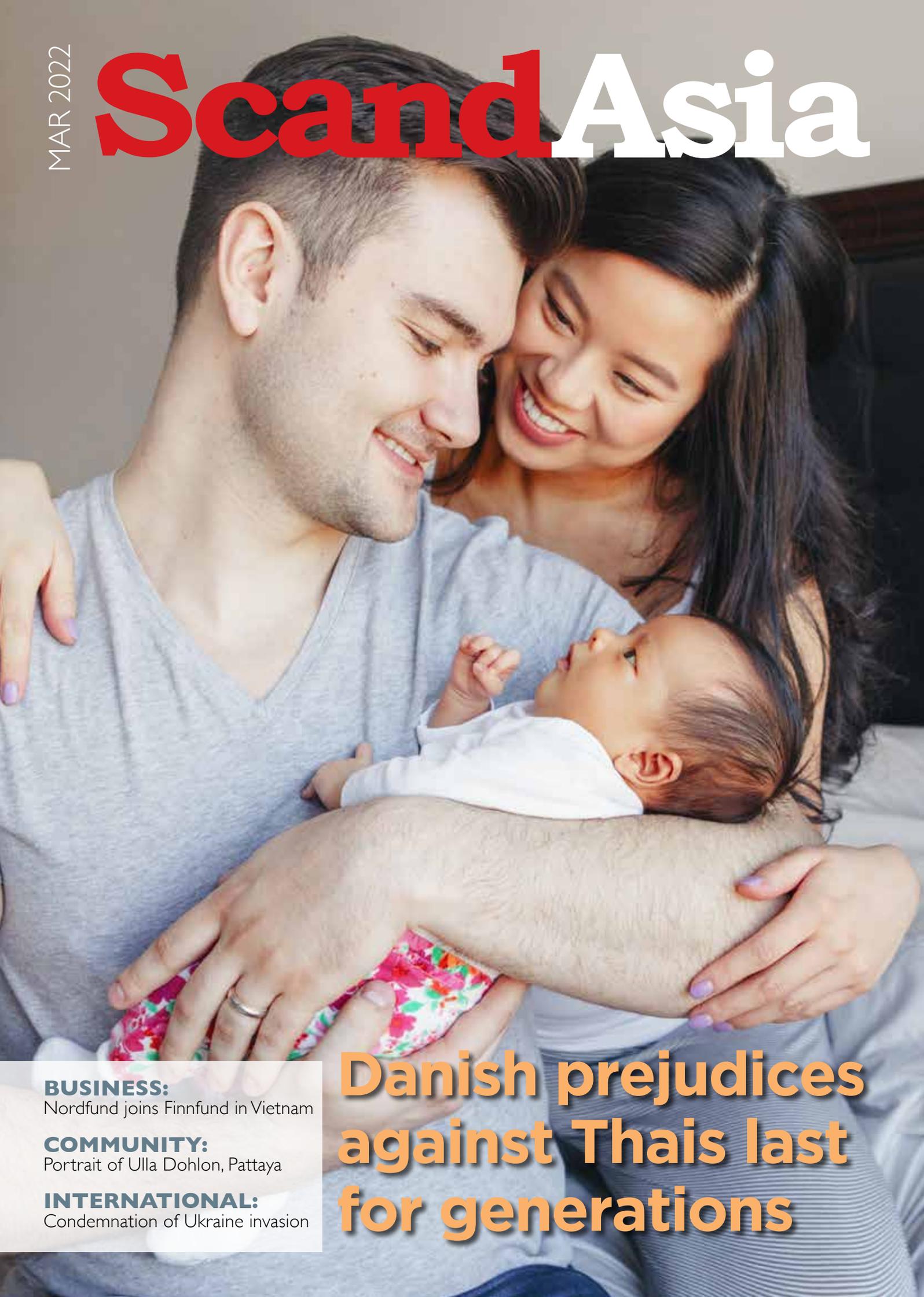


MAR 2022

ScandAsia



BUSINESS:

Nordfund joins Finnfund in Vietnam

COMMUNITY:

Portrait of Ulla Dohlon, Pattaya

INTERNATIONAL:

Condemnation of Ukraine invasion

**Danish prejudices
against Thais last
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A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Piers Illing, Grad '15, said that some of his fondest memories at Bangkok Patana School happened through experimentation within the school's well-resourced Drama Department. After leaving Bangkok Patana, Piers earned a degree in Theatre Production from the Guildford School of Acting. Nowadays you can find him running the set electrics, lighting or video at some of the UK's top productions such as *Back to the Future: The Musical*, *Matilda* and Rod Stewart's UK tour.



Read Piers' 'Life After Patana' story:



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Stop human rights violations and return democracy in Myanmar

On the one year anniversary of the military coup in Myanmar, the High Representative on behalf of the European Union and the Foreign Ministers of Albania, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have made the following declaration:

One year ago, on 1 February 2021, the military authorities in Myanmar forcibly overthrew the civilian government in blatant violation of the will of the people as expressed in the general elections of 8 November 2020. This act halted the country's democratic transition with disastrous humanitarian, social, security, economic, and human rights consequences. Since the beginning of the crisis, the EU stands unequivocally with the people of Myanmar, continuing to strive for a return to democracy.

The European Union is deeply concerned by the continuing escalation of violence and the evolution towards a protracted conflict with regional implications. Since the military coup, the situation has continuously and gravely deteriorated. A large part of the population is now in a highly precarious situation, experiencing poverty, food shortages, displacement, and violence.

More than 1500 people have been killed, over 8600 are currently under detention and 80 people sentenced to death. There are over 400000 newly displaced people since the military take-over. This is in addition to almost one million Myanmar refugees in neighboring countries.

The European Union condemns in the strongest terms continuing grave human rights violations including torture, sexual and gender-based violence, the continued

persecution of civil society, human rights defenders, and journalists, attacks on the civilian population, including ethnic and religious minorities by the Myanmar armed forces. Therefore, the EU calls for full accountability of the leaders responsible for the coup as well as of the perpetrators of violence and human rights violations. The EU also reiterates its firm demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners arbitrarily detained in relation to the coup and the return to power of democratically elected leaders.

In view of the escalating violence in Myanmar, increased international action is required in line with the already existing EU arms embargo on Myanmar. Since the military coup on 1 February 2021, the EU has imposed targeted sanctions on the Myanmar military, its leaders, and entities. In the absence of any swift progress of the situation in Myanmar, the EU stands ready to adopt further restrictive measures against those responsible for undermining democracy and the serious human rights violations in Myanmar.

ScandAsia

ScandAsia is a printed magazine and online media covering the people and businesses of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland living and working in China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

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The ScandAsia magazine is produced every month and distributed to all print version subscribers via postal services and to all eMagazine subscribers via email. Subscribing to the eMagazine is FREE - simply sign up on the ScandAsia.com website.

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Nordic Ambassadors in Indonesia condemns attack on Ukraine



The Nordic Heads of Mission in Indonesia condemned Russia's military attack against Ukraine shortly after the invasion.

United together, the Embassy of Denmark in Indonesia, the Embassy of Sweden in Jakarta, the Royal Norwegian Embassy Jakarta, and the Embassy of Finland in Jakarta wrote on their Facebook pages:

"There is no justification for the Russian Federation's illegal use of force, which clearly violates international law including the UN Charter. The Nordic Heads of Mission condemn in the strongest terms the aggression and military attack against Ukraine."

"We stand united in our support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Our thoughts go out to the women, men, and children whose lives and homes are now being subjected to Russian aggression."

Cambodia and Norway renew mine clearance cooperation

During a recent meeting between Cambodian Mine Action Center and Norwegian People's Aid Cambodia, Cambodia and Norway reaffirmed the mutual commitment for both bilateral and multilateral cooperation, in particular regarding the mine clearance sector, Khmer Times reports.

The commitment was reaffirmed between CMAC Director General Heng Ratana and Head of NPA in Cambodia Rune Kristian Dale Anderson at CMAC headquarters in Phnom Penh.

During the meeting, the two



parties also cheered an official announcement of continued cooperation to clear mines along the

Cambodian-Thai border, and to make some provinces of Cambodia mine-free by 2022.

Ambassador Kent Härstedt presented his credentials to President Halimah Yacob

Sweden's Ambassador to Singapore Kent Härstedt presented on 15 February his credentials to President Halimah Yacob, the Embassy of Sweden in Singapore informs.

Before his accreditation to Singapore, Ambassador Härstedt served as the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. He remains the Swedish Government's Special Envoy for the Korean Peninsula.

From 1998 to 2018, Ambassador Härstedt was a Member of Parliament and served on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees. He was a member of the Swedish



Parliamentary Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary

Assembly (OSCE PA) from 2010 to 2018 and acted as head of the delegation from 2014 to 2018.

Nordic countries and Singapore still the world's least corrupt



The Nordic Region and Singapore once again take the lead as some of the least corrupt countries in the world, according to the annual Corruption Perceptions Index.

Every year, the index ranks 180

countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.

This year, the countries deemed least corrupt included Denmark, Finland, and New Zealand, each of

