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COMMUNITY:

Norwegian associations in Thailand merge

INTERNATIONAL:

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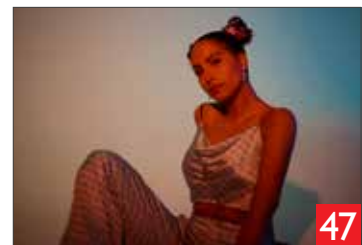
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Put implementation of the EUDR on hold

Major palm oil-producing countries in Southeast Asia, like Indonesia and Malaysia, are opposed to the new EU Deforestation Regulations adopted by the European Union that are about to come into force. The new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will start to apply on 30 December 2024 and singles out palm oil as one of the key drivers in deforestation.

The ASEAN countries are seeing these regulations as unfair and damaging to their economies. They argue that palm oil is crucial for employment and revenue in their countries and criticize the EU for applying double standards and interfering with their national sovereignty. The regulations may also disproportionately affect small-holder farmers and exacerbate tensions between the EU and palm oil-producing nations.

Recently, the ASEAN countries are finding unexpected allies within the EU itself. Agriculture ministers from 20 EU countries have called for a delay to the implementation of the EUDR. This was initially led by ministers from six countries: Austria, Finland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Sweden. Their core concerns are not the palm oil industries, however, but the timber and cattle industries. They are specifically worried about the geolocation requirements as well as the problems associated with traceability through the supply chain.

Norbert Lins, chair of the Agriculture Committee, has urged EU Commission President von der Leyen to postpone the implementation for two years and provide a complete exclusion for small farmers. Additionally, a coalition of EU business groups, including farmers and manufacturers, has criticized the Commission for simply lacking understanding of supply chains and inadequate guidance on the EUDR.

Palm Oil Monitor, a lobbying organization for the palm oil plantation owners and manufacturers, asks the relevant question: If the EU can't provide answers to its own farmers, foresters and industry on a serious regulation that is scheduled to come into force in less than nine months, what hope do exporting countries have?

The legitimate aim of the EU is of course to address environmental and social issues associated with unsustainable palm oil production through regulations like the EUDR. But concerns persist about unintended consequences, particularly for small palm oil farmers and both small and big importers in the EU.

Until both importing and exporting countries fully understand the consequences and how to manage its implementation in a practical way, delaying the implementation of the EUDR seems to be the prudent course of action.



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.

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Chinese drugmaker seeks approval of Ozempic-like drug



Like Ozempic, the Chinese drug controls blood sugar in patients with type two diabetes. Novo's patients in China for Ozempic and their similarly made weight-loss drug Wegovy expire in 2026. The Danish pharmaceutical company's Ozempic sales in China has more than doubled in 2023 and make up around five percent of the global sales of Ozempic. Novo plans to launch their weight-loss drug Wegovy in China this year, with a focus on clients that pay out of their own pocket.

Last year, Ozempic became the world's best-selling drug against diabetes, and the sales are also driven by patients wanting to lose weight due to it containing the active ingredient, semaglutide, which is also contained in Wegovy. The high demand has created shortages in Europe.

A Chinese drugmaker applied for approval on 3 April 2024 to sell their biosimilar Ozempic drug in China. This potentially challenges the expansion plans of Novo Nordisk in China, who is the

original producer of Ozempic. The Chinese drugmaker Hangzhou Jiyuan Gene Engineering has named their drug Jiyoutai (JY29-2). Jiyoutai would be China's first locally developed Ozempic-like drug.

Swedish firm gets stake in Singaporean fintech company

A Swedish firm named 6G Digital Private Limited, has acquired a 25 % stake in the Singaporean fintech named FlexM.

The deal has been valued at a price of 12.5 million US Dollars, and there is even talk of a full takeover by 2024.

The company FlexM operates as a platform that provides their users with modern and digital alternatives to banking and payments.

This acquisition is, according to the media Fintech News, aiming at combining 6G Digital's global reach and resources with FlexM's innovative technology and market expertise.



Earthquake in Taiwan strongest in 25 years

In the morning of 3 April 2024, the strongest earthquake in 25 years rocked Taiwan. Initially seven people were reported dead while more than 700 had been injured. Reuters reported that there were 77 people trapped in tunnels and collapsed buildings waiting to be rescued.

The magnitude of the earthquake on the Richter scale was around 7.2 in magnitude.

The Danish foreign correspondent Alexander Sjöberg who is covering Asia from Taipei, Taiwan, was in the middle of breakfast with his children when the earthquake happened. He stated the following to the Danish media Ekstra Bladet:

“Earthquakes are relatively common here, so in the begin-



ning I just remained seated. But this was something different. Everything moved from side to side. Plants started to fall off the shelves,” he explained to Ekstra Bladet.

The earthquake also led to tsunami warnings for Japan and the Philippines but they did not happen.

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Finns make a documentary about biking to Singapore



Two Finnish men, Alvari Poikola and Valtteri Heinilä, also known as “Curious Pedals” have now released a documentary on Youtube about their bike trip from Finland to Singapore.

In February 2023 the two men biked into the courtyard of the Finnish Ambassador in Singapore completing their trip more than 15.000 km. from Helsinki, Finland.

When they arrived they talked with the Ambassador and a ScandAsia reporter about their plans to create a documentary about their travels, and now they have succeeded. The documentary is available on Youtube and is a bit more than an hour long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDf3Lr8Mfcc>

Norwegian associations in Thailand merge

Two Norwegian interest organizations in Thailand have decided to merge together to survive. This was decided at an annual meeting at the Jomtien Palm Beach Hotel.

The two organizations were named Khon Norway and Sabaid-ee Norway. The new name after the merger will be Sabaidee Khon Norway. It was presented by Sigurd Høines, manager of Sabaidee Norway, and Jan Petter Tvetter, manager of Khon Norway.

Both associations focused on Norwegians living in Thailand.

Jan Petter Tvetter finds the merging a bit sad:

“I am very happy that the annual meeting voted for the merger, as it otherwise would have meant that we had to shut down. It is however a little sad that Khon Norway is no longer an association,” he says to the media Thailands Tidende.

The merger means that Khon Norway lived for exactly 15 years.



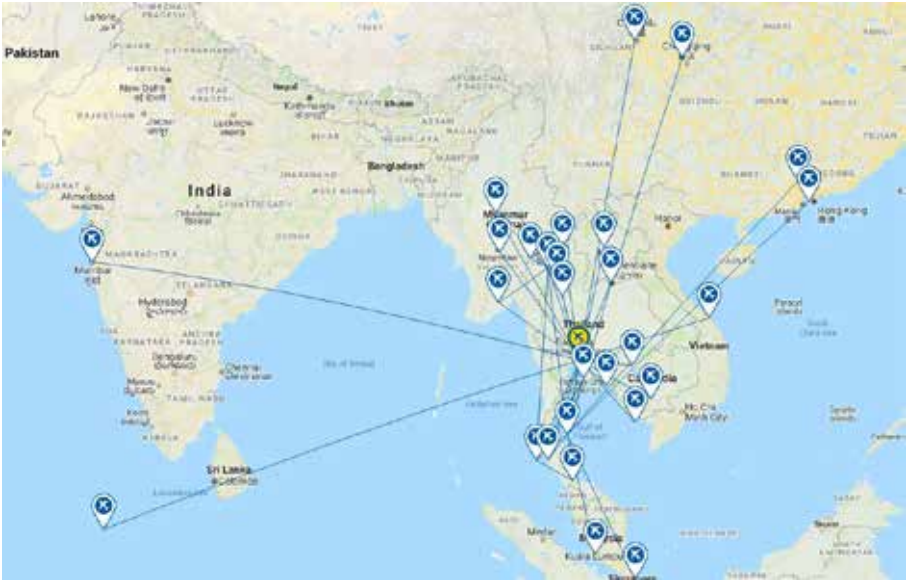
Sigurd Høines and Jan Petter Tvetter

Possible new air routes in Asia

Thailand is discussing establishing new air routes with China and Laos due to the current congestion in the existing flight paths the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

On 29 March 2024 the President of Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Co., Ltd., Nopasit Chakpitak, announced that the three nations have reached an agreement on possible new routes, and are now waiting for ICAO for approval.

Chakpitak also indicated that if these routes are approved then they might open as early as 2026.



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Finland offers Thailand knowledge on circular economy

Finland's Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ville Tavo, has stated to the media Thai PBS World that Finnish com-

panies are ready to cooperate with Thailand to establish a more sustainable economy.

This is suggested as Thailand

has struggles fighting the rising air pollution and growing amount of garbage. In Finland only 1% of waste ends up in landfills.

Minister Ville Tavo is confident that the Finnish companies can help create waste to energy solutions for the rising garbage issues in Bangkok, and states the following:

"I think the industrialization of Thailand has developed quite well, but it will be great for Thailand, investing more in not only infrastructure but also new trends, which are digitization, green energy and the circular economy".

The Minister is also sure that Finnish companies can help Thailand in their issues with air pollution.



Danfoss optimistic about future investments in China

The president and CEO of Danish Danfoss, Kim Fausting, said China's reaffirmed pledge to further opening-up and improving the business environment gives Danfoss confidence to continue investments in China. He mentioned that the protection of intellectual property rights especially is an important factor.

Kim Fausting spoke his words of encouragement at the China Development Forum (CDF) on 24 March 2024, which is an annual high-level international conference. The forum had the title "The Continuous Development of China" and this year around 400 delegates, business leaders, schol-

ars and representatives from international organizations along with officials from the Chinese central government's department took part in the event. The government officials used the occasion to introduce China's policy on international investment.

Earlier in March China issued a plan to attract and utilize foreign investment. The plan included expanding market access, facilitating the flow of innovation factors and aligning the domestic rules in China more with the high-standard international economic and trade rules.

