

STCC Membership Fee Increase

The Board of Directors (BOD) has been running the STCC since its founding days in 1998 on a pro bono basis and in the spirit of a true Swiss volunteer management system. When the Chamber was officially established in October 1998, the membership fee charged was 5,000 THB and we employed a part-time secretary. We had about half the members as we have today and we were significantly less active as we are now.

It has been an incredible success story over 22 years and today we stand at a crossing point. Our leadership team is spending lots of personal time on Chamber matters, and given other professional commitments all of us have, we cannot continue as we did in the past.

After a strategic planning session in October 2019, the BOD arrived at following conclusions:

- 1) We need to have a professional office with a dedicated manager employed by the Chamber. The office would be located in the Central Business District and the Office Manager would take care of all matters which are inherent to the Chamber. These matters include membership management, organizing network events, supporting members' requests, liaising with government agencies, interacting with Board of Investment/ Board of Trade /Joint Foreign Chamber of Commerce (JFCCT), managing the newsletter and handling requests from Swiss Global Enterprise (SGE).
- 2) To finance and enhance our office structure and service offerings, we are forced to increase our membership fee. If we consider inflation trends over 22 years, 5,000 THB in 1998 are 10,000 THB in today's money terms. There are currently 40 Foreign Chambers in Thailand and STCC charges by far the lowest membership fee.
- 3) The BOD proposes to increase our membership fee for 2021 as follows:

Corporate Members 10,000 THB

Individual/Associate Members 5,000 THB

Beginning in 2021, you will receive improved membership services, access to market data, access to government agencies, market research and support for any business issues you might have.

The BOD will submit this proposal for a vote at the Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2021 and we will hope to receive your full support. The increase in membership fee will not guarantee a balanced budget in 2021, but with other planned revenue streams emanating from the STCC Partnership Program and contributions from Swiss Global Enterprise, we should be able to lay the foundation for a break-even budget in 2022 and a sustainable financial foundation onwards.

We appreciate your continued support of the restructuring of our Chamber and looking forward to your active participation at our AGM.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Bruno Odermatt-Maag

President

