

Meeting Minutes and Action Items | Australia Thailand Business Council

Meeting Information

Date: Thursday, 1 November 2018 **Location:** Level 21
20 Bond Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Time: 4:35pm until: 5:30pm AE Summer Time

Attendees: Douglas Blunt (DB) - Centrelease **Dialing In:** Nil
 Jamie Gibson (JG) - Kingsgate
 Peter Siripol (PS) – ATBC, ATA (Canberra)
 Mrs. Salila Tepkasetkul (Trade Commissioner – Royal Thai Consulate-General)
 David Docherty (DD) - Thai Goldfields
 John Lloyd (JL) - John Lloyd and Company (Law)
 Dr. Kathie Blunt (KB) - Centrelease
 Corinne Roach – Kingsgate Consolidated
 C. Wongpaibool (CW) – Australian Centre
 Marko Malivong (MM) – Australian Centre
 Glen Robinson (GR) – AFG Venture Group

Apologies: Aakash Tolani – Pomeroy Pacific

Minute Taker: JG

Agenda Items – Annual General Meeting	Actions Arising
1. Opening and Apologies (DB)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was opened at 4:35pm (AEST), by ATBC President, Doug Blunt, as Chair. Mr Aakash Tolani of Pomeroy Pacific sent an apology. 	Nil
2. Review of previous Meeting Minutes (DB)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of AGM on 8 November 2017 tabled. Minutes approved and accepted. (Moved JG, seconded PS). 	Nil
3. President's Report "Australia Thailand Business Council Annual Report 2017 – 2018" (DB) Circulated	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Highlighting key events:</u> The ATBC Board has been led by President and Treasurer, Doug Blunt, Vice President and Secretary, Jamie Gibson, and Assistant Secretary and Board Member, Peter Siripol, since the last AGM in November 2017. Jamie Gibson has continued portfolio responsibility for website/communications, Peter Siripol for strategic relations with the Thai Government, and Doug Blunt for finance and banking. Secretarial services were provided courtesy of Jamie Gibson. There were no office expense charges for the year, thanks to our generous sponsor Kingsgate Consolidated. The Council has had minimal compliance and admin costs. 	Nil