Danfoss is launching the construction of the second phase of



their Haiyan campus in Zhejiang Province in east China in April. The province is the company's largest manufacturing base in China.

AFRY hired for solar project in Malaysia

The Swedish Infrastructure consultancy AFRY announced on 2 April 2024, that they have been hired as owner's engineer for a solar project in the Malaysian state of Kedah.

The contract was signed with a subsidiary of the Malaysian company Tenaga Nasional Berhad. AFRY will be engaged in areas such as project management, design review and monitoring of the construction and commissioning phases.

The solar project has a capacity of about 30MW.

This agreement is the latest for AFRY in Malaysia, as the company has already completed more than 110 power sector assignments in the country.



IKEA furniture from Asia on crashed Mærsk vessel

The Mærsk-chartered Dali container ship, which crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge on 26 March 2024, was carrying tons of IKEA-products from Asia.

The 984-foot ship had containers from China, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam and was headed to deliver the products on the United

States' East Coast.

Besides Swedish furniture, the vessel also shipped Instant noodles and canned coconut milk and other items from Asia to the US. The shipping list provides an insight into the strong supply chain between Asia and the US.

The ship caused a full collapse of the bridge, when it crashed and six workers are presumed dead. Even though it is not certain what exactly caused the crash, a power shortage is the presumed cause. The stock-market reacted promptly, when it was revealed that the ship was chartered by Mærsk. Stocks for the Danish shipping company have declined sharply.



China's green innovation recognized by Norwegian Professor

The Norwegian Professor Dr. Carl F. Fey praised the development China has made in green innovation. He spoke about this at the annual Boao Forum conference.

The focus at this year's Boao Forum, which was held from 26 to 29 March 2024, was on globally shared challenges, concerns and responsibilities. That is why Dr. Carl F. Fey, a professor of strategy at BI Norwegian Business School, decided to highlight the big steps that China has made in green innovation:

"China has really been making impressive progress when it comes to the green transition and that's where China and countries like Norway, where I'm from, could collaborate in the future," he says in an



interview with China.org.

He also notes that if he had to comment on the state of the green development in China 10 years ago, then his answer would have been very different.

A report on the development in Asia was also released during the

conference. It was named: Striding Towards Zero-Carbon Electricity Era and Bolstering Green Development in Asia.

In this report it showed that in 2022 China's export of wind power and photovoltaic products collectively contributed to a reduction of approximately 2.83 billion tons in carbon emissions. This represents about 41% of the global carbon reduction during that same period.

Dr. Fey especially pointed to China's role in solar cells exports and comments the following:

"Through working on focusing more on new quality productive forces, which means innovation, China is going to make even further contributions on the green transition moving forward," he says.

Finnish businesses aim to expand in Vietnamese energy sector

Different Finnish enterprises aim to expand in different sectors in Vietnam. However, the energy sector is of interest to the Finnish business Wärtsilä.

The Minister of Industry and Trade in Vietnam Mr. Nguyen Hong Dien recently held a meeting with the Finnish Ambassador to Vietnam, Keijo Norvanto, and different Finnish companies to discuss the opportunities for further involvement and expansion of Finnish businesses on the Vietnamese market.

Mr. Ngyuen Hong Dien also underlined his positivity towards bilateral cooperation with Finland. He welcomed the companies to participate in fostering mutual growth and economic prosperity.



The Finnish Ambassador highlighted the Finnish company Wärtsilä as a possible partner in the energy sector.

Minister opens investigation on status for Taiwanese in Denmark

The Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lars Løkke, has publicly stated that he wishes to investigate if it makes sense to change how people from Taiwan are registered in Denmark.

Earlier this week it was published in the Danish newspaper Berlingske that people from Taiwan were registered as Chinese citizens on their Danish permit of residence. Beforehand it has been possible to be registered as a citizen of Taiwan.

This raised criticism on the Danish government, who replied by underlining that this was no mistake, as Denmark does not recognize Taiwan as an independent country.

Now the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lars Løkke, has announced that he is open to looking into why Denmark operates as they do. According to the Danish media



B.T., Lars Løkke has asked his system to investigate why the system is as it is and how other countries handle the situation.

“When we know this we can see if there is an alternative solution which is compatible with our one-China policy,” he says in a written comment to the Danish media Berlingske.

Denmark does not recognize Taiwan as an independent country, however Denmark does not acknowledge China's claim to the island. This means that Denmark has the one-China principle and not the one-China policy.

Lars Løkke is not alone and several other Danish politicians now question the current state of things. Among them is the Danish politician Steffen Larsen who has difficulty seeing what the big problem is. He said the following to Danish media:

“We should be able to recognize where people are from, wherever that is,” he says while stating that Denmark also recognizes that Palestinians are from Palestine even though Palestine isn't recognized as an independent country by Denmark.

Philippines wants to work with Norway on renewable energy

The Philippines expressed interest in working with Norwegian energy companies in order to develop renewable energy sources, according to the Philippine Embassy in Oslo on 25 March 2024.

The Philippine Ambassador to Norway Enrico T. Fos said Southeast Asia is rich in untapped renewable energy sources and affordable alternatives to fossil fuels. He made the comment at a forum on the Norwegian Renewable Energy industry earlier in March in Oslo. More than a dozen Norwegian Renewable Energy companies took part in the networking event.

The Philippines have recently

opened the renewable energy sector to the possibility of full foreign ownership in order to attract more investment and fast-track the country's green transition. The goal is for foreign companies to explore and develop solar, wind, biomass, ocean

or tidal energy in the country.

The Philippines have aimed to raise the amount of energy from renewable energy sources to 35% by 2030 and to 50% by 2040. Right now renewable energy makes up 22%.



Dane sets out to document the evolution of Bangkok

By Lærke Kobberup

Danish Photographer, Ulf Svane, is passionate about capturing everyday moments of ordinary people living and working in Bangkok. He has loved Bangkok for many years and can't stop coming back for more.



The Danish award-winning photographer Ulf Svane was having an exhibition in Bangkok on 20 February to 22 March 2024, titled 'Bangkok Archive'. It is an expression of Ulf Svane's love of Bangkok and the urban, traditional features that you can find in the city.

This exhibition was first presented as a part of Bangkok Design Week, and has since changed location from Mahapho Gallery to

C43 Gallery. The exhibition has been available since the end of January. However, after talking with Ulf Svane it is clear that even though the exhibition hasn't been around for that long, the love story between Ulf Svane and Bangkok has been around a while longer.

An urge to travel and a golden opportunity

Ten years ago when Ulf Svane was

still doing his apprenticeship to become a photographer he had an urge for traveling.

"I spoke to my mentor, Niels Busch, and he told me about some production companies in Thailand that he knew off."

The opportunity to go and experience the city and see the work the companies did had been a very 'open invitation' kind of thing. However Ulf Svane was intrigued and decided to accept the opportunity. Mainly the decision was made due to an urge for adventure. Thailand however wasn't what he expected. It was better:

"I had the classic expectations when I thought of Thailand. You know sand beaches, street vendors and things like that. Then I arrived and my new acquaintances showed me around in Bangkok. I couldn't believe how amazing this city was. So many different areas".

That first trip to Thailand unintentionally set the tone for the next ten years of Ulf Svane's life. He has lived for longer and shorter periods of time in Thailand, and to this day



“
*I just wish for
 a Bangkok that
 has room for
 people from
 all layers of
 society.*
 ”

he aims to spend approximately half the year in Bangkok. The acquaintances he met when he arrived have now turned into good friends and he continues to explore new parts of Bangkok.

Constant change

While dividing his time between Copenhagen and Bangkok Ulf Svane founded a new concept with Mathias Kobberrød Rasmussen, a Danish historian. Copenhagen Archive has a focus on the change happening in Copenhagen. It shows the everyday life of people living in the city. Aiming to shed light on the authentic, but however rather hidden parts of the city.

Right now there is an opening planned for Copenhagen Archive at Copenhagen Museum on 1 May 2024. Simultaneously the archive has a book that is getting published about the work of Copenhagen Archive.

“Change is happening so fast in the bigger cities! It is important to stop and document life now, because soon it will change,” says Ulf

Svane, when speaking of the motivation behind the project.

Especially, he adds when we look at the massive urbanization of people moving from the countryside and into Bangkok.

Copenhagen Archive was founded in 2020 and two years later Ulf Svane implemented the same concept in Bangkok.

And then the Bangkok Archive was born. Ulf Svane was, as he often is, in Bangkok walking with a list of recommendations from locals trying to document the hidden corners and gems of Bangkok.

The Ball keeps rolling

“Well, the list is only growing, so I plan on making another exhibition showing the people of Bangkok,” Ulf Svane says.

He also states that Bangkok changes so fast, that he finds it especially important to go out and experience the different parts of the city:

“Bangkok is huge, loud and very diverse. We have highly paid people living in large condominiums, but we also have to remember that before

there was a condominium, someone else lived there,” He states, explaining how the people that lived in the areas before construction might not have the means to stay when the condominiums arrive.

“I just wish for a Bangkok that has room for people from all layers of society.”

So, Ulf Svane documents. Walking the streets of Bangkok trying out different routes to see new aspects of the city.

His wish is that the people who see his pictures will remember the smaller spots in Bangkok, and maybe get inspired to break their routines and see what lies down a different road.

Ulf Svane hopes that his documentation of the current state of the city can help facilitate conversations. The viewer can get reminded about the small local stores and ask themselves: What type of city do we want to build in the future and who should there be room for?



THEME:

How to choose the right school for your child in Asia?

To decide on something as important as your child's education and well-being in a foreign country might be the toughest part about moving abroad.

Choosing a new school, pre-school, or kindergarten when moving to a new country has become increasingly difficult for parents. Each institution has its own unique philosophy and attributes and in some Asian cities, the choices are endless. Comparing what each place has to offer with the needs of your child is no simple task.

