

JUL-AUG 2022

# Scal Asia



**BUSINESS:**

Electric ferry from Singapore to Norway

**COMMUNITY:**

Danish Embassy in Bangkok hopes visa rush will be over by September

**INTERNATIONAL:**

Nordic countries push their agenda with President Marcos Jr.

**Swedish Girl**  
**in Bangkok Taking the World**  
**of Muay Thai by Storm!**



REGENTS  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
PATTAYA  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

## PERSONALISED PATHWAY TO THE WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

The only school in the area to offer both the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme AND the A Level system to 16-18 year olds

*Discover Sixth Form at Regents International School Pattaya*

[regents-pattaya.co.th](http://regents-pattaya.co.th)

# Pancreatic Mass: What Should We Do?

## How can we detect the pancreatic mass?

- Pancreatic mass is commonly detected by the abdominal imaging, initially by US and confirmed with CT and MRI
- Pancreatic mass may present with symptoms such as jaundice, palpable mass at abdomen, early satiety, and weight loss
- It can be found incidentally from check-up ultrasound or investigations of the other intraabdominal diseases

## Which character of pancreatic mass should we concern?

- First, not all pancreatic mass is malignancy
- Pancreatic mass can be either solid and cystic lesions
- Solid mass is more likely to be malignancy, however some of them can still be benign
- Cystic lesion has higher chance to be benign but confirmation of diagnosis is mandatory

## How can we diagnose the pancreatic mass?

- Both CT and MRI can differentiate and diagnose lesion with 85-90% accuracy
- Tissue diagnosis is not necessary in every patient but is helpful in patient with indeterminate diagnosis or advanced stage of disease
- For pancreatic cyst, an endoscopic ultrasound with cyst fluid aspiration and analysis is helpful for accurate diagnosis

## Does size matter?

- Depending on the nature or diagnosis of the pancreatic mass
- Surgical treatment is recommended in resectable pancreatic cancer or malignant-potential lesions
- With some solid tumors with malignant risk, such as pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor, surgical resection is recommended in lesion >2cm, A biopsy is advised, if lesion is less than 2cm, in order to evaluate cell type and select the proper treatment
- For cystic lesions, all malignant cysts should be removed. Small cysts without high-risk findings can be treated conservatively with close surveillance

## What are the prognosis and the risk factors of pancreatic cancer?

- Pancreatic cancer is one of the worst malignancies with poor overall survival. The majority are found at advanced stages of disease and only about one-fourth is resectable.
- Some of the risk factors are related to your lifestyle including obesity, smoking, alcoholic drinking which may later cause chronic pancreatitis and diets that consist of mainly meat, cholesterol, fried foods and nitrosamines

## Reference:

**DR. THUN INGKAKUL, MD, FACS**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
HEPATO-PANCREATO-BILIARY SURGERY  
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY  
SURGERY CENTER, BANGKOK HOSPITAL

## Should we remove or observe the pancreatic mass?

- All pancreatic masses which are confirmed to be malignant by either radiological findings or pathology, or both, surgical resection is recommended
- For the indeterminate lesions with low malignant risk, specialist consultation is recommended to carefully evaluate and select the proper treatment

## If surgery is mandatory, what type of surgery is recommended?

- The location of affected part of the pancreas is used to appropriately select surgical technique
- To surgically remove pancreatic body and tail, without contraindication, laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy gives good oncologic outcome and hasten recovery time. This can result in shorter hospital stays and less postoperative pain, compared to open surgery, and is therefore preferred
- If the mass is located at the pancreatic head, conventional open surgery remains the first line of approach. Laparoscopic pancreaticoduodenectomy, a relatively new procedure that takes a longer operative time due to high degree of difficulty and complexity, might be considered if conducted by highly experienced and well-trained surgeons

## How can we prevent the pancreatic cancer?

- Eat healthy food including fruits and vegetables to reduce risk
- Stay healthy, exercise regularly and weight control
- Stop smoking and limit alcoholic drinking
- If you have abnormal symptoms such as abdominal pain, jaundice, palpable abdominal mass, early satiety or weight loss, early consultation with specialist will be most benefit to solve the problem and plan for the best treatment

“Surgery of the hepatobiliary and pancreatic system is complicated. As a specialist in this field, I've dedicated myself to taking the best care of my patients and using my perseverance to achieve the successful outcomes.”

# Contents



**Swedish Smilla**  
rising Muay Thai fighter

14



**Nordic Green Run**  
raised SGD 25272  
for marine environment

12



**Ulrika Brunner**  
creates behavioral changes

18



**Danish Schengen visa processing**  
months behind target

10



**Digital Nomads**  
the new wave of working tourists

26

## ScandAsia stories

- 8 EFTA trade talks with Thailand resumes
- 9 Ambassadors meet with Marcos Jr.
- 31 Thai Nordic Association held first AGM



8



9



31



# Expand your horizon.

Whether you're taking your first step in Asia, or you're already well on your journey, we can help with your Private Wealth Management needs.

Being the leading Nordic bank in Singapore, we understand the unique challenges you face living and investing in Asia. With a wide network and decades of experience, we can help you achieve your goals.

+65 6357 0882  
[sebgroup.lu/singapore](http://sebgroup.lu/singapore)

**S|E|B**

# Thailand's cannabis confusion

**M**y guess is that nobody had really believed it would happen. Fair enough, it had been an election campaign promise of Thailand's Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul back in 2019, but this would not be the first time an election promise was broken.

Then, in early June, Thailand took Cannabis off the list of narcotics. Overnight, import, export, production, distribution, consumption and possession of Cannabis was suddenly legal.

Prisoners convicted of possessing or growing Cannabis were released, one million Cannabis plants were distributed to households, growers just had to register via a mobile phone app. It looked like the police was taken by surprise. Suddenly, everybody smoked weed and surely, part of this would still be illegal, right?

The Chinese embassy was quick to post a warning on its website, telling its citizens to be careful. While it seemed OK to consume cannabis, do not try to bring some of it back to China. Do not try to take it to any other country. The Thai authorities will not stop you, but in all the rest of Asia, possession of cannabis remains illegal, the embassy reminded its citizens.

The Thai government tried to dissuade people from lighting up for fun, stressing the plant's medical virtues and its potential as a cash crop. But their words fell on dry land. People now smoke it everywhere. Every delicious Thai dish can be found with added fun. Parents take cookies home and leave them on the kitchen table - then later

rush their kids to hospital after they had sneaked one. Some people offer Cannabis laced food to others without informing them of the special ingredient.

Compared to tobacco and alcohol, it is not clear to anybody to what degree producing, selling, smoking, Cannabis is now legal.

I am sure the Thai authorities knew that taking cannabis off the list of narcotic drugs would initially lead to a mess. But I guess putting the regulations in place first would water down the de-criminalizing to a point where it became meaningless. As a result we will likely see a lot of patching up over the next couple of years, chasing problems as they occur, trying to plug holes here and there which eventually will bring one regulation in conflict with another.

Next year, it is likely to be a subject in the coming general election in Thailand.



**Gregers Moller**  
*Editor in Chief*

## 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.

### Who should subscribe:

ScandAsia subscribers are typically Nordic expats and companies from the Nordic countries living in and active in Asia. Another group of subscribers are Nordic people living in the Nordic countries who subscribe to ScandAsia for personal or business reasons. We also have many Asian subscribers, who for a wide range of reasons are following the activities of the Nordic expats and companies via a subscription to ScandAsia.

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.

**Become a ScandAsia user/** get free digital ScandAsia magazine or paid subscription via [www.scandasia.com](http://www.scandasia.com)!

**Publisher :**  
Scandinavian Publishing Co., Ltd.  
211 Soi Prasert Manukitch 29  
Prasert Manukitch Road  
Bangkok 10230, Thailand  
Tel. +66 2 943 7166-8  
Fax: +66 2 943 7169  
E-mail: [news@scandasia.com](mailto:news@scandasia.com)

**Editor-in-Chief :**  
Gregers A.W. Møller  
[gregers@scandmedia.com](mailto:gregers@scandmedia.com)

**Advertising :**  
Finn Balslev  
[finn@scandmedia.com](mailto:finn@scandmedia.com)  
MB: +66 81 866 2577

**Graphic Designer :**  
Peerapol Meesuwan  
[Peerapol@scandmedia.com](mailto:Peerapol@scandmedia.com)

**Production Manager:**  
Sopida Yatprom

**Printing :**  
Thanathorn Print and  
Packaging Part., Ltd.

 **SCANDMEDIA**

# A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Our Physical Development specialist works one-on-one with our early years children to give them the best foundation to start their learning. Teaching physical literacy develops children's motivation, confidence, knowledge and understanding to value physical activities for life.



SCAN ME



**Bangkok Patana School**  
*The British International School in Thailand*  
Established 1957

[www.patana.ac.th](http://www.patana.ac.th)  
[admissions@patana.ac.th](mailto:admissions@patana.ac.th)  
Tel: +66 (0) 2785 2200

Bangkok Patana School is a not for profit IB World School accredited by CIS

# Norway, Iceland in Free Trade Agreement talks with Thailand



From left to right: Mr Sveinung Røren - Norway, Mr Sveinn K. Einarsson - Iceland, Mr Markus Schlagenhof - Switzerland (EFTA Spokesperson), Mr Duangarthit Nidhi-U-Tai, Head of the Thai delegation, Ms Krisztina Bende - EFTA Secretariat, Mr Patrick Ritter - Liechtenstein.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok reported on 24 June 2022, that the four EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries being Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland are now back negotiating a free trade agreement with Thailand.

“Negotiations on the deal were launched earlier this week [on 21 June] in Iceland, with representatives from both the EFTA countries and Thailand present,” the embassy wrote.

“From the Norwegian side, Norway’s ambassador to Thailand Kjersti Rødsmoen, as well as Janicke Andreassen and Erling Rimstad from the Ministry of Industry and Fisheries participated.

“The work to get an agreement in place has been going on for several years, and when it is finished, it will become a milestone in Thai-Norwegian trade history.”

This is to be Thailand’s first free trade agreement with European countries and negotiations have already started in Bangkok. Following the resumption of negotiations on 21 June in Borgarnes in Iceland, the first round of negotiations took place on 28 to 30 June in Bangkok, Thailand. The delegates agreed to hold the next round of talks in Geneva in October 2022.

It is projected that Thai exports to EFTA would increase by 38 percent to 262 million USD, while imports from EFTA would increase by

14.8 percent to 210 million USD.

EFTA was the 17th largest trade partner of Thailand in 2021, with two-way trade reaching 7.5 billion USD, accounting for 1.29 percent of the Southeast Asian nation’s total trade value.

# Nordic hopes for The Philippines

Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. met shortly after his election to become the next President of the Philippines with a broad range of diplomats, including the Finnish Ambassador to the Philippines Juha Markus Pyykkö, Denmark’s Ambassador Grete Silasen, Norway’s Ambassador Bjørn Jahnsen and Swedish Ambassador Annika Thunborg.

