

DECEMBER 2015

The Scandinavian

Bulletin



Skandinavisk Samfund Siam
Scandinavian Society Siam





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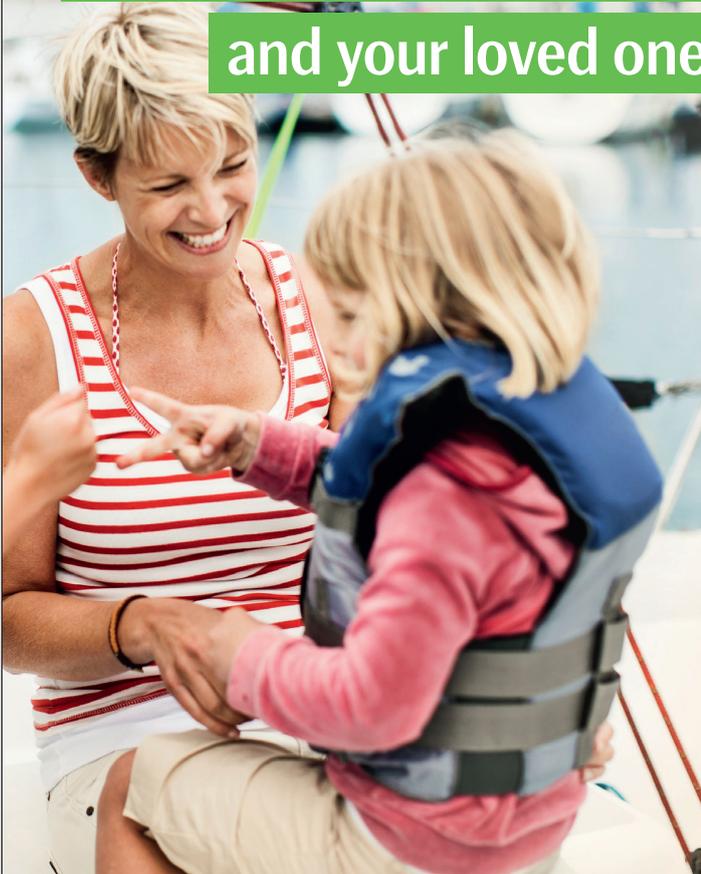


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Chairman's Message

Lars Andersson
Chairman
Scandinavian Society Siam



Dear Members of Scandinavian Society Siam,

2015 is approaching its end destination and most Scandinavian organizations are throwing their end-of-the-year parties, many of them with a Christmas theme. SSS has this year been trying to help promote all Scandinavian events that we are aware of in an effort to be part in building a more collaborative environment among the Scandinavian organizations in Thailand. We will also continue with these efforts, at least as long as I am the chairman. If we have missed to promote your event, it's only because we don't know about it! Especially for events outside Bangkok our sources are few so for those of you residing in Pattaya, Hua Hin, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Buriram, Sakon Nakhon etc – please let us know what's going on in your part of Thailand! Once our webpage is updated we also want to learn more about places run by, or catering especially to, Scandinavians.

To free up resources the board has decided that the issue you are currently holding in your hand will be the last printed copy you will get of the Bulletin, at least in its current format. The freed up resources, both financial and human, will be used to make sure our Facebook page is active and updated but also to develop our webpage into a resource for all Scandinavians living in, or long term visiting, Thailand. SSS has a strength in being a member driven non-commercial organization but we also have a weakness in that we have no staff and no office. Always remember that everything done in SSS name is done by its members without any remuneration. This includes the team that puts a lot of effort into arranging all our golf competitions so give them your support! We are as always looking for members willing to spend some of their time helping SSS become even stronger, and if you are interested in being a board member the general meeting is only a few months away.

As we are approaching that time of the year when some of us manage to take a few days off, I just wanted to remind you that SSS has a Scandinavian library. It's graciously hosted by Mermaid Hotel in Sukhumvit Soi 29 (Bangkok), and it's normally open every day from 12 to 19. There are quite a lot of books that you are free to bring home but please remember to also bring them back – or leave another book that you have already read so we can keep the library alive. We just got a few boxes of Norwegian books from a kind donor so why don't drop by to get a few books to read over the weekends? Or read it over a cold beer in the bar downstairs.

Stay safe and best wishes for the holidays and the new year!

Yours,
Lars Andersson

40 members and friends participated in historical tour of old Bangkok

By Claus Gundersen

The EAC Headquarters

On Sunday 1st November, Scandinavian Society Siam organised a guided tour of some of the historical parts of Bangkok. The tour was mainly concentrated around the history of The East Asiatic Company (EAC), and the Protestant Cemetery.