A good place to start your search is to ask other parents of your own nationality or other expats which school they have chosen for their children and why. This may give you some indication of which schools are popular in your area and more importantly why before you make your own inquiry into each available option.

In most countries there are local clubs or associations for Nordic people. Check out this page on [www.scandasia.com](https://scandasia.com/local-contacts/) <https://scandasia.com/local-contacts/>

Local vs International

The first thing you will have to decide on is whether you are looking for a local school or an international institution. In most countries in Asia, a local school is an option – although certainly a more challenging option for your child especially if they do not speak the local language. If your child is mixed Scandinavian – Asian this may, however, not be so frightening a prospect but it can still be a very different experience than your child has been used to in the past. Local schools offer a very local environment and teach after traditional local methods that are easier for younger children to adjust to because they have no previous school



The age of the school is no sure indication either. Nothing guarantees that the reputation of a hundred-year-old school is better than a one-year-old school.



experience, but for older children, the cultural differences can be quite a shock and an important aspect to consider beforehand. Local schools, however, have an economic silver lining and are less costly compared to international schools.

Physical punishment has not been abolished in many Asian school systems, however, so talk to the school about how they administer physical punishment and ask if they can make an exception for your child if you are not comfortable with this.

If you go for an International school your child will be provided a curriculum that is not the national curriculum of the country it is located in. The most common national curricula used in international schools in Asia are the National Curriculum of England, or an American curriculum, or adapted versions of these. An international school also provides an environment that is more familiar to that of Nordic schools and often overall has a more westernized set of guidelines and teachings. The environment of most international schools in Asia will still be vastly different from that of your own because it consists of children from around the world and your child will be exposed to a greater volume and variety of cultural influences than those who grow up in one particular cultural setting.

Both the benefits and challenges of either a local school or an international school are important and very relevant aspects of life abroad. Children studying abroad often develop a very different attitude to many issues compared to their former friends back home and even you yourself. On one hand, integration is essential and if your child is going to be raised in a culture that's not

your own, it's your duty as a parent to facilitate that. On the other hand, as parents, it can be hard when parts of our own culture are lost as our children embrace a country that becomes home to them in a way it never can be to us.

Once this is said, most expat families decide to go for the more familiar experience of an international school, at least through primary school up to grade 9, where other options may come into play. At this point, not only boarding schools in Scandinavia but also boarding schools in Asia may be considered.

So now you have the table filled with brochures of different schools and wonder what to look for. Keep in mind your family needs, and trust yourself to balance these with your child's needs and with your search for a good quality school. Here are a few suggestions to help you make up your mind:

How much does the school cost?

Before spending time looking through school courses, you should make a realistic assessment of what you can afford and take the schools that you cannot afford off the table. Annual tuition fees among international schools in Asia can range from \$1,800 to \$24,000. International schools have between three to four terms per school year and normally fees are paid termly. Some International schools allow parents to pay tuition fees monthly but if this is a requirement from you, you need to check with the school first to see if that is allowed.



“

Many Asian school systems have still not abolished physical punishment.

”



Annual tuition fees are not a sure indicator that the more expensive the school is, the better education and experience your child will have. Smaller schools with fewer facilities can sometimes be less costly but they can still be an excellent choice with a more close-knit community within the school.

How far away is the school from your home?

Another important factor that may eliminate a few options for you easily is how far away the school is located. Bear in mind that in most big cities, it is the traveling time between your home and the school that matters and especially in larger cities, you will be challenged by some very heavy rush hour traffic. How long will it take for your child to get to school and home afterward? How will your child be going there?

How are the courses at the school and do they match my child's needs?

All children need a school that will appropriately challenge and nurture them to succeed in core academic subjects, but research shows you can significantly improve your child's life and school performance by choosing and working with the right school, so you have plenty of reasons to give it your best effort.

The school's courses and programs will most likely be listed in the school's information packages. They will

talk about the British Curriculum, the American Curriculum and the IB curriculum.

This is important if you relocate in the future so choose what fits best with the school system back home. Both the British Curriculum and the American Curriculum, however, are recognized and accepted worldwide.

Ask questions about the tests and exams which are offered and used as an evaluation method. Some international schools require a certain level of English language skills before accepting new students and it is, therefore, an important factor to look into if your child has little or no English language skills. Some international schools offer pre-language courses to help your child to an easier start and some international schools offer private tutoring to help your child excel faster once accepted into the school. If your child is already a secondary school student, ask how well the graduating students do in getting accepted into major universities both in your current country, back home, and elsewhere overseas.

You can also find out if the native language and culture of your child is taught as optional learning as your child needs to keep his or her ties to your cultural background. It is also important for you. If such optional learning is not offered, most Asian cities have local Scandinavian communities where native Nordic languages often are taught as an after-school activity.



What other activities can the school offer your child?

Besides the fundamental course works, what kind of arts, sports, community service does the school offer? Are there proper facilities to support those activities?

It seems that schools almost compete with each other when it comes to sports, thus many schools will have gymnasiums and sports complexes, which are either new or remodeled. But maybe your child is more into other activities – computer programming, performing arts?

Most schools offer after-school/weekend programs as well as field trips and community services. You should be able to freely pick the activities that best suit your child. Engaging in after-school activities is also an excellent way for your child to make new friends faster.

How is the relationship between the school and the parents?

You will obviously not be able to monitor your child in school. The teacher will have to be your eyes and ears. You must be notified of your child's functionality regardless of grade, and regardless of whether it includes bad behavior or progress your child has made. Make sure that you can get informed as often as possible especially in the beginning to make sure your child settles in well at school. You may also join a parents' volunteer program if available. Some schools may offer activities for the whole family as well.

Your most important task after selecting a school – watch your child!

Moving to a new country, enrolling at a new school, and having a daily life in another language is an adjustment especially for children. It is therefore important that you make a habit of spending more time than you used to back home talking to your child about how school was today. What they did in class, and what they did outside. Let her or him tell you about their new friends.

Listen...

All may initially sound fine and uncomplicated, but that may just be a honeymoon period. Your child will be filled with new impressions and new ways of doing things and therefore, this is the most important step of them all. If your child develops in any way you find disturbing or even develops signs of discomfort with going to school, you should think twice before you tell your child that "this is life – it is not always pleasant!". Allow them to adjust, support them in their transition and understand that this may be hard for them. They might feel frustrated that they can not communicate as freely at school as they are used to in their native language so have patience with them. Help them establish friendships outside school by inviting classmates home for playdates as this also helps your child speak the language much faster.



‘The Long Win: Reframing How We Celebrate Success

By Alice Curwood, Bangkok Patana School- Assistant Principal Sport and ECAs



In September 2023 at a conference, I was lucky enough to meet Cath Bishop, an Olympic rower who competed at three Olympic Games. Highlights of her career include winning the World Championships in 2003 and an Olympic silver medal in 2004. Bishop’s workshops during the conference varied from high performance, resilience, teamwork, negotiation and leadership. Bishop has written a book “The Long Win” which presents a case for re-evaluating our approach to success in sport. What really stood out was her message that we should all consider a new way of redefining success, addressing the long term impact a win-at-all-costs approach can have.

This message prompted me to take some time out to think about our Sport and ECA programme at Bangkok Patana School and how we could use new strategies to reframe how we celebrate success of our students, ensuring our overriding message focuses on the process, not the sole outcome of one fixture or tournament. This led me to ask the questions - **How do we measure achievement and recognise the holistic development of our student athletes?** Could we do better?

Traditionally, success in sport has been equated with victories, trophies, and sharing our placings in tournaments. While these achievements

hold significance, Bishop invites us to consider a broader perspective that encompasses the invaluable lessons learned through adversity, the resilience forged through setbacks, and the personal growth experienced by each student athlete along their own journey. An example of how we could reframe this within our community, could simply be to start all conversations following a fixture or a tournament by asking our students 'What did you learn today?' or 'What positive traits did you display today in the game', as opposed to starting a conversation with 'Did you win?'

In her book, Bishop states, "The process matters because it is where we spend most of our time

and where we can have the biggest impact." This underpins the importance of celebrating the day-to-day efforts of students we see in training, the incremental improvements we see in individuals week-to-week or during a season, and the moments of triumph that contribute to the overall development of our students. In our pursuit of excellence, do we truly celebrate the full spectrum of achievements? Following a tournament, do we give equal importance to the journey our sports teams have been on and celebrate this, or do we solely focus on the win or loss we experienced in the final game that determined our finishing position. At Bangkok Patana we are keen to ensure students themselves start to balance both of these without prompting from the adults around them.

Success in sport transcends the scoreboard; it encompasses the friendships formed, the skills honed, and the values instilled through participation. By embracing Bishop's principles, we create an environment where students feel empowered to take risks, learn from failures, and thrive when challenged. We continue to champion a culture that values effort, perseverance, and personal progress, above all else.

Here are some quotes to leave you with from Bishop's book:

"The way we define success can shape our behaviour and the outcomes we achieve."

"The process matters because it is where we spend most of our time and where we can have the biggest impact."

"The long win is about making choices, building habits, and fostering relationships that will stand the test of time."

I would encourage all of us to reflect on these and think about how we can continue to reframe our approach moving forward. We must foster an environment where every student is given the opportunity to succeed and thrive, not just on the scoreboard, but in life.





Aiming high

Students from Brighton College Bangkok secure offers from many of the most selective universities in the world. How is this achieved?

For many students in their final year of school, the stakes can feel very high. Along with intense academic study, rigorous examinations, and the eager anticipation of post-school life, many students anxiously await offers from institutions that will shape their future professional lives.

A significant part of the role played by the most effective schools lies in preparing young people for life *after* school: firing imaginations and aspirations; helping students to articulate their ambitions and supporting them in navigating the practical complexities of university

application processes that vary significantly from one country to the next.