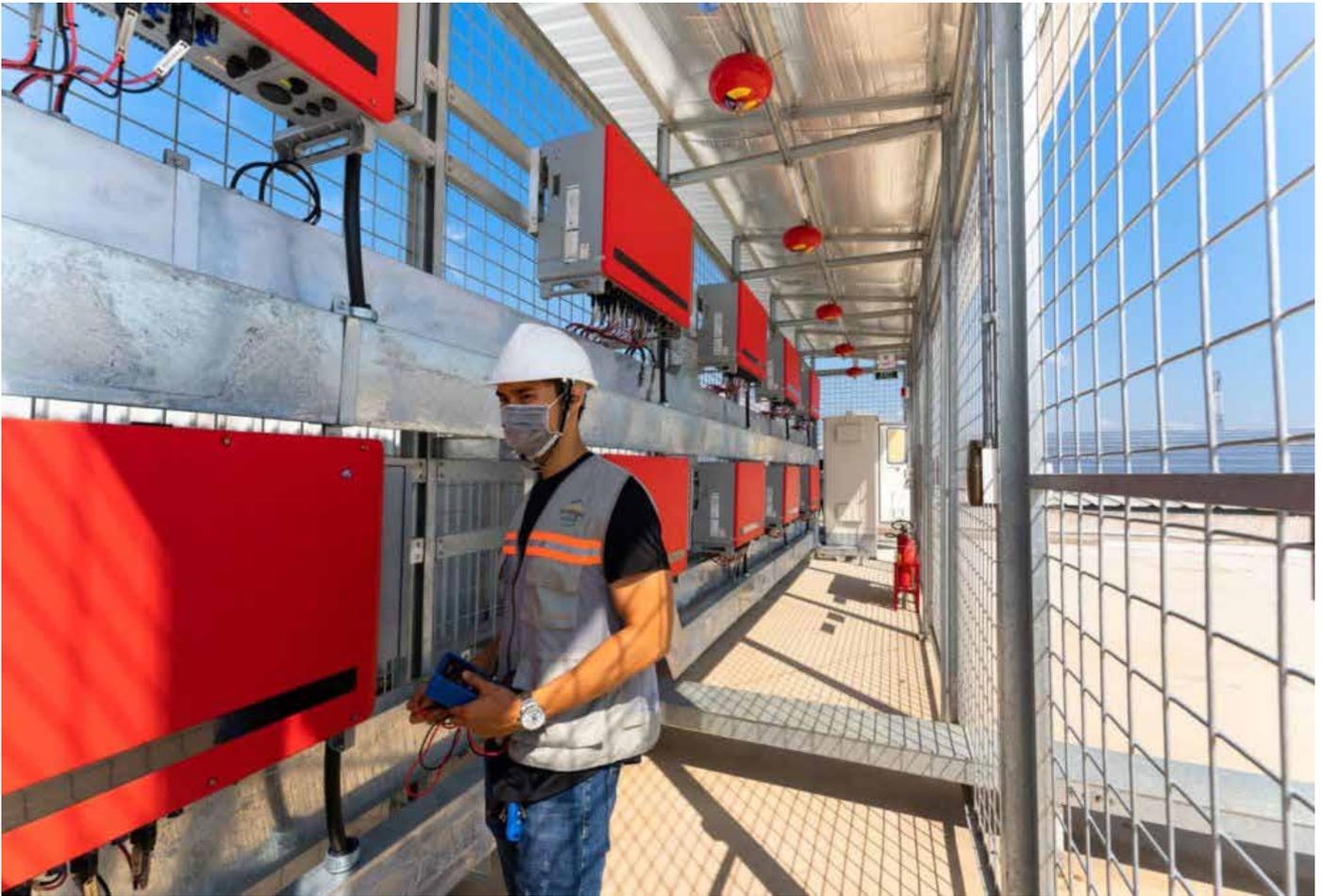
which ranked 88 out of a scale of zero to 100.

Following close behind the top three were Norway, Singapore, and Sweden, which shared a ranking of 85.

More than two-thirds of the 180 countries and territories on this year's list scored below 50.

The year's average global score remained "static" at 43 and since 2012, a total of 25 countries had significantly improved their rankings while 23 had significantly declined on the scale, according to the index.

Amongst countries in the Asia-Pacific region that need to tackle corruption better was Vietnam with a score of 39, Thailand with a score of 35, Laos with a score of 30, and Cambodia with a score of 23.



Norfund joins Norsk Solar and Finnfund in solar power project in Vietnam

Norfund - the Norwegian government controlled investment giant - is joining Norsk Solar and Nordic Impact Cooperation (NIC) as investors in an 11 MW solar plant portfolio recently constructed by Norsk Solar in Vietnam. NIC is a joint venture between Norsk Solar and Finnfund, a development financier and impact investor majority-owned by the Finnish state.

The company says in this press release that the investment establishes a new partnership between Norfund, Norsk Solar, and Finnfund and gives Norfund a 35 percent ownership stake in one of the largest single-client rooftop solar PV

systems in Vietnam. The 11 MW project was built on-site at shopping centers owned by Central Retail, one of southeast Asia's largest retail conglomerates. A long-term Power Purchase Agreement has been signed with Norsk Solar.

"Norsk Solar is proud to include Norfund as an investor in our newly built corporate solar project in Vietnam. The involvement of two-state impact investors, both Norfund and Finnfund, is a validation of our business model and strengthens our capability to expand in Southeast Asia," says Øyvind L. Vesterdal, CEO of Norsk Solar.

Inge Stølen, Senior Investment Manager in Norfund says:

“Norfund has been following closely the positive development of Norsk Solar, and we are delighted to see yet another Norwegian developer of renewable energy succeeding in establishing itself in developing markets. The partnership with an important company such as Central Retail in Vietnam is a confirmation of what they have accomplished. We are happy to partner with Norsk Solar in offering capital and competence that contribute to increased access to affordable, clean energy, enabling job creation and avoiding CO2 emissions.”

Meeting the increasing corporate demand for clean electricity

Norfund's current investment and Finnfund's existing partnership with Norsk Solar via NIC demonstrate that Nordic state impact investors

are supporting the energy transition with innovative financing platforms for distributed generation and non-utility investments. Under NIC, EUR 15 million has been earmarked exclusively for Norsk Solar projects within the C&I segment and other related projects across developing markets. Adding Norfund as a new partner in Vietnam will further support Norsk Solar's expansion and help meet the rapidly growing corporate demand for electricity.

“Our mission, to give companies the power to choose renewable energy, is in full alignment with Norfund's goal of reducing poverty and fighting climate change. By joining forces we can do even more to support sustainable growth in developing countries, help create new jobs and reduce emissions while also securing long-term recurring revenues for all investors,” says Norsk Solar's CEO, Øyvind Vesterdal.

Will offset up to 200,000 tonnes of carbon emissions

Vietnam is one of the countries where investments in renewable power solutions can benefit the climate most, as more than half its electricity supply is from coal. The Norsk Solar power plants that Norfund is investing in will generate over 300,000 MWh of clean electricity and contribute to offsetting more than 198,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions over the systems' lifetimes.

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Nordcham Vietnam's Annual General Meeting 2022 under hybrid format was a success



Chairman and Vice Chairwoman Ms. Lone Søndergaard Larsen. Meanwhile, Nordcham Treasurer Mr. Jimi Kehlet delivered the key contents of the Financial Report. In conclusion, the election results for the 2022 Nordcham Vietnam's Board Members and Honorary Auditors also were announced.

Last but not least, the Chairman with all Nordcham Board members and officers took this opportunity to thank Mr. Johan Boden, Mr. Ha Nguyen and Ms. Loan Tran who have actively supported us in all activities during the year are now sadly leaving the Board. We really appreciate all your hard work for the Chamber and the wider business community in Vietnam.

For the review of 2022 financial statements, the Board, therefore, proposed the election of: Jess Rue-loekke (Denmark), Deputy Managing Director, Business Enhancement Vinacapital and Krister Kling (Sweden), General Consul/CEO, Guston Mulinel SA.

After election for the board, the 12 Board members for 2022 are: Anita H. Holgersen - Equinor; Eva Maria Hansen - LEGO Group; Jimi Kehlet - NOVO Nordisk Vietnam; Lone Larsen - Spring Production; Marcus Sohlberg - Asia Perspective; Michael Rasmussen - A.P. Moller Capital; Preben Hjortlund - TNG Holdings; Robert Ameln - Food Source International; Sebastian Hald Buhl - Ørsted Vietnam; Sivert Skarn - Vard Vung Tau; Soeren Roed Pedersen - Julie Sandlau Vietnam; Thue Quist Thomasen- YouGov Vietnam.

Nordcham Vietnam simultaneously held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23 February 2022 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City under hybrid format connecting the two locations virtually. It was a huge success with 40 members attending and 26 proxies, the Chamber states. Mr. Preben Hjortlund chaired the AGM this year.

The following is the report from Nordcham from the AGM:
In the opening speech, the 2021

Nordcham Chairman Mr. Thue Quist Thomasen expressed his appreciation for the contribution and support from Board members to reach the goals of Nordcham and the Nordic business community in Vietnam. He also highlighted the active contributions and effective cooperation with the Nordic Embassies in the effort of advocacy.

All updates about 2021 key developments and achievements by Nordcham with 2022 strategic results and activity plan were reported to the members by The

Finnish skier suffered frozen penis under Beijing Olympic games

On the second to last day of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic, Finnish skier Remi Lindholm said he got frostbite on his penis during the 50 km cross country ski race, media GP writes citing CNN.

Due to extreme freezing conditions, the event organizers at Zhangjiakou Olympic Ski Stadium had changed the men's traditional 50 km in cross-country skiing to just 30 km but despite the shortened

race, Remi Lindholm could not avoid the frostbite injury.

"You can guess which body part was a little bit frozen when I finished ... It was one of the worst competitions I've been in. It was just about battling through," Remi Lindholm said during the post-race media session, via CNN.

"When the body parts started to warm up after the finish, the pain was unbearable," he added.



Swedish skater gave gold medal to Gui Minhai



The Swedish speedskater Nils van der Poel, who won double Olympic gold earlier this month in Beijing, has given one of his Olympic Gold medals to the Swedish author Gui Minhai who is imprisoned in China accused of espionage.

Media Expressen reports that Gui Minhai's daughter Angela, who does not even know if her father is

alive, has gratefully received the gold medal on his behalf.

Following the donation, the speedskater is concerned for his own safety if he were to return to Southeast Asia

"My security in Southeast Asia is not stronger than what it was for Gui Minhai. He was arrested on a holiday in Thailand. It says something

about the security of Swedish citizens in Southeast Asia who have a bad relationship with the Chinese regime. Now I am one of them," van der Poel says.

Niels Van der Poel has taken small security measures after returning from Beijing.

"I am not a security expert and have not investigated deep enough. But I changed my phone and SIM card when I came home from China, I changed passwords on important platforms. But other than that, I have not taken any major action," he says.

In the future, the speedskater hopes that more athletes will dare to take a stand and that major sporting events will not be held in dictatorships.

"It is not up to the athlete to solve such issues, but I hope that athletes, in general, do dare to stand up for something. Sport is not more important than human rights."

Swedish mother kidnapped son and tried to hide in Thailand



A Swedish mother who kidnapped her child and ran away to Thailand two years ago has been arrested in Thailand for overstaying her visa and sent back to Sweden. In Sweden, she was arrested immediately when she stepped off the airplane, media Expressen reports.

The Swedish woman lost in 2019 a custody dispute over the couple's son who is of preschool age and it was decided that the boy would live with the father. But before the boy was handed over to his father, the mother disappeared to Thailand with the child. The court issued an arrest warrant for her in absence in June 2020, and a long process was initiated to get her extradited from Thailand.

From the Swedish side, the police, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were involved but before Sweden had time to formally request the woman be extradited, the Thai authorities arrested her for overstaying her visa and deported her.

According to prosecutor Pia

Hammar, the father was in Thailand when the mother was arrested and deported so the son could fly home with him.

Speaking on the matter, the father says to Expressen, "This is a nightmare that finally has come to an end. Now we just want to try to have a normal life and get away from the dark times. We just want peace and quiet."

"I have not seen my son for two and a half years, half of his life. I never thought I would see him again. Now we are finally together again," he says.

The woman says that in Thailand she supported herself by working at a school. She is also suspected of Swedish social benefit violations.

Norwegian wanted for sex offences against children deported



Commissioner Jaime Morente of the Bureau of Immigration.

A Norwegian man wanted by authorities in Oslo for sexually molesting children was recently arrested by the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration (BI) in Ilocos Norte, a province in northern Philippines, Manila Standard reports.

