

OCT 2026

ScandAsia

BUSINESS:

Carlsberg, H&M and Ericsson joins Vietnam green industries summit

INTERNATIONAL:

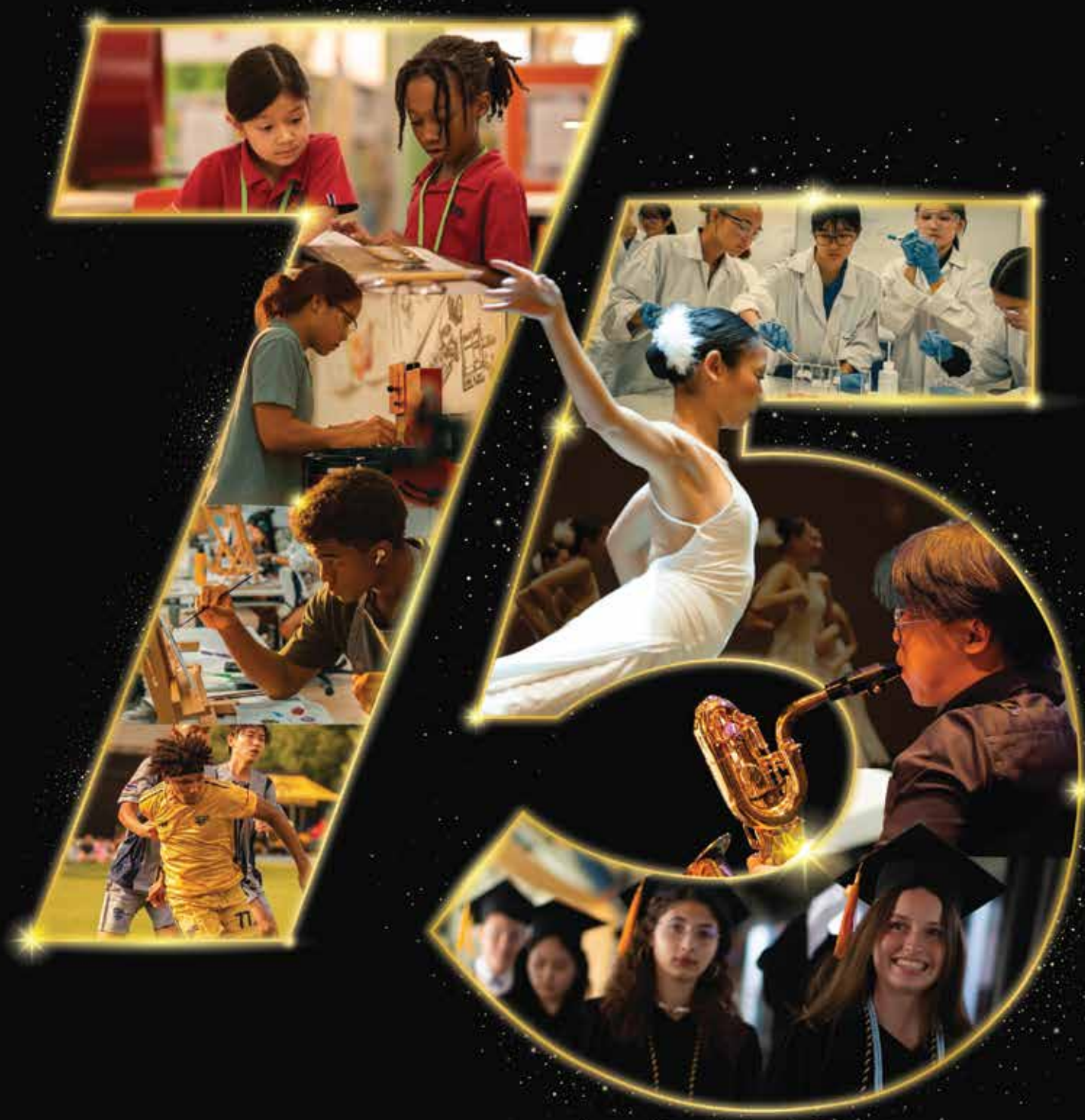
Philippines welcomes new Norwegian ambassador

COMMUNITY:

Swedish filmmaker presents Vietnam War documentary in Hanoi

Theme:
Preschool and Kindergarten

75 YEARS OF LEARNING THAT LASTS



*At ISB, we challenge students to think deeply, connect meaningfully,
choose their path and live fully.*



ISB International School Bangkok

39/7 Soi Nichada Thani, Samakee Rd., Pakkret, Nonthaburi 11120

Telephone 0 2963 5800 | admissions@isb.ac.th

isb.ac.th



BEYOND HEART CARE

When Your **HEARTBEAT** Tells You Something

Cardiac Arrhythmia, from early detection and precise diagnosis to personalised treatment and long-term follow-up.



1 Recognise

Abnormal symptoms

- Palpitations (heart racing or pounding)
- Syncope (fainting)
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness or fatigue

2 Investigate

Basic Investigation

- 12-lead ECG

Additional Tests (if indicated)

- Echocardiogram (heart ultrasound)
- Holter monitoring
- Other tests as clinically appropriate

3 Diagnose

Cardiac arrhythmias can be classified into two major groups:

- Tachyarrhythmia (Heart beats too fast or irregularly)
- Extra Heartbeat
- Bradyarrhythmia (Heart beats too slowly)

5 Treatment

Treatment depends on the type and severity of arrhythmia

- Observation Only
- Medication
- Catheter Ablation
- Pacemaker Implantation

4 Follow-up

Regular follow-up is important to:

- Monitor symptoms
- Adjust medication
- Check device function (if pacemaker implanted)
- Prevent complications

Goal of Care

"To control symptoms, reduce risks, and improve quality of life."