Juha Pyykkö told the media after his meeting that he had emphasized that Finland hopes the Philippines through the upcoming administration will continue to uphold the international law and rules-based order, especially with Manila’s position in the Ukraine-Russia war.

“As a [European Union]-member state, we want to work with upholding international law and international rules-based order and at this juncture, I raised the Russian aggression against Ukraine because that is [a] severe breach of international law and the international-rule based order,” Pyykkö said.

Danish Ambassador Grete Silasen focused on sustainable and renewable energy in her talk with the Marcos Jr.

“Our meeting focused to a high degree on the green transition that all countries have to go through these days and these years that are coming,” Silasen said in a press conference.

The ambassador said she shared with Marcos “how Denmark managed to double its GDP (gross domestic product) without increasing our consumption of energy, water, and without increasing our CO2 emissions.”

Norwegian Ambassador Bjørn Jahnsen assured Marcos Jr. that Norway will continue supporting the peace process in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

“What we discussed in detail on the peace talks was Norway’s engagement in the Bangsamoro,” Bjorn said in a press briefing.

“Norway is the vice-chair of something called independent decommissioning body charged with decommissioning former combatants... We look forward to continuing our support to bring peace to the Bangsamoro also during the next administration,” he added.

According to Bjorn, around 20,000 former combatants have been decommissioned so far. This is half of their target which is 40,000.

Swedish Ambassador Annika Thunborg shared Sweden’s support for more sustainable energy when she met with Marcos Jr.

Annika Thunborg also discussed the peacebuilding in Mindanao, and how to fight drugs and crime within the framework of law and human rights and with a focus on rehabilitation and socio-economic development.

---

*Swedish Ambassador Annika Thunborg congratulating Ferdinand Marcos Jr. with his election.*





EMBASSY OF DENMARK  
Bangkok

# VISA TO DENMARK & ICELAND

## Danish Embassy in Bangkok hopes visa rush will be over by September

The landslide of Thai people applying for visa to Denmark and Iceland is causing severe distress among the applicants. Most complaints are about being left in the dark with no means to find out, if their application will be approved – or rejected – before their planned departure date. A website where you were supposed to be able to track your application, doesn't work.

According to the Danish Embassy in Bangkok, there is, however, light at the end of the tunnel.

"The Danish embassy hopes to have increased capacity by the end of the third quarter of 2022, and thereby reduce the general waiting times," says the embassy.

This is three months into the future, but increasing the capacity takes this long time because – although the new staff has been selected – they still need to pass a

lengthy security clearance process and – if passed – be trained in doing the job.

Meanwhile, the number of nervous applicants keep queuing up.

"The number of applications for June 2022 is already more than 50 per cent higher than in June of 2019 before Covid," says the Embassy.

Thai citizens will have to apply now if they hope to go to Denmark for Christmas. First they will have to get a time slot for the VFS office in Bangkok. The first available time slot was by end of June in November. Then they will have to hope that the Danish embassy can evaluate their application and issue the visa in the time left.

The Danish Embassy in Bangkok issued on 17 June for the second time a warning about the long processing time for visa applications to

Denmark and Iceland.

"We strongly encourage applicants to apply as early as possible," the Embassy writes.

"It is possible to apply up to 6 months before the desired entry to Denmark/Iceland. Applicants who wish to travel to Denmark/Iceland for the Christmas period may already now consider initiating their applications," the Danish Embassy adds.

One month ago, on 18 May, the Danish Embassy issued a similar warning. Except the reference to the endangered Christmas vacation was not mentioned at that time.

A Facebook group for Thai people applying for visa to Denmark is full of frustrated comments by applicants who are shocked that their long planned vacation months into the future is suddenly in danger because the VFS and the Embassy

are not capable of processing their application in time. On this group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/127097717329397/> you can also learn that applicants for a Schengen visa to Sweden get their visa after nine days. But applicants who in their desperation try to apply for a Schengen visa to Sweden and then would fly over Stockholm to Copenhagen are being rejected since their final and main destination is Denmark.

The two Danish Embassy posts on its own Facebook page are also followed by frustrated comments by Danes, some of whom were forced to buy new tickets and travel on separate flights than the Thai applicant to Denmark because of the long processing times.

The rush is unexpected because it breaks the trend for the past seven years, the Embassy adds.

"Historically, based on data from the past 7 years, the number of visa applications decreases

in the second quarter of the year compared to the previous quarter. However, 2022 has not followed the historic trends, as the number of visa applications has continued to increase during the second quarter of 2022," explains the Embassy.

The Danish Embassy in Bangkok is not alone in battling the travel rush, says the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The increase in visa applications is seen in many parts of the world, where the Danish and other Schengen Missions are experiencing higher volumes. Also airlines and airports have been surprised by the sudden and extraordinary rebound in international travel," says the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The best advice for applicants is to plan ahead and apply as early as possible. It is possible to apply up to 6 months before the desired entry into Schengen. In addition, we have seen some applicants successfully acquiring an earlier time slot



by contacting VFS directly to check potential appointment cancellations from other applicants."

What the Embassy is referring to in the last remark, is the possibility for an applicant to go unannounced to the VFS Global office and pay an additional fee to be able to submit their application right away without having to make an appointment through the system. The time available for these additional slots at the VFS Global office can be found in case another applicant does not show up or if the staff finished processing a previous applicant with a time reservation earlier than expected that day. The Thai applicants call this option "Prime Time".

## Start a new chapter with Asian Tigers



Moving

Relocation

Visa &amp; Immigration

Home Location

School Location

Orientation


[www.asiantigersgroup.com](http://www.asiantigersgroup.com)

**ASIAN TIGERS**  
GROUP



To mark the beginning of the Nordic Green Run 2022 on 30 May 2022 – and to clock in the first kilometres for their teams – representatives from the Nordic embassies embarked on a walk through the Singapore Botanic Gardens along with Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Manpower, and Ms Clara Ko, Head of Growth at Seven Clean Seas.

# SGD 25,272 collected for the marine environment through this year's Nordic Green Run

After a friendly but fierce competition between the Nordic communities in Singapore, Norway could call themselves winners of the Nordic Green Run for the second year in a row. But the real winner was the marine environment. Sponsoring the different national team, Nordic companies operating in Singapore by the end of the event had donated a total of SGD 25,272 towards the ocean clean-up organisation Seven Clean Seas.

Denmark came in on second place after going back and forth with Norway throughout the entire week of the competition.

The battle for third place was intense between Sweden and Finland, but Finland pulled away at the end

and secured bronze. The Swedish runners made an enormous effort with longer distance per runner than Finland. It was Iceland's first year joining #NordicGreenRun.

The total distance covered was 20,607 km.

The Embassies of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden had jointly organized the Nordic Green Run 2022 in which more than 900 participants joined, supporting each their Nordic team. The longer distance covered, the more the sponsors would give to Seven Clean Seas.

Throughout the week, the score was close between the five communities, but heading into the weekend the Norwegian team pulled away from the rest and secured the win with a 7,329 kilometres completed.

This year, the proceeds collected through the run

went to Seven Clean Seas. On a mission to protect the marine environment by removing plastic pollution from our seas and surrounding areas, Seven Clean Seas uses projects and business consultancy to actively remove plastic pollution and educate on how to reduce business impact. Since its inception in 2018, Seven Clean Seas has recovered more than 420,000kg of plastic pollution from the marine environment and is focusing on infrastructure and technology solutions to stop plastic from reaching our oceans.

To mark the beginning of the Nordic Green Run 2022 on 30 May 2022 – and to clock in the first kilometres for their teams – representatives from the Nordic embassies embarked on a walk through the Singapore Botanic Gardens along with Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Manpower; and Ms Clara Ko, Head of Growth at Seven Clean Seas. The walk in the Botanic Gardens highlighted the essence of the values that the Nordic Green Run 2022 promoted: a healthy and sustainable lifestyle that preserves the planet that we all share.

The Embassies of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden look forward to next year's Nordic



Norway won the run.

Green Run, and we would like to thank all participants. Without you, a week of fun competition as well as a large donation towards Seven Clean Seas would not have been possible.

The Nordic embassies would like to give special thanks to all the sponsors of this year's Nordic Green Run:

- Atlas Copco Holding SE-Asia & Oceania
- BBC-Chartering
- DaneCorp
- Demant
- Equinor
- Jabra
- KONE
- Marel
- Neste
- Nokia
- Palsgaard
- Steem I 960
- VIKING Life-Saving Equipment
- Wilhelmsen Group
- WS-Audiology
- Wärtsilä



Both Teo Yu Rong (right) and Foong Chu Weng received a prize bag from Innovation and Trade Counsellor Riku Mäkelä of the Finnish Embassy.



The members of the Nordic teams together ran 20607 km from 30 May and until 5 June 2022.







“

*Right now,  
I live at the gym  
with my dog.  
My family is back  
in Sweden again.*

”

# Swedish Girl in Bangkok Taking the World of Muay Thai by Storm!

Smilla Sundell is a fast rising star in the sport of Muay Thai. Even though her parents have returned to Sweden, this tenacious 18-year-old remains in Bangkok living up to her own ambitions.

*By Jaqueline Deeon*

Called 'The Hurricane' and 'The Storm' by her adoring fans, and labeled a prodigy by the media, one would think that all the praise and success would go to the head of teenage Muay Thai world title challenger, Smilla Sundell.

Not so, in the case of this respectful and friendly 18-year-old Swedish, Bangkok-based, Muay Thai star who recently beat Jackielou Buntan, an American-Filipino Muay Thai kickboxer and one-time Women's Muay Thai Straw-weight World Championship title challenger.

ScandAsia interviewed the rising star via messenger. *Smilla, what motivated you to take up the sport of Muay Thai?*

Smilla: My parents started with me and my sister and after a while I really began to like the sport.





“

*You have to have a good team to push you but in the end it's all you.*

”

*Have you been in Thailand a long time? What does your family think about your success in Muay Thai?*

Smilla: I've been living in Thailand for six years and I have a sister who also does Muay Thai. My parents and sister are very supportive of my sport.

## Alone but not lonely in Thailand

*Who do you live with in Thailand?*

Smilla: Right now, I live at the gym with my dog. My family is back in Sweden again, although when they first came here my parents had a laser quest business on Koh Samui. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, business on the island slowed down and of course there were no further opportunities for me to improve in Muay Thai and my parents thought it best for us to move to Bangkok. After this, my family moved back to Sweden and I stayed on in Thailand to pursue my Muay Thai career.

*It must be difficult to be alone in a foreign country while your family are all back in Sweden. How are you coping with that side of it all?*

Smilla: To be honest it does get lonely at times, and I do miss my family a lot. Sometimes it is tough being here on my own, but I love what I do, so it is okay.

## Studies or sport?

*What about your study/practice regime?*

Smilla: I've taken a bit of a break from most of my studies to focus on my Muay Thai skills. I do still study English and Mathematics online but the other things need

to wait as I am at an important point in my sport and in my life right now. Right now, I practice Muay Thai daily from seven to ten in the morning and then again in the afternoon from three to about five or six in the evening.