The Norwegian man identified as 43-year-old Alexander Calapini-Solberg is considered a high-profile fugitive and he is wanted in Norway for several offences filed against him in court.

According to Commissioner Jaime Morente of the Bureau of Immigration, the man was arrested at the Norwegian authorities' request after informing the bureau that he

was an undocumented alien as his passport had been revoked by the Oslo government.

"We are going to deport him for being an undesirable alien. His continued presence in the country poses a serious threat to our Filipino children, any one of whom could be his next victim," Morente said in a statement.



Malaysian arrested for trying to smuggle liquid cocaine into Denmark

A 25-year-old Malaysian man was recently arrested at Copenhagen airport in Denmark for trying to smuggle 13 magnum wine bottles containing liquid cocaine into the country, TV2 writes.

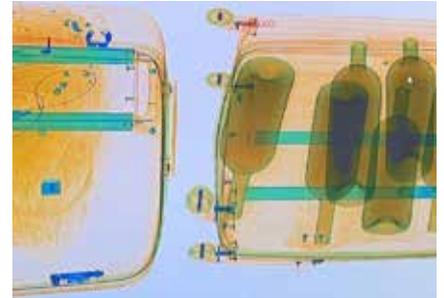
It was a random check at customs, which initially led the customs on the trail. The Malaysian traveler explained that the bottles contained red wine, but further analysis of the contents revealed it was cocaine that was in the bottles.

Michael Lund, Control director at the Danish Customs says, "We maintain a sharp focus on drug smuggling among travelers, and we, unfortunately, see regularly that travelers try to smuggle cocaine in via the airports."

According to the director, the agency uses both special baggage scanners and customs dogs when they carry out random checks.

"Overall, this case started as a completely ordinary random check, which our customs officers perform every day at the borders. Our customs officers are trained to inquire about travel patterns and luggage. When there is something in the explanation that causes suspicion, we can choose to use additional control in the form of our scanner system as well as our customs dogs," the director says without being able to go into detail with the specific case.

In 2020, the Danish Customs detained 22 kilos of cocaine, 38 kilos



of amphetamine, and 394 kilos of cannabis.

The customs officers have handed over the case of the Malaysian traveler to the Copenhagen Police, which is now responsible for the further investigation of the case.

Waited six months to be released in Denmark



Danish Sonny Rasmussen has served four and a half years in a Thai prison and four years in a Danish prison. When he received a royal pardon from Thailand last year, he thought he would be released in Denmark immediately, but nothing happened until the Danish TV channel TV2 intervened.

The story begins back in 2013 when then 63-year-old Sonny Rasmussen from Vesterbro in Copen-

hagen was caught with 70 grams of heroin in Thailand. After retiring as a sheet metal worker, he often went to Thailand where he, according to himself, got involved in some dirty business and was caught with illegal drugs.

He was sentenced to 25 years, a month, and nine days in prison for the crime. He served four and a half years in the Thai Klong Prem prison before being transferred to a Danish prison. On 24 June 2017, the Copenhagen City Court sentenced him to 16 years imprisonment which was in accordance with the prisoner exchange agreement between Thailand and Denmark.

On 27 July 2021, Sonny Rasmussen got a Royal pardon from

Thailand and set to be released on 30 August 2021. But February 2022 came and Sonny Rasmussen was still in prison.

Eventually, after the intervention of TV2, the Center for Execution of Sentences in the Directorate of Correctional Services in Denmark, issued a statement saying that Sonny Rasmussen actually should have been released a long time ago:

"Based on the Royal Thai pardon, the Danish Prison and Probation Service should have taken the initiative to suspend the person in question as early as September 2021," she says.

He was released 3 February 2022 and instructed how he can apply for compensation.

Climate-smart Viking Glory arrives to Finland



The Finnish shipping company Viking Line recently welcomed its climate-smart flagship Viking Glory in the Port of Turku following the ship's five-week journey from China to Finland.

Viking Glory was constructed at China's XSI shipyard and is set to start operating between Turku, Finland, and Stockholm, Sweden in early March, HBL writes.

It's been a long way home for the vessel and its captain Ulf Lindros who left for China almost six months ago to prepare for Viking Glory's return to Turku. Both the vessel and captain were welcomed by a large crowd at the port of Turku where a festive march was played by the Navy orchestra.

The term Climate-Smart is because the ship uses considerably lower energy than any other passenger ship of this size in the world due to the implementation of a number of innovative technologies. Among others an energy recycling system that is estimated to generate up to 40 percent of the electricity required for passenger functions.

Viking Glory will also be the first passenger ship in the world to implement the Azipod propeller system developed by ABB that will save time and fuel. The ship is also equipped with a dynamic air conditioning and lighting system. When rooms are not occupied, the lights are switched off automatically and the air-conditioning reduced.

Finnish waste-to-energy boiler to Vietnamese plant

The Finnish company Valmet has signed a contract to deliver a waste-to-energy (WtE) boiler fired with refuse-derived fuel (RDF) to Thang Long Energy Environment's greenfield waste-to-energy plant in Bac Ninh province, Vietnam.

The company says in this press release that a Valmet Flue Gas Cleaning system and a Valmet DNA Distributed Control System (DCS) are also included in the delivery. The investment aims to support a clean and green economy and protect Bac Ninh province's environment through more sustainable energy production.



This is Valmet's first circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler delivery to the growing Southeast Asian waste-to-energy market. The installation work is scheduled to start in

2023, and the plant will commence commercial operation at the end of 2023.

"We are proud to take this step in Southeast Asia for more sustainable growth and high-efficiency energy conversion from waste. The solution will enable significant reductions of CO2 emissions and promote the circular economy," says Jouko Latva-Somppi, Director, Heat and Power Plants, Valmet.

The engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contractor in this project is TTCL Vietnam Corporation Limited (TVC).

Norwegian police are not being updated on Laos murder case

Three months after Japanese Ogu Hiroyuki was arrested by the police in Laos for the murder of Norwegian Nerid Høiness neither the Norwegian police nor the family have been told what is happening in the case.

Nerid was found murdered in the jungle of Laos in January 2020 and her boyfriend Hiroyuki Ogu was suspected and wanted for her murder. But it was not until Christmas Eve 2021, that her family in Norway received the message that Nerid's alleged killer had been caught the month before, after almost two years on the run.

The Norwegian police were informed of the arrest of Hiroyuki Ogu in Laos on 23 December and the head of the investigation section



at Tønsberg police station Knut Erik Ågrav told the Norwegian media VG that the information came as a response to an inquiry Norwegian police had directed to Laos.

The police has since tried to

obtain more information through the Nordic police liaison officer based in Bangkok, but this has not yet been possible due to strict covid-19 restrictions for entering Laos, Knut Erik Ågrav explains.

Vietnamese author in Finland won this year's Runeberg prize



Runeberg Prize winner Quynh Tran.
Image: Barbro Ahlstedt

Vietnamese author Quynh Tran from Jakobstad in Finland has won this year's Runeberg prize for his book 'Skugga och svalka' (Shadow and Coolness), YLE writes.

Tran and his family moved to Finland from Vietnam in 1989 and in the book, the 32-year-old author reflects his own background telling a story of a Vietnamese family in a coastal Ostrobothnian town.

The Runeberg prize was first given in 1986 and is handed out on Runeberg Day, the annual celebration of Johan Ludvig Runeberg, one of the national poets of Finland who also has a cake named in his honor. The prize is awarded by Uusimaa newspaper, the city of Porvoo, the Union of Finnish Writers, the Finnish Critics' Association, and the Society of Swedish Authors in Finland and is worth 20,000 euros.

The award for 'Skugga och svalka' was given to the Vietnamese author because:

"Tran's novel does not accuse or offer ready explanations but gives the reader a chance to interpret for themselves. The distinctively-voiced novel is a refreshing addition to Finnish literature, a varied and beautiful package."

The book is Quynh Tran's first and he was very surprised to receive this kind of recognition.

"I don't quite believe it yet," he told YLE. "The prize is a really big surprise. I have only just gotten used to the idea that people read a book that I've written."

Denmark and Norway welcome embassy interns in Bangkok



After a long period of absence due to the pandemic, both the Embassy of Denmark in Bangkok and the Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok now welcome new interns.

The Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok welcomes their new intern Amanda who will be working at the embassy for the next six months.

The four new interns at the Embassy of Denmark in Bangkok are Caroline, Arber, Caroline, and Ida.

The Danish Embassy notes that if you would like an internship in Bangkok, the Embassy is already looking for new interns for Autumn 2022.

Consul Pornphan Sittichaivijit awarded the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

The Norwegian Honorary Consul in Phuket, Pornphan Sittichaivijit also known as Khun Oy has been awarded the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, the Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok informs.

During an award ceremony in December 2021, Norway's Ambassador to Thailand Kjersti Rødsmoen had the pleasure of granting Khun Oy the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit together with a diploma signed by His Majesty King Harald V of Norway.

The Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was instituted by King Olav

V in 1985. It is awarded to foreigners, Norwegian citizens living abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomats, foreign civil servants in Norway, and Norway's honorary consuls for "outstanding service in the interests of Norway".

Khun Oy has supported Norwegian citizens in Phuket since 17 June 2009. Together with consular officer Dew, Khun Oy has served Norway above and beyond expectations over the last twelve years, the Embassy states.



Work in Finland as a caregiver

Work in Finland works in the healthcare business connecting Asian jobseekers to European employers and are now hiring from Thailand, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Healthcare Staffing Solutions (<https://hss.fi>) will now give an opportunity for FREE online lessons for Finnish language and practical nursing. For this program, they will take 30 students from Thailand, 30 students from Singapore, and 20 students from Hong Kong.

If students pass the program, they will be provided with a contract and VISA to work in Finland in elderly care. Within the studies, the Finnish language level and the Practical nurse exam are covered.



Finland offers professionals on green technology free 90 days relocation package



The regional government of Southeastern Finland offers Hongkonger and Japanese professionals, investors, and entrepreneurs on green technology the opportunity to live and work for 90 days in the happiest country in the world, by the Lake Saimaa.

The 3 Months (or More) by the Lake Saimaa in Finland program is aimed at countries in Asia whose citizens do not need a visa to Finland. These countries are Japan and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China since the HK-SAR passport holders have visa-free travel to Europe's Schengen Area.

Such individuals may stay in Finland for 90 days for 180 days.

The applicant can be a Japanese / Hong Kong researcher or a student who will do his/her own research or joint research at LUT University for three months in the co-working space and entrepreneurial society of LUT University.

The entire family is welcome to Southeast Finland, too. Parents are able to work remotely from Finland, and the kids have access to quality English-language schools or kindergarten. Finnish schools are at the forefront of the Pisa Education Survey. The area offers various sports, nature, and cultural activities for the whole family.

Entrepreneur or investor gets to network with local GreenTech companies and professionals, and find new business opportunities.