For more
information,
please scan



Chat Now!
Via LINE or
WhatsApp



Contents

ScandAsia

October 2026



**Theme: Preschool
and Kindergarten**



After Sporløs



**Erlend Johannesen's
Streetlight**



**Sitting and reflecting
over the summer
that has been**

ScandAsia stories

- 9 Midsummer plans manufacturing hub in Indonesia
- 11 Thailand restores 30-day visa-free limit for Nordic travellers
- 48 Carlsberg, H&M and Ericsson joins Vietnam green industries summit
- 51 Norway investigates Telenor over Myanmar operations





Where Curiosity Grows **INTO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP** IN THE HEART OF **BANGKOK**

From their earliest years, children at NIST are encouraged to explore, ask questions, make choices and discover the joy of learning through purposeful play and inquiry.

Within our diverse international community, children build strong foundations for learning while developing the curiosity, confidence and openness to others that will support them throughout school and beyond.



+66 (0)2 017 5888
✉ admissions@nist.ac.th
www.nist.ac.th

Thailand's first not-for-profit,
full International Baccalaureate (IB) World School,
offering the PYP, MYP, and DP for children aged 3-18.

Follow us: @nistschool



Almost Thai, Almost Not

Even though I have been coming to Thailand many times throughout my life, my encounters with Thai bureaucracy have been rather sparse. But at my age, it can no longer be avoided.

Last week, I was put through a rather confusing trial of confirming my own identity to the Thai authorities – an endeavour I thought would be a walk in the park, but which instead proved to be a real challenge.

As half Thai and half Danish, I have only recently acquired a Thai passport. It was one of the practical steps towards doing my internship with ScandAsia in Bangkok, but also part of a long-standing desire to feel more connected to my Thai identity. The next step was to acquire my Thai ID card, a document of great importance for everyday identification and registration in Thailand.

I was told the process would take no more than 30 minutes.

The only catch was that it had to be done in my mother's hometown, a rather provincial town a couple of hours north of Bangkok. We drove there the night before and showed up first thing in the morning at 8.30. A group of locals had already taken their seats in the waiting room, while an older, retired-looking administrative officer with one arm had taken on the responsibility of serving everyone in the room personally.

After about 30 minutes, it was our turn.

My mother's Thai ID had expired, so we had to take care of her process first. After a quick photo session and some formal paperwork, it was done.

I had high hopes. I thought: "This is even faster than Denmark!"

Oh, how wrong I was.

What followed was a four-hour back-and-forth session involving seven different people, all explaining that it was not possible to issue my Thai ID that day because we did not have the right paperwork.

Then we were told we had to come back in two weeks – by which time my mother would no longer be in Thailand. Then we were told that my mother had to come back in a week to be interviewed about whether or not she was actually my mother.

A week later, I would have to come back and be interviewed as well – about whether or not I was her daughter.

This was despite the fact that I had a Thai birth certificate and a Thai passport. We also had to bring a witness from the family.

All in all, it was a lot.

I still do not really know where to go from here. But I suppose all this bureaucracy must be good for something.

I just don't know what.

Maybe, by the time my internship is over, I will finally be Thai.



Mille Tanya
Kanthanulit Andersen

ScandAsia

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

Who should subscribe:

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

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

Become a ScandAsia user/
get free digital ScandAsia magazine or paid subscription via www.scandasia.com!

Publisher :
Scandinavian Publishing Co., Ltd.
211 Prasert Manukitch 29
Prasert Manukitch Road
Bangkok 10230, Thailand
Tel. +66 2 943 7166-8
E-mail: news@scandasia.com

Editor-in-Chief :
Gregers A.W. Møller
gregers@scandasia.com

Managing Editor
Napat Rodnoi
napat@scandmedia.com

Advertising :
Finn Balslev
finn@scandmedia.com
MB: +66 81 866 2577

Graphic Designer :
Peerapol Meesuan

Production Manager:
Tanjat Taweekjanukul
tanjan@scandmedia.com



**SHREWSBURY
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**

BANGKOK • RIVERSIDE



Playgroup

A Chance for Our Youngest Learners to Shine!

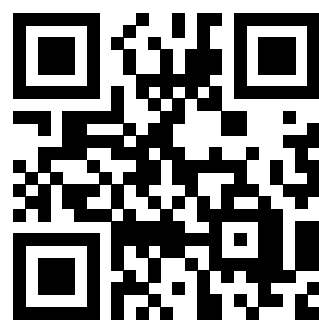
Nurturing curiosity, creativity
and a love of learning in our bespoke
Early Years environment.

**Open Every
Monday-Friday
9-11AM**

www.shrewsbury.ac.th 🔍

**AGES
1-4**

BOOK YOUR SPOT



**Now accepting applications from Early Years 1 to Year 12
for August 2027 enrolment. Limited places available.**

More information please call 02 675 1888 or email admissions@shrewsbury.ac.th

Philippines welcomes new Norwegian ambassador as Marcos seeks closer ties

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has expressed hopes for stronger relations between the Philippines and Norway following the arrival of Norway's new ambassador, Kristian Netland.

Marcos received Netland's credentials during a ceremony at Malacañang Palace on September 8, alongside the credentials of South Korea's new ambassador, Lee Dong-gy.

The Philippine president said he looked forward to working with the two new envoys to further strengthen Manila's relations with their respective countries.



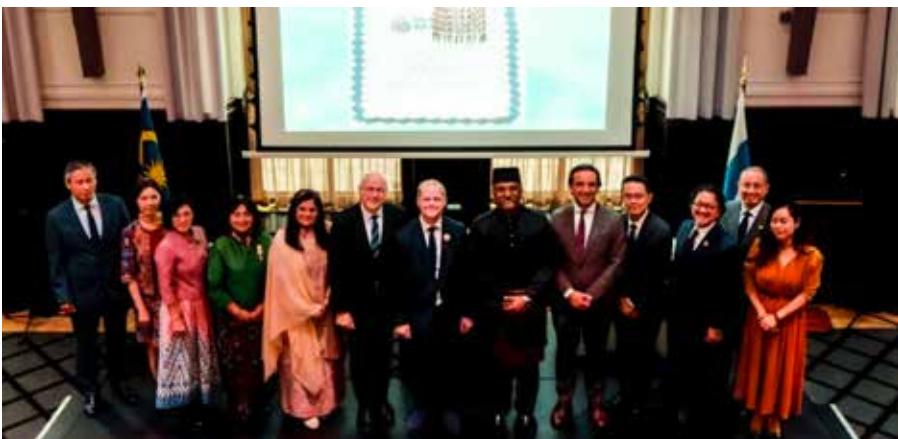
For Norway, the appointment comes as the Philippines continues to develop closer economic and

diplomatic ties with Nordic countries and other partners in Europe.

