

Meeting Minutes and Action Items | Australia Thailand Business Council

Meeting Information

Date: Monday, 21 October 2019 **Location:** Level 21
20 Bond Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Time: 4:35pm until: 5:15pm AE Summer Time

Attendees: Douglas Blunt (DB) - Centrelease
Jamie Gibson (JG) - Kingsgate
Peter Siripol (PS) – ATBC, ATA (Canberra)
Glen Robinson (GR) – AFG Venture Group
David Docherty (DD) - Thai Goldfields

Dialing In:

Apologies: Mrs. Salila Tepkasetkul (Trade Commissioner – Royal Thai Consulate-General)
Kathie Blunt (KB) – Centrelease
Corinne Roach – Kingsgate Consolidated
Marko Malivong (MM) – Australian Centre
John Connor – former ATBC President.
Linsey Siede - Likatibro

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. 	Nil
2. Review of previous Meeting Minutes (DB)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of AGM on 1 November 2018 tabled. Minutes approved and accepted. (Moved JG, seconded DD). 	Nil
3. President's Report "Australia Thailand Business Council Annual Report 2018 – 2019" (DB) Circulated	
<p><u>Highlighting key events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ATBC Board over the past 12 months has comprised President and Treasurer, Doug Blunt, Vice President and Secretary, Jamie Gibson, Assistant Secretary and Board Member, Peter Siripol, and Board Member Glen Robinson. Portfolio responsibilities were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamie Gibson website/communications; Peter Siripol strategic relations with the Thai Government; Glen Robinson new members and relationships; and Doug Blunt for finance and banking. Secretarial services were provided courtesy of Jamie Gibson. 	Nil

- The ATBC was honoured to gain the support of Khun Krirkrai Jirapaet of Bangkok as an Honorary Advisor to our Board. We have also aided the introduction and briefing of a new Australian Ambassador to Thailand HE Mr Allan McKinnon PSM who took up duties in Bangkok in January 2019.
- On the financial side there were again no office expense charges for the year, thanks to our generous sponsor Kingsgate Consolidated. There were minimal compliance and admin costs. Peter Siripol, who is based in Canberra ACT, continues as our local representation and Public Officer and has been a very valuable contributor to the Council throughout the year.
- The ATBC has continued its rebuild 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 and agencies. In line with our strategy we have continued to build up our website as a go-to referral source which in turn is continually leading us to introduce trade and investment opportunities to the Board of Investment and the Thai Trade Centre in Sydney as well as the Royal Thai Embassy in Canberra.
- Your Board has complemented this renewed interest through various activities to promote the Council. Member subscriptions from established members were not called for again during 2018/19 as ATBC finances remained healthy.
- However, given the continuing interest that the Council has experienced throughout the year, we need to keep our finances stable as we are funded only by member subscriptions and generous sponsors with an interest in Thai - Australian business Relationships. We will be asking all current and past members to review their level of membership and engage actively.
- **From 1 January 2020, 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 2019).**
- As will be seen from the Statement of Financial Position, the ATBC reports a good financial position as at 30/6/19. Cash balances currently total A\$14,685 approx.
- The year 2018/19 and to date has been one of continuing interest and activity for the ATBC. Some examples of our major activities which include but are not limited to:
 - Attendance and representation with the Thai Assistant Minister for Commerce – promoting exciting new Thai rice varieties in Sydney, on 14 September 2018;
 - Attendance and representation at the Thailand National Day in Sydney on 4 December 2018;
 - Traveling to Thailand throughout the year and meeting with various stakeholders including with members from our sister chamber – AustCham;
 - Facilitating a meeting for the Thai Institute of Directors on 6 March 2019.
- The ATBC's Vice President and I were speakers at Thai Board of Investment Breakfast Seminar on 25 July 2019 "Thailand - Unbeatable Business Opportunity", at Amora Hotel Sydney.
- The ATBC was proud to continue our support of joint ASEAN Business Council's Networking Events held in partnership with Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines at Denton's legal Offices in Sydney, on 17 June 2019, attended by about 80 people of wide regional interests.
- Thailand's Consul General led the meeting as Chair of ASEAN. A Speaker Panel then examined the history of FTA's and EPA's in the ASEAN Region comprising:
 - Caroline McCarthy, Assistant Secretary, FTA Investment from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
 - Ranitya Kusumadewi, Indonesian Ministry of Trade, Deputy Director, ASEAN Negotiations;
 - Chester Brown, University of Sydney, Professor of International Law and International Arbitration;
 - Sandra Seno-Alday, University of Sydney, Professor with the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre; and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gary Dawes, NSW Business Chamber, Manager, International Business. • The ATBC would also like to comment specifically on the level of continuing contact with the Council from both Thai and Australian businesses seeking advice or assistance. We are 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 we have reinforced excellent relationships with Australian and Thai government agencies, Austcham in Bangkok, Austrade, Asialink, the Asia Society and other like-minded organisations to maintain information and links via our website as a reference for the public and for the use of members. AustCham's e-magazine Advance remains available to all members via our website at: http://www.aust-thai.org.au • 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. As we look ahead to the next year we will be once again focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing bilateral business services to Thai and Australian companies/individuals; - 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; - improving our website as the basic go-to starting point for businesses large and small wanting to engage in two way trade and investment with Thailand; and - forging links with bodies such as the Australian Institute of International Affairs and other bodies who can be of help to our members, thanks to activities by Board member Glen Robinson. • In conclusion, 2018/19 has been a pleasing one for the Council only limited by the time and resources available to us. • As we look towards 2020, consolidating and improving on the gains we've made so far we would encourage anybody with an interest in doing business in Thailand to get in touch. • The opportunities are limitless and I 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 2018-2019 year. 	
<p>6. Election of Officers for 2018 - 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Returning Officer, David Docherty, assumed control of the AGM • No competing nominations for positions were received. • 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. • Peter Siripol was appointed as Secretary and re-appointed to the Board of the ATBC. • The Board will appoint an auditor for 2019/20. 	
<p>7. President Doug Blunt resumes chair 8. General Business</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JG advised that the ATBC continually monitors its methods of electronic communication with members and guests.• Appreciation expressed to Kingsgate for use of the boardroom.• Appreciation expressed to board members for past efforts and the challenges ahead.	
9. Meeting closed – 5:15pm AEST with post meeting networking opportunities.	

Confirmation of next meeting: TBA