Chinese restaurant in Denmark for sale due to a lack of Chinese chefs



So far, no serious buyer has shown any interest in the restaurant which is for sale at DKK 1.8 million

The Chinese restaurant Big World in the Danish town of Grindsted is up for sale. The reason is that the Chinese own-

ers can not get Chinese chefs to Denmark, media JydskeVestkysten writes.

The Chinese couple Feng Lin

and Yao Gong Yan are both from Fujian province in southern China. Lin came to Denmark in 1997 and Gong followed in 2002 and in 2014 they opened the Restaurant Big World.

The couple explains that they have been forced to put the restaurant up for sale.

"We have been forced to put the restaurant in Grindsted up for sale. Not because the restaurant runs poorly, because it does not, but because we can not get Chinese chefs to Denmark. We have tried with Danish chefs, but they can not make the Chinese dishes that we have. We are constantly searching for Chinese chefs," Lin Feng says.

Maersk Drilling secures contract extensions for Maersk Viking in Malaysia

Sarawak Shell Berhad/Sabah Shell Petroleum Corporation (SSB/SSPC) will continue to employ the drillship Maersk Viking offshore Malaysia, Maersk Drilling has announced.

The extensions have a total estimated duration of 120 days and are expected to commence in July 2022, in direct continuation of the rig's prior work scope with SSB/SSPC. The total contract value of the extensions is approximately USD 32m, including fees for the use of managed pressure drilling. Three one-well options remain on the contract with Shell Malaysia.



Maersk Viking is a high-spec ultra-deepwater drill ship that was delivered in 2013. It was moved to

Malaysia after completing a drilling campaign offshore Gabon by the end of 2021.



Photo: Tine Banggaard Steffensen.

Demonstrations against China in Copenhagen

Amnesty International in Denmark arranged on 26th of January a demonstration in front of the Embassy of China in Copenhagen. The demonstration included representatives from Students for a Free Tibet in Denmark, The Tibet Support Committee Denmark and Danish Tibetan Cultural Society. Among the people joining the demonstration were – apart from the Danes – also several Asian people from Tibet, Hong Kong and Taiwan

Amnesty had organized that all the participants could carry small copies of the Pillar of Shame sculpture by the Danish artist Jens Galschiot which was recently removed from the university in Hong Kong, where it had been on display. The

sculptures were made in to torches to be carried upside down.

The demonstrations were part of the Global week of action culminating on 3 February, which is the day of the opening of the Olympic Games in Beijing. On this day, the Students for a Free Tibet – Denmark and Danish Tibetan Cultural Society demonstrated again in front of the Chinese embassy as part of the international #NoBeijing2022 – campaign.

The participants carried small copies of the Pillar of Shame sculpture by the Danish artist Jens Galschiot which was recently removed from the university in Hong Kong. The sculptures were made in to torches to be carried upside down.



Photo: Tine Banggaard Steffensen.



Children of mixed Danish Thai marriages will throughout their lives face the Danish prejudices against their mothers and fathers choice of life partner. "Oh, I see..."

Danish prejudices against Thais last for generations

My Thai Grandmother came to Denmark in 1976 and brought with her my Thai mother. She is fully integrated, has been educated in a Danish school since the age of 7, has a genuine Danish accent and thinks like a Dane. Still, she will never escape the immediate prejudice that encapsulates Thai women in Denmark due to their history and the portrayal in the media. How far will this go? Will my children also have to avoid the word “Thai” when they are asked about their father’s hair colour to prevent the instinctive “Oh, so your Thai mother married a white man?”

By Tobias Lentz

The smell of oil and muddy water roams the streets of Klong Toey, the area surrounding the docks for boats and ships by Bangkok’s harbor. Bars are randomly scattered along the narrow streets, in low buildings with tin roofs, and at the corner of the busiest street is the popular Mosquito Bar. It is an open bar with no doors or windows and tired fans buzzes and blows the humid air out onto the street where the tuk-tuk putters by.

Behind the bar, Parichat Samchai and her fellow bartenders – all women – are sitting folding towels, eating lunch, and laughing while they get ready for another big night of business. The next cargo ship of the EAC - East Asiatic Company Ltd. - is about to dock for the night. White Danish sailors working on EAC’s cargo ships have once again found their way back to Bangkok via its main travel route, and after work these men will seize the first opportunity to go out for drinks, laughter, and whatever is included in a night out in Bangkok. For Parichat Samchai and her co-workers, it is yet another opportunity for money.

In the early 1970’s, my Thai grandmother, Parichat Samchai had recently gotten a divorce and started to experience financial hardship. At home, she was solely taking care of my mother, 5-years-old at the time. Working at the Mosquito Bar was a way out. Despite the late hours, working close to white men gave her more money than anything else at the time. Little did she know that her life was about to take a more drastic change. At the bar, she met a Danish man, Ove Nielsen, who offered her a one-

way ticket to Denmark. Having lived in poverty for most of her life and wanting a better future for her daughter, Parichat felt like it was the only reasonable thing to do. In love or not, she decided to marry this Danish man, take his last name, and leave behind the first half of her life in Thailand to embrace a new one in Denmark.





Legendary Danish sailor and businessman, Jorgen Lundbaek has shared this image of himself in the Mosquito Bar. Photo to the right shows how trendy young Thai girls would dress up at the time.



Moving to Denmark

Parichat Nielsen immigrated to Denmark in 1976 as one of the first Thai immigrants. Ever since there has been a steady increase in Thai women immigrating to Denmark. Over time, negative prejudices have been connected to this minority group and become a common way to look at these immigration marriages for both the Thai women and the Danish men.

The most common stereotype for the Thai woman goes like this: She is someone helpless who had no choice but to marry the white man because of her poor living conditions or she could even be a sex worker who had seduced her way to the West.

Similarly, the white Danish male stereotype goes like this: He is an incompetent man, who had to travel to Thailand to “pick-up” a destitute Thai woman, as she is all that he can get.

These stereotypes are stereotypes for a reason: they over-simplify reality. These women aren’t literally being forced into marriages but might be indirectly affected by the opportunity of a Western future with more social and financial possibilities. This for example, may very well have been the case for my grandmother. I don’t think she “loved” her Danish husband at the time when she immigrated. At the time, I think she saw a quick way out of poverty and a direct way to give her young daughter a better chance in life. With little hesitation, she took it.

Immigration today

Fast forward to the 21st century, the world has become more globalized and the reasons for immigrating to Denmark have changed too. Now, it is hard to tell whether the Asian physical traits mixed among the Danish popula-

tion comes from an immigrant, an abroad worker, an adopted person, or even a student. Today people immigrate not only for marriage, but for various of reasons: they are fleeing from violent countries, from environmental factors, educational purposes, employment opportunities, or even just to try something else. Yet, the prejudice of Thai women and Danish men still flourish.

How come that I, a third-generation Thai immigrant, still is a bit hesitant when I mention my mother’s origin? The hopes and dreams of immigrating into a better life in Denmark has definitely shown its benefits; however, it has come with certain cost. Living and integrating into a Danish culture and learning a difficult foreign language can result in extreme loneliness and an ever-lasting homesickness. At least it was the case for my grandmother until the day she died.

Statistics Denmark - the central authority on Danish statistics - has since 1980 recorded the number of Thai immigrants coming to Denmark. The first year, Statistics Denmark recorded that 71 Thai women had immigrated to Denmark. In 2008 the number was 562. By 2017, the total number of Thai women in Denmark was 9653 women. In comparison, the Thai male population in Denmark was only 1647 recorded.

This difference - an 85.42 % ratio - is the highest in Europe among any immigrant group and makes this minority group particularly interesting to study. The simple question is: Why are there more women than men? Nonetheless, Thai immigration is never something that is discussed or covered in Denmark’s immigration politics.

There can be several possible explanations for that. The immigration debate in Denmark is mainly focused on Muslim immigrants and refugees from the Middle East es-



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How come that I, a third-generation Thai immigrant, still is a bit hesitant when I mention my mother's origin?

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pecially after Europe's immigration crisis in 2015, which put an intense focus on this huge group of immigrants. As a result, the media has covered mostly stories regarding the Muslim immigrants and the cultural differences between the West and the Middle East.

However, it is important to remember that whatever law or policy that is enforced by the politicians or government in regard to Muslim immigrants, they also affect the Thai immigrant group – anything else would be discriminating for certain ethnic groups, cultures, and religions. Therefore, it is important not to forget other minority groups in the immigration debate, so that a more adequate and multi-faceted picture is understood in the legislation process.

Ignorant white Danes

Denmark has a history of an ignorant whiteness that scholars have named Nordic Exceptionalism from the idea that Danes conveniently ignore their privileges of Whiteness and fail to question their national identity as White dominated. Not until the 1960's did Denmark open up to the idea of inviting "guest-workers" from outside of Denmark to speed up the growing economy. People mainly from Turkey, Pakistan, and Yugoslavia was invited to help, but already by the 1973, a new political party in power decided to do an immediate immigration "stop" for these guest workers in the fear that the immigration had gotten out of control.

Ever since, Denmark has been known as a generally more "closed" nation for immigrants compared to its neighbors Germany and Sweden. For the Dane, it is important to have a strong national identity and practice specific cultural codes. It defines their Danish identity.

Being well-integrated is thus more complicated than just people's working status, language efficiency, and compliance with Danish law.

Two kinds of integration

According to Sine Plambech, anthropologist, film director, and Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, the term integration is separated in two parts: "work-integrated" and "culture-integrated." In terms of immigration politics, Denmark tends to focus mostly on immigrants being successfully work-integrated since it decides whether immigrants will be a societal cost or not. Pragmatically, if the immigrants work, they won't be seen as a "negative" feature for the society, and consequently won't be much of a focus in the media. This has been the case for the Thai immigrant group.

In an interview with Plambech she explained how Thai women immigrants find work very quickly when they arrive in Denmark. This tendency breaks the common stereotype of "the helpless Thai woman, who needs her husband to take care of her," and shows that despite the language barrier and the cultural codes, Thai women immigrants seem to understand the value of making money on their own and their willingness to be work-integrated into the Danish society.



“

Negative prejudices have become a common way to look at these immigration marriages for both the Thai women and the Danish men.

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Looking at the other part of integration, culture-integration, in a study called “Migration and Assimilation in a Nordic Setting for Thai Women,” Chang Liu, a doctoral student at the New School for Social Research, examined the cultural and social challenges Thai women have when they first move to Denmark. Liu states, “There is no doubt that many Thai women immigrants in Denmark are suffering various social experiences of inequality in their diaspora life.”

Liu studied how the homogenous culture of Denmark, cultural differences, and a certain power dynamic in their marriages can have a toll on Thai women regardless of their motivation and eagerness to be culturally-integrated into Denmark when they first immigrate. Liu underlines that particularly first generation Thai women tend to segregate the Danish society culturally, socializing only with other Thai women in segregated communities in Denmark.