The meeting also highlights Norway's diplomatic engagement in Southeast Asia, where cooperation with the Philippines includes areas such as trade, maritime affairs, energy and sustainability.

For ScandAsia readers, Netland's arrival marks the beginning of a new chapter in Norway–Philippines relations and will be worth following for developments in bilateral trade, business and cooperation.

Finland and Malaysia deepen technology and green cooperation



Finland and Malaysia explored closer cooperation in digitalisation, artificial intelligence, renewable energy and the circular

economy at a recent event in Malaysia.

Finnish representatives encouraged greater collaboration between

Finnish companies and Malaysian partners, with advanced manufacturing, education, research and innovation also identified as areas for potential cooperation.

Malaysia is positioning itself as a gateway to the wider ASEAN market, offering Finnish companies opportunities to expand their presence in Southeast Asia. The cooperation also gives Finland access to Malaysia's established manufacturing and business sector.

The two countries identified green transition and digital transformation as areas where Finnish expertise could complement Malaysia's economic development priorities.

Swedish solar company Midsummer plans manufacturing hub in Indonesia

Swedish solar company Midsummer has signed an agreement with Indonesian technology company PT Metalogika Rekayasa Sistem to develop a solar cell manufacturing facility in Indonesia.

The planned factory will initially produce up to 20 MW of thin-film solar cells per year. The partners aim to eventually increase production to 200 MW per year.

Midsummer will provide the equipment and technology for the factory and will take a minority stake in the new Indonesian joint venture.

The solar cells will initially be made for the Indonesian market. In the longer term, the companies also hope to supply customers in other Southeast Asian markets.

Midsummer said the project could make Indonesia an important



part of its international manufacturing network.

The project is not yet a completed factory. The companies still need to establish the joint venture, secure Indonesian approvals and incentives, arrange financing and finalise agreements on the equipment and technology.

Midsummer, which is based in Sweden, develops thin-film solar technology and equipment for manufacturing solar cells. Its technology produces lightweight and flexible solar cells that can be used in applications where traditional solar panels may be less suitable.

Denmark promotes business and IP cooperation at CIFTIS in Beijing



Denmark highlighted opportunities for Danish businesses in China and the importance of intellectual property protection at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing.

Danish Ambassador Michael Starbæk Christensen attended the opening of CIFTIS 2026, joining political, municipal and business leaders to discuss the development of global services and economic cooperation.

The ambassador also visited the "Smart Denmark" pavilion, where Danish companies presented solutions in areas including green transition, digital services and advanced technology. He met with representatives from the Danish Chamber of Commerce in China (DCCC) and Danish companies including TEGnology ApS, Stibo Systems and Scan Global Logistics to discuss market opportunities and

industry trends.

Later, Starbæk Christensen delivered a keynote address at an intellectual property event, highlighting the embassy's work to support IP protection for Danish companies operating in China.

He stressed that strong cross-border IP protection is important for safeguarding innovation, attracting high-quality investment and supporting business growth.

Representatives from Novonisis, Danfoss and Lundbeck, which are among the companies involved in the Danish IP Alliance, also participated in the event.

Finland announces over 20 agreements at major China investment fair



Finland announced more than 20 trade and investment framework agreements at the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT).

According to the Embassy of Finland in Beijing, the agreements have an estimated combined value of several billion euros. The embassy

has not yet published details about the individual agreements, their values or all participating companies.

Finland opened its first national pavilion at the fair in Xiamen on September 8. The country took part as an official Guest Country of Honour alongside Saudi Arabia.

Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs Sakari Puisto led a delegation of more than 40 companies during the visit.

The delegation represented industries including energy, healthcare, digital technology, advanced manufacturing and the circular economy.

Major participants at the Finnish pavilion included KONE, Nokia, Metso and Finnish Minerals Group. Other companies involved includ-

ed Metsä, Peikko, UPM, Valmet and DCA Instruments.

Puisto said Finnish companies had already invested around EUR 12 billion in China. He described Finnish industrial expertise and the scale of the Chinese market as a strong combination for future cooperation.

The fair included separate Finland-China meetings on green transition, health and wellbeing, smart manufacturing and industrial digitalisation.

The agreements were among the major outcomes of the visit.

CIFIT took place from September 8 to 11 and brought together more than 1,200 government bodies and business delegations from 129 countries and regions.

Eight Danish healthtech companies showcase solutions in Singapore

Eight Danish healthtech companies presented their products at Medical Fair Asia in Singapore, which took place at Marina Bay Sands from September 9–11.

The companies joined the Pavilion of Denmark, where they met potential customers, distributors and business partners from across Southeast Asia.

The delegation included Airofit, Axelgaard Manufacturing, Levabo and Life Science Robotics. Motility-Count, OSAA Innovation, IV-Go and SP Medical also took part.

Their products covered medical equipment, rehabilitation and patient care.

Life Science Robotics presented its rehabilitation robot ROBERT at the fair. The robot helps therapists perform repeated movement exer-



cises with patients.

The Aalborg-based company also presented ROBERT at a health conference in Langkawi, Malaysia, hosted by Malaysia's Ministry of Health from September 7–10.

Medical Fair Asia covers hospital equipment, diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and rehabilitation. Danish Industry highlighted the event as an

opportunity for Danish companies to find partners across Southeast Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand.

The Danish Export Association organised the Pavilion of Denmark, with support from the Trade Council under Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thailand restores 30-day visa-free limit for Nordic travellers

Thailand's new 30-day visa-free limit took effect on September 15, 2026, reducing the permitted stay from the previous 60 days.

