



## Chairman Report

Despite being away in the UK for the second half of March, I am pleased to advise you all of a number of initiatives that are currently underway, following meetings held during the month.

1. The BCC-P, like all the other major Foreign Chambers, has recently written directly to Secretary Peter Favila regarding our support for Multi- Interoperable OOXML systems. It is now hoped that the Philippine Government will seriously review their position on this and add their endorsement to this already strongly supported international initiative (see on our website copies of the letter we sent to Secretary Favila and the those of thanks from Microsoft to both Richard Eldridge and myself for the British Chamber's support for this.)
2. The Notice has been issued confirming our 2008 AGM will be held at the British Ambassador's residence from 6:00pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. We look forward to a very high attendance to review our past year's activities, approve our audited Financial Accounts for the year ending December 2007, to endorse Board approved amendments to our By- laws and Articles of Association enabling us to redefine and widen our Membership Categories and Benefits; plus the introduction of the nominees for the vacant Director positions to join the 2008-9 Board.

Please confirm your attendance to the Secretariat as soon as possible so we can have the numbers for catering purposes. If you are unable to attend, the signing and return of your proxy form to ensure your approval of our 2007 Financial Accounts and the proposed Bye-Law amendments is important. This form will be circulated shortly.

3. The BCC-P is spearheading together with Diageo PLC, the visit in early April of the Scotch Whisky

Association. The European Nation's Council composing of the British, French, Spanish and European Chamber Heads will be hosting a dinner for the visitors and key other foreign alcoholic beverage companies and their distributors, which will be sponsored by the CPL Group.



The main objective of the visit is to undertake a review of current trade activities and to lobby the Philippine Government regarding their position on the discriminatory Import taxes and tariff barriers on such beverages and their movement towards compliance with established WTO priorities, on which the British Chamber is providing guidance and support to Diageo.

4. The interviews of short listed candidates for the post of Secretariat Office Manager were undertaken in early March. It is hoped a final probationary appointment can be made as soon as possible.
5. In early April the BCC-P briefed the visitors from Centrica PLC (parent of British Gas, UK) on the current business climate and opportunities as part of their review for possibly establishing call center outsourcing in the Philippines.
6. Following a meeting by myself, Sarah McLeod and Michael Whiting we were delighted to secure Ms. Pacita "Chit" Juan as our Guest Speaker at our April Networking Evening on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Dusit Thani Manila.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Leslie Stokes**



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## New Members

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

### Corporate

Biotech Philippines

GHD Pty Ltd

Hill & Associates Risk Consulting Phils Inc

Pitkin Petroleum Philippines Ltd

### Designated Nominees

James Stratton, Director Chito San Augustin, General Manager

Fraser Wyatt, Operating Centre Manager George Pyke, Operations Manager

Alex Morrison, Country Manager Jose Tan, Senior Vice President

Christopher Jackson, Regional Manager Guillermo Nieto, Finance Manager

### Associate

Asia Risk (HK) Ltd

Immigrant Visa Centre, Inc

Sovereign Trust (HK) Ltd

### Designated Nominees

Stephen Sayell, Buss Mgr and Principal Consultant Robert Youill, Head of Enterprise

Crispin Ananda, President

Julia Connolly, Consultant Jacques Scherman, Director

## Events

At the Newly re-opened Murphy's Bar in Makati, the social night event on 27 March was a close run thing! Despite being due to open much earlier in March, the new bar was ready in the nick of time (the day before our event!), Melody and the staff managed to pull off a great night. The bar looked fabulous and once filled with 40 plus members was abuzz with chatter and noise. We enjoyed a selection of bar-b-q-ed sausages, fried chicken, fresh crunchy salads, breads and coffee and chocolate cake, whilst sipping (or more) on the "Happy Hour" drinks. The night was a great way to end the 2007/2008 social events year for the BCCP events committee, leaving only the last Networking night on Thursday 10th April, with Chit Yuan, the founder of Figaro Coffee before the AGM on April 22nd.



Steve and his dad, Graham



Craig, Michael, Annette and Tom

**Sarah McLeod**

## Dates for the Diary

- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 **Annual General Meeting**  
6:00 pm UK Ambassador's Residency
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 **Foreign Chambers Employment Expo**  
10 am to 6 pm Glorietta Activity Centre Makati  
Companies wishing to use this Expo to meet their recruitment objectives may participate in this event
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 **British Women's Association Quiz Night 2008**  
7:30 to 10:30 pm Murphy's Irish Pub Makati.
- 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008 **British Women's Association and British Chamber of Commerce Grand Charity Ball**  
7:30 pm Grand Ballroom, Renaissance Hotel
- June 2008 **'Adoption Awareness'**  
A BCC-P supported event  
Dusit Hotel, Boardroom 2
- 13th -14th August **Foreign Chambers Employment Expo**  
10 am to 6 pm Trinoma Activity Centre Ayala Mall North EDSA  
Companies wishing to use this Expo to meet their recruitment objectives may participate in this event

### Sneak Preview...

Get ready for this year's Great Ball!



## KEY ACTIVITIES April 2008

- 24 – 26 April Hog rearing Seminar & Exhibition at Cebu  
Contact: Emma Leister Emma.leister@fco.gov.uk
- 25 April British Pig Association seminar on Hog Genetics at Cebu  
Contact: Emma Leister Emma.leister@fco.gov.uk

*For more information on any of the above events please free to contact the person as shown.*



**John Chick**



We have the following activities lined up for the coming month.

The British Council will have a series of workshops conducted by Angie Malderez, a senior lecturer TESOL/Teacher Education at the University of Leeds, School of Education. Her specialisations include teacher education for TESOL, teacher and teacher educator thinking, mentor development for education professionals, the effects and group dynamics in teaching and training as well as the practice of supporting teacher training.



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She is the author of several books on mentoring including “Mentor Courses: A Resource Book for Trainer-Trainers” published by Cambridge University Press. and co-organiser of the first joint University of Leeds/IATEFL International Trainer-Training Conference at Leeds in November 2000. She is also a member of the editorial advisory panel for English Language Teaching Journal published by the Oxford University Press.

Angie has more than 30 years of experience as teacher of children and adults, a teacher trainer, a materials writer, an outreach coordinator, a trainer’s trainer and a trainer-trainer-trainer. For more information on the workshops please contact Jansen Mayor at [jansen.mayor@britishcouncil.org.ph](mailto:jansen.mayor@britishcouncil.org.ph) or the British Council at 9141011-14.

### **Details of events in Manila**

In partnership with Ateneo Center for English Language Teaching (ACELT)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| May 13-14 | Mentoring for Professional Development – for professionals in the BPO and English Language Centres    |
| May 15-16 | Mentoring for Teachers of English – for teachers in the primary and secondary school, and the academe |

Venue: Ateneo de Manila University

**Andrew Picken**