When planning the tour, we expected a turnout of about 20 – 25 persons, but we were actually 40 participants, and we even have a waiting list of ten more who were unable to join the tour for various reasons.

We met at Mango Tree, a restaurant near the old EAC Headquarters, where we enjoyed a cup of coffee while Poul Weber told about the area around Oriental Avenue, the Company's history in Thailand, and the history of the Headquarters building.

The building was rented out to Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi (see below) in 1992, and then sold to him in 1997.

The building, however, still remains empty, and there is a lot of vegetation growing in cracks in the walls. There are many rumours about Charoen's purpose with the building, which include a large hotel/shopping/entertainment complex. These are as yet only rumours, but we will hopefully know soon.

From the Mango Tree restaurant, we walked for about ten minutes to the building itself, which is located at the riverside. There Poul told us some more about who had occupied which offices during his time as an employee of EAC Bangkok during the years 1960 – 1968. During the walk, we also pointed out the building that had been H. N. Andersen's residence in Oriental Avenue during the early years of the Company. The house currently belongs to Oriental Hotel and is a Chinese restaurant.



Poul Weber talking about the EAC at Mango Tree

The Protestant Cemetery

After having taken a group photo on the main staircase, we took the express boat to Wat Rajasingkorn, which is located next to the protestant cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1853 as a gift from King Mongkut (Rama IV) to the protestant congregation in Bangkok. Several Scandinavians are interred there, including more than 100 Danes, of whom several EAC staff.

Claus Gundersen and Gregers Møller talked about some of the interred, including Peter Andersen, who was H. N. Andersen's partner in Andersen & Co., the forerunner of EAC. Peter Andersen died of a kidney disease in 1894, only 39 years old.

Other prominent personalities interred at the cemetery include Frederik Købke, who was a merchant captain, ship owner, customs inspector and Lloyd's agent, as well as Danish consul during the years 1868 – 79. Frederik Købke is buried together with his wife, Thora Bolette Marie Købke, who died in June 1866, less than six months after her arrival in Bangkok, only 27 years old. Frederik Købke died in 1881.



Posters hanging under the roof in one of the warehouses

We also visited the graves of Jennie Nielson Hays and her husband Thomas Heyward Hays. Jennie was from Aalborg, and served as a nurse in Siam, where she married the American doctor Thomas Heyward Hays in 1887. Jennie died in 1920, and because she was one of the driving forces of Bangkok Ladies Library Association, her husband built a library in her honour shortly after her death. The library is still active and is a popular place for the expatriate community in Bangkok, not least because of the beautiful building and the restaurant that was built later on the grounds.

Other interesting personalities visited at the cemetery include Dr. Daniel Beach

Bradley, Doctor of Medicine and Presbyterian Missionary. He arrived in Siam in 1835, where he set up a clinic, introduced modern medical practices including small pox vaccination, and he started the first printing press in Bangkok. He also taught English to Prince Mongkut, who later became King Rama IV.

Another prominent English teacher at the Royal Court of Siam was Anna Leonowens, made famous by the musical *The King and I*. She did not die in Siam, and is consequently not interred at the cemetery, but we visited her daughter-in-law, Caroline Isabella Knox Leonowens, who was married to Anna's son Louis.

Finally we visited Flemming Winther Nielsen, who got the idea for this tour shortly before he died in January 2014. Flemming was born in Denmark in 1947 and came to Thailand in 1999. He was a member of the board of SSS from 2011 until his death in 2014. He was very interested in history and published several historical articles in *ScandAsia* magazine about Scandinavians who contributed to the development of Thailand. Some of these articles are collected in his book *"From the Time of the Crocs – The Danes in the Mangroves 1860 –"*, which was published in 2013.

He also secured a grant from the EAC Foundation in Denmark to renovate several of the gravestones at the cemetery and elsewhere in Thailand.

Asiatique

After having visited the cemetery, we walked over to Asiatique, where the warehouses of EAC are located, and where the sawmill used to be. The warehouses are still there, but have been renovated and transformed into a huge market area with hundreds of small and large market stalls, restaurants and bars. The ends of the warehouses that face the river still wear the name of the East Asiatic Company, and there are posters in different places to remind about the history of EAC.