Self-segregation

When Parichat first came to Denmark, I believe that she intended to become well-integrated. She wasn’t going to just sit around; life in Thailand had taught her that. She dreamt of a life where she worked at a regular job, spoke the language, and had a new social group. However, quickly the challenges became harder than first expected. Parichat had a difficult time learning Danish and with no iPhones, laptops, and internet, it made it extremely hard for her to communicate. As a result, she stayed at home for most of the day and experienced intense loneliness at times. Depressed, and trapped in a country that didn’t feel like hers, she decided to seek comfort in the closest Thai Temple in the city. Here, she gained a new commu-



The Thai temple Watpa in Copenhagen often becomes a place of refuge for the first generation Thai immigrants to Denmark.

nity of other Thai women in similar situations, practicing her Thai culture, religion, and language. Slowly, she started to segregate from the mainstream Danish society.

In her research, Chang Liu confirms this common story. Liu herself went to a Thai temple in Denmark, “Watpa Copenhagen,” and interviewed first generation Thai women immigrants with similar stories as my grandmother:

“For them, the Thai temples are not only religious venues for the Buddhists, but also function as a place providing the guidance to the middle-aged Thai women about how to get used to the new environment, and a relief to their turbulent life by creating a feeling of homeland and finding someone to listen to their problems,” Liu stated.

The Thai temples in Denmark has become a source to fight loneliness in these Thai women immigrants’ lives. Like Parichat, other first generation Thai women immigrants still use the temples to practice their “home” culture, language, and religion in their new so-called “home” Denmark. The main difference today, however, is how iPhone and social media has made it easier for the women to connect with family in Thailand or fellow immigrants in Denmark – the permanence in moving countries have changed significantly with the technological improvement. Instead of speaking Danish and learning the cultural codes of the Dane, they become comfortable in their well-known routines. This is what Plambech describes as a non-successful cultural-integration.

There seems to be a clear distinction between the work-integration and cultural-integration regarding Thai women immigrants coming to Denmark. Even though they are hard-working people, the cultural challenges, and the way they have segregated themselves in Denmark



My Thai grandmother enjoyed joining Danish traditions like the pre-Christmas lunch with Glogg - but also needed the Thai community centered around the Thai temple WatPa in Copenhagen.

might have helped set a foundation of prejudices towards them. Their view of “love” and marriage, for example, might be very different from the Westerner’s. In some sense they have a more realistic view of companionship compared to the romanticized version from the West.

Explaining the male/female ratio

The high difference in the Male/Female ratio of Thai immigrants can be interpreted in a sexual way. “Thai women find their husbands through sex work,” is a common interpretation of the excessive number of Thai women immigrants in Denmark. This is not close to the whole truth. Yet, I won’t deny the reality that some of these women have through their life circumstances been steered into doing sex work to survive and through this profession found their future husband.

Sex worker or not; in love or not in love, these Thai women still have an active choice when they are asked to move to Denmark to get married – they are not being trafficked. In fact, some of the Thai women believe that the Danish men treat them better than the Thai men (“Heartbound,” 2018). This is an untraditional idea of love for the Westerner: an unromantic imbalanced power dynamic; a man offering security through money and the woman offering company and sex. It is not something we consider correct in our liberal lives in the West, but these women have far from a liberal choice just because they can decide not to marry the man that offers them food on the table and a warm bed to sleep in at night.

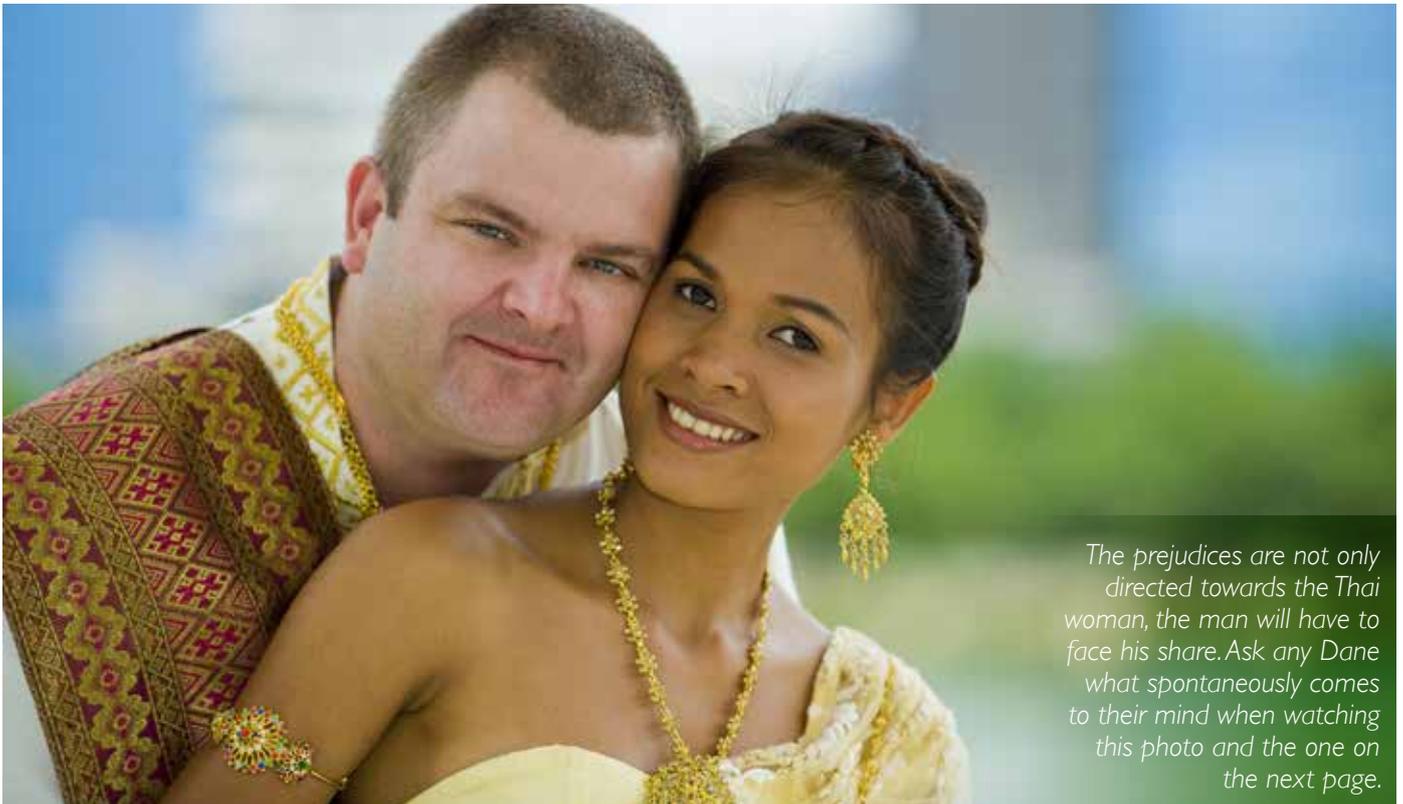
The Heartbound documentary

Januz Metz and Sine Plambech unfolds in the documentary, Heartbound, the lives of Thai women immigrants

in Denmark. The film from 2018, portrays closely this untraditional idea of love. Following the Thai immigrant Sommai, a former sex worker from Thailand who immigrated to Denmark through marriage, the movie intimately shows what these Thai women go through when they immigrate to Denmark in the hope for a better life. Controversially, Sommai also actively helps her female family members in Thailand by finding new Danish husbands for them, as they all believe that Denmark is the key to a better life with more opportunities. Even though this phenomenon doesn’t necessarily fit into the classic love-story, Heartbound shows the immense sacrifices of leaving children and family in Thailand in the hope to reunite once citizenship is obtained. In love or not, some of these women learn to “love” their husbands over time, but there are also some of the Thai women who decide to separate through divorce after they have obtained Danish citizenship.

I can’t say whether my grandmother was in an identical situation as the women in the film, but a similar scenario can be imagined. Even though my grandmother was not a sex worker, she will have met plenty of Westerners through her profession as a bartender in Bangkok. Whether she fell in love with Ove Nielsen or the opportunities that he brought with him (or maybe even a mix), the fact remains that she decided to leave her life in Thailand in the simple hope for better life in Denmark. This move, if anything, might say more about the living conditions of the poor in Thailand and how there is a delusional idea of the West as a utopian paradise that makes Thai women risk everything to immigrate. But in reality, it is far from a paradise.





The prejudices are not only directed towards the Thai woman, the man will have to face his share. Ask any Dane what spontaneously comes to their mind when watching this photo and the one on the next page.

Suffering

Cleverly portrayed in *Heartbound* - and witnessed by me also in my grandmother's life - being in Denmark separated, from everything they know, has serious emotional consequences. They can't just get the food they want; the weather isn't what they are used to; the family dynamics aren't what they are supposed to. And it only intensifies as they get older. At the elderly home, my grandmother suffered from the fact she couldn't eat the food she craved. Warm Jasmin rice boiled from a rice cooker, served with a bowl of Tom Yum Goong made of coconut milk, lemongrass, chili, freshly caught shrimps, and sprinkled with crispy cilantro on top. No. The menu at the elderly home was potatoes and brown sauce. The only thing the other old people wanted to eat. Every day.

Eventually, the movie takes on an ambiguous meaning: it doesn't try to sympathize with the Thai women, but it doesn't criticize them either. It simply tries to add a deeper dimension to complicated idea of immigration and the prejudice of Thai women in Denmark.

Thai women have a negative image

In the Danish media, Thai women have mostly been portrayed in a negative light. Popular Danish tv-shows such as "Anders & Torben" or "Danmark Ifølge Bubber" have emboldened and played-along with the well-known stereotypes of Thai women and their white husbands in Denmark. In these tv-shows it is the low-cultured man, the man who isn't able to find a feministic Danish wife and instead travels to Thailand to marry the poor Thai woman, willing to take anything. Because stereotypes are

fun to laugh at, especially when taken to the extreme. A memorable moment in "Anders & Torben" is when one of their Thai girlfriends changes her mind and decides not to move to Denmark and get married – so even Thai women have standards. How funny.

However, as mentioned earlier, this picture of Thai immigrants is extremely one-sided and generalized. Now, since the first wave of Thai immigrants came in the 1970's, Danish second and third generation Thai immigrants still faces the generalized prejudices due to their physical Thai features.

Second generation suffering

Aphinya Jatuparisakuls, a second generation Thai immigrant in Denmark, has tried to put into words the experience of being the next generation of Thai immigrants in a society where the old prejudices and negative media portrayal still is evident. In an article from 2016, she explained how she was "tired" of listening and seeing her parents being portrayed as a forced, a low-cultured, and a vulgar marriage. In a Danish podcast, Rushys Roulette, the speaker intuitively states her prejudices of what she thinks when she sees a Danish man with a Thai woman: "When you once again see an old obese man, rolling the shopping cart with his mixed child in the seat, and next to him this beautiful mother from East Asia. Already then, a lot of thoughts are activated, right? Is she bought? Is she paid?"

