constrains consumer choice. In urban contexts, where battery swapping infrastructure is often deployed on public land or integrated into municipally regulated transport systems, cities face structural constraints against investing in infrastructure tied to a single manufacturer. Even where national standards remain voluntary, city-level deployment creates a de facto requirement for interoperability, as infrastructure serving only one brand is unlikely to scale through public procurement.

From consultation to follow-up action
The consultation concluded with a

clear orientation toward practical next steps, centred on mapping technical similarities and differences across existing and emerging specifications, and generating operational evidence through pilot activities.

Ms. Duangruetai Surasakjinda, Deputy Director of the IMT-GT Secretariat, identified three areas where coordinated action would most benefit companies: *“First, policy and regulatory alignment, particularly on battery standards, safety requirements, and interoperability, to reduce fragmentation across markets. Second, structured collaboration among governments, industry, and research institutions to harmonise specifications and share best practices, building on national initiatives such as Thailand’s Standard Swappable Battery Consortium for Small e-Mobility. Third, coordinated pilot projects and investment facilitation at the subregional level to demonstrate commercial viability, lower risks, and accelerate the adoption of battery-swapping solutions across Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.”*

Safety as a foundation for a green and just transition

The consultation did not aim to resolve battery swapping definitively, but clarified a broader strategic imperative. As electric mobility scales across Southeast Asia, fragmentation increases costs. Careful, evidence-based coordination supports investment confidence, safety, and market scale, while enabling inclusive and sustainable development that benefits informal workers, small enterprises, and communities across the region.

Coordination does not entail hindering innovation among the private sector, rather the development of a common and formative base for a green and just transition.

Authors:

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wig
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FEATURED ARTICLE

IO ITALIAN OSTERIA: AUTHENTIC ITALIAN SOUL IN BANGKOK



iO Italian Osteria brings the authentic soul of the Italian osteria to Bangkok, with locations in Sukhumvit 31 and Hansar. Founded by Executive Chef **Anna Borrasi**, born in Naples, **iO** is rooted in a family tradition guided by one simple motto: *“Respect the ingredient. Honor its nature.”* We revive regional Italian recipes with modern creativity, using seasonal products prepared from scratch in our open kitchen and in-house bakery. Recognized by **Accademia della Cucina Italiana** and awarded by **Wine & Dine Magazine**, **iO** is more than a restaurant — it is a warm community where honest food is meant to be shared.

About iO Italian Osteria

Located in Sukhumvit 31 and Hansar, **iO Italian Osteria** brings the authentic spirit of a traditional Italian osteria to Bangkok. Founded by Executive Chef **Anna Borrasi** and her family, **iO** celebrates honest ingredients, seasonal produce, and the true Italian culture of conviviality — dining, drinking, and sharing moments together.

Guests can enjoy freshly prepared dishes from the open kitchen, authentic Italian street food and specialties, homemade breads and pastries from the in-house bakery, paired with Italian wines and crafted cocktails. The rustic-modern setting, enriched with antique details and warm wood accents, creates a cozy *“mini Italy”* experience from lunch to aperitivo and dinner.



Built on a family dream and the motto *“Respect the ingredient. Honor its nature,”* **iO** continues to bring the soul of the Italian osteria to Asia — where good food is simple, honest, and meant to be shared.

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- Certificate of Appreciation** – Italian Embassy in Bangkok

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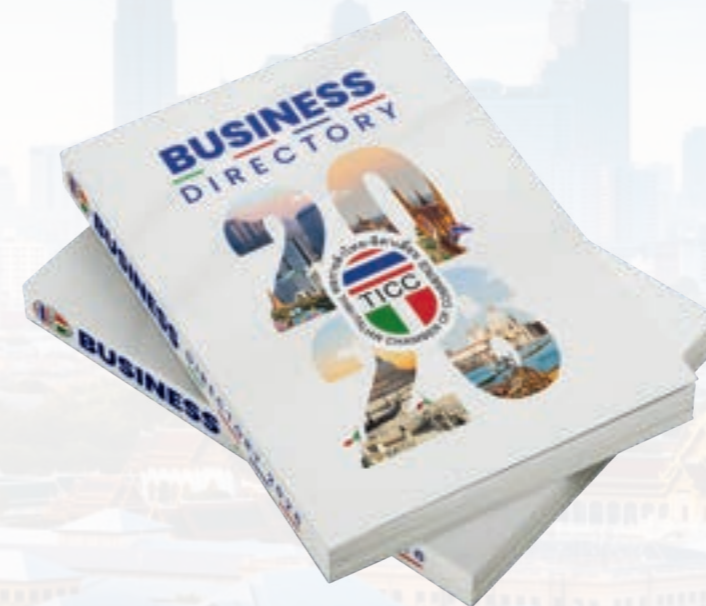
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