Successful university applications to some of the world's most selective institutions are time consuming and rarely, if ever, the result of luck. Nothing can be left to chance. Each step needs to be taken and each deadline met to achieve that sought-after offer of a place on a dream course at an outstanding institution.

So what are the essential steps for those embarking on their application journey?



Aspirations and goals

Carly Barber, Head of Brighton College Bangkok's Senior School ensures that time is taken to fully understand what students want for their future: 'University guidance staff have one-to-one meetings with all students even before they commence sixth form study to discuss aspirations and dreams'. This allows dedicated staff to offer early guidance to ensure that students are on the right pathways to reaching their goals. Accompanying these meetings is a recognition that it can be a stressful time - wellbeing checks feature prominently in support of



applicants' welfare. Staff also meet regularly with parents to ensure that parental expectations and any practical limitations are part of the planning too.

Informed knowledge

Brighton College Bangkok staff believe that research is fundamental when it comes to applying to university. Students need to consider which country they would like to study in; which institutions and what courses they want to apply for. Staff discuss with students the various league tables indicating factors such as student satisfaction and employability. Online platforms such as Unifrog provide further information about suitability and requirements. Informed decisions are the key. Brighton College Bangkok staff require students to have a list of 'aspirational', 'target', and 'safety' universities and courses to ensure that all pupils have a variety of options.

Communication and expertise

One of the best ways to expose

young people to as many different pathways as possible is through inviting universities and institutions from across the world to visit. Brighton College Bangkok regularly holds university fairs as well as guest lectures and university representative talks. Consequently, students feel confident in applying successfully to universities in the United Kingdom, the USA, Thailand, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and more than a dozen other countries each year.

Application support

Sophie Peat, Head of Sixth Form at Brighton College Bangkok is well versed in the complexities of the application process: 'The university application process is a varied and complex one. Different countries have different application platforms, such as UCAS (UK) and Common Application (USA), and some universities only allow applicants to apply directly to them. In addition, each university will have varying admissions requirements for each course they deliver, and this can further vary for both domestic and international

candidates.' Many courses such as Medicine, Engineering, Music and more have very specific requirements to consider too.

Making the move

For many students, attending university necessitates a move away from home, often to a different country and an entirely different culture, for the first time. At Brighton College Bangkok, weekly assemblies cover important topics needed for university life: budgeting, interview preparation, and even how to cook. The school also teaches them the soft skills needed when leaving home, such as adaptability, responsibility, and resilience. Former students send in 'day in the life of' videos and come in to talk to the sixth form pupils when they are in Bangkok.

Going to university is likely to be the biggest step in the lives of young adults. At Brighton College Bangkok, students are supported every step of the way to fulfill their potential.



Uniting for a Greener Tomorrow: Bangkok Prep's Community-Led Sustainability Initiatives

By: Lynne Pearson, Secondary Eco Coordinator for Bangkok Prep

As a teacher at Bangkok International Preparatory & Secondary School (Bangkok Prep), I am proud to be a part of a community where sustainability is not just a buzzword, but a deeply ingrained principle that guides our daily actions and long-term goals. Over the past 21 years, our school has distinguished itself as a beacon of academic excellence in Bangkok, nurturing students from Nursery to Year 13 who not only achieve academically but also grow into socially and emotionally rounded

individuals. These students go on to attend some of the world's most prestigious universities, taking with them lessons learned at Bangkok Prep.

Our commitment to sustainability has become one of our most celebrated features in recent years. Upon taking the role of Secondary Eco-Coordinator last year, I was eager to join forces with the passionate students in our Eco Team. Together, we've spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the environmental

impact of human actions and encouraging the entire school community to adopt more responsible behaviours.

Bangkok Prep's approach to preparing students for a sustainable global future is multifaceted, resting on four pillars: Education, Environment, Wellbeing for All, and Leadership for the Future. These principles ensure that our efforts address immediate needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.



Our school has the honour of being the first international school in Thailand to receive the Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation, a distinction we have proudly upheld through subsequent reaccreditations.

Our initiatives extend beyond the classroom and include practical, engaging activities that invite students and their families to actively participate. From the Growing Green Recycling Contest to the introduction of a SHARGE Electric Vehicle charging station—the first of its kind in a Thai international school—our actions are designed to inspire and involve our community in meaningful ways. The Bangkok Prep Forest Campus, in particular, is a cornerstone of our sustainability and outdoor education efforts. Nestled in Bangkok’s Green Lung area, it offers students unique opportunities to connect with nature and the local community through school trips, family days, and a range of outdoor activities.

Embracing the outdoors is crucial for fostering general health and well-being, especially in an era where students spend considerable time indoors, often in front of screens. Our outdoor education program encourages creativity, curiosity, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and emotional resilience. From building stoves from hand-made clay and painting with watercolours in the style of Monet to exploring microclimates and conducting team-building activities, our students learn to apply sustainability principles in practical and engaging ways.



“The more time we spend outside, the more connected we feel to our surroundings and what we can do to keep them as beautiful as possible.”

It has been exciting to further our impact through initiatives such as the Leadership for the Future Series and participation in the FOBISIA online Eco Conference in Hong Kong. These opportunities have allowed our students to share their ideas and learn from their peers across South-east Asia, fostering a broader understanding of environmental issues and

collaborative problem-solving.

At Bangkok Prep, sustainability is a journey we embark on together, woven into every aspect of our curriculum and community life. It is a commitment that prepares our students not just for academic success, but for a lifetime of responsible, impactful engagement with the world around them.



ISB Expands Academic Horizons with the Addition

of AP Courses & Capstone Diploma

As the premier international school in Bangkok, International School Bangkok (ISB) takes pride in offering a diverse range of high school pathway options, allowing students to tailor their education to their unique goals and aspirations.

Our commitment to providing a rigorous and comprehensive education is reflected in our diverse academic offerings. We have now expanded these offerings to include the Advanced Placement (AP) and AP Capstone Diploma in addition to our globally recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, innovative Hybrid Diploma, and the ISB Signature Diploma.

Each pathway is designed to prepare students for the demands of higher education and beyond, making ISB a leader among high school pathway options in Bangkok.

Commitment to Challenge & Personalization

The introduction of the AP Capstone Diploma and AP courses at ISB reflects our commitment to providing a well-rounded and challenging academic experience for our students. By offering these programs, ISB opens up

new and exciting personalized pathways for our learners, ensuring they are well-prepared for success at the world's best universities.

The AP Capstone Diploma is a rigorous program that cultivates critical thinking, research, and communication skills essential for success in college and beyond. Students undertaking this diploma will engage in the AP Seminar and AP Research courses over two years, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore interdisciplinary topics and develop the ability to conduct independent research.

In addition to the AP Capstone Diploma, ISB now offers a selection of individual AP courses across various subjects. These courses, designed by the College Board, are renowned for their college-level curriculum and rigorous assessments, providing students with an excellent foundation in key academic disciplines.

Empowering Student Choice & Success

ISB International School Bangkok firmly believes that offering both the AP and IB programs equips our students with diverse academic experiences, empowering them to choose the pathway that best aligns with their strengths, interests, and aspirations. This unique combination enhances their competitiveness in the global landscape and ensures they are well-prepared for the challenges of higher education.

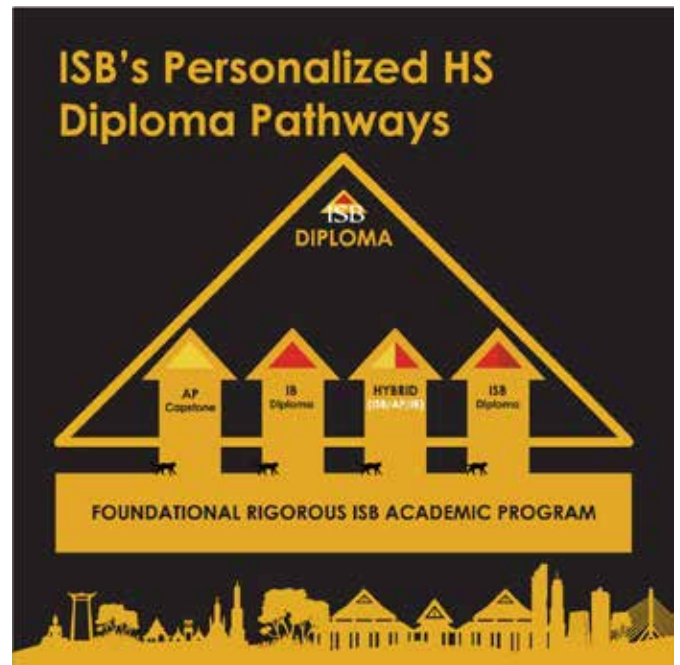
"Our commitment to academic excellence is unwavering, and the introduction of AP courses and the AP Capstone Diploma aligns with our vision to provide a world-class education that prepares our students for success in an ever-evolving world," said Dr. Sascha Heckmann, Head of School, International School Bangkok."

International School Bangkok's strategic decision to incorporate AP programs alongside the IB Diploma reaffirms its position as a leading educational institution dedi-

cated to fostering holistic development and preparing students for success in the competitive global academic arena.

Choose Your Challenge at ISB

At the ISB, we understand the importance of choosing the right high school pathway to meet individual academic and personal development goals. Our diverse program offerings ensure that each student can find a pathway that truly resonates with their personal journey, supported by the guidance and expertise of experienced counselors and educators. As the best high school in Bangkok, ISB is committed to helping students explore their options and make informed decisions about their future, setting the stage for lifelong learning and success in a rapidly changing world.



Advanced Placement by College Board courses for 2024/25*

- AP Language & Composition
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Biology
- AP Physics 1
- AP 2-D Art & Design
- AP Seminar
- AP Human Geography
- AP Env Science
- AP Comparative Govt
- AP Pre Calculus
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Statistics
- AP US History
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Macroeconomics

*subject to demand and more to come in 2025!