- Peter Siripol who is based in Canberra ACT, continues to be the ATBC's local representation and Public Officer and has been a very valuable contributor to the Council throughout the year.
- The President was pleased to say that the ATBC has been reinvigorated over the course of the past year, with a surge in the number of contacts for assistance, and an increase in the number of engagements with Thai Government agencies, in particular with the Board of Investment and the Thai Trade Centre in Sydney, as well as the Royal Thai Embassy in Canberra.
- The Board has complemented this renewed interest through various activities to promote the Council.
- Member subscriptions from established members were not called for again during 2017/18 as ATBC finances remained healthy.
- However, given the mini renaissance that the Council has undergone throughout the year, it has caused us to be prudent and think of the need to keep the finances stable.
- The ATBC will be asking all current and past members to review their level of membership and engage actively.
- ***From 1 January 2019, new memberships will be sought, with the new membership fee rates available via the website. (Note: this doesn't apply to anyone who has joined since 1 July 2018)***
- In the Statement of Financial Position, the ATBC reports good cash balances as at 30/6/18 with regard to present activities.
- As previously mentioned, the year 2017/18 and has seen a real spike in activity for the ATBC.
- Some examples of the Council's major activities which include but are not limited to:
 - Attendance and representation at the Thailand National Day in Sydney on 4 December 2017;
 - Attendance and representation at "Thailand Taking Off To New Heights" a Thai Board of Investment Seminar on 24 May 2018, at PWC in Sydney;
 - Welcome meeting with Her Excellency, Mrs Nantana Sivakua, Ambassador of Thailand to Australia, on 19 June 2018, to discuss issues of mutual benefit;
 - The ATBC was proud to be a founder in the inaugural ASEAN Business Council's Networking Event held in partnership with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and the NSW and Australian Governments at the NSW Trade and Investment Offices in Sydney, on 25 July 2018, attended by about 60 people of wide regional interests;
 - Attendance and representation with the Thai Assistant Minister for Commerce – promoting exciting new Thai rice varieties in Sydney, on 14 September 2018; and
 - DB, JG, and PS all traveling to Thailand throughout the year and meeting with various stakeholders including with members from our sister chamber – AustCham.
- It was noted that contacts from both Thai and Australian businesses seeking advice or assistance has been very high this year.
- The Council is averaging 1-2 contacts per week across a range of sectors from agriculture, manufacturing, resources, tourism and sports and leisure.
- As a result of this renewed activity and engagement the Council has continued to reinforce excellent relationships with Australian and Thai government agencies, Austcham in Bangkok, Austrade, Asialink, the Asia Society and other like-minded organisations to continually maintain information and links via our website as a reference for the public and for the use of members.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President took a moment to acknowledge some magnificent Australia - Thailand cooperation during the rescue of the Thai Youth Soccer Team in July this year, when the eyes of the world were on Thailand during this huge rescue effort. • The team of 13 boys and their coach were trapped inside the huge Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai, Northern Thailand by rising flood waters, getting ever worse in the shadow of oncoming monsoon rains. • Timing and organisation was critical. • Rapid assistance to Thai Navy divers came from other countries who had specialist diving rescue teams such as Australia and the USA in their armed and police forces, and most especially private Australian and British citizens with cave diving skills. Critical medical knowledge from Australian divers at very short notice made a fairly unlikely rescue possible. • A single Thai volunteer support diver Suman Kunan was a casualty and he is remembered as a hero. • It reminded us all how dangerous the whole rescue effort was. • The visiting Thai Deputy Prime Minister Prajin Juntong, formally thanked Australia for its participation during his visit to Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney in late July. • The ATBC's traditional role as a high-level organisation aimed at facilitating trade and investment between Australia and Thailand faced increased demand this year, and as the Council looks ahead to the next year it will be once again focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ providing bilateral business services to Thai and Australian companies/individuals; ○ recruiting and building a diverse and active membership base; ○ continuing to promote the Council's good name and reputation at all levels of engagement; ○ hosting events aimed at providing relevant and meaningful networking, business development opportunities; and ○ improving our website to the point where it can serve as the basic go-to starting point for businesses large and small wanting to engage in two way trade and investment with Thailand. • In concluding the President reiterated that 2017/18 has been a much needed shot in the arm for the Council. • As the Council looks towards 2019, and to consolidate and improving on the gains that have been made so far, he would encourage anybody with an interest in doing business in Thailand to get in touch. • The opportunities are limitless and both he and the Council look forward to another exciting year ahead. 	
<p>4. Treasurer's Report - Douglas Blunt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Blunt confirmed that the ATBC's annual finances were independently audited and are available for inspection by members upon request. 	
<p>5. Board Resignations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no Board resignations in the 2017-2018 year. 	
<p>6. Election of Officers for 2018 - 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Returning Officer, Corinne Roach, assumed control of the AGM • No competing nominations for positions were received. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Blunt was elected as President of the ATBC. • Jamie Gibson was elected as Vice President of the ATBC. • Doug Blunt was also re-appointed as Treasurer. • Jamie Gibson was also re-appointed as Secretary. • Peter Siripol was re-appointed as Assistant Secretary and to the Board of the ATBC. • The Board will appoint an auditor for 2018/19. • Glen Robinson from AFG Venture Group was appointed to the Board of the ATBC. 	
<p>7. President Doug Blunt resumes chair</p> <p>8. General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ATBC welcomed Mrs. Salila Tepkasetkul (Trade Commissioner – Royal Thai Consulate-General) to the meeting. • JG advised that the ATBC continually monitors its methods of electronic communication with members and guests, and that an ATBC Facebook page is being developed for use. • JG further advised that the ATBC website will undergo refurbishment over the holiday period. • Appreciation expressed to Kingsgate for use of the boardroom. • Appreciation expressed to board members for past efforts and the challenges ahead. 	
<p>9. Meeting closed – 5:30pm AEST with post meeting networking opportunities.</p>	

Confirmation of next meeting: TBA