*What do you do in your free time or when you are not practicing Muay Thai?*

Smilla: I usually like to hang out with my friends. We eat together and go to the movies.

## Eating healthy for a healthy mindset

*And on the topic of eating. Do you always eat healthily or what kind of diet do you prefer?*

Smilla: No, I don't really follow a healthy diet as such but when I am preparing for a fight camp, I take care of what I am eating.

*What would you normally eat the day/night before a big competition?*

Smilla: I like to eat steak and sometimes chicken with cashew nuts.

*What other sports do you like?*

Smilla: I enjoy playing basketball

## Relationship with Fairtex Training Centre

Smilla says her favourite sports hero is undoubtedly the owner of the gym she belongs to, Stamp Fairtex. She says she watches Stamp train everyday and knows how hard her mentor works.

Matt Lucas, Social Media Manager at Fairtex Train-



ing Centre in Pattaya, Thailand, told ScandAsia that Smilla came to Fairtex almost two years ago and they saw that she was accomplished in Muay Thai, having trained on Koh Samui. They discovered that Smilla had a lot of potential and was signed to Fairtex right away.

"Fairtex acts as her primary sponsor," he said, adding that as her 'agent' they subsidize her accommodation and meals, as well as provide her further Muay Thai training.

"In addition, we secure her fights and develop her athletic career," Lucas said, adding that the company was able to secure her a contract with ONE Championship, where Smilla was able to seize the ONE Championship Muay Thai belt.

"Smilla is hardworking, dedicated and a great asset to the team," Lucas says about this rising star.

Continuing the personal interview, ScandAsia asked Smilla about her mindset regarding her sport and her future aspirations.

## The future in your own hands

*Do you see your sport as a future profession or as something to do for now to keep fit?*

Smilla: I definitely see it as a profession, and it certainly does keep me fit. I plan to take my Muay Thai career as far as I can.

*Do you think the life of an athlete is tougher than that of another profession?*

Smilla: Maybe a little bit because you have to always think about diet and being ready for a match.

## Team Spirit!

*Are you part of a team or is Muay Thai a solo sport?*

Smilla: It's both. You have to have a good team to push you but in the end it's all you.

*What do you do to make practice fun?*

Smilla: I try to learn new techniques.

## Mentors, coaches and sparring partners

*Who is your coach and why do you like him or her?*

Smilla: I don't really have a coach. I train with everyone, but I really look up to Stamp who is a kickboxing and Muay Thai champion herself and Rodtang who trained me for my last fight. There are many others who I love training with too.

Smilla tells ScandAsia that her biggest fighting challenges so far have been against Fahseethong Sitzoraueng in 2020 and Jackie Buntan this past April.

When asked how she thought a sport like Muay Thai might make somebody a better student or worker, Smilla stood firm in her opinion, saying: "It teaches you discipline, confidence and builds up your mental stamina."

Her advice to other young people wanting to take up Muay Thai? Simply have fun!



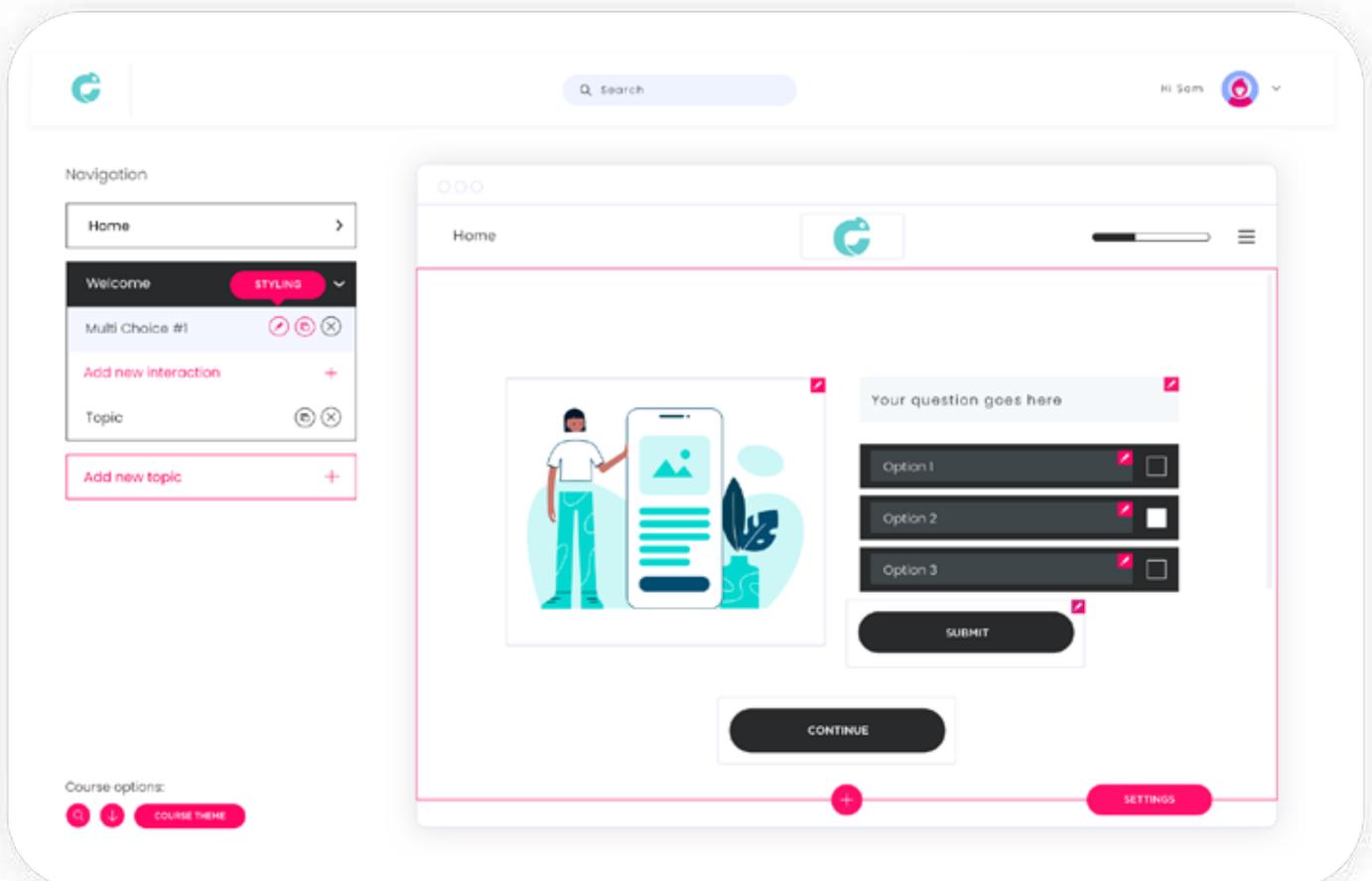
# Behaviour change in focus for Ulrika Brunner and Inspire Group Asia

Kuala Lumpur-based Ulrika Brunner, who has already had a long career in Asia, now leads Inspire Group Asia as CEO.

By Joakim Persson

Inspire Group offers bespoke learning solutions that are engaging, impactful and that resonate, in order to help solve business challenges and shift behaviour within organisations. The Swede joined the company as Country Director for Inspire Group Malaysia, to develop the business for the market leader in customised learning in Malaysia and the rest of Asia.

But before delving further into Inspire's services, a summary of Ulrika's 24 years in Asia is appropriate. It was her brother that enticed her to Asia, when he was working in Vietnam. They grew up in Portugal travelled the world, being the son and daughter of legendary Börje Lantz, Sweden's first and so far best known football promoter who was active both in South American and in Europe, and also transformed football in the home country.



“

*It is thanks to our father that my brother and I were so open to leave Europe and really try out something different.*

”

“It is thanks to our father that my brother and I were so open to leave Europe and really try out something different. So I am grateful how both my parents were open to that we should try out new things and not be afraid, even if it was at the other side of the planet,” says Ulrika who cuts an energetic and light-hearted figure.

“My brother invited me to visit him in 1997, when I still lived in Portugal. Vietnam was a cool and exciting a place to visit. I returned back home after some weeks and then out of the blue I was offered a job in Vietnam, which was booming then; going full steam ahead. I took the job at a firm selling office furniture. I was there for five years, then in China for one year, and then returned to Vietnam for three more years.”

Upon returning to Vietnam and Saigon, Ulrika worked for the Swedish cosmetic firm Oriflame as Marketing Manager for three years.

She met her Swedish husband while in Vietnam and it was because of his job that they moved to China, and later on to Kuala Lumpur.

“We have been here now for over 14 years.”

Once there she became the General Manager for Winning Attitude, 2009 to 2014. Winning Attitude is a Swedish company unique on offering an online tool which can measure attitude, explains Ulrika.

“With it you can run an online assessment and at the end of it you get a report on what areas you need to work on, where you attitude is right now. There is nothing similar out there and they have been very successful in Sweden.”

“It went slower in Malaysia, because it was so different and the market was not ready. They do much more



personality tests etc. here so measuring attitude was quite different and it was interesting work. For instance, we did several pilots with the five largest universities on how lecturers can approach teaching with a different mindset and attitude.”

Ulrika also had a stint with, among expats, the well-known relocation firm Asian Tigers Relocation. Then she worked for the Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), which was the position that led on to Inspire.

“FAA, under the Malaysian central bank, does accreditation of learning programmes for both higher education and the financial services industry. For instance, if a bank has an in-house training academy and roll out courses to their staff members they want to ensure the programme is accredited by a third-party for recognition etc. FAA covered the entire world, focusing on Islamic finance.”

“I took the certified training professional programme there, learning how to develop one’s own programme and how to deliver it to a group of participants. And while learning that I realised that this was something that resonated with me, and it seemed I was also good at doing it, based on my results. I realised I wanted to do something more HR-focused.”

**D**estiny brought her to an event about leadership solutions with the then CEO for Inspire Group Asia, James McCulloch (whom she has now replaced) as speaker.

“I was completely sold on it; the entire system, with everything based on being contextualised, while at the same time keeping it simple. It’s not like the content-heavy type of courses being offered from western universities, including lots of models that you have to study; this is more experiential learning. And I had not seen anything quite like it in Asia during my years here,” explains Ulrika.

Afterwards she contacted James to find out more, when it turned out that they were looking for a country director:

“So it was perfect timing; I just felt it was meant to happen, that I would be there on that day. Then things moved on very fast and I started working for them in July 2019.”

And in December 2020 she was appointed as the new CEO for the e-Learning and leadership solutions provider:

“We cover the whole of Asia and have delivered programmes in eight different countries throughout Asia so far.”

Traditional tried-and-tested (and also outdated) learning and development is replaced by Inspire Group with transformative learning that has to be both personal and portable.

“The focus is always on human behaviour change. That’s where Inspire Group’s expertise is, and based on 20 years in the business, so the knowhow that we bring to the table is really robust.”

