



BCCP Post

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Chairman's Report

The quarterly European Nations Chamber's Executive Committee meeting was held on January 10th with BCC-P as hosts. One key objective was to prepare for a European Business Conference in early May as a prelude to the ECCP's 30th anniversary week celebrations in the week commencing 12th May. A follow up Executive meeting is scheduled on February 13th to finalize the conference's programme and its guest speakers, after which we will publish full details to all members.



A very successful first joint ENC Social & Networking night was held on January 17th at the Prince of Jaipur, Fort Bonifacio with 250 attendees, of which I am delighted to report the 74 BCC-P's attendees were the largest contingent!

Operation's Committee Report

An MOA has been finalized between the British Embassy and the Chamber for the Secretariat office to move to rented accommodation within the new British Embassy in Taguig. The transfer to the new office will be in the 3rd quarter of this year.

The Chamber Board's are actively recruiting for a Secretariat Office Manager. The position has been circulated to all members and posted on the website. If you know of any suitable and qualified candidates please ensure their application is emailed as instructed in the position's template, by the deadline of 15th February 2008.

An updated 2008 Financial Budget is being finalized now detailed future Secretariat operational cost projections can be quantified.



Leslie Stokes



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Events

1st Joint European Networking Evening - 17 January 2008

January saw the Chamber having a great joint European Chambers 'Welcome Back' networking and social evening at The Prince of Jaipur. Nearly 250 guests came along and squeezed into the restaurant area! It certainly was a noisy and busy night. The cheese selection and bread was delicious and the lovely Indian nibbles kept coming, fresh and hot the entire night. There were 74 guests from the BCCP, so I must thank all the members and friends who came along to support us, making us the most prominent European chamber there. Also, congratulations to Alan Knox for winning the Nokia N73 phone in the raffle!

United Kingdom Consular and Visa Services Seminar – 31 January 2008

This special January event saw some 89 BCCP/BWA members and guests heard fascinating presentations from recently appointed HM Consul Joanna Finnamore-Crorkin, and from Entry Clearance Managers Mark Date (Home Office) and Andy Battson (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) on their respective services.

Joanna's area covered a remarkably broad range of services, including the assistance HMG is able to provide to deceased, ill, destitute and imprisoned British Nationals, amongst others. Of note, was her request that all British Nationals living in the Philippines register with the Manila Embassy (online at <https://www.locate.fco.gov.uk/locateportal/>) in order that HMG assistance can be rendered in the event of an emergency. Joanne reported that only some 1,000 nationals had registered compared with some 25,000 thought to be in the Philippines. She assured us that personal details registered with the Embassy would not be passed to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. It is purely for the local office to

know where we all are for information dissemination



Andy provided a humorous introductory insight into the FCO aspects of visa issuing, while Mark gave clinical summary of the largely outsourced visa service provided by the Home Office. Mark noted that their objective is to encourage visitors to the UK by facilitating visa issuance within current laws. To that end some 95% of visa applications are issued within target deadlines. Delays are often incurred when documents appear to be forged (an increasing problem), causing the need for investigation with the issuing branch of the Government of the Philippines. He also noted that the recent new standard of fingerprinting all visa applicants will speed up future visa applications as identity can be clearly verified, however a target date for this was still not clear.

Future Events

Now that the New Year is moving along nicely to February, our programme is nearly fully booked until the AGM in April. February sees a joint social night at Jon Thorp's new bar 'Howzat' in Makati, where we will be joined by Nomads for a Killer Pool competition, along with some lovely bar food and of course flowing beer and wine!

On 4th March our first networking night will be held at the Tower Club with guests from the Institute of Corporate Directors. On 27th March, we hope to celebrate Mike Whiting's last event as Board Member at the new extension at Murphy's Bar, so let's ensure it's a good one!

All the details for all the above events will be emailed out in good time to ensure you can book your place early. We are looking for new, interesting and exciting speakers for the 2008/09 schedule so please feel free to contact me with suggestions.

Sarah McLeod

Dates for the Diary

- 19 February 2008 **February Social - Killer Pool versus Nomads,**
Howzat Bar, Makati 6:30 to 9:30 pm
- 4th March 2008 **Networking Meeting with Institute of Corporate Directors,**
Tower Club, Makati (Times to be announced)
- 27th March 2008 **March Social Evening**
Murphy's Bar, 6:30 to 9:30 pm
- 14th June 2008 **Grand Charity Ball, Renaissance Hotel**
Details to be announced

BCCP Membership Update

The Membership Committee has met several times over the last month to review the membership categories and propose amendments. The objectives have been to ensure clear distinction between categories, to upgrade and clarify the benefits where possible, and to create new categories where this would add value to the members and possible additional funding to the Chamber. In summary the proposal is to:

- Rename the Multinational Membership as Platinum Sponsorship
- Add a Gold Sponsorship level at a lower annual fee than the Platinum level
- Add a Provincial Individual Membership level to cover potential members living outside the Metro Manila area, and
- Add a Lifetime Member for outstanding long term support.