As a response, Jatuparisakuls wrote that she felt that her "mother and other marriage-immigrants were reduced to 'nothing', to intentionally open genitals that passively wait for paying customers to be filled out."



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I can't say whether my grandmother was in an identical situation as the women in the film, but a similar scenario can be imagined.

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Third generation thoughts

The hurtful prejudices that surround the first-generation Thai immigrant also hurt the second generation immigrant. Personally, being a third-generation Thai immigrant myself, raised in a household with a Danish father and a second-generation Thai immigrant mother, I have even felt these prejudices in my life too.

Even though I have had nothing but a loving and harmonious upbringing in the Danish education system, I have in recent years found myself in situations where I hesitate to explain where my golden skin color and slightly narrow eyes come from. I am not embarrassed about my origin, but simply fear that my peers will automatically have a different perception of my family if I do so.

If I tell them my mother is from Thailand and my father from Denmark, will they then automatically think of the “low-cultured-man” from the many tv-shows? Probably. I think of the stereotypes myself. Even though my mother is fully integrated, has been educated in a Danish school since the age of 7, has a genuine Danish accent and think like a Dane, she will never escape the immediate prejudice that encapsulates the Thai women in Denmark due to their history and the portrayal of the media.

And I question myself: How far will this go? Will my children have to avoid the word “Thai” when they are asked about their father’s hair color to prevent the instinctive thought of: “Oh, so your mother married a white man?”

The first generation suffers the most

An interesting observation from Chang Liu explains that it is mainly the first-generation Thai women immigrants that have a hard time culture-integrating when they first arrive in Denmark. Their descendants (second-generation immigrants like Jatuparisakuls and my mother) are mostly assimilated financially and culturally. Similar to the first-generation immigrants being successfully work-integrated, the second-generation Thai immigrants manage to get culture-integrated successfully into the Danish society as well. Still, these women can't change physical appearance despite having decoded the Danish norms and prejudices hunt them. A new problem has arisen for the next generation of Thai immigrants, and if it isn't being high-lighted and discussed it can lead to a continuation of subtle racism with unequal opportunity, personal shame, and never-ending outside prejudice for people like my mother, Aphinya Jatuparisakuls, and even myself.

Jatuparisakuls says it best herself: “The problem isn't one radio speaker, it is what the radio speakers' prejudice represents: an unsubstantiated view on southeast Asian women as depending, helpless people who are forced by their circumstances and not by choice.”





A new group of higher educated Thais are starting to come to Denmark. But how many generations will it take before their children and grandchildren will no longer hesitate to mention their mother's former nationality?

If we aren't open for dialogue about this problem, then we have a chance of leading these Thai immigrants into a middle ground between segregation and integration. If the individual Thai woman doesn't feel welcome in a society, or is even publicly shamed in hidden terms, then there is risk that she will lose her willingness to integrate. And maybe there is an even better alternative where it isn't about the Thai women becoming fully Danish, but where they can simply flourish with their cultural difference symbiotically.

I watched my grandmother deteriorate

What I have witness through my grandmother's life is how she never managed to feel entirely at home in Denmark. Still, she never felt the need to go back to Thailand – what do you have left anyway after being away for 30 years? She ended her days in a Danish elderly home, never feeling fully at peace in a void between segregation and integration. Not being able to eat what she wished and consequently being misunderstood as an ungrateful Thai immigrant not willing to take in Danish culture completely, I watched my grandmother deteriorating between two nations and cultures.

As the world continuously becomes more globalized this is a scenario that homogenous nations like Denmark will see more often. The common people need to become aware of how it is to be an immigrant in a new

country and the challenges they face. It is important to mention that when Parichat arrived in the early 70's the world looked very different. At that time women like Parichat could only communicate via letters with family back in Thailand. As the internet and technology have made the world "smaller" and more accessible, immigration is also rising globally more than ever before.

The new Thai immigrants

Sine Plambech underlined a new type of Thai immigration in context with the globalized world we live in, and it abolishes the old picture of the "lower-classed Thai women being bought to Denmark."

"A new group have started to come to Denmark, I mean the more well-educated who are increasingly meeting their Danish men through online dating. They are doing that also because of their better English in comparison to the poorer part of Thailand. But that isn't anything unnatural, that's how Danish men and women also meet each other," Plambech said.

Immigration rules are being discussed amongst politicians in response to the new challenges of world globalization and mass immigration. It is therefore vital to portray the reality of these Thai women, so that we can learn and get a fuller picture of immigration in Denmark. My grandmother's story is just one immigration story out of many.

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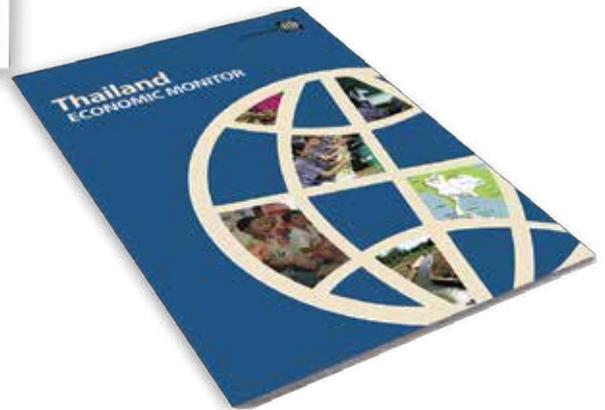
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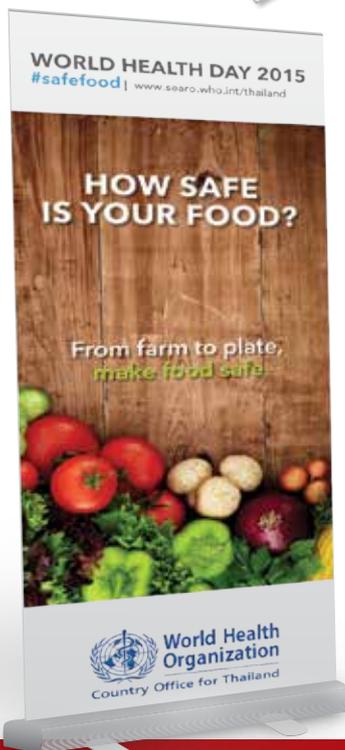
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Historical Norwegian ship visit in October and November

The historical Norwegian tall ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl will visit Japan, China and South East Asia in October and November 2022.

The 107-year-old ship will be coming to Yokohama, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Jakarta as part of its twenty-month-long One Ocean Expedition which is a recognized part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The One Ocean Expedition is a circumnavigation of the globe to create awareness and knowledge about the crucial role of the ocean from a sustainable development perspective.

In Singapore, the Norwegian Embassy and the rest of Team Norway, their partners, and stakeholders are rigging up for a range of events onboard the ship and in conjunction with its presence in the city-state.

Team Norway, their partners, and stakeholders will be organizing high-level events and meetings onboard and in conjunction with the visit of Statsraad Lehmkuhl. More information about Norway-Singapore Science Week, Singapore Norway Innovation Conference, and other maritime-, ocean- and sustainability-related events is also to come.



Photo: Hanna Thevik/Statsraad Lehmkuhl



Photo: Statsraad Lehmkuhl



Old square-rigger

Statsraad Lehmkuhl is one of the world's largest and oldest square-riggers still sailing. She was built as a training ship for the German merchant fleet over a hundred years ago, but today she is in better condition than ever. Statsraad Lehmkuhl has sailed under the Norwegian flag and has been an icon in the port of Bergen since 1923.

Statsraad Lehmkuhl serves as both a floating university and a sail training vessel combined, bringing students, scientists, voyage crew, and professionals together on different legs of the journey. The ship has been converted into a state-of-the-art research vessel, collecting comparable high-quality data continuously throughout the journey. Equipped with modern instrumentation, it measures levels of CO₂, micro-plastic, ocean acidification, biodiversity, and ocean temperature.

The ocean unites us

The One Ocean Expedition emerged as an idea in 2016, at about the same time as the first initiatives were taken to propose a UN Ocean Decade. Regional seas are different, and the relative importance of different environmental challenges and human activities vary, but the global ocean unites us. We share a common future.

Common challenges including climate change and ocean acidification affect all parts of the ocean. That is why the idea of traversing the global "One Ocean" with a vessel that invites and in fact demands participants to work together, seemed like a fitting way to showcase the essence of the sustainability challenge and the role of the ocean in global sustainability.

Since planning started, more and more good forces have joined from academia, business, civil society and government. Safety, science, education, communication, logistics, port activities are some of the topics addressed by voluntary groups preparing the expedition.

Statsraad Lehmkuhl invites everyone to become "digital passengers" on this epic expedition online through the website <https://oneoceanexpedition.com/>

Swedish Ulla Dohlon is Pattaya's longest-stay foreign resident



Ulla Dohlon with her much-loved poodle Mimi. Photo: Pattaya Mail.

Swedish Ulla Dohlon first visited Thailand in 1959 and has lived there since. At 91 years old she is Pattaya's longest-stay foreign resident and perhaps the longest living Swedish lady in all of Thailand.

In a recent interview with Pattaya Mail, Ulla Dohlon speaks about how she ended up in the land of smiles and how Pattaya has changed over time.

Ulla Dohlon was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden and as a young woman, she worked for different companies in consultancy and administration before she met and married her husband Eric. Eric was a mechanical engineer based in India which is where the couple lived until Eric in 1959 was transferred to Thailand.

Eric's job was based in Bangkok but not long after arriving in Thailand, the couple rented a beach house in Pattaya.

To Pattaya Mail, Ulla says, "Pattaya and Jomtien were so different then. You didn't need to lock your front door if going out and the electricity was so spasmodic that you couldn't use a refrigerator, but had to rely on a huge box crammed with ice which was refilled every day."

Although there were no supermarkets or farang options in Pattaya until Spinney's opened near Soi Post Office in the 1980s, Ulla and Eric lived a happy and busy life between Bangkok and Pattaya.

"Life in those days wasn't based on restaurants and bars and you did your entertaining at home," Ulla says. "We built up a large social network but nearly all of them have now passed away," Ulla adds.

Ulla and Eric have two children, Eric and Inga who both have made successful Insurance businesses. Eric in Phuket and Inga in Pattaya. Over the years Eric (Senior) did some consular work for the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok whilst Ulla involved herself heavily in the international ladies club of those early days.

Ulla has been permanently based in Pattaya and Jomtien since her husband passed away in 1991. With a permanent resident status in Thailand, she avoids visa renewals and has for the past 24 years been living in the same detached Jomtien house with her daughter Inga living next door.

As an excellent cook with a detailed knowledge of Indian and Swedish cuisine, Ulla has always enjoyed hosting. In addition, she has a love for playing bridge, a game she learned during her time in India and was for many years a regular attendee and member of the first bridge club in Pattaya which was established in 1994.