Both the Asiatique market complex and the old EAC headquarters now belong to Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, who is one of the richest men in Thailand, and who is the owner of the Chang breweries. He also owns the Pantip Plaza mall in Bangkok, Hotel Plaza Athenee in Manhattan, hotels in Asia, the US and



The participants on the main steps of the EAC building



The participants in front of warehouse No. 9

Australia, plus residential, commercial and retail buildings in Singapore and Thailand. He was also in partnership with Carlsberg in Thailand, but that partnership did not have a happy ending for Carlsberg.

We had dinner in restaurant Joe Louis, which is located in a building that used to house one of EAC's bachelor messes. Poul stayed in this mess when he first came to Thailand in 1960, and when we were all seated and had received our well-deserved drinks, he told us about his time in the mess, and about the harbour activities and the workshop with "The Iron Buffalo", as well as about the history of the Wat Phya Krai temple, including the five tons golden Buddha that used to be in the sawmill office, covered with plaster, and nobody had any idea what was inside.

The temple was built by the Krairikh family (hence the name) during the second half of the eighteenth century, and the Buddha was moved from Ayutthaya to the new temple to prevent it from being looted by the Burmese. The temple gradually deteriorated, and in 1907 King Chulalongkorn allowed EAC to take over the area.

The golden Buddha was then moved to the Wat Traimitr temple. During the transport, it toppled, the plaster cracked and the gold became visible.

The whole area where the warehouses and the sawmill were located is named after the Wat Phya Krai temple, and the Danish EAC staff working there gave it the Danish-sounding name "Valby Krat". The event ended at around 7 pm, by which time most of the participants were tired of the heat and the walk.

Scandinavian Society Siam's

By Claus Gundersen

SSS's annual crayfish party took place on Saturday 26th September 2015 at Rembrandt Hotel, which has been the venue for the last five crayfish parties. The Rembrandt is getting better and better at organizing crayfish parties, making it more and more difficult for us to try out a new venue. Maybe we should just stop trying and stay with the Rembrandt.

The party started out with welcome drinks in the foyer in front of the dining room – a great way for people to mingle and have a chat before the serious business of tackling the crayfish begins. Wine for this event was sponsored by Spica Co. Ltd.

The imported crayfish were excellent and plentiful. They just kept coming no matter how many times we emptied the dishes. I tried to ask them where they came from, but they wouldn't say. They tasted as if they came from Sweden, but

I'm not quite sure about that. But never mind, we were not there to discuss with them, and they tasted delicious. But no matter how delicious they were, it would have been monotonous if there was nothing else, so we also had salmon, salad and small quiche, followed by Swedish Västerbotten cheese and Danish blue cheese, all accompanied by different kinds of bread. And we knew for sure where the cheeses came from. For the sweet tooth, there was a dessert station with various kinds of cakes and fruit, and to round off the evening, there were small pizzas for midnight snacks.

But fish must swim, and that also goes for crayfish, so there was, of course, plenty of aquavit, beer and wine, and despite our best efforts to eliminate it all, there was still a bit left at the end of the evening.

We were a total of 130 participants at the party, which is a bit less than last year, but still enough to make it a great party. Most of us were hardened

crayfish aficionados, but there was also quite a few newcomers, and judging by their comments about the party, they are already halfway hooked.

After dinner there was dancing to the tunes of Unicorn band, an all-female band. Despite some initial reservations about the choice of band, these girls really proved their versatility, and as soon as they were through their first song, there was no doubt that they knew their job. They could rock and they could swing, and the dance floor was full to the end. There was even a standing ovation to get them to play one extra number, which they of course did.

Crayfish are not cheap, and even though the tickets were not that cheap either, the party would not have been possible without sponsorships. Cash sponsors included Black Mountain Golf Club, Thaivivat Insurance, Pecunia Asset Management, KIS International School, Bumrungrad Hospital, Blufox Relocation, and SEB Bank.



Annual Crayfish Party

There was also a lucky draw with prizes sponsored by Admiral's@24, Black Mountain, Bumrungrad Hospital, Dexter Café & Bar, Husqvarna, Kiridara Luang Prabang, Lux, Hotel Mermaid, Oakwood, Oriflame, Pharma Nord, Purimas Beach Hotel & Spa, Riva Surya Bangkok, Samitivej Hospital, Scan-products, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, Stable Lodge, and 137 Pillars House Chiang Mai.

Crayfish parties in Sweden

Crayfish parties are one of the highlights of the Swedish calendar. Every August Swedes go crazy putting on silly hats, lighting moon shaped paper lanterns, eating lots of fresh water crayfish, drinking beer and snaps and singing increasingly silly songs.

