

## Chairman's Report December 2008

### 1. Britain in SE Asia Conference (BISEA)

Hosted by BCC-Thailand and featuring the Presidents/ Chairmen and/or Executive Directors of the British Chambers in Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand plus the Business Associations from Vietnam and Cambodia, was held in Bangkok 5th-7th November.

Topics of key mutual interest were discussed and experiences shared, especially relating to Membership Services, Communications, Business Services, Events and the relationships with our local National Government, UKTI, NGO's and other Foreign Chambers, especially the joint alliances for business promotion and government lobbying.

Presentation sessions on Website developments, Membership categories and charges, members' Market Research analysis and Social and Networking Events.

Mr. Barry Lowen, the Director- Asia Pacific for UKTI, held a closed- door session with us to review the mutual opportunities and best cooperative procedures between the British Chambers and UKTI country representatives.

This was the first BISEA conference held and as it proved to be an exceptional success greatly adding to the essential cooperation and development between the British Chambers in SE Asia, a follow up one is scheduled in late

May 2009, hosted by the British Chamber in Jakarta, Indonesia.



2. The Social Networking Events for the month are featured in Sarah's Event's Newsletter. They included the ENC Networking Evening and our BCCP Networking, featuring Guest Speaker Mr. Rick Sturge of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) who also generously sponsored the F & B for the event.

The 2nd ENC Joint event attracted nearly 150 attendees and our CIMA Sponsored Networking evening had over 40 members present. Any member interested in the details of the CIMA programmes can contact the BCCP Secretariat office.

3. The Foreign Chamber SME trade fair was held at Megamall on 19th & 20th November involving 80 Exhibitors (108 booths) and attracting nearly 3,000 registered visitors.

Prior to the event a TV interview on ABS/ CBN's morning show and a Foreign Chambers Press conference were held. A pre- event courtesy call was made to Mayor Benjamin Abalos of Mandaluyong City, who also presided over the opening ceremony of the Fair.

4. EU Commission Market Access Team meetings were held relating to the issues concerning the Cheaper Medicines Bill and the DOF proposed revisions of the Tobacco & Distilled Alcohol legislation on excise taxes. Formal position papers are under preparation by the



EU Commission which will represent the unified European position as per the EU, EU Member Countries, European Embassies, Commercial Divisions (eg. UKTI), all the European Chambers of Commerce (ECCP, BCCP, FCCP, SCCP and GCCP) and the key European companies significantly affected by these legislative amendments. The British Chamber has played a prominent part in this consultative and supporting process in the appropriate business sectors affecting its Premier Corporate Members AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), British American Tobacco (BAT) and Diageo 5. 18th-24th October RP/UK Friendship Week

The week's events, organized by the British Alumnae Association in conjunction with the British Embassy, featured the RP/UK Equestrian Cup, the Taguig Outreach Programme and

the "Cool Britannia" fashion show. The BCC-P & BWA supported the events and helped with corporate sponsorship support.

5. Philippine-British Business Council (PBBC)

The PBBC hosted a lunch on 21st November at the British Embassy in honour of the visit of Nigel Rich, CBE, the British Co-Chairman of the Council.

In attendance were the 2009 Elected officers of the Council, the British Ambassador and BCCP Corporate members representing BG, Shell, HSBC, Unilever and G4S who are also members of the PBBC, plus the BCCP Chairman.

Best regards,

**Leslie J. Stokes, OBE.**

Chairman

British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

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## BCCP Membership Update

The Board of Governors is very pleased to welcome the following New and Upgrade Members to the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines:

### Corporate

Asian Hospital & Medical City

YellowASP UK Ltd.

### Associate Member

Mackenzie Smith Law Company Ltd

### Individual Member

George Alan Young

### Designated Nominees

Theo Soiler, Chief Executive Officer  
Gilbert Patrick Garcia, Chief Financial Officer

Philip Smithson, Manager  
Colin Smithson, Managing Director

### Designated Nominees

Gregory Pitt, Managing Director  
John Lewis, UK Barrier

## Dates for the Diary

<b>Tuesday 29th January</b>	<b>BCCP Networking/ Guest Speaker Evening Details to be advised shortly</b>
<b>Thursday 31st January</b>	<b>Access! The 11th UK Education Fair and 1st Philippine International</b>
<b>Friday 1st February</b>	<b>English Language Conference British Council English Language Conference SMEX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City</b>
<b>Thursday 20th March</b>	<b>Manila 10's Rugby Luncheon Renaissance Hotel, Makati City</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>BCCP AGM HM Ambassadors Residency Date to be confirmed</b>
<b>Tuesday - Wednesday 22nd- 23rd April</b>	<b>Foreign Chambers Job Fair Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City</b>
<b>Friday - Saturday 16th-17th May</b>	<b>European Food &amp; Wine Festival Rockwell Tent, Makati City</b>
	<b>BCCP/BWA Queens Birthday and Epsom Derby Day Charity Ball Venue: T.B.C</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Foreign Chambers Greentrepreneurship- "Green is Cool" Rockwell Tent, Makati City (Dates to be confirmed)</b>
<b>Tuesday-Thursday 16th-18th September</b>	<b>Power Trends 2009 International Exhibition on Energy Trends &amp; Power Technologies World Trade Center, Metro Manila</b>
<b>Monday 6th October</b>	<b>BCCP/Lighthouse Club Golf Day Sta. Elena Golf Club, Laguna</b>

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## The British School Manila



The Christmas season is always great fun in British schools worldwide, and BSM is no exception. Last Wednesday night Father Christmas had a major setback as Rudolph had a heavy cold and could not pull the sleigh. Fortunately, amongst the sixty reindeers available for selection (looking remarkably like Year 2 children in brown outfits) there was one called Ralph who claimed to be up to the task. The sixty elves (looking remarkably like Year 1 children in red and green outfits) loaded up the sleigh with gifts of all shapes and sizes, and Father Christmas was ready to go. It was then that Ralph proclaimed that in fact he couldn't fly, thus putting Christmas in jeopardy for millions of children. Fortunately, thanks to some magic and an interesting repertoire of dance moves, Ralph regained his flying ability and all was saved. This was the Key Stage 1 (that's our lower primary) Christmas production, and with Key Stage 2 and Senior School performances next week, the excitement of our children will remain until the end of term.

It seems that the season of goodwill extends beyond the school, as at long last we have secured the necessary

permits to gain access to the land adjacent to the school that we have been leasing for the last six months, but unable to get on to! Once leveled and grassed, this will provide much needed land for sports. It has taken us six years to get this far and it is a relief that the end is almost in sight.



This month has also seen a group of twenty one students participate with great success in the FOBISSEA U/13 Games in Jakarta, and nineteen students attended a music festival in Singapore. Some of these stayed on in Singapore for a second week to be joined by another thirteen for the Model United Nations Annual Student Conference. Internally, we enjoyed an inspirational Book Week, and thanks to the outstanding organizational skills of the PTA, celebrated Bonfire Night, albeit a week or so later than schools in the U.K. All in all it has been a busy term, and I know that all our students will welcome a break after sixteen weeks of work, but as I walk around school I see an abundance of smiles and an enthusiasm for the school, I could not ask for more.

**Chris Mantz**  
Head of School

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