

Chairman's Report January 2009

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

BCCP Membership Update

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

Individual Member

John William Whitehouse
Raymond Probyn

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 29th January	BCCP Networking/ Guest Speaker Evening Mr. Keith Perrin- Managing Director Shell Philippines Exploration BV, Dusit Thani Hotel, Boardroom 2 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Saturday 31st January to Sunday 1st February	Access! The 11th UK Education Fair and 1st Philippine International English Language Conference British Council English Language Conference SMEX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City
Friday 20th March	Manila 10's Rugby Luncheon Renaissance Hotel, Makati City
Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd March	Manila 10's Nomads Sports and Recreation Club
April	BCCP AGM HM Ambassadors Residency Date to be confirmed
Thursday 22nd to Friday 23rd April	Foreign Chambers Job Fair Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City
Saturday 16th to Sunday 17th May	European National Chambers (ENC) European Food & Wine Festival Rockwell Tent, Makati City

BCCP/BWA Queens Birthday and Epsom Derby Day Charity Ball
Venue: T.B.C

Saturday 6th June

BCCP/BWA Queens Birthday and Epsom Derby Charity Ball
Renaissance Hotel, Makati City

June

Foreign Chambers Greentrepreneurship- "Green is Cool"
Rockwell Tent, Makati City
(Dates to be confirmed)

Wednesday - Friday
16th-18th September

Power Trends 2009
International Exhibition on Energy Trends & Power Technologies
World Trade Center, Metro Manila

Monday 6th October

BCCP/Lighthouse Club Golf Day
Sta. Elena Golf Club, Laguna

The British School Manila



Welcome to New Families

The new term started on Tuesday, the 6th of January with 10 new students, 5 of which are British, and we welcome all new children and their families to the BSM community. The term promises to be busy and exciting: At the end of the month, we will send a squad to the International Schools Athletics tournament at Brent Subic, and during the first week of February we will be holding our Philippine British Culture Week which is always one of the most enjoyable weeks of the school year. This year a highlight will be a Shakespeare Festival during which primary and senior students will present adaptations of 'A Mid Summer Night's Dream', 'Romeo and Juliet', and 'Macbeth'. In March, a group of senior students will go to Beijing to participate in the Model United Nations Conference and this will be followed by the annual 'Fit 4 Life' Week. We also look forward to welcoming His Excellency Peter Beckingham, always a strong supporter of BSM, to present GCSE certificates later this month.

Cambridge Success

Our congratulations go to Peter Noszek, a 2008 IB graduate, who has been accepted to St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, to read history as from September 2009. Peter is the first BSM student to be accepted at Oxbridge – although we have had applicants previously, these have ultimately chosen American Ivy league colleges.

Recruitment

A focus over the next couple of months will be the recruitment of teachers for September. Fortunately, we do not get a huge turn-over of staff at BSM with about

15% moving on each year. We do not use job fairs to recruit, preferring instead to meet with candidates for extended periods to ensure that we appoint high quality staff.

We have already started receiving applications following the publication of our advertisement this week. Suitable candidates currently working in South East Asia will be invited to the school for interview where we can watch them teach and students can also be involved in the selection process. We will meet other candidates in London in mid-February and will, if necessary, run a second advertisement in early May, closer to the resignation date for teachers working in the UK.

UK educational News Stories

Some interesting news out of the UK this week concerns the future of independent schools. At least 25 schools are discreetly seeking buyers ranging from a £3.25M prep school in a mansion with modern sports hall to a £1.35M school offered for a quick sale. Brokers expect more schools to come on to the market as many parents can no longer afford to pay the fees. However, in many cases, schools are trying to keep their 'For Sale' status secret fearing a mass exodus from parents. Small, family-owned schools appear to be the most vulnerable. Sales of small independent schools in the UK are generally handled by one of two brokers, the School Transfer Company and National School Transfer, and spokespersons for these brokers have indicated that they expect business to be good over the next year! Two international agencies, Cognita and GEMS, have indicated that they are in the market for more schools in the UK.

Also in the UK press is news that the government will fund an additional 35,000 apprentices next year to strengthen



the country's competitiveness. An additional £140M will be invested to deliver new and additional apprentices in the public and private sectors. This means that over £1 billion will be spent on this sector and a quarter of a million apprentices will begin training during the next financial year.

The importance of health in the curriculum is also being addressed as GCSE courses are being adapted to reflect the growing number of youngsters who suffer from obesity. Details of revised Home Economics and PE courses are being published as statistics have been released that suggest a growing number of youngsters are resorting to faddy slimming regimes, a bit like the head at BSM, with little chance of long-term success, and leave children vulnerable to anemia and osteoporosis.

I believe that darts on TV is one of the most boring sports on TV!. However, at the World Professional Darts Championships held in London last week, the British Dart Organisation, along with the Get On Campaign, has launched a programme to encourage children to play darts in order to improve their maths skills. The campaign has

sent darts-themed Maths equipment, including boards to hundreds of schools across Britain. This is in response to research by the National Research and Development Centre for adult literacy and numeracy, which shows that people who lack GCSE level Maths will struggle to get half of the jobs available, whereas those with the qualification can earn significantly more over a lifetime.

Also reported in the British press is the increasing number of parents who are prosecuted for fraudulently trying to enroll their children in schools. Almost all education authorities now demanding greater proof of identity and evidence that children live within a school's catchment area before considering applications.

Finally, a story which does not emanate from the UK, but attract international interest. In Virginia, USA, a 6-year old boy was so keen to get to school, when his parents overslept, he got in the family car and managed to drive 10 kilometres towards his school. He said he did not want to miss breakfast at school or PE. Perhaps we should introduce driving lessons into our Nursery curriculum!

Chris Mantz
Head of School