A crayfish party, called kräftskiva (the plural is kräftskivor), is a big event enjoyed by people of all ages. It should be held outside under the light of paper lanterns, but often rain or pesky mosquitoes lead people to abandon

the idyllic setting for indoor comfort.

Crayfish Première

Up until 1994 it was forbidden to fish for crayfish until the first Wednesday in August, whereupon lots of Swedes would celebrate the "crayfish première" by throwing a party. Since these days most crayfish are imported from Turkey or China, the law about the first Wednesday in August has been abolished, but many people still celebrate on this date although there are many Swedes who hold crayfish parties from the 1st August onwards, or even earlier.

No herring!

Such is the fondness for crayfish parties that young Swedes will often choose to celebrate their birthdays with a crayfish party. Oh, and it is the only Swedish festival that doesn't involve herring!

Crayfish

Freshwater crayfish were once common in Swedish lakes and streams and were eaten all year round. At the beginning

of the 1900s a crayfish plague struck, virtually wiping out crayfish. As a result there are very few Swedish crayfish left and so most Swedes buy frozen ready-cooked imported crayfish. Most crayfish are imported from Turkey and China.

In Sweden virtually every supermarket stocks frozen crayfish and packs of accessories. One box normally contains 1 kg of crayfish when drained and is enough for 2-3 people.

How many crayfish do you need for a party?

You need a lot of crayfish for a good party! Swedes would normally allow about 0.5 kg per person. Many Swedes serve a mixture of crayfish and prawns (shrimps) or langoustines in their shells, especially if they are serving Swedish crayfish. This is because Swedish crayfish are so expensive if bought and those who go fishing for their own crayfish find it difficult to catch enough for a big party!





Black Mountain Golf Club

If you play golf in Thailand, you will almost certainly have heard about Black Mountain Golf Club, which is acknowledged as being one of the region's leading golf courses. It is the brainchild of Swedish entrepreneur, Stig NÖtlov, and is tucked away in the foothills of the mountains on the outskirts of Hua Hin.

Since opening in April 2007, Black Mountain's philosophy has not changed. It is to strive to be the best golf course in Asia and rank amongst the best courses in the world. At the same time, to give its members and guests the ultimate and most enjoyable golfing experience. They seem to be succeeding and achieving their goals, judging by the string of awards that they have garnered.

The complete list is impressive and lengthy, but to name a few: "Top 100 in the world (outside the US)" voted by US Golf Digest magazine. (Black Mountain are the only course in Thailand ever to receive this award). The "Diamond Award for Excellence" from the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO), and significantly at the recent Asian Golf Summit in Singapore, they were awarded "Best Course in Thailand" for the 5th consecutive year, plus "Best Course in Asia Pacific" for the 2nd year running and Best Championship Course in Asia Pacific" for the third time!

The Asia Pacific Golf Group and their significant awards program are growing in stature year on year. This year over 72,000 votes were cast by the courses' playing and visiting guests.

When asked what these awards mean to Black Mountain, managing director Harald Elisson commented; "We are very honoured to be awarded these high accolades. The awards are a confirmation that we are doing something right and being voted by some of the world's best golf tourism experts and the visiting players, as an exceptional golf experience, is deeply satisfying. It affirms everything we have set out to achieve over the past eight years and motivates us further to continue constantly improving".

What is noticeable at Black Mountain is the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff and their untiring efforts to make every aspect of a visit to Black Mountain a memorable one. Whether it's the quality of the greens and the fairways delivered by the green keeper and his staff, the enthusiasm that the chefs display in the

kitchen, or simply the warm welcome at the clubhouse, you can sense that their driving passion is to give everyone an experience they will fondly remember for a long time.

Black Mountain have hosted some prestigious tournaments over the years. When asked about The European Tour and Asian Tour co-sanctioned "True Thailand Classic" which comes back to Black Mountain on 10th March 2016, Harald Elisson said; "Preparing and keeping the course in top condition, and presenting it well is a priority, which means everyone coming to play over the next few months will have a very special course to play on. We look forward to welcoming fans, players, sponsors and organisers alike to Black Mountain in March 2016, to what promises to be a truly exceptional tournament which will be watched by millions of golf fans worldwide.





Black Mountain is also involved with local charities and annually hosts the Bangkok Post Foundation Charity Golf Event. This great event is frequently supported by Tour Professionals Johan Edfors, Thongchai Jaidee and Rikard Karlberg.