Kindness Takes Us Further



Here at King's College International School Bangkok we believe that we should leave the world better than we found it. Through kind acts, large or small, ordinary or extraordinary, students at Kings Bangkok will develop great hearts which will take them further whether in business, international leadership, politics or in service to others.

An article in the Harvard Business Review came to my attention recently. It was called "Stop Asking "Why?" and Start Asking How?". It suggested that we could change the way we approach most situations in life by asking how rather than why.

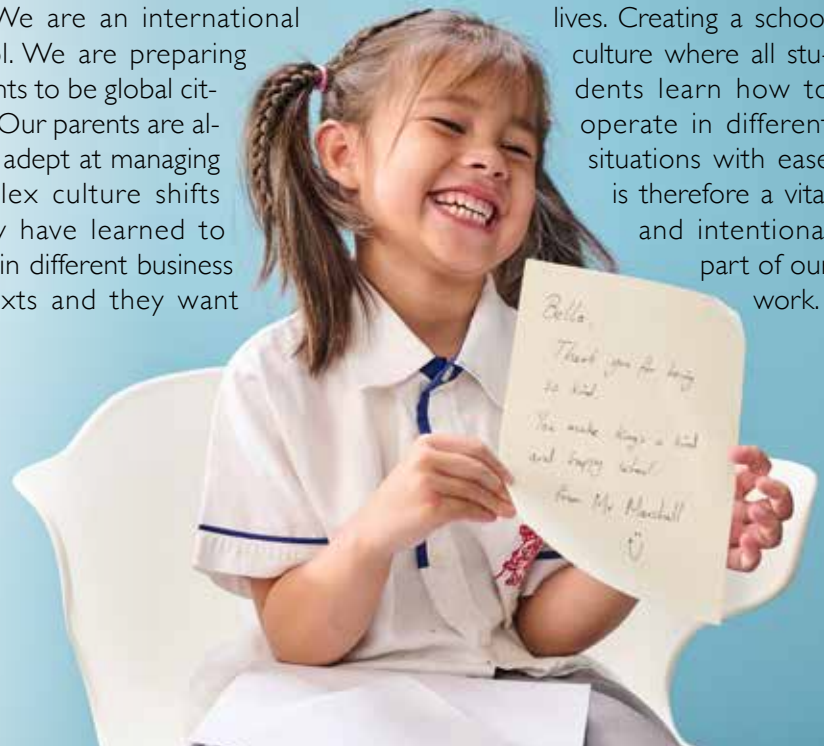
As a school leader I have found that the most effective question I can ask anyone in the community is "How can I help?". It is a kind question and it is open. It helps everyone.

Here at King's College International School Bangkok we love

academic curiosity - why is a great opener. But if we want to go further and create great hearts, then how is an even better way to start.

We are an international school. We are preparing students to be global citizens. Our parents are already adept at managing complex culture shifts - they have learned to work in different business contexts and they want

the same for their children. They can see the world changing rapidly and they dream that their children will be able to live rich and fulfilled lives. Creating a school culture where all students learn how to operate in different situations with ease is therefore a vital and intentional part of our work.



So how can we help our students become people who are culturally sensitive, thoughtful, brave and wise? How can we create a culture where our students know they might make mistakes, but that someone will be there to pick them up and to make them feel safe to try again? How do we ensure that this is a community where students look around, see others and the effect they have on others? How do we help them go further?

We help them by creating a school culture which is values-led. Where every single thing we do is permeated with kindness, good manners and wisdom.

Kindness means imagining what it is like for your friend who was due to represent his school at basketball who now is in a wheelchair. Kindness means a senior student running to help a smaller primary school student who has fallen over. Kindness means saying thank you - all of the time - because we notice tenderness. Kindness means reaching out on a huge scale like our year 12 students, who saw the opportunity

to make a difference by facilitating the distribution of 800 boxes of everyday necessities for families in need.

We know that a great heart takes you further. An open heart, a kind heart, will find new ways to approach every aspect of life and prepare each student for every aspect of a bright future.



A Tailored Journey to Success:

Sixth form at Regents International School Pattaya



A successful pathway to their university of choice is the goal for many of Regents' students and will be one of the most intense and memorable phases of their lives, so they must be as prepared as possible. At Regents, students can now choose the best pathway for them of either A-Levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

What are A-Levels and why would you choose them?

A UK-based and internationally renowned programme which allows students to focus deeply on three subjects, developing specific subject knowledge to help set them up for future success. A-Levels are ideal for students who know exactly what they would like to study at university and are ready to specialise in Sixth Form.

Benefits of A Levels include:

- High acceptance rate at university
- Development of specific subject knowledge
- High discipline and preparation for university

Future Ready Programme

At Regents, all A Level students also follow a 'Future Ready' course which develops their communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills before university.

What is the IBDP and why would you choose it?

IBDP is one of the most rigorous programmes for Sixth Form students. Students will build a better world through intercultural understanding and respect, alongside a healthy appetite for learning and excellence.

Not only are students challenged through 6 subjects that they must take but on top of that, 3 more elements that focus on the development of interpersonal skills and life experiences, known as Creativity and Activity and Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge (TOK), and Extended Essay (EE).

Benefits of IBDP are:

- High acceptance rate at university
- Development of essential skills such as critical thinking, research, planning and organisation
- Personal growth and development
- High discipline and great preparation for university



Academic Results

IBDP
2023

10%

of Regents' cohort achieved 40+ points compared with a global average of 8.5% which puts them in the top 10% of the world.

33/45

IBDP average score at Regents (30/45 global average).

AS
Level
2023

100%

of Regents' students achieved A*-C.

"We are proud of our range of Sixth Form pathways that support all of our students to prepare for success through A-Levels and IBDP". - Lauren Hucknall, Head of Sixth Form at Regents International School Pattaya.

Did you know Regents International School Pattaya is the first school to offer the choice of A-Levels or IBDP on Eastern Seaboard?

At Regents, students are offered a diverse number of subjects ranging from Media Studies, Business and Physics at A-Level to Economics, Sports Science and Theatre at IBDP Level.

To find our more visit regents-pattaya.co.th



Talk about the Finnish educational system

The Finnish education system is often regarded as one of the most successful in the world due to several key factors. The success is attributed to its commitment to equal opportunities, teacher quality, a student-centered approach, minimal testing, emphasis on play, and high level of trust.

Equal Opportunities: Finland's education system emphasizes equity and equality, providing all students with equal opportunities regardless of their socioeconomic background. This is achieved through measures such as providing free education, meals, and healthcare services to all students.

Teacher Quality: Finland places a strong emphasis on teacher training and professionalism. Teachers in Finland are highly educated, with rigorous academic and pedagogical training. They are trusted to design their own curriculum and assess-

ments, fostering a sense of autonomy and professionalism.

Child-Centered Approach: Finnish schools prioritize the holistic development of students, focusing not only on academic achievement but also on their well-being and personal growth. There is an emphasis on individualized learning, and students are encouraged to explore their interests and develop critical thinking skills.

Minimal Standardized Testing: Unlike many other education systems, Finland has minimal standardized testing. Instead, assessment is largely based on continuous evaluation by teachers, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of students' progress and needs.

Emphasis on Play and Creativity: Finnish schools recognize the importance of play and creativity in learning. There is ample time for recess and unstructured play, which is believed to contribute to students'



cognitive and social development.

High Level of Trust: Finnish society places a high level of trust in its education system, including teachers, students, and parents. There is less emphasis on competition and ranking, fostering a supportive and collaborative learning environment.

The above factors have contributed to Finland consistently ranking among the top performers in international education assessments such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).



North Zealand International School unites Danish and International learners

The North Zealand International School (NIS) in Hørsholm is building a new school. The international school is part of Denmark's largest private school Nordsjællands Grundskole og Gymnasium (NGG) and is located at the coast of North Zealand.

By Charlotte Nike Albrechtsen

The North Zealand International School (NIS) in Hørsholm is building a new school, which aims to further unify the International and Danish pupils. The project has been eight years in the making and construction started in January 2024 and is supposed to be fully finished in August 2025. Furthermore, an International Baccalaureate Program (IB) will start in 2025, which creates more options for pupils, who want an international education. The international school is part of Denmark's largest private school Nordsjællands Grundskole og Gymnasium (NGG) and is located at the coast of North Zealand.



I am passionate about creating a school spirit, where the international students learn Danish culture and language and the Danish students learn English language and international outlook

Joakim Philipsen, Head of North Zealand International School



According to the Head of the North Zealand International School, Joakim Philipsen, the new building will be a gamechanger.

“What is really special about this school is that we are trying to integrate the three departments into one. I am passionate about creating a school spirit, where the international students learn Danish culture and language and the Danish students learn English language and international outlook,” Joakim Philipsen says.

The fusion between the Danish and International, is what Joakim Philipsen finds fascinating about NIS, and the new school will make it even easier to create collaborations between the different departments.

Returning to Denmark

The North Zealand International School is also aware of the helping Danish kids, who have lived abroad and are now returning to their roots. This includes helping them to regain their Danish language skills. The school noticed that the children speak Danish at very different levels, when they return to Denmark, as some have attended language school and others haven't. When the children arrive at NIS, they do a screening test, which determines what help they need to improve their language.

“Every level is as good as the other. We don't judge the level of Danish the learners speak, but we need to determine their abilities to help them as best as we can,” Joakim Philipsen says.

The Danish language courses follow the NIS principle of creating a space where Danish and international students can meet, which is why all children also attend Danish lessons as either their native-language or second language. On average they attend six hours of Danish lessons a week, while the rest of their schooling is in English. Furthermore, the school follows the Danish testing and



exams, which makes them able to continue in the Danish schooling system.

According to Joakim Philipsen, NIS is therefore a great option for Danish children returning to Denmark.