The revised scheme applies to holders of ordinary passports travelling for tourism. Citizens of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland remain eligible for visa-free entry, but travellers entering Thailand from September 15 generally receive permission to stay for up to 30 days.

Travellers who entered Thailand before the change took effect are not affected retroactively. They may remain until the final date stated on the immigration stamp in their passport, according to Thai-



land's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ministry confirmed that the revised regulations were published in the Royal Gazette on August 31. The changes revoked the former 60-day exemption and established a 30-day visa-free scheme covering 60 countries and territories.

The revision also introduced a separate 15-day exemption for two countries and reduced the number of nationalities eligible for Visa on Arrival. Thai authorities said the changes were based on factors including national security, economic interests, reciprocity and the availability of the country's electronic visa system.

The visa-exemption schemes apply only to tourism. Travellers planning to work, study, undertake training or visit Thailand for another purpose must use the appropriate visa category.

The change restores Thailand's standard visa-free stay to 30 days after the country introduced a 60-day allowance in 2024.

Your Scandinavian Hotel and Restaurant in Bangkok



**Stable Lodge
Hotel**

39 Sukhumvit Road, Soi 8, Bangkok, Thailand.

Tel: +66 (0) 2653 0017 Fax: +66 (0) 2253 5125

Email: hotel@stablelodge.com www.stablelodge.com



Before You Enrol: **What parents should know about preschool and kindergarten**

Choosing a preschool or kindergarten is about more than finding a school with a good reputation. The curriculum, teachers, daily routines, language, safety and costs can all shape your child's everyday experience.

With so many programmes and educational approaches available, knowing what to ask can make the decision easier. Here are some key things to consider before you enrol.

Start with the basics

Before getting into educational philosophies, establish what each school actually offers.

What are the opening hours? Is the programme full-day or part-time? What ages does it accept, and when does the school year begin?

For younger children, ask about nap and rest arrangements, toilet training and what happens when a child is unwell. It is also worth checking whether the school is licensed or registered with the relevant local authority.

Don't choose a curriculum from its name

"Montessori", "Reggio Emilia", "play-based", "international" and "bilingual" are useful starting points, but they do not tell you exactly what happens in the classroom.

Ask the school to describe a typical day. How much time do children spend playing independently? How much is teacher-led? How often do they go outdoors? How are early reading, writing and numeracy introduced?

A good early-years programme is not simply about academic preparation. Current approaches place greater emphasis on children's overall development, including social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

One simple question can reveal a lot:

"What does learning look like here?"

Then ask for examples.

Look closely at the staff

The adults working with your child are likely to have a greater impact on their everyday experience than the building or equipment.

Ask about teachers' qualifications, experience and training. Find out how long the teachers in your child's prospective class have been at the school and whether assistants are permanent members of the team.

Staff turnover is worth asking about, too. Frequent changes can make it harder for young children to build familiar relationships and routines.



The staff-to-child ratio is another important measure, but don't simply accept the number advertised. Ask exactly who is counted in the ratio, how many adults are actually present in your child's classroom and what happens when someone is absent.

Safety and discipline

"Safe and secure" is easy to write on a website. Parents should ask what it means.

How are children handed over at drop-off and pick-up? Who is authorised to collect them? How are visitors controlled? What happens during an emergency?

Ask about first aid, medical emergencies and allergies. If children use swimming pools, playground equipment or go on excursions, ask how these activities are supervised.

Child protection should also be part of the conversation. Ask whether the school has a safeguarding policy, how staff are trained and how concerns are reported and handled.

Discipline is equally important. What happens when a child refuses to participate, repeatedly disrupts the class, hits another child or becomes very upset? How are parents informed?

Ask how teachers help children understand and regulate their behaviour, rather than simply how they punish bad behaviour. It is also worth asking what support is available if a child has developmental, behavioural or learning needs.



“

The best preschool is not necessarily the most expensive, the most international or the one with the longest list of facilities.

”



Check the language in practice

For international families, language may be a major consideration.

A school may advertise an English-medium or bilingual programme, but ask how much exposure children actually receive to each language.

Which languages do teachers use? Are assistants also able to communicate in those languages? How are children supported when they are new to the language? How does the school communicate with parents?

Think about the language your child uses at home as well. Maintaining a home language can be particularly important for internationally mobile families. Nordic parents may want to continue using Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish or Icelandic at home while their child develops another language at school.

Look at the whole day

A school's timetable can reveal more than its brochure.

Ask to see an ordinary daily schedule. How much time is spent outdoors? When do children eat, rest and play? Are there long periods of sitting or teacher-led instruction? How much screen time is included?

Play is an important way for young children to develop language, problem-solving, movement and social skills. The school's stated philosophy should be visible in how the day is actually organised.

Calculate the real price

Tuition is only part of the cost.

Ask for a complete fee schedule and check whether it includes registration or application fees, deposits, meals, uniforms, transport, after-school care, activities, field trips and holiday programmes.

Ask what happens if your family leaves during the school year. Is notice required? Is the deposit refundable? Are there additional charges that only apply after enrolment?

Compare schools using the **total annual cost**, rather than the advertised monthly price.

Be honest: If you cannot really afford the ideal choice, there are always more affordable options.

Before you decide

Once you have narrowed down your choices, visit the schools and compare what you have been told with what you actually see.

Pay attention to the classroom environment, but focus particularly on the adults and children. Are teachers engaged with the children? Do children have opportunities to play and make choices? Does the daily routine appear consistent with the school's stated approach?

Bring your child if possible. Their reaction can provide useful information, although it should not be the only factor in your decision.

It can also help to speak to other parents. Instead of simply asking whether they like the school, ask about specific issues such as staff turnover, communication, unexpected costs and how the school handles sickness or difficult situations.