“We are very proud of our work with the Bangkok Post Foundation, who have supported hundreds of underprivileged deserving students in their education, many of whom have now graduated from universities” says Harald Elisson. “The 2015 Event was the biggest and best held so far, raising over 4 million baht. Over the last 4 years we have raised over 14 million baht, and we want to significantly add to that next year”.

On January 9th, for the fifth year in a row, Black Mountain will host 2016’s Bangkok Post Foundation event.

Another factor contributing to Black Mountain’s popularity is undoubtedly, the location. Hua Hin is Thailand’s most attractive and interesting travel destination. There is everything here that anyone could want; a wonderful environment, excellent beaches, a great choice of dining options, entertainment and colourful history. Also, being the holiday destination of the Thai Royal Family for the past 90 years makes Hua Hin a very special place.

With no traditional rainy season to speak of, Hua Hin has perfect year-round golfing weather, plus a collection of great courses that appeal to golfers of all levels as well as families. With these perfect ingredients for a memorable golf holiday, it’s no surprise that Hua Hin was recently named “Golf Destination of the Year” in Asia/Australasia. “In the years



I have been in the area I have noticed how Hua Hin has become everyone’s favourite destination and how people keep returning for the golf, beaches, sightseeing and its many and varied activities”, commented Harald Elisson.

Hua Hin has numerous property options available, but many people are choosing to take up residence at Black Mountain, where they enjoy the unique concept on offer. Namely to live on the best golf course in Asia and be part of an eclectic and exclusive community of like-minded people. People who appreciate the luxury, the stunning surroundings and attention to detail that is Black Mountain’s signature. Black Mountain is more than a golf club – it is a place where people live and participate in a wide range of activities (as well as golf) and have a sense of belonging.

The new international school at Black Mountain is also an interesting addition to facilities available. With lessons based on the UK curriculum, it will initially cater for children from age 2+ to 11 and will draw children from multicultural backgrounds across the area. The list of professional golfers who have

made their home at Black Mountain, including Johan Edfors, Rikard Karlberg and Thongchai Jaidee is testament to Black Mountain’s sound ethics, philosophy and appeal. Also recently, Black Mountain’s quality of facilities and property portfolio has earned the club the status of “European Tour Destination”, taking position amongst 10 of the most elite courses on the European Tour”.

“It is very satisfying to have been able to help build a community here said Harald, and seeing Black Mountain grow from just an idea into such a diverse and popular community has been extremely satisfying”.

But Black Mountain is not only about golf. They are a truly a family-friendly destination resort with something for everybody. They also have the village-style Resort Villas accommodation, the Water Park and the Wake Park. Check into one of the private pool villas and enjoy the luxury and tranquillity of the stunning surroundings.

You and the family can spend the afternoon or the whole day at the Water Park where the thrilling sliders, lazy river, giant wave pool and Wibit floating playground will give you a time to remember. If you’re feeling energetic, you can try your hand at wakeboarding or water skiing on the private lake. Maybe even a game of tennis or volleyball even. When all of that has left you exhausted, you can pop into the Spa for a relaxing treatment, to put you in shape for the next day’s golf. And not to forget the clubhouse restaurant and the five star dining experience waiting for you there.

For more information about Black Mountain, and all of the facilities on offer, visit: [www. blackmountainhuahin.com](http://www.blackmountainhuahin.com)



ZabaiGolf.com
Scandinavian Golf Thailand

Golf REPORT

We started off the SSS golf season with a wonderful day out at the Thana City Golf Club. Although the course was under some reparation, and hole 16 was reduced to roughly 50 yards, this provided some extra challenges on its own. As always some players took the competition more serious than others, and some focused more on the drinking, but everyone had a great day out as 50 golfers joined the first competition of the year.

It is always fun to see returning members, but likewise its always a pleasure to see the new guests that join the competitions. All the golfers were greeted with the smiles of the SSS golf committee members, and everyone received a free much needed golf towel upon registration.

After the opening announcement were made, which a few of the golfer missed as they were busy finishing their beers in the restaurant, everyone took turns to tee off and begin the round of golf.

As you may know, the golf league is divided up into different groups: the A group, B group, C group, and CC group for the guests and those with no official handicap.

In the A group Jan Larsen took the 1 spot with a result of 40 points. Very well done. In the B group Magnus Hagman came in first place with 39 points. C group was won by Sverre Haug, and in our guest group Jyrki Komulainen grabbed the top spot.

