

Chairman's Report March - April 2009

February & March Commercial activities were centered on:

1. Asean: EU briefings and reviews with the local business organizations coordinated by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, the European Commission and Department of Trade & Industry. Other aspects were the EU/RP discussions on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and encouraging the possibilities for a RP/ EU bilateral trade agreement (FTA).

Meetings, which I attended on behalf of the Chamber, with Under Secretary Edsel Custodio at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Ambassador Donald Dee, Ambassador for Trade of the Office of the President, Trade Assistant Secretary Ramon Vicente T Kabigting at the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) and Ambassador Alistair McDonald of the EU Commission were focused on, to reviewing how things can be moved forward to ensure the PR does not slip behind other ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam in seizing the economic opportunity offered by concluding a bilateral trade agreement with the EU, potentially the RP's largest future trading partner.

2. Supporting the interests of members (BCCP- British American Tobacco, Japan Tobacco (JTI) and Diageo) with regard to the proposed Department of Finance (DOF) legislation to create a more equitable excise tax between local and imported products

and, in the case of distilled alcohol goods, that the RP comply with WTO rules to remove any excise tax discriminatory/ protectionist practices.



Proposals were submitted to Secretary Teves signed by all the EU Chamber of Commerce heads (British, European, French, Spanish and German) and European Ambassador on behalf of the EU commission, recommending the separation of the two sectors (tobacco & alcohol) giving the proposed legislation a more realistic chance of success because of the unique WTO non-compliance issues applying to alcohol products.

Lobbying in the Senate has also taken place through a meeting with Senator Ping Lacson, head of Senate Ways and Means Committee of the 5 European countries Chamber heads and EU Ambassador McDonald, Sen. Lacson advised he will support the separation of bills and requested a position paper clarifying the arguments for separation.

A position paper on the product separation issues will shortly be provided to him by the EU Market Access Team of which I am a subcommittee Member.

3. Green was the "buzz word" with UKTI sponsored seminars on "Environmental Energy Solutions" in February focussed particularly in Renewable & Alternative energy sourcing.

And in March "Green Architecture" focused on environmentally conscious buildings, which our BCCP Corporate Member Atkins presented.



Presentation materials on these are available to any interested BCCP members from the Secretariat office.

I attended both events and can assure members, particularly those with interests in the energy and architectural sectors, that they added new dimensions to an already growing opportunity for UK Companies, especially in the area of wind power, waste/ landfills resources for energy conversion and top class R & D.

Other news

1. In other prominent BCCP news, apart from the Social & Guest Speaker / Networking evenings to be featured in Sarah's Event's section of the newsletter, was the finalization of the contract for the stage two for BCCP's Website development redesign. The upgraded site should be fully operational by May 2009 so please visit it!

2. Representing the BCCP I attended the celebration of La Camara's the (Spanish Chamber's) 110 year anniversary. (The BCCP is only 9 years old!)

3. Meeting of the Foreign Chambers Events & Fairs committee finalized the Career Employment Fair 2009 to be held in April at Glorietta and for a Lifestyle Exhibition to be held in the 3rd quarter of 2009.

4. The European National Chambers (ENC), made up of the British, European, French,

Spanish and German Chamber's will hold a Food & Beverages 2 day Fair at Rockwell in May 16th & 17th as part of European month. The ENC's still reviewing the possibilities of a European pavilion at "PowerTrends" in September 2009 dependent on Corporate member interest levels in this challenging economic climate.

FINALLY the BCCP's 2008-9 AGM is on Tuesday 21st April at HM Ambassador Peter Beckingham residence. All paid up registered members of the Chamber are invited and we especially encourage as many as possible (particularly those holding voting rights- Premier, Corporate and Individual members) to personally attend to hear and comment on the presentation of Operational & Financial reports and if required, the Election of 3 vacancies for 2009-2010 Board.

As we need a quorum of 50%+ of registered voting members it is very IMPORTANT that members unlikely to be able to attend in person to send either a Proxy or Absentee voting form if they, or in case of Corporate members their nominated Alternate, can also not attend.

SEND YOUR PROXIES OR ABSENTEE FORMS TO THE SECRETARIAT OFFICE BY EMAIL, FAX OR TEXT BY 12 MID DAY ON TUESDAY APRIL 21ST.