Fees for the existing Membership levels are proposed to remain the same. Benefits have however been enhanced where possible.

This proposal will go to the Board for approval in Feb and if supported be launched at, and be effective after the AGM in April.

Keith Perrin



KEY ACTIVITIES February 2008

13 – 14 Feb

Ambassador Peter Beckingham accompanied by a Director of the BCC to Hong Kong to address the HK British Chamber of Commerce – Business Opportunities in the Philippines. Contact John Chick (john.chick@fco.gov.uk)

25 – 28 Feb

Mission of approx 22 British companies to ADB HQ. Business opportunities in ADB funded projects Contact: Fidel Ventura (fidel.ventura@fco.gov.uk)

27 – 29 Feb

British Pig Association to attend International Animal Health and Genetics Exhibition & Conference in Manila Contact Emma Leister (Emma.leister@fco.gov.uk)

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

John Chick



Primary Innovations Project

Primary Innovations is a British Council regional project that aims to support policymakers, teacher educators, and Primary English teachers in language policy and planning, capacity building and teaching resources. The project involves research in a variety of areas such as Primary English In-service Teacher Training (INSETT), Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Primary Innovations will have a training session called "Training of Master trainers" from 24-26 January at the British Council Knowledge and Learning Centre and another one on 18-24 February called "Training of Trainers" also at the British Council office.

Teacher's Club launch in Cebu

The British Council's Teacher's Club is expanding and will formally launch its Cebu chapter on 19 February 2008. The launch, which will be held at the Cebu Marriott Hotel, will be celebrated with a book donation to the University of San Carlos where the Teacher's Club Cebu chapter will be housed.

The British Council Teacher's Club offers teachers the opportunity to be part of local and global networks of English language teachers by giving them access to free seminars and workshops, print and online ELT materials and a venue for exchanging ideas with fellow teachers.

European Higher Education Fair

The European Union will be holding the European Higher Education Fair (EHEF) from 22 to 24 Feb 2008 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. The EHEF will have two components, the Asia Link Programme on the first day (22nd

February), and an education exhibition on its next two days (23-24 February).

The Symposium will be focusing on EU-Philippines higher education policy and cooperation issues.

The event aims to provide a platform for high-level dialogue between government officials, senior managers, policy makers and representatives from higher education institutions and academic networks from The Philippines and Europe.

To pre-register for the fair, please log on to www.ehef-manila.org.

Hatag Kalinaw

The British Council in cooperation with the UK Philippines Partners for Peace (UKPPP) brings back the *Hatag Kalinaw* project. *Hatag Kalinaw* is a youth-led project grant competition for school and community-based youth organisations in Mindanao. The project's theme focuses on how the ideals of peace can be achieved through mutual understanding and entrepreneurship. Winning organisations will receive up to Php 100,000 each. The money will be used to implement the winning project proposal within a 6-month period.

Hatag Kalinaw is derived from two Bisayan words- **hatag** and **kalinaw**. **Hatag** literally means to *impart, give, share, grant* and **kalinaw** which means *peace*. The project embodies British Council Philippines' aspiration to trickle down its peace-building efforts to the people of Mindanao by supporting local youth organisations translate their plans into more tangible results.

The project will be launched in Cagayan de Oro on 5 February 2008. For more information about the project grant competition interested organisations can visit www.britishcouncil.org.ph, or call British Council Philippines at (02) 9141011-14 local 117.

Andrew Picken

The British School Manila



The never-ending cycle of events at The British School Manila continued in January with British-Philippine Culture Week organised by Sally Moore, one of the Year 3 teachers. The aim of the week is to expose British School children to the cultures of both the UK

and the Philippines, and this provides a wonderful opportunity for our international students to appreciate the many cultural attributes of our wonderful host country. It also provides the 75% of our students that are not British a taste of British idiosyncratic life. During the week there were calesa, jeepney, trike and London taxi cab rides, shadow puppet play and a fashion show. There were demonstrations of arnis, sepak takraw, and the highlight for myself, Mr. Hardy, Head of Primary and Mr. Clayton, Head of Senior, was judging the

English score competition. Also in January, a team of older students participated in the Girls Basketball and Boys Football at Brent, Baguio, and Year 4 enjoyed the wonderful trip to Caliraya.



There are 759 students on roll this term, with 47 nationalities represented in the school. We continue to receive many applications for September 2008, and are already in the process of recruiting our teachers for the next academic year. Luckily, the school experiences a very low turnover of staff, and this ensures continuity and stability for the school.

Chris Mantz
Head of School