Many learning interventions fail to deliver a return



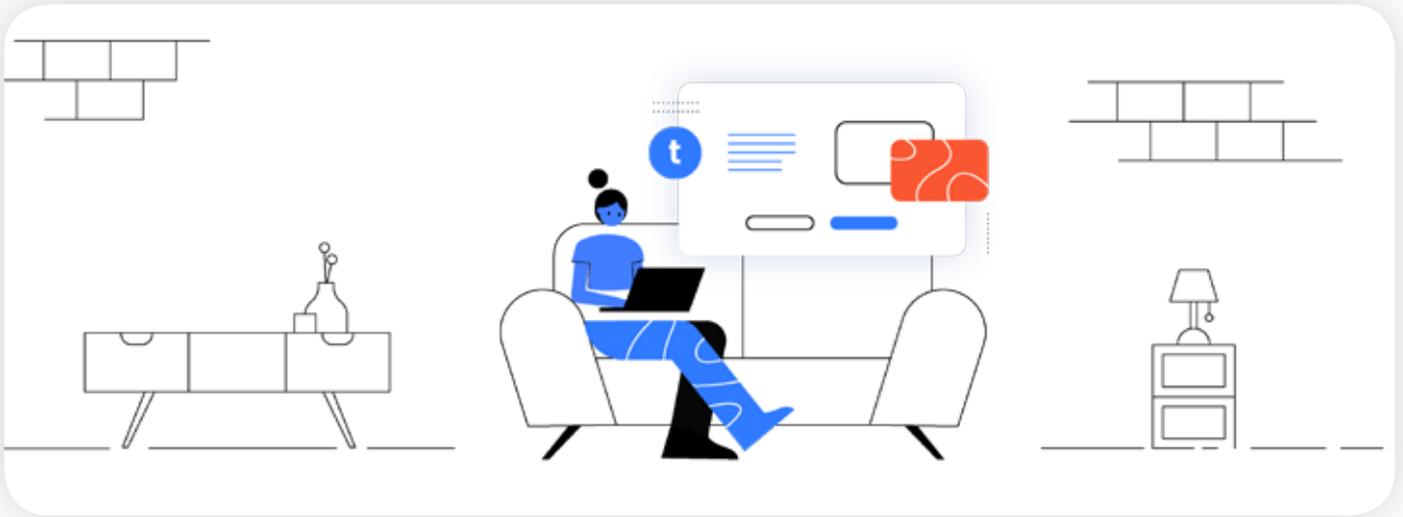
on investment because they don’t focus on what really drives lasting behaviour change; namely context, belief and simplicity, according to Inspire. This experienced provider’s simple point of differentiation: Focus first on the areas that will really make impact through tailoring the solution to your precise need.

Inspire helps the client to develop the areas in a unique way – “through a suite of blended solutions that offer the value and convenience of product, but with the deep impact of a bespoke solution”.

“The way we start working with clients now in Asia, is through our leadership programme ‘Inspiring To Lead’ which consists in 7 different workshops. We start with that for six months and very often the customer comes back requesting: ‘I would like more coaching, or have a bespoke workshop focusing on a particular topic.’ We build the relationships; we don’t just want to be a vendor, we want to be their learning partner. When they next think of: ‘I need to address this challenge with this group of people’, they talk to us first,” says Ulrika. “It’s our door-opener in Asia but very quickly we are able to also engage with a bespoke learning solution.”

“We have for example, done a ‘Mentoring to lead’ programme for one client who wanted mentoring to be a way of life for its leaders. After rolling out the workshops which were both virtual and face-to-face they wanted to have a train-the-trainer approach. We then trained their in-house trainers to use the type of methodologies that Inspire Group uses: adult learning, contextualisation, experiential learning. So what we do is more and more focused, alongside leadership programmes, on different types of programmes.”





“A part from the workshops there is a need to build more modules that support the learning through an online authoring tool, be it for assessment purposes, or to reiterate the learning from workshops. So that has really exploded as a market,” she adds.

“Another one is that some of the participants will need additional support. We then design a bespoke workshop as refresher, every three months for another year. So it grows organically, as sort of a natural step what they see the need for.”

“We also use e-Learning for example for onboarding and induction. It becomes like a marketing tool for the company to show: This is what it’s like when you come to work with us and what you will experience. And that’s



built on our own ‘Chameleon Creator’ or other online authoring tools,” she continues.

Chameleon, their in-house fully responsive authoring tool, is often used for a blended learning approach.

“There are others, but the focus for Chameleon is: easy, fast and beautiful. Anybody should be able to build their own modules to roll out content that needs to be made available on any device. With a blended approach we then not only provide an e-Learning module but also set up bespoke workshops, as reference guides, so that you have a whole series of touch points over a period of time to ensure that the learning sticks. Hence, we roll out a whole programme that may last for six months up to two years,” Ulrika elaborates.

For leadership programmes, starting with a communication tool to bring people on board and co-design with all the stakeholders is the make-or-break-it piece. “Group work takes place with certain groups of the organisation in different cohorts. After that you might have additional learning modules, to communicate the message and ensure the learning.”

The events of 2020 have also hugely changed workplace learning and development, with digital learning exploding across Asia, and in a smart way that aligns to how people now work and the platforms they engage with daily.

The CEO elaborates: “A big part of digitalisation, digital transformation, is very often to be able to do onboarding or induction virtually. We’ve been doing this already for twenty years; for example the online authoring tools, where you actually build modules where the person joining will actually have the first induction done online. This is usually the first step in digital transformation, where people realise: ‘Oh, my goodness, we have hundreds of people joining us every year, how do we make this scalable now when we can’t get everybody to come to the head office?’ So that’s a natural first step; to



*Whatever you present, the questions is always going to be: 'What's in it for me?'  
I'm not going to be engaged if I don't see how this is important.*



use online authoring tools, like Chameleon, to build those modules to make the induction process work up to 80 % online. This has exploded in terms of the need to transfer the onboarding workshops that have always been done face-to-face to online."

**A**s for their leadership solutions it is based these three key beliefs: 'Growth Mindset is essential', 'Direct and Inspire' and 'Lead Self before others'. Inspire Groups subscribes to that you cannot truly lead others with impact until you've mastered leading yourself with great awareness, drive and a growth mindset.

And in these challenging times, true leaders are defined even more by not just what they do, but HOW. "Why should you focus on making sure that your leadership is the best it can be? Because it impacts the well-being of everybody else in the organisation. Your leader, or boss, has a bigger impact on your well-being than your doctor. So it's more important than ever that leaders can live up to the role they play in the organisation where they work."

"At the same time you need to keep things simple and not overcomplicate things, because you have got to contextualise it and make it relevant for the people in the organisation. Because whatever you present to them, whatever you ask them to do, the questions is always going to be: 'What's in it for me?' I'm not going to be engaged if I don't see how this is important; be it a learning programme or a task that I need to do in projects that I am working on," Ulrika explains.

"Our leadership development programmes are based on knowing that it's so important, especially now, to not over-complicate things. Contextualise it and understand the situation that people are in around you. Empathise, and don't be afraid to be vulnerable. This is a huge challenge I think in Asia (maybe more so than for our clients in Australia and New Zealand), where leaders

feel they have to be stoic and strong to be able to support their teams. They are putting this additional pressure on themselves during these times."

"We at Inspire are now focusing on how we can support leaders to remember to also take care of themselves and not be afraid to be vulnerable and to actually have those conversations. If we don't find a way to deal with this for ourselves, for our own well-being, how can we lead others?"

Covid-19 has also impacted the way Inspire conduct their business, having to cover the markets virtually.

"In the beginning of the year we had to quickly adapt all our face-to-face workshops to deliver them virtually. So we work in a very agile manner. The team in New Zealand designed all our workshops within three weeks to be virtual. Otherwise we prefer to run our leadership programmes face to face. We also do lots of coaching and that is more normal to do virtually so that has continued to grow throughout the region."

The only other challenge in Asia is that off-the-shelf programmes have been standard. It can be demanding if that's what clients are used to, and then suddenly Inspired Group comes along presenting something very foreign and different, where we talk to you about contextualisation, co-designing together with you and you have never seen anything like it," smiles Ulrika. "So we tend to work with companies that are used to having a growth mindset, meaning that they are prepared to try new things."



## Unplugged Robotics by Nond

By Nond Phokasub, Bangkok Patana School, Year 12

Unplugged Robotics by Nond is a community service project that aims to improve the effectiveness of teaching Robotics and Computing Science in rural Thai schools, especially in younger audiences.

Robotics has become increasingly more important in our daily lives and will inevitably play a larger role in the future. Indeed, Robotics itself is a compulsory subject in Thai education for Primary Schools. However, limited budgets and lack of student interest have challenged the teaching of Robotics

in Thai Primary Schools, especially those in rural areas. In an effort to overcome these issues, I have initiated the Unplugged Robotics project to create fun-filled and affordable teaching equipment that can support the learning of Robotics, Computing Science and basic coding.

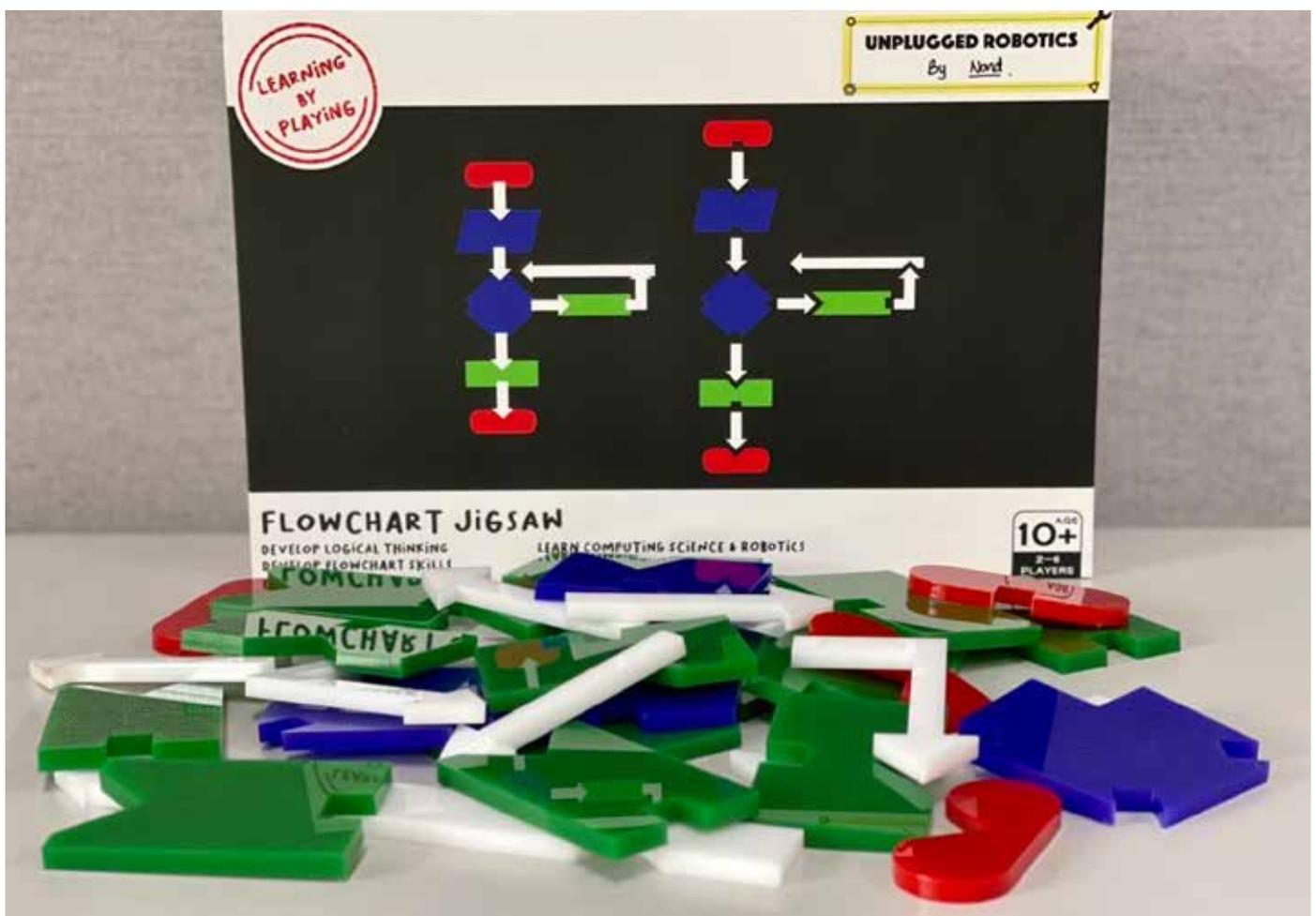
My project involves the process of developing an abstract idea into a manufactured product. Essentially, the worlds of Design and Technology and Computer Science are brought together through interdisciplinary design thinking and coding. All activities can be made 'DIY' from the resources outlined on my website ([www.bynond.com](http://www.bynond.com)), allowing teachers to gain access from anywhere. The activities include Match the Symbol, Flowchart Jigsaw, Flowchart Board Game and Magnet Maze, all of which aim to develop skills that form the basis of Robotics. They have been designed in such a way that they can be created from unused materials in schools (such as