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 and Upgrade Members to the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines:

March 2009

Upgrade from Corporate to Premier

Etihad Airways

Corporate Members

Cashsense

Associate Members

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Designated Nominees

Juan Torres, Country Manager Philippines
Roland Rubio, Sales Manager Philippines

Bryan Horner, Chief Executive Officer
Matthew Freeston, Chief Executive Officer

Ross Kamarrudin, Head of Business Development

Events

In the past few weeks we have held a couple of really interesting talks, very different in content but equally as entertaining. Chris Boughton from the Cambridge University Press, came along to the Intercontinental hotel to discuss with us the history of the company and how it works today, the relationship it has in the Philippines and the future. We enjoyed the evening with many questions and of course the hospitality of the hotel. Some great roast pork and other delicious nibbles!



Cora Ballard Rider Hunt, Lily Cave Rider Hunt, Ma. Rhancesca Gutierrez Q2 Search & Joy Mallasaga Q2 Search



David Beddow Britpart & Angel Stokes



Sarah Mcleod Q2, Angel Stokes & Camilla Brooks



Frances Hickman, Leslie J. Stokes, OBE, Sarah Mcleod, Dennis Hickman (for web)



Helen Sia GENRIC & George Young BCCP



James Stratton Biotech, Chito San Agustin Biotech, Graham Paynter ATKINS & Winnie Paynter ATKINS



Michael Lawrance BCCP & Martyn Whyte G4S Holdings



Mr. Leslie Stokes BCCP & Ms. Camilla Brooks of Crown Worldwide Movers

Tunde Fafunwa joined us in March to talk about the importance of talking, not just texting. He is very passionate about non text speak in the modern world. Tunde works with Bayantel and of course the subject of wireless land lines, the future of internet, mobile phones and landlines came into the question and answer section. The Dusit Thani Hotel was the Host for this event and we must thank them again for their gracious hospitality.



Alan Knox Astrazeneca, Sarah Mcleod Q2, Prateek Kumar Dusit Thani, Tunde Fafunwa Bayan Telecommunications & Leslie Stokes BCCP



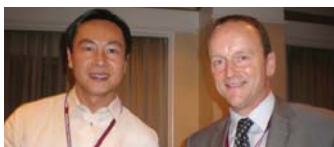
David Attewill BCCP & Keith Perrin SPEX



John Rojo Bayan Telecommunications & Tony Sutton BCCP Director



Mr. Tunde Fafunwa Bayan Telecommunications



Atty. Felix Sy Quisumbing Torres & Roger Lamb JTI



Frances Hickman Brisbane, Dennis Hickman Brisbane & Ms. haidee Enriques ASP



Mr. Leslie Stokes BCCP & Mr. Tunde Fafunwa Bayan Telecommunications

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April brings the AGM as you will already know, but also at the end of April on the 28th we will be having "just a social" night at Members Only an exclusive club for businesses and individuals who might like a private place for a quiet drink or to network with clients. Members only are sponsoring this event so of course we would like as many of our members there as we can! We thank them for that.

In May we will be hosting an event with the British Embassy who will bring us up to date with the new rules and processes for Visa, passport and any other areas

of concern to a British National. Watch the emails for the final date.

Thank you for all your support over this past year. As we move to another year with new members on the Board, I know you will continue to support our events and enjoy the variety of speakers and social events we provide to our members.

Sarah Mcleod

Director, Events Committee
British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 21st April	BCCP AGM HM Ambassadors Residency
Thursday 22nd to Friday 23rd April	Foreign Chambers' Job Fair Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City
Tuesday 28th April	BCCP Social Networking Evening Members Only Bar & Lounge Unit C, The Fort Entertainment Center, The Fort Global City, Taguig Sponsored By: Members Only Bar & Lounge
May	UK Embassy Visa & Consular Division Update Presentation (TBC)
Wednesday 13th May	BCCP Social Networking Evening Golf Simulator Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City
Saturday 16th to Sunday 17th May	European National Chambers' (ENC) European Food & Wine Festival, Rockwell Tent, Makati City
Saturday 6th June	BCCP/BWA Queens Birthday and Epsom Derby Charity Ball, Renaissance Hotel, Makati City
Thursday 20th July	Poker Night, Manila Club
Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th September	Power Trends 2009 International Exhibition on Energy Trends & Power Technologies World Trade Center, Metro Manila
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th September	Foreign Chamber's Lifestyle Expo Megatrade Hall, Mandaluyong City
Tuesday 6th October	BCCP Annual Golf Day Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Thursday 17 December	Christmas Drinks Manila Club



KEY ACTIVITIES

April 2009

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
6th April	John Chick leaves Post and Derek Page takes over as Director UKTI.	
21st to 23rd April	Susan Haird, Deputy Chief Executive of UKTI visits Manila.	