Although macular degeneration in recent years has put a restriction on Ulla's gourmet evenings, she still hosts occasional bridge game nights at her house and from time to time she also plays at her Dutch friends' house.

Like most long-termers, Ulla has her own perspective on Pattaya's history and the city's development.

To Pattaya Mail, she says, "The early years were idyllic, but the noise and the seediness began with the American servicemen in the late 1960s."

"Yes I prefer to recall Pattaya as it used to be, but I'm lucky still to have a loving family and no trace of dementia," Ulla says.



New board for SWEA Bangkok

SWEA Bangkok held its Annual Meeting on 19 January 2022. Again this year, the Swedish ambassador H.E. Mr. Jon Åström Gröndahl and spouse Helena opened their home for the event and hosted a delicious buffet with smoked salmon, salad, bread etc. including those delicious buns filled with marzipan and whipped cream known as Semla that have almost

become a tradition at the Annual Meetings.

The new board is President Fredrica Björklund, Vice President Emma Hemström (also in charge of Program), Treasurer Sonja Nihlmark, Secretary Agneta Bekassy de Bekas, Members Carolina Verner, Web responsible Oksana Petersen and SWEA Professional Pojanath Bhatanacharoen.

The meeting thanked the outgoing President Eva Steinbach, who leaves Thailand for another interesting destination and who will be the Vice President of SWEA International. Ulrika Hillin, who has been taking care of members also leaves, as well as Charlotte Haentzel, secretary.



Norwegian-Danish singer remembers being caught in the Tsunami in Thailand

8 years ago, Norwegian-Danish singer Heine Totland, found himself and his family in a nightmare when they were caught in the middle of the tsunami that hit Thailand in December 2004.

Although the 51-year-old has spoken about the frightening experience before, he now opens up completely in a recent interview with local media *Dagbladet*.

In 2004 Heine Totland, his wife Silje Nergaard, and his two children were on a holiday on Koh Lanta in Thailand together with other family members.

When the tsunami hit he was alone with his two children, Erle who was 7 at the time, and Karla who was 18 months, and his nine-year-old niece and his seven-year-old nephew. Because he could not take all four children at the same time he had to tell the oldest children to swim for their life while he took Karla who was the youngest.



"I had to take care of Karla because the others could swim. We have been focused on teaching them to swim from the age of four," Heine says.

Everyone survived the tsunami disaster but it was a chaotic and traumatizing experience.

He had a firm grip on his young daughter and explains that they were washed inwards. "We went to the bottom, got a sunbed in our heads, everything was chaotic," he says and explains that while he was with his youngest daughter, he did not know where the other three children were.

Heine Totland's wife, Silje Nergaard, has also previously spoken about the nightmare experience in Thailand and she has said that at first, she did not understand what was about to happen.

Together with her sister, they walked along the beach where they saw several fish lying in the sand. Suddenly the wave hit them and Silje Nergaard managed



to hold on to a palm tree while everything around her washed away.

"I remember thinking: I have to fight now. I have to fight for my life," she said.

After a while, she and her sister swam back to the hotel where they found her husband and all four children alive.

"Heine and the children all had different struggles in the waves and had been scattered, but he managed to hold onto Karla and the three older children found each other again and survived," she said. She pointed out that although their family was lucky, it was not like that for everyone.

"The tsunami is a memory that will always be there, but I have a distance to it now and I no longer remember the feeling of fear of death," she said.



Danish couple quit their jobs and now lives as digital nomads in Thailand

Danish Sophie Schou Jensen and Mathias Lemvig Larsen had a great life in the town of Aarhus, Denmark but have always dreamt of a different working life and more freedom so the couple recently quit their jobs and traveled to Thailand where they are currently living as digital nomads.

Sophie Schou Jensen explains to Danish media BT, that “during the pandemic, we started talking more and more about whether or not we should try to make our dream a reality rather than let it continue to be a dream.”

In January, they took the plunge

and traveled to Thailand. After Thailand, Australia is the destination and who knows where they will end up after that. They live like digital nomads which means that they work digitally on assignments from Denmark so they can work from all over the world.

“We wanted out of the hamster wheel – to be our own boss in a way. We do not mind that we work for someone, but everyday life has become more driven by desire. If we want to take a swim during our break, we do it,” Sophie Schou Jensen says.

Mathias Lemvig Larsen has an

agreement to do 20 hours of work a week for the company he is a content manager in. Sophie Schou delivers some articles every month and otherwise, she is a freelance journalist.

For now, Sophie Schou Jensen and Mathias Lemvig Larsen have planned to be away for a year.



Amongst the young Norwegians who have caught the travel bug are Maja Løvaas and her friend Silje Rosvold. They are currently five weeks into a two-month trip in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, and the Maldives and to NRk they say that snorkeling with turtles, safaris, and surfing are some of the many things they have already done during the holiday.

Kilroy: Young Norwegians want to travel

After saving for months and months during the pandemic, young people want to travel and according to Kilroy Norway, the travel bug is bigger than ever.

NRK writes that the travel agency Kilroy experienced more demand than ever before during January and February 2020 and all indications showed that the year 2020 would have been a good year for young travelers. But in March 2020, the Covid pandemic turned everything around.

"We had to lay off almost all of our employees. There were times

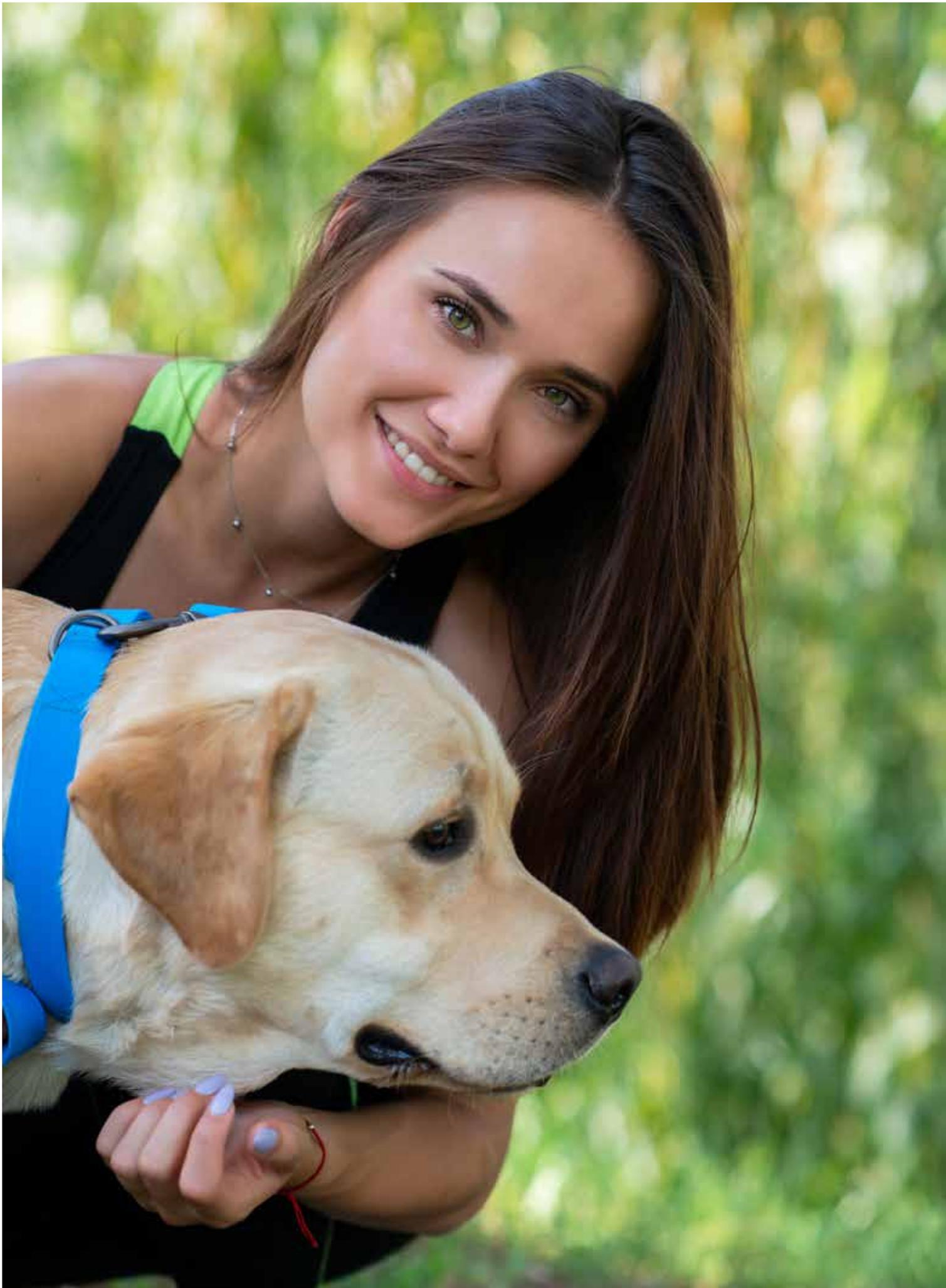
when I was the only one at work," sales manager in Kilroy Norway, Morten Møllevik says.

The turnover disappeared when the opportunities to travel disappeared. Møllevik describes 2020 as a hibernation for the travel industry.

But with restrictions lifted in many places all over the world, there is again light at the end of the tunnel and times are changing rapidly. Now that it's possible again, young people want to get out and experience more of the world.

"Many are extremely eager to travel. They have saved money dur-

ing the pandemic and are ready to travel," Møllevik says and adds that Thailand, Costa Rica, Maldives, and Sri Lanka are popular destinations.



Tips for training your dog

Discover through this article the most important advice to train your dog, what you should and should not do.

The decision to adopt a dog must always be made with planning, responsibility, patience and above all a lot of love. Dogs are known as man's best friend, because they are faithful, loving and unconditional. Once you adopt one, they go from being simple pets to becoming members of the family, sharing the good and bad moments that life has to offer.

That is why we need to teach them appropriate behavior, since not only their mood depends on it, but also the guarantee that they will be able to stay with the family that adopted them without generating problems.

Sometimes the family has the best intentions and they have the financial resources, the patience and the love necessary to adopt the dog, but they live in a limited space which again highlights the need and importance of training the dog.