Finally, put everything together: **staffing, daily routine, language, safety, discipline, support and total cost**. A school does not need the most impressive facilities or the longest list of programmes. What matters is whether what it promises matches what it actually provides – and whether that meets your child's needs at this stage.

kis International School Bangkok • Reignwood Park

Nearly 30 years of IB expertise. Two campuses.
One philosophy that moves with the world.



THINK IB. THINK **kis**

📍 Bangkok Huai Khwang ✉ bk_concierge@kis.ac.th ☎ 02-274-3444

📍 Reignwood Park Lam Luk Ka ✉ rp_concierge@kis.ac.th ☎ 02-939-9999

NEW
LEARNING SPACES.
COME AND SEE IT



www.kis.ac.th



Growing at Their Own Pace: Building Strong Foundations in the Early Years

There is a natural temptation when thinking about education to look ahead. Is my child ready for the next year? When will they begin reading? Should they already be writing? What should they know by the age of five?

At NIST International School,

we believe preparing young children for what comes next does not mean asking them to get there faster.

Building Foundations Through Play

Some of the most important foundations for future learning are

being built long before they appear on a report card.

When a child spends time building structures, mathematical thinking, problem-solving and persistence are at work. When children invent a game together, they are using language, imagination, negotiation and empathy. When a question about something discovered outdoors becomes an investigation, curiosity becomes inquiry. Play is the work of children; the adult role is to provide sufficient time and support for deep learning to take place.

Learning Through Exploration

In NIST's Early Years, play is not separate from learning. Play is the brain's optimal way of learning. It gives children opportunities to explore ideas through building, creating and in-



vestigating; to test possibilities with different materials; to communicate their thinking with friends and teachers; and to make sense of the world around them.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, NIST takes an inquiry-led and play-based approach from the earliest years, encouraging children to ask questions, follow their interests and actively engage in their learning.

A child experimenting with water might begin to wonder why some objects float while others sink. Building a tower that repeatedly falls can lead to new ideas about balance, shape and structure. A disagreement during a shared game becomes an opportunity to listen, negotiate and find a way forward.

Moments like these are rich with learning. Children are questioning, communicating, problem-solving, creating and adapting as they explore the world around them. Through these everyday experiences, children begin to build the skills and confidence to take their learning further.

Growing Is More Than Academics

A strong start in the Early Years is about more than academics. It's about nurturing the whole child. Childhood should be filled with wonder, where learning feels natural, personal and supported.

Every day, children are learning how to communicate their needs, navigate friendships, make choices and become increasingly independent. Teachers guide and encourage them while giving children the space to develop confidence in what they can do for themselves.

Within NIST's international community, children also grow up surrounded by different languages, cultures and perspectives. They learn to listen to and understand experiences that may differ from their own, while knowing that their own home languages, cultures and identities are equally valued.

Above all, children develop a strong sense of belonging. When they feel known, valued and confident in who they are, they have the security to ask questions, explore new ideas and take on fresh challenges.



Taking the Long View

One of the greatest joys at NIST is seeing how the foundations built in the Early Years continue to develop as children grow.

The questions become more complex. The choices become bigger. Students take increasing responsibility for their learning and, over time, begin making decisions about the paths they want to pursue beyond school. Yet many of the qualities that support them remain remarkably familiar.

The child encouraged to ask "why?" is developing the foundations of inquiry. The child trusted to make choices is beginning to exercise agency. The child who tries another approach when something does not work is developing persistence. And the child learning alongside different languages, cultures and perspectives is beginning to understand their place in a wider world.

In our Early Years, children have the time to be curious, the space to play, the confidence to try and the security of knowing they belong. As their journey continues, the learning will become more challenging and their independence will grow, but these early foundations remain.

Preparing children for what comes next is not about rushing them towards it. It is about giving them the strong foundations they need to grow, learn and thrive.





Beginning with Belonging



Starting school is a big step for young children and their families. At three and four years old, the world can feel wonderfully big, and children are beginning to find their place within it. At Bangkok Patana School, the starting point is simple: Belonging.

“We know that children thrive when they feel safe, valued and connected,” says Carol Ashworth, Foundation Stage Leader at Bangkok Patana School, “Our priority is to create an environment where every

child feels that they belong, because that sense of belonging gives them the confidence to explore, learn and build relationships with others.”

We want every child to feel known, valued and confident that they have a place in our community. This begins with the small things: learning and using children’s names, listening carefully to what they have to say, noticing their interests and celebrating what makes each child unique.

Strong, consistent relationships are at the heart of this. Warm welcomes, familiar routines and clear expectations help children to feel safe and secure, while high-quality teaching and thoughtful interactions give them the confidence to explore, communicate and learn. We recognise that children arrive with different experiences, personalities and languages, and we take time to understand each child as an individual. By doing so, we help them develop a sense of trust and con-

nection that supports both their wellbeing and their learning.

The Soft Start approach means that each morning, families are welcomed into the learning environment, creating a gentle transition between home and school. Children have time to explore, play and reconnect with familiar adults, while parents have opportunities to share in their child’s learning and build relationships with teachers and other families. These everyday interactions help children feel secure and confident, reinforcing the message that school is a place where they are known, supported and cared for.

Belonging also means feeling part of something larger than oneself. Through shared experiences, collaborative play and daily opportunities to work and learn alongside others, children begin to see themselves as valuable members of a community. They learn that their ideas matter, that their voices can be heard and that they can contribute



positively to the world around them.

Belonging extends beyond the classroom too. Partnerships with families are essential. We value the knowledge that parents and carers bring about their children and create opportunities to share experiences, interests and important moments from home. Our 'Soft Start' and Seesaw provide meaningful ways to build these connections and help us develop a fuller picture of each child.

Seesaw is our online learning journal and communication plat-

form for our youngest children. Through Seesaw we share children's moments of discovery, creativity and achievement with families, offering a window into each child's experiences at school. Parents can contribute their own observations and celebrations from home, helping us build a richer understanding of each child. By creating this ongoing dialogue between home and school, children see that the important people in their lives are working together to support them, strengthening their

sense of connection and belonging.