John Chick

Director-Ex-Officio
British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



The European community celebrates Europe month in May with a series of activities beginning with a Children's Festival at the Museo Pambata from 6-9 May. The UK will have special story telling sessions on 8 May from 2-5PM.



A special focus for this year's Europe month celebrations is Jose Rizal and his connections with the EU. An essay writing contest with the theme Jose Rizal and Europe will be launched where the winning essay's writer will be sent on a European tour courtesy of KLM and the Knights of Rizal. Deadline for the essay writing contest is on 01 June 2009. For more information on the essay writing contest, please visit www.delphi.ec.europa.eu

Andrew Picken, OBE
Director

The British School Manila



The final two weeks of Term 2 at The British School Manila have been extremely busy but very exciting. Between the 24th and 27th of March, we hosted seven other international schools in the International Schools Activities Conference (ISAC) Tournament which featured girls football and boys basketball. Basketball is a relatively new sport at BSM and our boys did extremely well to come 3rd. In fact, in the semi-final, for most of the game, they were beating the eventual champion, succumbing in the last few minutes to a combination of exhaustion and bad luck. The girls had a magnificent tournament. They won all their league games quite convincingly, and after a few jitters in the semi-final, eventually made it through. However, after a long tournament, in intense heat, they found the final difficult, and after full time it was one goal a piece. During the ten minutes extra time the scores remained even until there were just thirty seconds to go when our player of the tournament – Helen Lawrence, picked up the ball on

the edge of the penalty area and drove a fierce shot into the bottom left corner. Wild scenes erupted around our pitch as the girls became champions.



On Wednesday, the 1st of April, the school opened the first IB Art Exhibition, and also held an Easter Concert which featured a wide range of music celebrating the birth or death of four major composers – Strauss, Purcell, Mendelssohn and Handel. Included in the programme was Handel's 'Music for the Royal Fireworks' which was accompanied by a magnificent firework display. It has taken several years to develop music and art in the school, but thanks to the dedication of our teaching staff, and commitment from our students, we produced an Art Exhibition and Musical Concert that were both outstanding.

In my BCCP articles, I try to comment briefly on

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developments in the educational world in the UK. Last week, following the publication of some research, the British press covered stories comparing boys and girls examination results. It's well known that girls outperform boys in exams in most countries of the world. In the UK, of the 200 highest-ranked independent schools in the 2007 A-level league tables, three times as many were girls-only establishments (95) as boys-only (31), with the rest being mixed. This is not a new phenomenon - for much of the last century, local education authorities like the London County Council, operated a weighting system in favour of boys, because if they'd just taken the candidates with the highest marks, they'd have had schools full of girls!

All sorts of explanations have been put forward, citing the emotional, psychological and even biological differences between the sexes. Recently, though, attention has focused on the style of exams. Boys generally do better at multiple choice type papers, while girls are better at essay writing.

According to Vicky Tuck, Head of Cheltenham Ladies' College and president of the Girls' Schools Association, quoted in the British press last week, (and what prompted these comments) "The modern-day exam system does favour girls, they are better suited to a style of working which requires diligence and consistency, rather than cramming everything into a three-hour exam." Some also believe that the other crucial factor in girls' academic success is the absence of boys. They argue that all-girls schools

have no need to adopt any 'boy-friendly' educational initiatives, so all efforts are directed towards the girls. It is all very interesting research, but where does it leave us at BSM? Well, last year, the average point score for boys at IB level was 33, while the girls average 33.8. No significant difference, but one to keep an eye on. At GCSE level, the average score for boys was 8.14 points (12 for an A*, 10 for an A, 8 for a B etc), while for girls it was 8.19. Again, girls were slightly higher but not significantly so. The key issue of course is that we must ensure that all students achieve their potential, and so it is an area we will continue to monitor.

I went to an all boys' secondary school, with an all girls' school next door, separated by a small field. During my early years at the school, when I was more interested in football than girls, the lunch and break-times coincided but I never really understood why the field between the two schools was so popular with the older boys. When I started the Fourth Form, (the equivalent of our Year 10), the headmaster, announced on the first day of the school year that the lunch and break times were to be changed so as not to coincide with the girls' school. Never, in the history of British education, was a head so unpopular!

Chris Mantz
Head of School