an A4 cardboard box), making them both affordable and environmentally sustainable.

I first conducted research on the Thai curriculum and had several meetings with teachers in Thai schools. Once the first prototypes were complete, their feedback led to the improvement of each activity. At the beginning of this year, I was fortunate to be able to test my activities in a real classroom setting. Findings showed that the activities played a role in creating group discussions and teamwork whilst providing a "learning by playing" experience. These activities are to be implemented in the school curriculum starting next academic year.

To make this project more impactful, I have developed two of my activities (Flowchart Board Game and Flowchart Jigsaw) into manufactured products to act as activity samples in schools. These have already been distributed to schools in Bangkok, Nakornsawan,

Kanchanaburi and Chantaburi. The ready-made versions of the Flowchart Board Game and Flowchart Jigsaw are currently available for sale through my Line Official Account (@bynond). All proceeds will be used to further manufacture similar products for rural Thai schools in need. If you are interested to support this project, please visit my website ([www.bynond.com](http://www.bynond.com)) for more detailed information.





*The many co-working spaces is part of what makes Bangkok attractive.*

## Bangkok, best city in Asia for digital nomads

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) recently reported that Bangkok was ranked the second-best city in the world for digital nomads and the best Asian city for digital nomads to work in.

The study was done by a UK flexible working solutions provider, The Instant Group and touted Bangkok as the best Asian city to work in because of its affordability, connectivity, transportation and fantastic cuisine.

Now, you are probably about to scan this article to find out which city in the world was actually ranked the best, right? Well, don't strain your eyes. Here's the answer: Bangkok is second to none other than the beautiful, romantic city of Lisbon, Portugal!

According to TAT News, the tourism body's news outlet, Mr. Yuthasak Supasorn, TAT Governor, said "This is a wonderful accolade for both Bangkok and Thailand, recognising as it does the Thai capital's modernity, connectivity, and affordability attributes. It is even more rewarding when considering how well it complements Thailand's goal of growing its digital nomad travel sector under the 'Visit Thailand Year 2022: Amazing New Chapters' campaign."

Furthermore, Bangkok was also one of only two Asian cities to make it into the survey's top 10 cities from around the world, the other being Seoul in 7th place.

Quoting TAT News "Research has shown there are already 35 mil-

lion digital nomads worldwide, and with advances in technology, remote working and workplace culture it is thought that by 2035, this number could be one billion. Predictions say the global nomadic workforce will account for one in every three employees.

Alongside Bangkok, Thailand also offers other popular destinations ideal for digital nomads, such as Phuket, Samui, and Chiang Mai."

# Indonesia plans to offer digital nomad visa

Indonesia plans to offer a new digital nomad visa with a five year validity which the country's tourism minister Sandiaga Uno told reporters could bring in up to 3.6 million overseas travellers and create one million jobs for Indonesians.

Uno said the remote working visa will mean freelancers can live tax-free on islands like Bali, as long as their earnings come from outside Indonesia.

Uno also revealed that the decision was based on research that showed Indonesia was 'top of mind' for 95 percent of the remote workers that took part in the survey.

Similar plans for a digital nomad visa were in the works last year, however had to be put on pause due to the pandemic.

Uno added: "Now with the pandemic handled and all the ministries getting involved and cooperat-

ing from the health side to the immigration office, we believe that this is an opportune time to relaunch this idea."

There are currently a variety of visas available to remote workers wanting to visit Indonesia, including the Visa on Arrival (VoA), Tourist or Cultural Visa and the country's Free Visa, but these only last between 30 and 180 days.

Other countries such as Georgia, Croatia and Portugal also offer digital nomad visas, and in short, this modern workers' visa basically means you can work while staying in a foreign country, as long as you don't enter the local labour market.

The rule is in place so that local residents aren't pushed out of jobs.

Visa requirements often vary between countries, but proof of funds is normally required to secure one.

Living tax-free isn't always a guarantee if you're granted a digital nomad visa. For example, Americans will still have to file taxes if they're granted one, because the US taxes citizens based on their citizenship itself, as opposed to their residence.

In South East Asia, only one country, Taiwan, currently offers something similar to a digital nomad visa which is known as the Employment Gold Card Visa, but it is not easy to qualify for that.



# KIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IS THE ONLY BANGKOK SCHOOL OFFERING ALL FOUR IB PROGRAMMES

**KIS International School is now officially approved by both the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and the Thailand Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) as the only school in Bangkok to offer all four prestigious IB Programmes for children ages 3-19 years old.**

Given the success of its current IB curriculum, KIS is expanding its academic offering, providing yet another dynamic course of study for our students. After a rigorous authorization process to assure its high quality delivery, Grade 11 and 12 students can now participate in the innovative Career-related Programme.



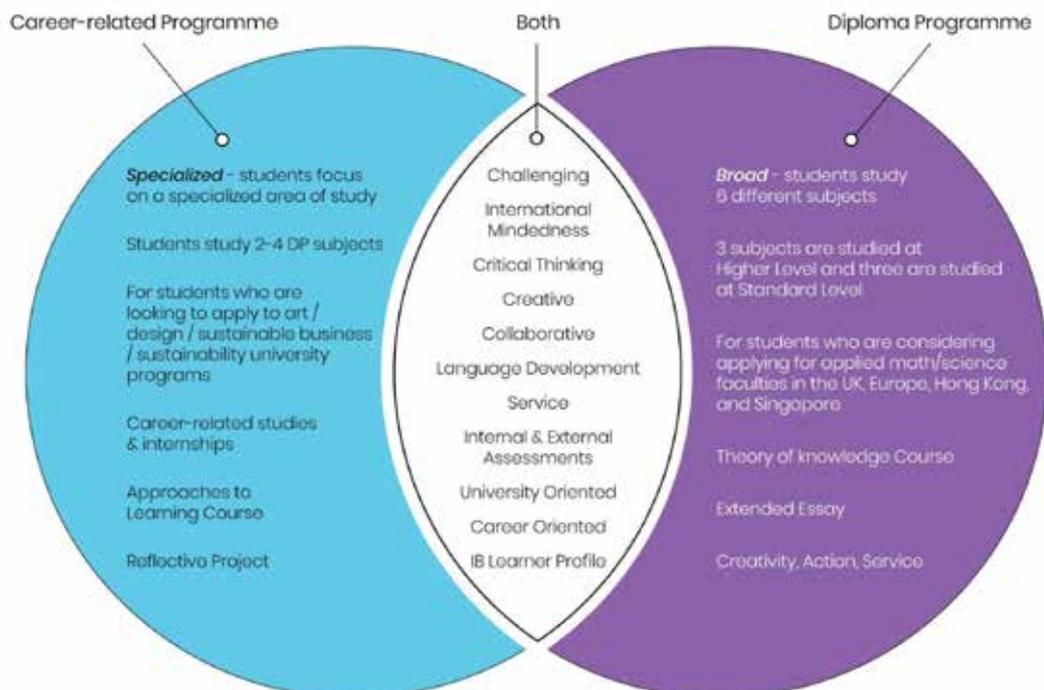
The Career-related Programme (CP) is designed for students who want to specialize and dedicate themselves to a path way they are passionate about. It is a dual-enrollment programme for students in Grades 11-12 that have a strong interest in Sustainable Leadership, Sustainable Business, Art, or Design. Students take university-level courses and can earn university credits. The CP encompasses the best of both IB worlds—the theoretical principles and academic rigor of the Diploma Programme (DP), along with tailored career-related studies and practical work experience. It aims to provide students with a strong foundation to support their university studies and specialized training, as well as supporting their success in the workforce.

The curriculum plays to a students' academic strengths because there is flexibility in the subjects which can be chosen, allowing students to choose those at which they excel. Students learn by doing what they love while building lifelong skills that enable them to move through the world as socially responsible citizens with a sense of purpose.

*The lush campus, located near the city center, is spread out over six buildings and more than 25,000 sq. meters*

## CP vs DP

Many families are familiar with the IB Diploma Programme (DP) for students in grades 11-12 that seek a more broad and holistic education in six different subject areas – Literature, Additional Language, Humanities, Science, Mathematics, and the Arts. Students taking the IB Diploma do not specialize



Students creating a 3-D chair in our state-of-the-art design center



early and they can leave their university and career options open. Within the DP, students learn to question the status quo in all of their subjects by exploring Theory of Knowledge. They practice a balanced life by engaging in Creativity, Activity and Service, and solidify their skills for in-depth research, writing, and time management through an Extended Essay.

The KIS secondary school counseling team gets to know each student on an individual level. They work closely with families to determine the most appropriate IB programme course and combination of subjects that will challenge and prepare students for university and beyond. Counseling is progressive throughout the school in all programmes and ages.

KIS International School is a school like no other. Our close-knit community creates a dynamic, personalized, and flexible education to suit each student's strengths and goals.

KIS inspires individuals to make the world a better place—helping students to be successful in university and beyond.

Please contact: [admissions@kis.ac.th](mailto:admissions@kis.ac.th) to find out more about our vibrant learning community and to find out if the IBCP is a good fit for your child's education.