When children feel that they are known, understood and valued, they are more ready to participate, take risks, build relationships and become independent learners.

When children are starting school in their early years, we believe that belonging comes first. It is the foundation from which curiosity, confidence, kindness and learning can grow and thrive.

For more information, contact admissions@patana.ac.th.



Little People, Big Feelings: Building Emotional Literacy and Connection in the Early Years

During a child's early years, we can often focus on the more obvious aspects of caring for them. While meeting their basic needs can sometimes feel overwhelming, we can overlook opportunities to nurture their emotional wellbeing- which is also crucial.

Bangkok Prep's Primary School Counsellor and author of *Become The Parent You Needed*, Laura (LJ) Jones, highlights that emotional development begins from the beginning of a child's life. The early years are a particularly important period for emotional and social development. Jones describes this developmental stage as their 'blueprint years', as children build the foun-

dations of their understanding of themselves, their emotions, and relationships with others. The relational experiences they have with caregivers helps shape their understanding of safety, connection, resilience, and emotional expression as they grow.

At this stage, children are still learning to understand their feelings and cannot always verbalise what is happening internally, therefore emotions are often communicated through behaviour. When the adults around a child respond with consistency, warmth, and curiosity, we create the safety children need to develop emotional resilience and the literacy to offload their feelings.

Resilience does not mean expecting children to cope indepen-

dently. Rather, it develops through having a trusted adult alongside them during challenges. Before children can learn to regulate their emotions independently, they first need to experience co-regulation- being supported by a calm and responsive adult.

We can help children develop an understanding of their inner world by naming emotions and validating their experiences: "You seem disappointed that playtime has finished." When home and school use similar approaches, children receive a consistent message: *I am safe, my feelings are valid, and I don't have to cope alone*. We are helping them know that big feelings are manageable.



BANGKOK PREP

Bangkok International Preparatory & Secondary School
Est. 2003

PREP's PUPs



SPECIAL OFFER

Annual Membership Programme

Learn more about the
[special benefits](#)
reserved just for you!

*Conditions Apply

We are back!

Teacher Led Playgroup



(500 THB/session)

2 sessions every Saturday!

Walkers - 3 years old & 3-5 years old

8:30 - 10:00 Am

10:30 - 12:00 Noon

**Come and explore our natural learning environment
with music, movement and sensory play.**



The power of questions

From a toddler's first wondering to a Year 6 wiring a sensor, it is one path.

At ELC, we believe every child is born a researcher; curious and capable, long before they can say what they're curious about. Already, they are asking, in a hundred different ways.

At The **Purple Elephant**, this is where it begins: a question rarely arrives in words. A tower falls and a two-year-old builds it again, a little wider at the base this time, a provisional theory tested without a word for it yet. Water is poured from one jug into another and back, until the child is satisfied it is the same water. A toddler working this out is engaging with physics, geometry and volume with their hands, and learning something larger: that their own questions are worth the time. Our educators meet this deliberately, offering complex ideas



in ways that are approachable. This is why the early years here are built around long, open-ended play, why a morning can hold one child's exploration for as long as the child needs.

As children grow, the questions grow with them. At **The City School** a question a child can put into words becomes something a class can build a year around. What makes soil alive? The children dig it up and study under a microscope, wire and code the sensors, and build a working watering system, integrating science, math, literacy, and the arts into a hands-on and minds-on experience. We call this Project, a zone of deep research each class builds around a question of its own. It changes every year, because it begins with the children's own curiosities. Reading, writing and mathematics are taught with rigour in their own right, then put to work

inside Project, where knowledge stops being something to recite and becomes something to think with.

A question like that doesn't run on its own. It starts with a child who feels safe enough to be wrong, known and understood, never rushed. Behind it is an educator who knows the child well enough to sense when a question is worth following further and when to bring it gently back, and who knows, too, how to turn one good question into the next one. The curiosity is the child's. The expertise is our educators'. Between them is a listening space, where question and answer become a shared search. The trust that space holds is where the learning happens.

This is why we are small by design, allowing us to honour every child's time with us. Classes begin at twelve from toddlerhood through

Year 1 at **The City School**, averaging fifteen across primary, with flexibility in Years 3 to 6, adjusted to the needs of each group. Every class is co-led by a teacher and teaching assistant, backed by a full team of specialists who tailor their support to each group's needs. We bring the same intentionality to our spaces, crafted at a child's eye level so curiosity is always close at hand.

Following a question that far means knowing the child who asked it, by personality and by the way they learn. We track that growth as it happens: photographs, notes, the child's own words, gathered on the walls and in the work, so a family can see not just what their child made, but how their thinking moved to get there. Kirin, in Year 3, put it this way: "I want to look at it for longer. I don't think I've seen all of it yet."



• How can philosophy impact/change your life? Can it change/impact the world?



...By Zoe

DO YOU think the MOON make shadows. What kind of telescope was is your FAVORITE?

...By Marvel

Do things still have the same rights if they change form?
e.g. a caterpillar turn into a butterfly

From a toddler rebuilding a tower to a ten-year-old wiring a sensor, it is one unbroken path, and it begins the same way every time: with a question. What a child carries forward is more than what they learned: curiosity, the confidence in their own voice, a kindness in working with others, and a love of learning that a life is built on.

The formative years of childhood shape a life. We cherish them.

The best way to understand **ELC** is to experience it: come meet our educators, and see our campuses. Visit us at any of our **Purple Elephant** early years centres or at **The City School**, we're happy to arrange a personalised tour or a classroom experience day, whenever suits you. elc.ac.th



Choosing Your Child's First School: What Really Matters?

Choosing your child's first school can feel like a surprisingly big decision. Parents may compare facilities, curriculum, class sizes and activities, but in the Early Years, some of the things that matter most are much less visible: **Does my child feel safe here? Will their teachers really know them? Will they have space to play, explore and become more independent?**

For young children, feeling secure is often the starting point for learning. When children are comfortable in their surroundings and with the adults around them, they are more willing to explore, communicate, make friends, try something unfamiliar and gradually do more for themselves.