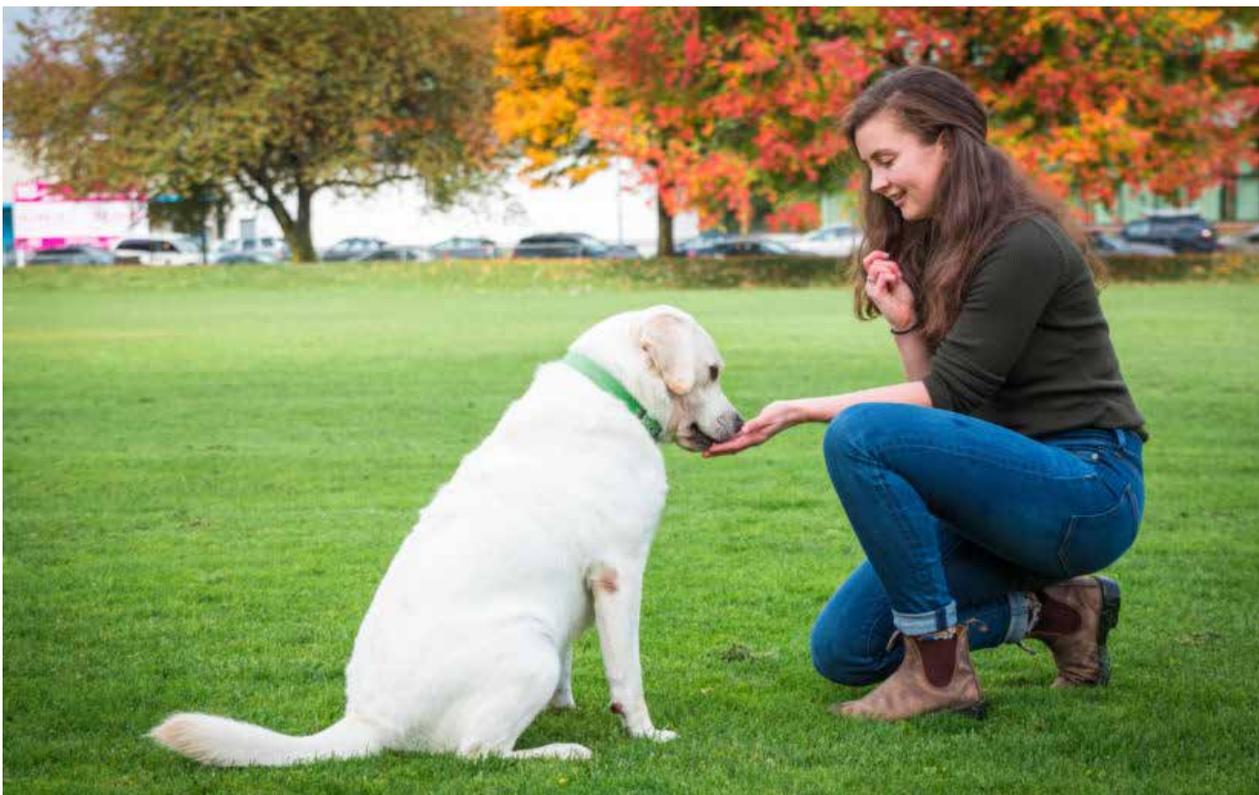
By training your dog you are not only improving his behavior, but you are helping to foster a bond of trust and affection between the two of you. Totally contrary to the rumors that say that training takes him away from you or changes his essence.

Also, remember that this training is a temporary teaching process, its duration is subject to the time the dog takes to learn the specific behavior or trick that is desired. In the future you will see how your dog looks happier, more sociable, with less stress and with more affinity with you.

You should never hit, mistreat, punish, or do any type of activity that compromises the dog's health. That is no longer training, but mistreatment and abuse of the animal. Remember that your dog is one more member that deserves respect and love within the family, as it will give you happiness and faithful company.

Useful Dog Training Tips

Once you bring your new dog home, it's smart to begin training immediately. But where should you start? What's the best way to train a puppy? And how do you train an adult dog?



*Reward,
reward,
reward...*

There are a number of options for training your new pet. Whether you opt to train your puppy or dog yourself, take classes or hire a private trainer, you can implement the following basic training tips right away to make the process easier.

Tip 1: Choose your dog's name wisely

Part of the fun of bringing home a new puppy or dog is finding the perfect name for them. But did you know certain names are better for training? It helps to consider a short name ending with a strong consonant that they can always hear clearly. A strong ending, like in the names "Jasper," "Jack" and "Ginger," perks up puppy ears - especially when you place emphasis at the end.

If your new pet is an older dog, they're probably used to their name at this point. However, changing it isn't out of the question. And if your new pal is coming out of an abusive situation, a new name may even represent a fresh start. Dogs are extremely adaptable. If you decide to give them a new name, use it consistently and soon enough your pup will respond to it.

Whatever their name, be sure to associate it with fun, pleasant experiences as much as possible, rather than negative ones. Ideally, your pup should think of their name in the same way they think of other fun stuff like walks or dinnertime.

Tip 2: Decide on the house rules

Before your new furry pal comes home, decide what they can and cannot do. Are they allowed on the bed or the furniture? Are parts of the house off limits? Will they have their own chair at your dining table? If the rules are determined early, you can avoid confusion — for both of you.

Discourage jumping and biting right away. Puppies love to jump up in greeting, and some adult dogs have

learned bad habits. When your puppy or dog jumps on a person, don't reprimand them; just turn your back on them, ignore the behavior and wait until they settle down before giving positive reinforcement. Never encourage jumping behavior by patting or giving attention to your dog when they're in a "jumping up" position.

The same goes for the playful biting or nipping behavior. Instead of scolding your new pet, a great way to discourage your mouthy canine is to pretend you're in a lot of pain when they bite or nip you — a sharp, loud yell should work. Most dogs are so surprised that they stop immediately.

Tip 3: Set up a private den

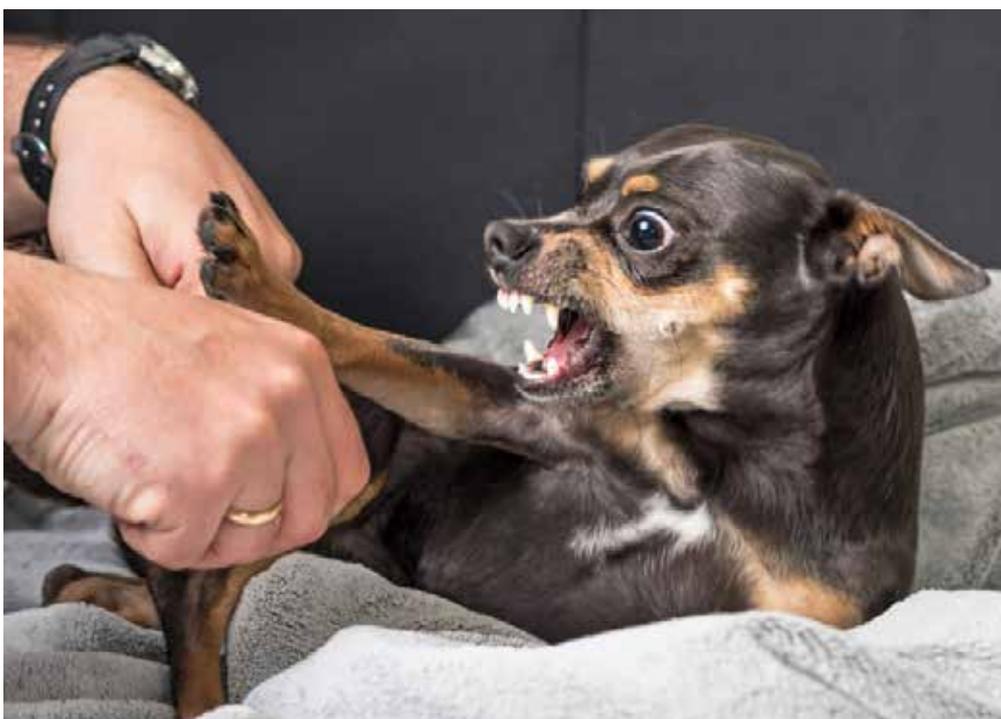
Dogs need their own space. As early as possible, give your pup their own private sleeping place, such as a crate.

You will get you through the puppy phase with most of your stuff intact if you eliminate opportunities for accidents and destructive behavior. Be sure to reward your puppy or dog if they remain relaxed and quiet in their den.

When you bring the puppy home, consider giving him a warm hot-water bottle and put a ticking clock near his sleeping area. This imitates the heat and heartbeat of litter mates and will soothe your puppy in their new environment.

This tip may be even more important for a new dog that previously lived in a busy, loud shelter, particularly if they've had a rough time early in life. Whatever you can do to help your new pet get comfortable in their forever home will be good for both of you.

Provide the right amount of exercise and mental stimulation. Bored dogs get into trouble. For young puppies, mental stimulation is just as tiring as physical exercise and is safer for their growing bodies.



It is a common mistake not to stop biting behaviour in small dogs before it is too late.

Tip 4: Teach your dog to come when called

"Come, Jasper! Good boy!"

The first command you teach your pet should be to come. Get down on their level and tell your pup to come using their name. When they do, get excited and use lots of positive reinforcement. Next time, try the "come" command when they're distracted with food or a toy. As your puppy gets older, you'll continue to see the benefits of perfecting this command.

Dogs are not born understanding English, Thai or any of the Nordic languages. The new puppy you brought



Set the house rules from the beginning. Do you want your dog to be in your furniture or on the floor?

home two days ago has no idea what the word “mai” means. Use the same rule as with children with bi-lingual parents - pick your language and stick to it!

Always be happy when your dog comes to you, whether you called him or not. A common owner complaint is that the dog does not come when called. Never punish your dog when he comes to you, no matter what he did before. Call him in a happy, playful tone and reward big when he gets to you, with treats, a toy, or praise.

Tip 5: Reward good behavior

Reward your puppy or dog's good behavior with positive reinforcement. Train with high-value treats. You will be amazed at how much harder your dog will work for a tiny piece of chicken breast, cheese, or liver, compared to even premium store-bought treats. Let them know when they're getting it right. Along those same lines, never reward bad behavior, as it'll only confuse them.

Catch your dog being good. It's easy to get caught up in scolding when your puppy is getting into trouble, but rewarding him out of the blue for being good lets him know he's doing the right thing.

Dogs do the things that we reinforce. Those behaviors you don't like? We usually have ourselves to thank. Owners inadvertently reinforce all kinds of undesirable things, from excessive barking at the doorbell to jumping

up by rewarding the dig with their attention - ignore is better and reward when they behave the desirable way.

Learn to be quick with treats and praise. If the treat comes more than a few seconds after your pup has done what you've asked, he has no idea what he did to earn it, or you may inadvertently reward the wrong behavior. He's happy to take it, but you failed to reward what you were teaching.

Tip 6: End training sessions on a positive note

Your puppy or dog has worked hard to please you throughout their training. Leave them with lots of praise, a treat, some petting or five minutes of play. This almost guarantees they'll show up at their next class or training session with their tail wagging, ready to work!

He's a dog, not a human. It's their “doggyness” that makes them so lovable. Dogs don't think like humans. They do not plot acts of revenge; they are just trying to do what makes them feel happy or safe.

Keep a positive attitude. If you are getting upset, your dog will not benefit from your training sessions and may try to hide when you call for the next session.



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