“No matter where they have started their education, they can fit in at our school. At the same time, they are almost free to choose where they want to continue their education, after they finish their basic schooling. Whether that be at a Danish high school, Danish university, or institutions abroad,” Joakim Philipsen says.

Another option for Danish children returning to Denmark from abroad, can be the Danish department of the school, which still has a lot of ties to the international community.

A new Head of School

Joakim Philipsen became the NIS head of school eight months ago in August 2023. The ambitious school committee and the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful project made him want the position.





“NIS is a school with a clear vision for the future, and I find it inspiring to work with a school committee, who have an international outlook”, Joakim Philipsen says.

Joakim Philipsen started his career as a school-teacher in Greenland and International teaching and leadership has followed him since. Throughout the last 25 years he has led international schools in both Denmark and abroad.

“When a school can take the best qualities of their national schooling system and the best qualities from international schooling, then it becomes a unique place to learn. That has been my inspiration all along,” Joakim Philipsen says.

His 12-year-old son attends NIS in the seventh grade and his interest in international communities has also been infectious to his daughter, who now attends Rarum Efterskole College for one year at their international department. His oldest son will soon follow in his father’s footsteps and study to become a teacher.

The former teacher tries to use his teaching experiences for creating a good learning and teaching environment, and he likes to say:

“Happy teachers teach happy kids. Happy kids learn.”

According to Joakim Philipsen the kids’ ability to learn is closely connected with their general well-being, which is why it is one of the cornerstones of NIS.

Learning at NIS

At the North Zealand International School, the pupils are also called learners, and the word indicates that the pupils are still in the process of learning.

Around 350 learners between the ages 3 and 16 attend the international school. They can attend the Pre-school, Primary, Secondary and High School and many of them attend the school for the whole duration of their schooling. The current NIS family are from more than 50 countries and speak 60 languages in total. According to the school committee, most of the families are so-called long transition students, meaning they stay in the country for a long period of time.

The school is very proud to be IPC accredited, meaning it offers the International Primary Curriculum in the primary school. The school is working towards a possible extension of this program to Early Years and Lower Secondary.

The program is benchmarked against the National Curriculum of England and Wales and style of teaching has a more holistic approach. It focuses on the skills and abilities of the student and has many of the same values as the Danish and Nordic school systems. This means that learners participate in a lot of group work and the teachers from different subjects work together to create interdisciplinary learning.

A bridge between Denmark and the world

According to board member of NIS, Michael Mellberg Nilsson, it is the committee’s vision to create an overarching school, which unifies the international and the Danish pupils. Michael Mellberg Nilsson has been a part of the NGG School Committee since April 2022. He is not new to the world of international schooling, as his two daughters have attended international schools in both Canada and Hong Kong and are now at NIS.

He and the rest of the school committee are very passionate about the construction of the new school. According to him, it creates new opportunities for an everyday life, where international and Danish pupils can meet. The board is made up of a mix of International and Danish parents but what links them all is life experience from abroad, which ensures an international outlook in their decision making.

The new Head of NIS shares the board member’s excitement about the school’s future.

“The school builds a bridge between the international community and Denmark”, Joakim Philipsen says.

Families celebrating their different nationalities at NIS’ International day 2023. Photo: NGG



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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL • BANGKOK

"BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF"

OUTSTANDING
A-LEVEL RESULTS

80%

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at A LEVEL



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Brighton College Bangkok inspires academic excellence for children aged 2-18, on an iconic, purpose-built campus in Krungthepkreetha, Bangkok. Run in close partnership with Brighton College, England's Independent School of the Decade, we have quickly become one of the leading British Curriculum schools in Thailand.



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SENIOR SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM

Accreditation



CURIOSITY | CONFIDENCE | KINDNESS



Agneta's
World

Agneta de Bekassy

Swedish School Association Bangkok



By Agneta de Bekassy

As a Swedish parent, how much weight do you place on preserving your child's Swedish heritage? This question sparks considerable debate.

In the 1970s, the Swedish School Organization Bangkok was established by Swedish educators. Originally, its mission was to support Swedish or half-Swedish children in delving deeper into Swedish traditions, culture, and language.

In and around Bangkok, many children are born to one Swedish parent and one foreign parent, or both parents are Swedish. Some of these children grow up in various countries, perhaps only visiting Sweden during summer or Christmas vacations. For them, attending international or bilingual schools abroad often means that Swedish language learning isn't a priority.

In my opinion, every language is a valuable gift that

we must not neglect but instead teach and instill in our children.

At present, there are few schools offering Swedish curriculum, with NIST being one of them. Additionally, some schools offer Swedish classes after regular school hours, such as ELC International Schools.

For young individuals who are Swedish or of Swedish descent, being acquainted with the Swedish language, culture, traditions, history, and general education significantly eases their adjustment if they ever need to return to Sweden.

Since its inception, the Swedish School Organization has dedicated Saturday or Sunday mornings to welcoming children for two-hour lessons at various locations. Initially, the organization rented an old villa on Sukhumvit Soi 38 with a garden. Presently, the locations include NIST School on Sukhumvit Soi 15, the Bright Skie School in Ekamai, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons were conducted in teachers' homes.

Before COVID-19 disrupted our normal lives, there was a substantial group of students spanning different ages, with typically four teachers present. I was – and still am – one of them.



It's important to note that the Swedish School Organization should not be confused with a Swedish school. We do not adhere strictly to the Swedish school curriculum but instead strive to impart Swedish culture, tradition, and language. We refer to this as complementary Swedish education.

We are mindful of the long school days and early mornings children endure, which compels us to make the two-hour sessions enjoyable and engaging to capture their attention.

For the past six months, we have been meeting on Saturdays at St. Andrews on Bearing 107. St. Andrews offers a large sports hall, swimming pool, and playground, which we have the privilege to utilize.

Usually, the children are accompanied to St. Andrews by one of their parents, often their fathers, who take the opportunity to enjoy a coffee at nearby coffee shops while the children engage in activities. During the initial minutes of the lessons, the children have time to play and warm up in the sports hall.

We teach them various skills, including writing, reading, teamwork, and respect for others. Additionally, we introduce them to indoor floorball, a relatively unknown

sport in Thailand but popular in Sweden. SWEA Bangkok chapter has generously donated equipment, fostering the children's enthusiasm for the sport. Indoor floorball sessions take place weekly at St. Andrews.

We also teach the children how to play Rounders, a game familiar to the teachers' childhoods.

Emphasis is placed on Swedish traditional holidays such as St. Lucia in December, Easter in spring, and Midsummer. The children participate in performances for the Swedish/Thai Chambers of Commerce and at Advent church services, creating memorable experiences for them and the community.

Close to Midsummer, we join Midsummer lunches organized by the Chamber of Commerce, where the children learn to make flower wreaths and participate in traditional dances.

It's essential for Swedish children to be familiar with traditional songs and customs like "Små grodorna" (The Little Frogs) and "Skära, skära havre" (Cut, Cut Oats), which enrich their cultural understanding.

Traveling to Sweden to visit grandparents or experiencing a traditional Christmas buffet becomes more meaningful when children know what to expect. They learn about Swedish landscapes, counties, animals, flora, fauna, the Royal Family, Alfred Nobel, and other significant aspects of Swedish culture.

Lessons often conclude with activities related to beloved Swedish characters like Pippi Longstocking and Emil in Lönneberga, fostering a sense of connection to Swedish literature and culture.

When asked about their plans after Swedish lessons, most children mention digital activities like playing games on computers or using iPads. We are pleased to offer them alternatives to digital entertainment, introducing them to sports and other activities.

If you have a child aged six or older who could benefit from brushing up on the Swedish language, making Swedish friends, or exploring Swedish sports, don't hesitate to contact the Swedish School Organization Bangkok. We warmly welcome more children to St. Andrews Bearing 107, adjacent to the BTS station Bearing, on Saturdays between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Give your children the opportunity to embrace their Swedish heritage!

iCare Thailand's fight against poverty

By Lærke Kobberup

iCare Thailand is presently doing work all over Thailand. Trying to make life better for Thai people living in poverty or without access to education. This article is the backstory as to why and how they do it.



The iCare Thailand Foundation, which was founded by a Dane and a Norwegian, has spent the last 12 years fighting poverty in Thailand. Building dormitories, giving away bikes, scholarships and English lessons. Letting families or individuals borrow carts in Bangkok slums to make it possible to sell goods to support their families. All because they believe they can make a difference.

iCare Thailand was founded By Karin and Yngvar Andreassen, but also in collaboration with Thai partners and sponsors. It doesn't get support from the Scandinavian countries even though it was founded by Scandinavians. It is a bit old school and focuses on networking. More attention to creating change than creating publicity. This foundation was born from a spontaneous decision in Denmark.

A decision that was the beginning of a life-long journey

In 1981 Danish Karin Andreassen and her Norwegian husband Yngvar Andreassen decided to uproot their lives in Denmark and travel to Thailand.

They had a strong need to feel like they made a difference, so when a Norwegian friend sent them a letter asking if they wanted to come help fight poverty in Bangkok they decided to jump at the opportunity. They had no education in the field, but they weren't too anxious. Carrying three suitcases and their son Michael they arrived in Bangkok.

"So, yeah it was a big decision, but when you are young, you tend to not overthink. We thought if it works it works, and if not...then we'll just go back

home," Karin Andreassen explains while laughing. She continues: "We had no idea that we would be here for so long".

Karen, Yngvar and Michael have been in Thailand ever since.

A new home with a big purpose

"I think we made the decision to focus on the positive in Thailand and the changes we could make. A lot of foreigners primarily focus on the negative," Karin Andreassen explains.

What started as Karin and Yngvar working with other organizations and homeschooling three year old Michael eventually turned into them creating their own foundation, iCare Thailand, which today is run by a full grown Michael Andreassen.