KIS International School <https://www.kis.ac.th>

Secondary school counselors meet one-on-one with students starting in Grade 9 to help prepare them to plan and set goals.



# Carlsberg Malaysia set to modernize production facilities



Carlsberg Malaysia is the first brewery built outside of Copenhagen, Denmark and has earmarked a capital expenditure of RM110mil to upgrade its brewery in Shah Alam, its largest investment in 30 years.

"This investment is set to modernise its production facilities to deliver higher efficiency and enable greater flexibility in packaging options as well as sustainability perfor-

mance in energy, water and waste management," it said in a statement.

Carlsberg is celebrating its 175th anniversary globally.

To commemorate the milestone, Carlsberg Group chief executive officer Cees 't Hart visited the Malaysia operations to also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Carlsberg Danish Pilsner manufactured locally in the Shah Alam brewery.

"Malaysia is one of the key growth drivers in Asia for the group. I'm very proud that Carlsberg Malaysia is agile, resilient and safely navigated the storm and emerged stronger than ever, throughout the pandemic."

He noted that the second half of the year posed three main challenges, namely the uncertainties of Covid-19, impact from the war in Ukraine and the growing global inflation.

"I have full confidence that, together with our customers, partners and employees, Carlsberg Malaysia will continue to brew for a better today and tomorrow," Hart said.

Carlsberg Brewery reported a net profit of RM91.6mil for the first quarter ended March 31, a 37.8% surge versus RM66.5mil in the previous comparative quarter. Revenue rose by 22.9% to RM653.9mil compared with RM532mil a year earlier.

---

## Singapore to host Tour de France Criterium after Denmark race

Kicking off in Copenhagen for what is being called the northernmost start in history, the Tour de France cycle race begins in Denmark on Friday, 1 July 2022.

While Denmark hosts this prestigious cycling event now in July, Singapore has been earmarked to become the first Southeast Asian country to stage the race's 'compatriot' event, the Tour de France Criterium in October this year.

"The Tour de France Criterium is a cycling performance, showcasing the speed and intensity of cycling

through a race on an inner-city circuit," said Tour de France general director Christian Prudhomme.

"The criterium format allows us to bring an adaptation of the Tour to more places, while still retaining the essence and spirit of the Tour de France with top riders in the heart of the city.

"With the Tour de France Criterium, cycling becomes a cultural bridge, celebrating the Tour de France atmosphere in territories the race has not yet explored."





## Thai Nordic Association held first AGM

*Group photo of the participants in the AGM. New board member Alexander Wetterling is seen standing second from left.*

For Scandinavian Society Siam the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th of June 2022 was the 103rd meeting – but for the association under the new name Thai Nordic Association it was the very first AGM.

Two new members joined the board, Alexander Wetterling and May Wallberg which continues to be under the leadership of Lasse Staalung. Both are younger than any of the old board members which bodes well for the efforts to rejuvenate the association.

The Annual General Meeting took place on the 23rd floor of Rembrandt Hotel and included a delicious three course dinner. A total of 23 people participated in the event which was once again led by former Chairman Leo Alexandersen. The association has a total of some 160 members, so the 23 participants was clearly above the 10 percent needed for the meeting to



*Chairman Lasse Staalung standing at the head table. Below to the left in white is new board member May Wallberg.*



be able to conduct its business and make binding decision.

The financial report showed a very healthy situation even after one and a half year of hibernation during the Covid pandemic. The TNA had by the end of the financial year half a million baht in cash assets and no outstanding debts. The fiscal year of the TNA charmingly continues the old financial year of the Scandinavian Society Siam which goes from 1 April to 31 March. This was introduced by King Rama 5, Chulalongkorn in 1888 instead of the lunar year around the 13th of April. Thailand adopted the current 1 January as the new year in 1940.

A good part of the meeting was spent brainstorming on ideas for activities for the members during the coming year. Many good proposals were tables and it now remains to be seen which of the ideas the new board will be able to pull off.



## Vietnam to start building with Finnish approved low-carbon cement

In their efforts to promote green solutions in the building industry in Vietnam, the Finnish Embassy in Hanoi and Business Finland joined hands to support the signing of an agreement between Công ty Cổ Phần Đầu tư Phát Triển Trung Hiếu (Vietnam) and concrete brick manufacturer Betolar (Finland).

According to the embassy's Facebook page, it said: "Based on a 5-year commercial agreement, Trung Hieu is authorized to use Geoprime® solution in the production of the company's products. The deal helps reduce 80% CO<sub>2</sub>

emissions in raw material production by leveraging on local industrial additives.

Vietnam to reduce 80% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in raw material production

"Vietnam is the third largest cement producer in the world and the fourth largest cement consumption market, about 85 million tons/year. The Vietnamese market has significant commercial potential in the coming years and the potential for cement substitution is huge." Mr Juha Pinomaa, Betolar's Asian Regional Head of Representative.

Betolar's first deal in the Vietnamese market paves the way for the production of low carbon concrete products of circular economy and promotes green construction in Vietnam.

# Weed blamed for Norwegian's self-inflicted wounds in Pattaya, Thailand

According to a local Thailand news report, a Norwegian man smoking weed cut open his own stomach in Pattaya, Thailand, early in July.

The news report said that Frank Gjesvold, 54, was rushed to the hospital after midnight on June 30 where he was found wounded in his hotel room on Pratamnak Road.

Paramedics apparently found the Norwegian raving in his native language with a large, bloody gash on his stomach.

Pattaya Mail also reported that a packet of cannabis leaves and a lighter were found in the vicinity of the injured man.

Staff at the hotel said Gjesvold had been living there for about six



months and that they had heard screaming, but the Norwegian had not opened the door. Thus, they used a service key to enter and discovered him bleeding.

# Lockdowns in China affecting Volvo sales



The Covid-29 lockdowns in China have continued to affect the delivery of Volvo's electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles during the third quarter; it was reported.

"The Swedish carmaker pointed to a shortage of components as a reason for sales in June falling 27% compared to the same month last year. However, the company is starting "to see a marked improvement

in its manufacturing situation, with the number of cars produced in June being the highest in the year," according to a statement.

The development marks the latest supply-chain issue to grip the global auto industry. Last week saw Tesla Inc. cite factory shutdowns in Shanghai as a reason for disappointing car deliveries while General Motors Co. issued a profit warning amid a backlog of 95,000 vehicles that can't be sold until semiconductors arrive to finish assembly.

Volvo Cars shares gained as much as 1.9% in Stockholm on Monday while the OMX Stockholm All Share Index advanced 0.9%", as per Bloomberg.

# Danish embassy hosts dinner for construction developers in Philippines



Emma Imperial, CPI President and CEO of Imperial Homes Group, with the Danish concrete businessmen at a dinner earlier in the month.

The Danish Ambassador to the Philippines, Grete Sillasen, recently hosted both the top executives of Connovate Aps and Ambercon A/S from Denmark and their potential clients in the Philippines at her residence, Manila Times reported.

During the event Torben Enggard, Ambercon chairman of the board and Connovate director, delivered an inspiring speech in which he outlined the steps Connovate has taken in addressing global warming and unemployment.

Furthermore, Karsten Bro, Connovate chief executive officer (CEO), elaborated on this by sharing how the company further elevated its technology to adapt to the changing world.

“Finally, Peter Berg, Connovate chairman and Arkitema Architects CEO, expressed his deep gratitude for all the support Connovate had been receiving from the Philippine developers. Furthermore, he called on others to use sustainable materials for the construction of homes, structures and infrastructure.

During her speech and video, Emma Imperial, CPI President and CEO of Imperial Homes Corporation discussed the advantages and positive effects of Connovate on the Philippine housing market. Emma Imperial introduced Connovate in 2018 as part of her objective to influence other developers to incorporate clean sources of energy and construction materials into their projects.

# Swedish groups pioneer innovation in Vietnam

The Swedish embassy in Vietnam and Business Sweden, in partnership with Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee, and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, jointly host a 2-day event on 2 and 3 June as part of the celebration of bilateral ties surpassing 53 years in 2022.

“The event is aimed at enhancing the Vietnam-Sweden co-operation in sustainable development by presenting the green solutions of Swedish businesses and promoting Sweden’s effort to become a center of innovation and sustainability,” wrote the news outlet, tuoitrenews.vn.

The programme features an exhibition that introduces Sweden’s climate strategy via positive changes and the creative innovations of some Swedish businesses in Vietnam, ABB,



Swedish Ambassador to Vietnam Ann Måwe and vice-chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee Vo Van Hoan talking with a business at the ‘Pioneer the Possible’

H&M, Oriflame, Tetra Pak, and Volvo Cars.

It also includes presentations, panel discussions, TEDTalks, and seminars on sustainable energy, sustainable production, sustainable consumption and use of raw materials, and the importance of a circular

economy.

“These activities will create a forum for policymakers, business leaders, researchers, and innovation pioneers to confer about expanding the two countries’ partnership and joining the process of breakthrough creativity,” tuoitrenews.vn wrote.



## Electric ferry sailing from Singapore to Norway

Norwegian ferry company Norled has recently received its second newly built zero-emission battery powered Ropax ferry from Singapore, reported several marine news media.

The ship is the second of three identical battery-operated roll-on/roll-off passenger (“Ropax”) ferries which Sembcorp will deliver to Norwegian ferry operator Norled AS. The new ferry will join the first sister vessel already in operation on Norled’s Hella-Vangsnes-Dragsvik connection in Norway.

Built based on the proprietary design of Sembcorp Marine’s wholly-owned subsidiary, LMG Marin AS (“LMG Marin”), the zero-emission vessel will be capable of operating at a service speed of 10 knots, powered by lithium-ion batteries which are charged using green hydro-electric power. The ferry can also run on a combined battery-diesel hybrid backup mode when required.

The ferry named Dragsvik is equipped with energy-efficient fea-

tures including quick-connection shore charging plugs, auto-mooring and auto-cross capabilities, efficient hull, propulsion and heat recovery systems as well as minimized hotel and auxiliary load solutions.

The 82.4-metre long multi-deck, double-ended ferry is designed for the safety and comfort of passengers and crew, with the capacity to carry 300 persons as well as 80 cars or a combination of up to 10 cars and 10 trailer trucks.

LMG Marin Managing Director Mr Torbjorn Bringedal said, “We are heartened to witness the application of our proven zero-emission design and hydro-electrification technology in the second battery-operated Ropax ferry built by the Group. The vessel has been optimised to meet Norled’s green operating requirements and will contribute to the firm’s sustainable fleet operations when it goes into service.”

Mr Tan Heng Jack, the Company’s Head of Specialised Shipbuilding, said: “We are pleased to mark

the sailaway of Norled’s second zero-emission Ropax ferry which will be deployed in Norway following completion. We look forward to continuing our close partnership with Norled on the third Ropax newbuild in the series.”