At St. Andrews International School Green Valley, that transition can begin even before Nursery through the school's **Cubs Toddler Play Group**. Children attend with their parents, giving them an opportunity to meet other children and experience the Early Years environment together.

Importantly, Cubs sessions are led by the **Nursery teacher who will teach children when they move into Nursery**. This gives families an opportunity to experience the approach to learning first-hand, while children can begin building a relationship with their future teacher before their first independent day at school.

Once in Nursery, much of the learning happens through purposeful play. Stories, role play, sensory exploration, construction, creative activities and time outdoors may look simple, but they provide opportunities to develop language, early literacy and numeracy, problem-solving and social skills.

Teachers observe these moments carefully, knowing when to ask a question, introduce a new challenge or give a child the space to work something out independently.

The environment matters too. Green Valley's Early Years has its **own dedicated space within the wider school campus**. Children are

part of the school community, while still having a smaller environment that does not feel overwhelming. Beyond the classroom, the school's nature-rich campus, Forest School and outdoor spaces allow children to explore, move, investigate and develop a connection with the natural world.

For one Green Valley parent, whose daughter has now been at the school for two years, this feeling was important from the beginning.

"We were looking for a small community that could really nestle her. We wanted her to be around other children, but somewhere she would feel safe and known."

Their first experience of Green Valley was through Toddler Group, and the connection was immediate.

"We visited other schools and, as posh and stylish as some of them looked, Green Valley was an immediate love for us. It wasn't simply the environment — we felt that our values were met."

Two years later, what stands out most to the family is not a facility or programme, but how closely their daughter is known.

"She is seen every day. Her teachers and teaching assistants notice if she is fussy or if something is going on. We talk about it and work as a team."

That sense of security has also



helped her become increasingly independent.

"At the beginning she wasn't completely comfortable, and now she complains when she only has half a day at school! She feels safe here, and that has allowed her to become more free and confident."

Perhaps that is one of the most important things to look for when choosing a first school. Beyond what a school offers, consider **how your child might feel there**.

Because when young children feel safe, known and comfortable enough to be themselves, they have the confidence to explore, build relationships and begin discovering just how much they can do.



Meet Dr. Daisy Pellant, ISB's New Head of School

Two months into her new role as Head of School at **International School Bangkok (ISB)**, Dr. Daisy is already doing what she does best: watching, listening and getting to know the people who bring a school to life.

"To understand a school, I look for how students are interacting with each other, and I look for ways in which the adults in the community are interacting with each other and with our students," she says.

For Dr. Daisy, leadership starts with understanding the lived experience of a community. How are students being challenged and inspired in the classroom? When are



Dr. Daisy Pellant, Head of School at International School Bangkok, during her first few months in the role.

they supported to take risks, ask questions and go after what excites them? How does that same spirit show up in the hallways, on the playing fields, at lunch, and in after-school activities?

It is a personal way to begin a new job, particularly at a school that already feels familiar. Dr. Daisy has spent much of her career in international schools and had visited ISB before, through friends who worked here and as part of a graduate research project involving schools around the world.

"ISB doesn't feel unfamiliar to me. It feels like coming home," she says.

The Small Things Matter

That feeling of home is becoming clearer through the details. At the Panther Run, ISB's annual community race, Dr. Daisy found herself at the finish line handing out bananas and chocolate milk. What stayed with her was not the speed of the runners, but what happened afterward.

"A middle schooler has just run five kilometers and they're exhausted and, yet, they made a point to say 'Thank you,'" she recalls. "That sense of kindness and humility here is really beautiful."

She has also noticed the international character of everyday life at ISB, hearing different languages in classrooms and seeing students move naturally between cultures and perspectives.

"There's so much cultural competence here, where people are connecting across borders, languages, and perspectives. It's a place where we all belong together."

For Dr. Daisy, those everyday interactions matter because they shape the environment in which students learn.

Learning Deeply, Finding Your Path

Dr. Daisy is particularly interested in what happens when students begin to understand themselves as learners. During our conversation, she asks a High School student who has been at ISB for nine years how they have grown as a learner.

When they first arrived, the student said, they remember feeling overwhelmed by the challenge of a new school. Over time, they became more confident, more engaged in critical thinking, and more motivated by their own curiosity.



"I feel like as a learner I've developed to be more of a thinker and more passionate about learning. Not just, 'I have to memorize this,' but learning from passion," the student says.

Dr. Daisy then asks about the choices available in High School. The answer spoke directly to the sense of agency she believes matters in education.

"We don't only have IB, and we don't only have AP. We have so many options that I can pick one class from IB, one from AP, and make it my own pathway. I get to explore what I'm truly passionate about as a learner while also building the essential skills I need."

With a background in the science of learning, Dr. Daisy knows that students who understand how learning works, and who they are as learners, are the ones who push themselves furthest, because they're driving their own education. This is what it looks like in practice: students who can recognize what ignites them, make thoughtful choices and take ownership of where their education leads.

"Research has shown that students who understand learning and understand themselves as learners, achieve more and go further in their education."

For families, that means seeing their child become more confident in asking questions, taking on challenges and deciding what they want to explore. Over time, the goal is for students to become learners who know themselves well enough to keep growing, even when there is no teacher, assignment, or exam telling them what comes next.

Leading From Within

Being visible and interacting in the community is how Dr. Daisy learns about the lived experience of ISB, and that understanding is what allows her to make sound strategic decisions, rooted in the very best of what the school already is.

But being excellent doesn't mean standing still. The world isn't standing still, and neither are ISB's



Getting to know students and hearing their perspectives on life and learning at ISB.



Dr. Daisy with the ISB Panther during ISB's New Family Welcome Day, welcoming new families to the community.



Dr. Daisy Pellant joins the ISB community at the Panther Run Series, ISB's annual community race.

students so, for Dr. Daisy, the school will keep evolving too, meeting students where they are and taking them further.