Michael Andreassen grew up in Thailand. He speaks Thai and has seen poverty and the hardship that Thai people deal with every day from a very young age. When asked how he copes mentally with these difficult things that are a part of his everyday life he sighs:

"Whatever you do, you're always going to find things that you can't change. But there are lots of things that you can change, and that's where you need to place your focus to work like this," he explains. "And we've seen incredible stories of kids who have done amazing things, coming out of very difficult circumstances".

The iCare Thailand Foundation's main focus is to fight poverty and make education more accessible for Thai children. They work all over Thailand. Among other things they build dormitories in the countryside and teach English in the Bangkok slum.

So far they have built 27 dormitories, they have



donated over 700 bicycles to make it easier for children to get to school and they have given 45 university scholarships to children, so they can continue their education. Furthermore they teach English in Bang Sue, Bangkok every week.

Proving that you're serious

The iCare Thailand Foundation is funded primarily by individual sponsors. However it has been a process finding them:

"We weren't backed by Scandinavia, of course friends and family sent a bit, but as we were doing the work that needed to be done, people saw that what we did was real," Michael Andreassen explains.

Walking door to door iCare Thailand found people who believed in their cause. Today these people are spreading word of the work the foundation does.

One of these sponsors is the businessman Subhachit Lewcharlermwongse. Every year he organizes the event "Sing for Charity", where people donate for the iCare Thailand Foundation.

Trust and seeing the change is what, in Michael Andreassen's opinion, makes sponsors support them.

Today iCare Thailand has multiple sponsors both private and corporate. Primarily Thai people who either still live in Thailand or moved away.

Recently the work of iCare Thailand has expanded, and it has therefore been possible to get support from amongst others the government of Germany and the South Korean Government.

"However we like to focus on our work, and not spend too much time advertising ourselves," Michael Andreassen says.



To make a difference without invading

"It is important not to impose on things that already work, but add onto it," Michael Andreassen states.

He specifically talks about the dormitories that iCare Thailand is building in several places in Thailand.

"The school system is already there, and it works. With our dormitories we just make it more accessible for more kids. The schools run them during the day to day life."

Michael underlines the importance of making it possible for people to be active in the change in their life.

"It creates a different kind of hope"

Michael Andreassen has worked to create better opportunities for people his entire life just like his parents. The iCare Foundation has been registered for 12 years, but Karin, Yngwar and Michael Andreassen have been working for this cause since they arrived in 1981.



Danish-Norwegian NGO opens new dormitory in northern Thailand

By Lærke Kobberup

The Danish-Norwegian founded iCare Thailand Foundation has 27 dormitories spread across the Thai countryside. ScandAsia witnessed the opening of one of these dormitories in March.

A minivan filled with people makes its way from Bahn Rak Thai village along the Myanmar border heading towards Huay Pu Keng. The silence inside the car is deafening. Everyone is aware of the cause. We took the same road yesterday and the car sickness was just as present then as it is today. Zigzagging our way through the mountains the van makes its way through the landscape.

In the van sits a delegation from the iCare Thailand Foundation consisting of Michael Andreassen, Project Director; Karin Andreassen, Co-Founder; Subhakich Lewchalermwongse, Sponsor; Rassamee Krisanamis, ex-prof. at Chulalongkorn University and Senior advisor for iCare Thailand, Wanida Chumsen, nicknamed Michelle, Project

Coordinator; Anthony Andreassen, son of Michael Andreassen, and Car who is the iCare Foundations photographer. They are on their way to open a dormitory for school kids in the mountains.

The Chaos of arriving

Finally we arrived. The heat of the Thai jungle is in stark contrast to the coldness of the Air Conditioner in the van. The crew of iCare Thailand Foundation start to carry their gear from the minivan towards the boats waiting by the river. The boats carry us the short distance of only approximately 7 meters to the opposite side of the river to Huay Pu Kaeng Village. This village is mostly known for the tourist attraction "Kayan Long Neck Village". However, the foundation is here with a different purpose.

The Nam Phiang Din School is a short distance from the river where the village has gathered to celebrate the opening of their new dormitory. This dormitory is number 19 of the 27 dormitories that the iCare Foundation has built. The purpose of the dormitories is to make it possible for children living in remote areas hours away to be able to live nearby the school and receive education following the regular Thai curriculum. This will enable them to integrate into the Thai higher education system when they graduate from the local school.

The members of the iCare Thailand Foundation start to organize their boxes which have been sent in advance by the headquarters. They greet the people they know from the school and set up the banner with the sentence "Investing in Tomorrow, Empowering Today".

The entire village has gathered and sits on chairs under a pavilion providing shade. In the front there are leather couches for the iCare delegation. As the members place themselves on the couches the festivities begin. The dusty courtyard in front of the chairs and sofas create a stage. There is a translator present to interpret from the local Kayan dialect to Thai.

Gratitude from multiple angles

The stage is first graced by traditional dancers. The dancers perform traditional dances of the Kayan long neck community. First done by children and then by adults. The songs echo in the crowd as the smaller children quietly sing along to the music. This mumbling of children speaking and babies crying quickly acts as white noise. Constantly in the background.

The Director of the school then takes the microphone. Expressing his gratitude for the work that iCare put into their community. He then invites Michael Andre-

“
The purpose of the dormitories is to make it possible for children living in remote areas to attend school
”

assen, the head of the foundation, to the stage. Michael Andreassen starts speaking. Fixating on the children in the audience.

"You have to think long term. If you finish school then you have the opportunity to provide for your family," he says while looking over the crowd of children in front of him.

He then turns his focus to the importance of the teachers in the village and the work they do for the children. He finishes by acknowledging his gratitude toward the head of the village and the soldiers who also make education possible.



“

A mixture of laughter and happy screams exits the small gym room in the otherwise quiet village.

”



The entire gathering changes location from the courtyard to the new dormitory where a catholic priest is ready to bless the new building.

“In many places this is done by monks,” Karin Andreassen, co-founder of the iCare foundation, explains.” but in this community they are Christians, so we want to respect their way of doing it”.

After the small mass, and the cutting of the ribbon in front of the building the holy water is splashed on the walls of dormitory 19. Officially open. Everyone quickly looks inside, but then hurries back to the courtyard for the next plan on the agenda.

A small something for the children

The opening of the dormitory isn't the only thing on the agenda for the delegation. They often have many things to be done in this area, they explain.

The children sit eagerly on the chairs, while the members of the iCare Delegation distribute small presents for everyone. Each child receives a present with a small book and a teddy bear. They also receive a blanket and some biscuits that Oreo has donated for the cause. Some of the older children also receive school bags.

The kids' excitement is clear, and only becomes clearer when Michelle, Project Coordinator, and Anthony Andreassen after lunch organize games and ice cream for the children.

A mixture of laughter and happy screams exits the small gym room in the otherwise quiet village. The children are running after each other playing while eagerly listening to the instructions Michelle gives through the microphone.

The games are completed by the coolness of co-

conut ice cream. Quickly eaten, but also quickly melting on the kids hands and clothes. Not that the kids register the melting of the ice cream at all. They are busy talking with their friends comparing the sizes of their ice creams.

Longterm plans

The Dormitory in the village Huay Pu Keng is one out of the 27 dorms that iCare Thailand has built in remote areas of Thailand. One of their other main projects is their scholarship program. To date they have given out 45 university scholarships. This year they started a new scholarship program which focuses on a career in hospitality.

The hospitality program is the main theme for the rest of the trip for the iCare delegation. They will travel out to visit schools and see if any of the kids are interested. According to Michael Andreassen the hospitality program has multiple advantages. It is a quick education: 10 months in school and then 2 months at a hotel. It is also located in Chiang Mai so it would be close by for the children from the Mae Hong Son District.

“We have funding for 10 students doing the hospitality program, but so far we already know of at least 15 kids who are interested,” says Michael Andreassen and continues: “ It is amazing that only 700 Baht a year can change a child's life,” referring to the cost of the monthly payment for a student on a secondary scholarship.

A student on a primary scholarship costs 500 Baht per month, and the hospitality program costs 110,000 Baht total per student.

The delegation continues its travels to the different schools. They aim to find and encourage children and hope that the funding can be found somehow.

Thai-Finnish Chamber of Commerce introduces AI education platform



The Thai-Finnish Chamber of Commerce introduced an educational AI-driven platform on 22 March 2024 in Pattaya to Mayor Poramet Ngampichet and key officials. The presentation was led by the Director and Chairwoman of the Educational Committee Outi Soujanen of the Thai-Finnish Chamber of Commerce. She outlined the potential of advanced technology to revolutionize the educational landscape in Pattaya.

The goal of the AI engine is to create an immersive learning environment, create so-called “smart content” and customize learning

plans to the individual students. The platform should be able to bridge language barriers and therefore make education accessible and effective for different learners. The platform specifically focuses on education in STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The Mayor of Pattaya Poramet Ngampichet expressed enthusiasm about the platform and emphasized its potential to elevate the quality of education. Furthermore, he mentioned the importance of the platform being proposed to government department heads for further consideration.

Awards handed out to Vietnamese pupils for Danish painting competition

Danish representatives in Hanoi, Vietnam, presented awards to the local winners of the “Denmark in your eyes” painting contest. 65 prizes were granted to both individuals and groups who had participated in the project.

The “Denmark in your eyes” painting competition is an annual event with the purpose to inspire children and students to have focus on a greener and more sustainable future.

The prizes were handed out at a reception hosted on 2 April 2025. The Competition is themed “Green Future,” and was co-organised by the Danish Embassy in Vietnam and the Vietnam - Denmark Friendship Association (VIDAFA).



Chu Ha Giang, a sixth-grader from Nguyen Gia Thieu Secondary School in Hanoi, and her special-prize-winning work. (Photo: VNA)

This year it received more than 21,500 entries from 256 schools and clubs across 42 provinces and cities nationwide.