Mr Wong Weng Sun, Sembcorp Marine President & CEO, said, “Sembcorp Marine is well-positioned to support the global shift towards a greener and low carbon future with our strong track record and diversified capabilities in offshore renewables, new energy and cleaner O&M solutions. This latest Ropax ferry project is a testament to our demonstrated capabilities to harness green technology and to provide sustainable products and renewable energy solutions for our customer and the industry.”

The third Ropax ferry is scheduled for completion at the end of 2022.”

To read more about battery-powered ferries and similar stories, please click the links below.

# Vietnam bestows Danish ambassador with Friendship Insignia



Danish Ambassador to Vietnam Kim Højlund Christensen and Ambassador Nguyen Phuong Nga.

The Danish Ambassador to Vietnam Kim Højlund Christensen was awarded an insignia of friendship on 4 July for “peace and friendship among nations”.

The president of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations

(VUFO), Ambassador Nguyen Phuong Nga, pointed out the long-standing friendship between Vietnam and Denmark and said that during his term in the country, the Danish ambassador had contributed to the effective implementa-

tion of a transition programme to a low-carbon economy in Vietnam from 2017- 2022, and played an important role in promoting major Danish businesses in which to invest in Vietnam for 2022.

Besides making concerted efforts to promote their multifaceted relations, she also added that Christensen supported and participated in the foreign activities arranged by the VUFO, while actively co-ordinating with the Vietnam – Denmark Friendship Association to hold cooperation and people-to-people exchange activities in order to strengthen mutual understanding and friendly relations.

Ambassador Christensen, in turn, promised that no matter what position he held he'd continue to make contributions to further strengthen the traditional friendship and co-operation between Vietnam and Denmark.

---

## Finnair flying to Hong Kong again

After five months, Finnair has again started to wing its way with passengers to Hong Kong, Travel Weekly said in a news report.

“Finnair is poised to restart passenger flights to Hong Kong after a gap of five months. A weekly flight from Helsinki to the Asian hub will operate initially using Airbus A350 aircraft,” Travel Weekly wrote.

The airline's new premium economy cabin, renewed business class seat and revamped economy class will be introduced on the route from 4 August 2022. The sched-

ule has been timed to allow easy connections from Finnair's UK and Ireland services, with return fares from London to Hong Kong starting

at £484.

The carrier serves Helsinki from Heathrow, Manchester, Edinburgh and Dublin.”



# Axiata-Digi merger moves forward in Malaysia

The communications regulator in Malaysia approved a merger between mobile operations of Axiata Group Bhd (AXIA.KL) and Norway's Telenor ASA (TEL.OL), forming the biggest business of this sector for Southeast Asia.

"Telenor's Digi.Com Berhad (DSOM.KL) and Celcom Axiata Berhad are Malaysia's second- and third-largest mobile service operators, respectively, and the tie-up will create the country's top mobile service operator", according to a statement by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

MCMC said it has issued a notice of no objection after the companies submitted a set of undertakings to address competition issues that may arise from the merger.

In a joint statement, Digi.Com and Celcom said undertakings included divestment of 70 MHz of their spectrum and Celcom's "Yoodo" brand. In addition, they agreed to establish a separate independent



business unit for their mobile virtual network operators' (MVNO) wholesale business, and position existing products under a single corporate brand.

When the merger was announced last year, it was estimated the new Celcom Digi Berhad would create a company with annual revenue

of around \$3 billion and core profitability of \$1.4 billion from a subscriber base of about 19 million customers. Digi.Com had a market value of around \$6 billion.

Maxis Bhd is currently Malaysia's top mobile services provider with more than 9.4 million revenue-generating subscribers."



Royal Norwegian Embassy visits Digi, Malaysia

## Royal Norwegian Embassy visits Digi in Kuala Lumpur

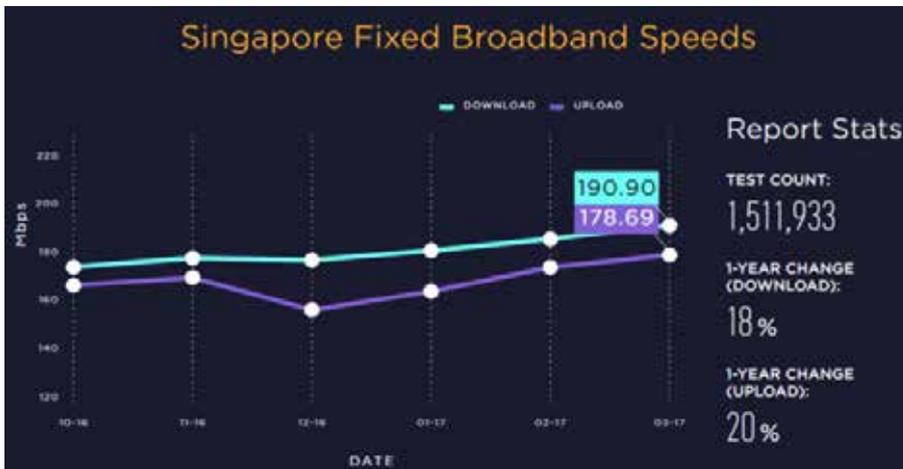
The Royal Norwegian Embassy's website in Malaysia reported a visit to the offices of Digi, the third-largest mobile operator in Malaysia which is partially owned by Telenor, the Norwegian telecoms giant.

"Last week, the embassy visited Digi. It was interesting to learn more about the company and future projects!" the embassy wrote.

"Being partly owned by Telenor, the company embodies many aspects of Scandinavian work culture and a sharp focus on sustainability. We learned about the future of 5G and digitalization, which is set to contribute to Malaysia's growth and prosperity in the years to come."

"Many thanks to Digi for welcoming us at 'D'House."

# Singapore fastest internet speed - Denmark drops to fifth place



Denmark used to hold the fourth place in the world for the fastest internet but it has slipped down to the fifth position recently. If you're looking for speedy internet, Singapore should be at the top of your list. New research from BanklessTimes has

shown that Singapore has the highest recorded median internet speed in the world at 207.61 MBPS.

Chile came in with the second-highest median internet speed of 200.01 MBPS, while Thailand took the third position with 189.64 MBPS. Three countries in Asia also had

speeds ranked in the top ten in the world, with Hong Kong having a median internet speed of 181.70 MBPS, China sitting at 162.74 MBPS, and Macau at 158.48 MBPS.

While Singapore came first in the fixed broadband internet category, it also dropped to the twenty-second position in the mobile internet category with a median of 64.05 MBPS. UAE and Qatar were the victors in this category with readings of 134.48 MBPS and 129.36 MBPS respectively.

There are currently three major Internet service providers in Singapore, namely, Singtel, StarHub, and M1 and other growing providers like MyRepublic and ViewQwest. On May 21 2021, Singtel launched one of the first global 5G standalone (SA) networks with Swedish network giant Ericsson.

## Which Scandinavian and Asian countries are the least corrupt?

In January this year, Transparency International released its 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which ranks 180 countries and territories around the world by their perceived levels of public sector corruption.

The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Denmark, New Zealand and Finland were once again ranked as least corrupt, with scores in the high-80s.

Syria, Sudan, and Somalia were at the bottom of the list (most corrupt) with scores of 13, 20 and 13 respectively.

Germany and Singapore remained at the same spot scoring 80 and 85 respectively.



Malaysia's position dropped to 48. It was 51 in 2020 and 53 in 2019.

For context, the US scored 67, while Russia scored 29 and China, 45. These three countries are considered the main powers behind the

world order. They shape geopolitics and have the power to control the financial, political, economic, social and environmental conditions affecting 7.9 billion humans on the planet.



## Museum tells stories of how Vietnamese and others found shelter in Denmark

In a beautiful new museum in Denmark, recently launched by Queen Margrethe II, the stories are told of refugees from countries like Vietnam and others. The permanent installation at the museum is named "Flugt", which means 'escape' in Danish.

"The Refugee Museum of Denmark presents the account of migrants who have contributed to Danish society, beginning with Germans who fled the Soviet advance during World War II," writes Associated Press in a report from the new museum.

The museum was created on the site of a camp in Oksboel, a town in southwestern Denmark that housed up to 100,000 refugees from Germany in the years after the war.



The interesting thing about the museum is that it tells the stories in the own words of the refugees on large video screens.

The news report also said that since Denmark was a haven for refugees in the past, of its 5.8 million inhabitants, more than 650,000 are

immigrants, while 208,000 are listed in the state statistics as descendants of immigrants.

Unfortunately, in recent years the large-scale migration has caused many western countries a lot of concern and they have had to limit the numbers of newcomers.

# China's Huawei loses Swedish appeal over 5G ban



A Swedish court recently rejected an appeal from China's Huawei over the government's decision to ban the network equipment giant from rolling out 5G mobile network infrastructure in the Nordic country and in 2020 the country also banned network operators from using Hua-

wei equipment in the buildup of 5G infrastructure.

The administrative court of appeal in Stockholm said in a statement it believed it was fair to assume that the use of Huawei's products in central functions of the 5G network "can cause harm to Sweden's security."

The UK was first to ban 5G in 2020 and then Sweden became the second country in Europe to do so and ultimately the first in the EU to explicitly ban Huawei from almost all of the network infrastructure needed to run its 5G mobile network.

The PTS' decision also included a provision that equipment already installed had to be removed by the first of January 2025, a step the appeals court also confirmed.

"Sweden's security is a particularly strong interest and the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority's decision is based on a real, current and sufficiently serious threat to Sweden's security," judge Anita Linder said in a statement.

Huawei appealed against this decision to a lower court which sided with the PTS in June 2021.

# Hong Kong activist granted political asylum by Sweden

Sweden has granted political asylum to a Hong Kong journalist and activist, ruling that he would otherwise "risk arrest" in the city for activities that would be "considered in breach of the national security law".

The Swedish Migration Agency made the ruling in April, but Narayan Liu, who was born in Taiwan and raised in Hong Kong, and who received his Swedish residency documents last month, is now going public with the news which was first reported on Kinamedia.se

It is believed to be the first asylum award for a Hongkonger in the

European Union to explicitly cite the national security law, which Beijing rolled out in June 2020.

"When returning to Hong Kong, you risk arrest as the activities you have undertaken would be considered a breach of the national security law," said the words a 10-page award that was seen by the South China Morning Post.

The Swedish Migration Board's note stated that if he returned to Hong Kong he would risk persecution, adding that "the law is also applicable extraterritorially, which would include the activities you have carried out in Sweden".





## ‘Work the Nordic Way’ in Vietnam

At the beginning of June 2022, Nordcham welcomed around 300 participants to their Work The Nordic Way 2022 in HCMC, at InterContinental Hotels & Resorts.

The agenda explored different aspects of Diversity and Inclusion, while attendees were fully engaged with the opening speeches from H.E Ms. Ann Måwe, the Swedish Ambassador to Vietnam, H.E Ms. Grete Løchen, the Norwegian Ambassador to Vietnam, and the inspiring keynote speech with lots of fun, creativity from LEGO Vietnam.

Five rotating workshops were held with Esoft Vietnam, Tetra Pak Vietnam, IKEA, Home Credit, and Novo Nordisk Vietnam, together with 30+ other companies during the job fair.