The golf tournament could not be a success without our wonderful sponsor Wissen & Co. Likewise we are deeply appreciative of the SSS crew that helped to organize this tournament. Thank you all so much.

After the hot day out on the golf course, the golfers showered and changed (hopefully) and then joined a wonderful buffet dinner on the veranda of the restaurant. The buffet consisted of some delicious Thai dishes, as well as some great barbecue. A free flow of beer and wine was also served to the thirsty golfers and everyone had a wonderful dinner. After everyone had enjoyed the food, the winners of the golf tournament were announced, and they received great prizes provided by Wissen & Co, and those lucky enough received a hug from the beautiful Fon. The trophies were very big, so congratulations to the lucky

winners, this one would have looked good in my trophy cabinet.

For those of you who are not aware, individual prizes are also given out to those who have the longest drive, nearest to pin, and for every birdie made. In this tournament 16 birdies were made in total. The SSS tradition is to give out a small porcelain bird to everyone who made a birdie. Congratulation and well done to those who received them. A big congratulations to Ole Martin who managed to get two.

Last year, we held the final tournament of the season at the beautiful Black Mountain golf club, and this year we will continue that tradition. In fact we have now named the season long MVP competition the "Race to Black Mountain".

We know this will be a wonderful season and we wish all the golfers good luck. New guests are always welcome to join our golf tournaments, please feel free to browse our website: zabai golf.com for news and results from the past and upcoming tournaments. We hope to see you all at our next tournament, which will be held early next year.



Event calendar December 2015 – January 2016

Scandinavian Society Siam (SSS)

Upcoming Event

Thursday, 24 Dec 2015

Time: from 13:00 hr
Event: The Scandinavian Christmas Service is on Christmas Eve
Venue: Christ Church, Sathorn
Host by: SSS

More info : www.sss.or.th

Danish-Thai Chamber of Commerce (DTCC)

Upcoming Event

Monday, 14 January 2016

Time: 18:30 - 21:00 hrs
Event: Launch of the DTCC Yearbook 2016
Venue: Kvik Thonglor
992 Soi Sukhumvit 55, Sukhumvit rd.
Klongton Nua Wattana Bangkok 10110
Fee: FREE for DTCC members
Pricel THB 400 for non-members (incl. yearbook)

More info : www.dancham.or.th

Thai-Finnish Chamber of Commerce (TFCC)

Upcoming Event

Tuesday, 1 Dec 2015

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 hrs
Event: How To Simplify Financial Information For Clear Company Growth
Venue: Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit
Host by: Joint Chamber

More info : www.thaifin.or.th

Danish Women's Network, Margretheklubben (DWN)

Upcoming Event

Every first Tuesday of each month

Event: Brunch

Thai-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce (TNCC)

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 1 Dec 2015

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 hrs
Event: How To Simplify Financial Information For Clear Company Growth
Venue: Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit
Host by: Joint Chamber

Tuesday, 15 Dec 2015

Time: 18:30 - 21:00 hrs
Event: Norwegian Christmas Dinner
Venue: Rembrandt Hotel
Host by: TNCC

Thursday, 28 Jan 2016

Time: 18:30 - 22:00 hrs
Event: Seafood Under The Stars
Venue: Ambassador's residence
Host by: TNCC

More info : www.norcham.com

Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce (TSCC)

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 1 Dec 2015

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 hrs
Event: How To Simplify Financial Information For Clear Company Growth
Venue: Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit
Host by: Joint Chamber

Saturday, 12 Dec 2015

Time: from 11:30 hr
Event: TSCC Classic Swedish Christmas
Venue: St. Regis Bangkok
Host by: TSCC

More info : www.swecham.com

Swedish Women's Educational Association International (SWEA)

No events during December 2015 and January 2016



Scandinavian Society Siam would like to announce that for the upcoming year SSS will, together with other Scandinavian organizations in Thailand, focus on a more collaborative environment and SSS will help promote events that have a Scandinavian nature or help connect Thailand and Scandinavia.

If you have event in mind that you would like to share with SSS members or even setup just send information about the event to our email : event@sss.co.th

SSS Board



Yesterday I was living in a world of worries. Today I'm worry free.

Thank you Bangkok Hospital

Every day, Bangkok Hospital receives patients from all across the globe seeking the care of a lifetime.

Known for being one of the most technologically sophisticated hospitals in the world, we provide a full range of medical services through highly qualified teams of specialist physicians. Among our many centers of excellence, we offer advanced diagnosis and treatment for heart disease, cancer, neurological disorders and orthopedics.

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