Finnish lift firm wants to expand in China



The Finnish lift and escalator company KONE Corporation wants to expand its business in China. Over the next few years the company wants to hire thousands of employees. Accord-

ing to a senior executive at KONE Corp., the company sees opportunities and a future in China, due to the country's commitment to digital manufacturing and transitioning to carbon neutrality.

The managing director of KONE Greater China, Joe Bao, China remains a strategic focus for the company and its success is tied together with China's success. Joe Bao is confident that China's long-term development will keep growing in a positive direction. He said the economic fluctuations observed at the moment are responses to short-term challenges that aim to push China to positive economic development in the long run.

The Chinese mainland is the firm's largest individual market and made up 26 percent of global sales in 2023. Furthermore, KONE Corp's largest manufacturing base is located in the Jiangsu province in China, as well as its largest overseas research and development center.

Vietnamese music to be played at Faroe Islands festival

The Vietnamese music piece Tieng Rung or "The Sound of the Jungle" in English will be performed in Faroe Islands, Denmark at the International Society for Contemporary Music's (ISCM) World New Music Days festival 2024. The festival lasts nine days from 21-30 June and Tieng Rung will be performed on 26 June at the church Funningur Kirkja.

The Vietnamese contribution was composed by Do Hong Quan in 2014 for three flautists and has been performed by Monash Academy Orchestra in Australia in 2018. The piece uses polymelodics to mimic the sounds of nature and the jungle. According to Do Hong Quan, the listener will feel the sentiment and love for the jungle. The piece will be



played by a concert flute, alto flute and a bass flute.

Furthermore, Faroese and Nordic ensembles will play at the festival, including informal ensembles, collaborations and soloists. The music festival features new and innovative pieces from 55 ISCM member

countries. Concert venues include concert halls, theatres, jazz bars and even open air ravines and grottos. 64 different composers will display their work and each work meets the criteria of being shorter than ten minutes long and being composed after 2014.

Danish Artist hosts exhibition to send China a signal

The Danish artist Jens Galschiøt is hosting an exhibition in Brussel which includes a model of his famous sculpture “Pillar of Shame”. The exhibition is meant to show China that they can’t censor him.

“Pillar of Shame” is a sculpture of screaming faces and distorted bodies which is supposed to represent the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. This subject is a very sensitive subject in China and the Chinese authorities have not to this day released an official death toll.

A model of the sculpture was placed at Hong Kong University and was controversially removed in 2021. The artist Jens Galschiøt has tried to get the sculpture back ever since without luck.



This exhibition in Brussels is named “forbidden art” and was revealed on 19 March 2024.

Jens Galschiøt underlines that it is very intentional that the exhibition is placed outside the European

Union’s main legislative building. He wrote on his website that the placement should be viewed as a strong signal to China about how their censorship does not apply in Europe.

Swedish Artist will perform in Manila



The Swedish artist named Snoh Aalegra has been announced as a performer for a concert happening in Manila this May 30 at the Filinvest Tent, Alabang.

Snoh Aalegra is an Iranian Swedish born musician currently based in Los Angeles. She will perform at a concert in Manila hosted by the music concept called Karpos Live.

The artist’s music has been described as golden toned and jazz infused. She has both been nominated and won several Grammy’s.

The ticket sale began on 1 April 2024.

Finland is the happiest country, Singapore is the happiest in Asia



Finland has once again won the title as the happiest country in the world and Singapore has once again won the title as the happiest country in Asia. This was concluded in the annual world happiness report by the United Nations, which was published on 20 March 2024.

Icy Finland has won the title for the seventh year in a row and Singapore is also not a first-time winner, as it also won the title in 2021 and 2022. Globally, Singapore ranked as the 30th happiest country

or territory.

The report was introduced in 2012 and was a part of the UN's sustainable goals. Since then the report is published yearly and it uses data from the US market research company Gallup and organizations such as the World Bank and the World Health Organisation (WHO). 143 countries and territories are ranked in the report.

Individuals are asked to evaluate their own perceptions in polls, where they were asked to rank their happiness on a scale from one to

eight. Then six key factors are used to explain variations of the life evaluation in order to analyze external factors. The six factors are: the country's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom, generosity and perception of corruption.

The Scandinavian countries generally score high in the report. This year Denmark got in second place, Sweden in fourth place and Norway in seventh place.

The report is criticized by some for not taking cultural variations in how happiness is experienced in different countries into consideration. For example the media outlet Al Jazeera criticizes that the GDP per capita does not measure income inequality and that certain parts of the populations are not included in the poll. This includes citizens in prison or residents of areas, where the safety of the interviewing staff is threatened.

Many jobs in Vietnamese wind project

During a conference between Denmark and Vietnam it was stated that it would be relatively easy for workers in the oil and gas industry to transfer to the off-shore wind industry.

The Danish company Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and the School of Electrical Engineering under Hanoi University of Science and Technology held a workshop recently discussing the different career opportunities in off-shore wind industry. During this workshop several experts concluded that the off-shore wind industry would create many jobs.

Especially when it comes to en-

gineering, safety and working practices experts point to the fact that workers can easily transfer from for instance the oil and gas industry.

This is mentioned in particular due to the Power Development

Plan VIII (PDP8), which has been approved, and is supposed to help Vietnam increase their off-shore wind from the current zero to 6GW by 2030.



Scandinavian and Southeast Asian countries won medals at brewing competition

Several medals were awarded to winners from Cambodia, China, Finland, Norway, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, UK and Czech Republic at the International Brewing & Cider Awards. A panel of 38 international judges deliberated their decision for three days before awarding the winners. The distribution of awards was led by Chair of Beer judging, Rob McCaig and Chair of Cider Judging, Gabe Cook.

The 30 gold beer medal winners included Tsingtao Brewery from China and Chang from Thailand. Furthermore, Japan's Isekado Brewery, Kirin Holdings Co. and Spring Valley Brewery won six gold medals total. Finland's Lepola Drinks and Norway's OmCider AS and Aide A/S won three gold medals in the cider competition.



All winners of either gold, silver or bronze medals will receive their medals at the Official Awards Ceremony on 1 May 2024 at The Guildhall in London. Furthermore, 12 trophy winners will be announced.

The brewing industry Oscars

date back to 1886 and were hosted in Manchester this year at the Depot Mayfield. The awards took place over three days from 19-21 March 2024 and as a new initiative this year, the awards were accompanied by a public festival.

Norwegian Wallenius Wilhelmsen adds four more options for China



The Norwegian car carrier operator Wallenius Wilhelmsen added four more optional vessels to its series of methanol dual-fuel and ammonia-ready new-buildings in China. The vessels will run on methanol until ammonia fuel is available in a safe and secure way. The vessels are expected to start being delivered in mid 2026.

Wallenius Wilhelmsen has secured options for four more 9,300 CEU vessels at the China Merchants Jinling Shipyard. These would add to the four carriers that are in planning and the four that have already been built.



Jane Sørensen's father now found

Villy Christian Sørensen, the father of the Danish-Thai woman Jane Sørensen previously interviewed by ScandAsia, has now been positively identified with the help of the Danish Maritime Authority (Søfartsstyrelsen) and the Danish Maritime Museum

By Gregers Møller

The 60 year old Thai-Danish Jane Sorensen is a living reminder of the many Danish sailors that came to Thailand during the years from after the Second World War and up until the Laem Chabang Port opened in Chonburi in the early 1990's.

Previous stories about Jane's life are published here: My name is Jane Sorensen (<https://scandasia.com/my-name-is-jane-sorensen/>) and Further to the life of Jane Sorensen (<https://scandasia.com/further-to-the-life-of-jane-sorensen/>).

Villy Christian Soerensen was born on 13 November 1918 in Herstedvester, Denmark. This is also confirmed by the church record of his baptism. Later, when Denmark introduced citizen ID numbers, he received ID number 131118-xxxx – the last four digits are known to ScandAsia.

After several years of sailing around the world, Villy Christian Soerensen boarded in 1964 for the first time the EAC owned cargo ship M/S BASRA and arrived in



Villy Sorensen ashore possibly in Singapore as there are Tiger Beer and Chinese characters on the table.



Villy Sorensen in a typical moment after too many Carlsberg's.

Bangkok a few months later. On the pier in the Danish designed Klong Toey harbour, he met Jane's mother. Four month later, he came back again and met Jane's mother again. Jane Soerensen was born 20 December 1965.

Villy's last visit to Bangkok as a sailor on M/S BASRA was in the summer of 1973. Jane remembers her age as 10 years old when she last saw her father, but in fact she must have been only 8 years old.

Villy Christian Soerensen's record as a Danish sailor has been found by the Danish Maritime Authority on the request of curator Mette Iversen from the Danish Maritime Museum in Helsingoer, Denmark. The museum intends to include the story of Jane in a documentary exhibition showcasing the global influence of Danish sailors and the impressions they made in the various locations they went ashore.

Villy's last known address in Denmark was Baadsmandsstraede 15, 1.th, 1407 Kbh K. He lived here in 1981 and we know that in 1987 he participated in the 100Year Anniversary of the Danish Seafarers' Union.

What remains to be researched is the key point of interest from the point of view of Jane Sorensen – whether she has any siblings in Denmark who will recognize her and maybe support her a little bit financially.

Mette Iversen did not stop here, but contacted some of the crew members who over the years would have been sailing with Villy on M/S Basra. One of them responded back with the below photos of Villy – mostly from moments off work either on board or on shore. The woman seen in some of them is not Jane's mother. The beer on the table is Tiger Beer and on the paper on the table there are Chinese characters. A good guess would be ashore in Singapore harbour.

Jane Sorensen was overwhelmed with joy when she on 3 April 2024 saw a handful of photos of her father that she had missed for fifty years. Most of the photos were taken at parties on board or ashore. The one she picked to show was a typical situation, she said. She quoted him with a big smile saying "Hold kaeft hvor er jeg fuld!" in a broad Copenhagen dialect.



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