According to Nordcham Vietnam’s website, they believe that businesses will thrive and become even stronger than ever post-covid. They mentioned how pleased they are to build a bridge between Nordic companies and talented human

resources.

Nordcham members highlighted the need for elevating and communicating the strong Nordic employer brand in Vietnam and ‘Work the Nordic Way’ day that to the table with speakers and companies highlighting the key traits of Nordic culture and work ethics. Together with the four Nordic Alumni Associations, which consist of Vietnamese people who have studied in the Nordic countries, a platform for connections and potential employment and business opportunities between Nordic companies and Vietnamese with strong bonds to the Nordic community has been created, their press release said.

There are many excellent examples of how Nordic countries and companies are represented in all aspects of life; society, economy, people, and resources, regarding things such as the free movement of work between the countries and a close collaboration on legislation that fosters sustainable growth for businesses. Not to mention that

there are also welfare models closing social gaps and reducing poverty, while providing fair opportunities for all and encouraging distribution of national income.

Business and leadership values are encouraged to engender creativity, openness, transparency, trust, compassion, and equality too.

With so many good lessons to learn from Nordic countries, common values are embraced that unite both Nordic and Vietnamese people as they value each other’s differences in society and in business.





## Swedish man from Thailand rescues five pups in KL

Swedish tourist, Tobbe Dahl, was browsing around Kuala Lumpur when he discovered five motherless puppies at a construction site.

"I first saw two puppies running around the area and when I whistled, the remaining three puppies came running out," Dahl, 36, who lives in Thailand told the local media Petaling Jaya.

Dahl said he then noticed that one of the puppies, the runt of the litter, was weak and so he took it to a veterinary clinic for treatment.

Dahl, who is a padel tennis coach and businessman in Thailand, also sent a video of the puppy he named Leo to a veterinarian friend back home in Sweden.

"My friend said Leo was too weak and may not live another night, but he survived and has been with me in my accommodation since," said Dahl.

While four out of the five puppies were up for adoption at the canine welfare project Malaysian Dogs Deserve Better (MDDDB) at The Square, Jaya One, Petaling Jaya on Sunday July 3 2022, Dahl has decided to bring Leo back with him to Thailand on his next trip to Malaysia after getting the necessary documents processed.

"First, I thought the puppies belonged to people living inside the construction site. But I met a lady who was feeding street dogs in the area and she told me the puppies

did not belong to anyone," said Dahl.

It was then that he had to rescue the puppies before leaving Malaysia.

"I contacted 10 to 15 organisations but none could help me. Finally, I found someone on Instagram who put me in touch with MDDDB," he added.

Dahl also said he had formed a very strong bond with Leo and cannot wait to bring him home to Thailand.

"We have been out to the park and enjoyed each other's company and I am feeling sad that I have to leave him behind when I go back home on Monday," he added.

For further details, please contact MDDDB on this Malaysian number in KL: 0122414749.

One-Stop Shop

for all your editing,  
design, printing and  
digital printing needs

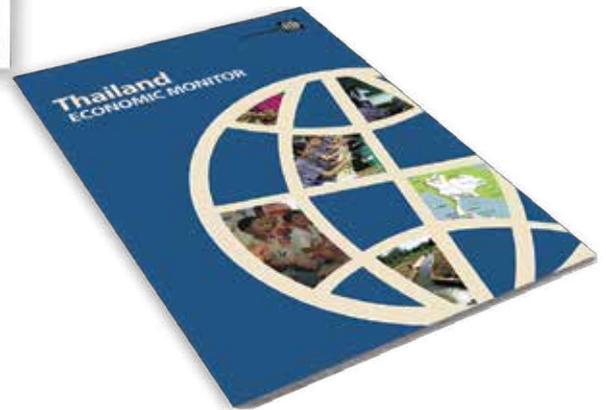
**SCAND**MEDIA



# What we provide...

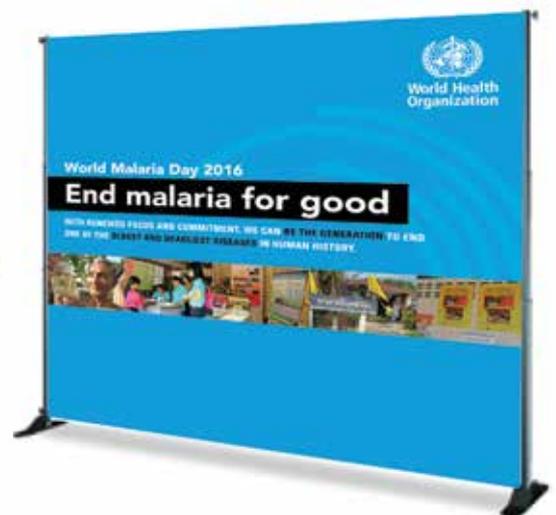
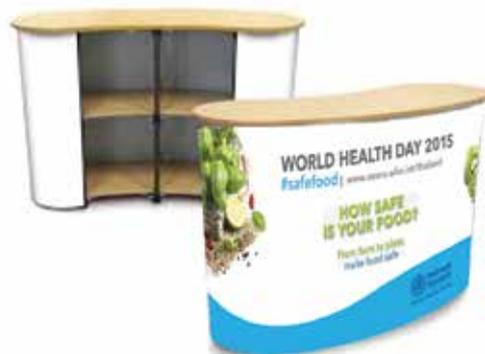
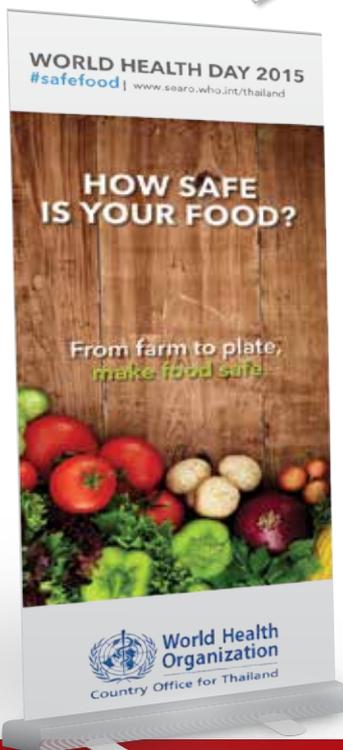
## Publications

Brochures, Leaflets, Annual Reports,  
Calendars & Cards, Planners, etc...



## Marketing Materials

Roll-ups, Banners, CDs, Flags, etc...



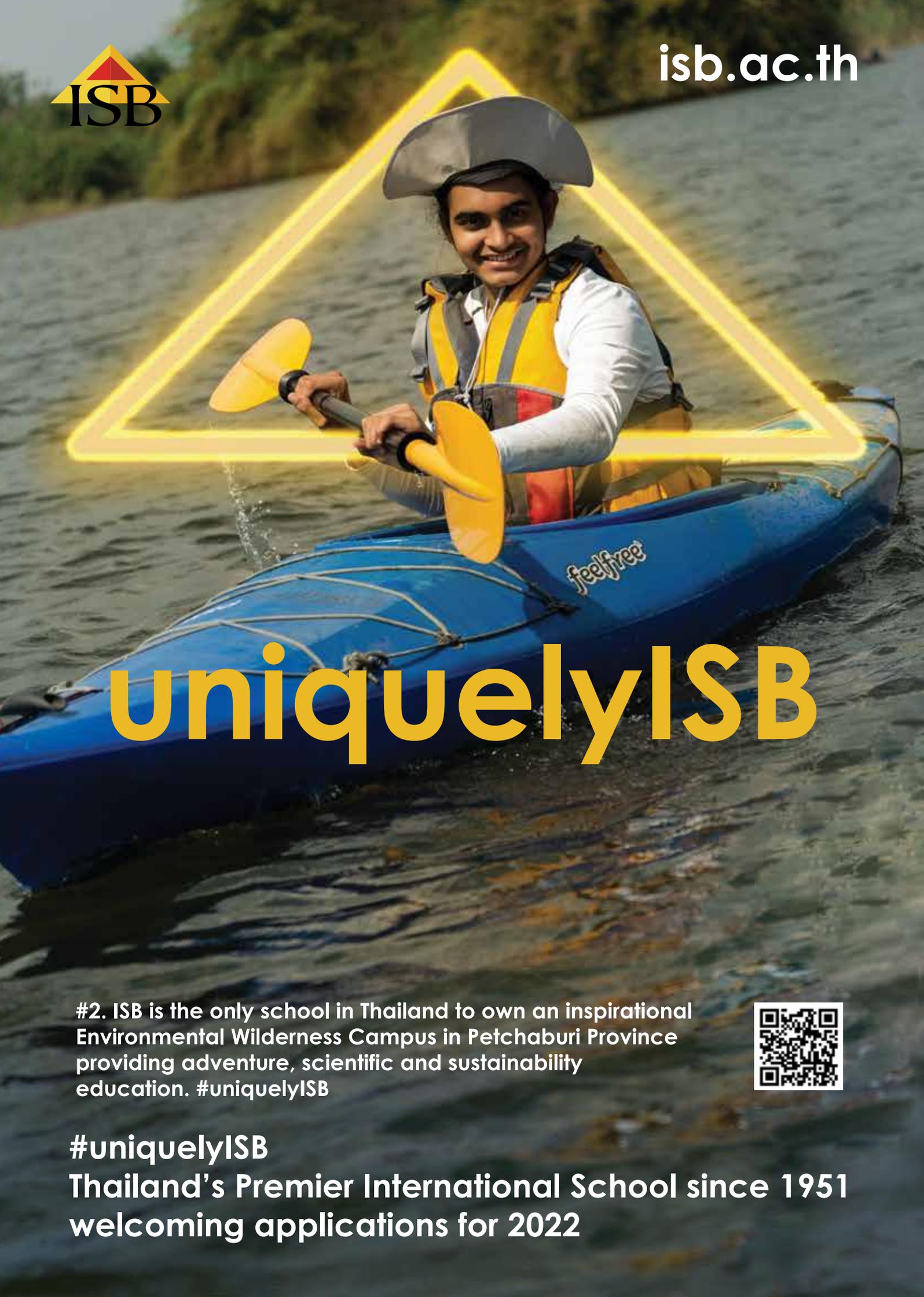
### Please contact

211 Soi Prasert - Manukitch 29, Chorakaebua, Ladprao, Bangkok 10230, Thailand  
Tel: +66 2943 7166-8 Fax: +66 2943 7169 website: [www.scandmedia.com](http://www.scandmedia.com)  
[patcharee.scandmedia@gmail.com](mailto:patcharee.scandmedia@gmail.com)  
[suchaya.scandmedia@gmail.com](mailto:suchaya.scandmedia@gmail.com)

*"Because Scand-Media is Your Partner in Communications"*



isb.ac.th



# uniquelyISB

#2. ISB is the only school in Thailand to own an inspirational Environmental Wilderness Campus in Petchaburi Province providing adventure, scientific and sustainability education. #uniquelyISB



#uniquelyISB

Thailand's Premier International School since 1951  
welcoming applications for 2022