That's also why she sees her role as more than academic. "If I didn't understand what the lived experience was like, I wouldn't be able to make decisions that were thoughtful," she says. "It's not just a learning journey. It's a human development journey." ISB's mission — **to develop thinkers and doers who are curious, courageous and empowered to shape what comes next** — reflects

that same belief: school is about the whole person a student is becoming, not just the student they are today.

A voracious learner herself, she jokes that she wishes she had "a cloning machine" so she could be everywhere at once, getting to know her new community. That drive to understand and do good work is what she brings to the table — and she's grateful to have an outstanding leadership team alongside her, building on ISB's already strong program and continuing to shape it for a bright future.

About Dr. Daisy Pellant

Dr. Daisy Pellant is Head of School at International School Bangkok, bringing more than three decades of experience in independent and international education. Her leadership career has taken her across the United States and around the world. She holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Educational Psychology, an Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning in Organizations from Vanderbilt University, as well as two master's degrees, including one in Mind, Brain, and Education from Harvard University.

About International School Bangkok

Founded in 1951, International School Bangkok is a leading international school in Thailand serving students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. ISB's mission is to develop thinkers and doers who are curious, courageous and empowered to shape what comes next. With a diverse international community and a broad range of academic, arts, athletics and extra-curricular opportunities, ISB focuses on helping students learn deeply,

Children's rights in focus ahead of Thailand's UN review

Children's rights issues including mental health, discrimination and online abuse were raised during a briefing on 16 September in Bangkok ahead of Thailand's upcoming review by the United Nations, according to a Facebook post from the Embassy of Sweden.

Swedish Ambassador to Thailand Anna Hammargren hosted the meeting at the Swedish residence earlier this week, bringing together children and young people from communities across Thailand with Save the Children Thailand, Amnesty International Thailand and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Coalition for Thailand.

Among the issues discussed were children's right to participate and express their views, mental health among children and young people, discrimination linked to sexual orientation and gender identity, the rights of children in Indigenous communities, and abuse and violence online.

The meeting was held ahead of Thailand's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a UN process in which the human rights situation of every UN member state is examined. Other countries can use the process to make recommendations to the country under review.



The briefing allowed children and young people to present their experiences and recommendations directly as Thailand prepares for the review.

Sweden's role in hosting the discussion reflects its continued engagement with human rights and children's rights issues in Thailand.

Gunilla Bresky presents Vietnam War documentary in Hanoi



Swedish documentary filmmaker Gunilla Bresky is visiting Hanoi this week to present her film *Sara with All Her Being* at the

16th European–Vietnam Documentary Film Festival.

The film tells the story of Swedish writer and activist Sara Lid-

man, who travelled to North Vietnam during the Vietnam War and became a prominent Swedish voice opposing the war.

According to the Swedish Embassy in Vietnam, Bresky will also meet young Vietnamese filmmakers during her visit to discuss storytelling, history and memory.

Lidman's connection with Vietnam forms the historical link between the Swedish filmmaker's work and the festival, highlighting a lesser-known chapter in the long cultural relationship between Sweden and Vietnam.

The European–Vietnam Documentary Film Festival is being held in Hanoi this week, with Bresky participating as a Swedish representative.



Sporløs Reunion in 2011: From left Patrick, his young brother Lek, Lek's twin brother Yai, their sister Gun, Steffen and their newly found mother Mayuree. Photo: Disraporn Yatprom

After Sporløs, the connection remained

Fourteen years ago, the Danish TV programme “Sporløs” helped find the Thai birth mother of adopted twins Steffen and Patrick. ScandAsia’s Managing Director, Disraporn ‘Dao’ Yatprom, was the local researcher and interpreter during the filming in Thailand. Usually, her role ends when the cameras leave. But not this time.

By Disraporn “Dao” Yatprom

When I first met the Danish twins Steffen and Patrick in 2011, it was simply another professional assignment.

I had been hired as the Thai researcher, facilitator and translator for the Danish television programme *Sporløs*, which helps Danes reunite with family members they have lost contact with or, as in many adoption cases, biological relatives they have never known.

I had worked on similar searches before and have done several more since. My job is to follow the available clues, locate people and places, make contact and help overcome language and cultural barriers. If the search succeeds, I am also there to translate when the person searching finally meets the person we have found.

These can be intensely emotional encounters. But

once the cameras have left and everybody returns to their lives in different countries, maintaining the relationship can be difficult. After a year or two, contact often becomes less frequent.

Steffen and Patrick’s story has been quite different.

Fifteen years later, their biological mother, Mayuree, still calls me regularly, sometimes almost every week. She cannot speak English and her sons do not speak Thai, so quite unexpectedly, for all those years I have remained a small bridge between them.

This summer, I visited Steffen and Patrick and their adoptive parents, Marrit and Anton Agerskov, in Denmark. The young men I had once accompanied going upcountry in Thailand to look for their mother were now both fathers themselves.

The story didn't end in Thailand

Steffen and Patrick were adopted by the Danish couple when they were only two years and five months old. They grew up in Denmark knowing they had been born in Thailand, but knew little about the family they had left behind.

That was the case that Sporløse came to Thailand in 2011 to solve.

Eventually, we found Mayuree, and Steffen and Patrick were finally able to meet their biological mother as well as siblings they had never known.

For the television programme, that reunion was the culmination of the story. For the family, it turned out to be the beginning of another one.

Over the following years, Mayuree continued to call me. Sometimes she wanted news about Steffen and Patrick; sometimes she simply wanted to talk to someone connected with the two sons living so far away. I translated her requests and sent them forward to the twins.

Steffen and Patrick, meanwhile, remained connected with their Thai siblings through Facebook. They could not easily talk to each other, but they did not disappear from each other's lives.

Fifteen years later

Fast forward to my visit this year, 2026, to Denmark, where my husband and I were invited to join Steffen and Patrick for dinner at the home of their parents, Anton and Marrit, where the family was celebrating their father's birthday.

Their parents had once run a farm with more than 200 pigs. Now retired, their father has sold the business and built a new home on an old farm property not too far from the previous farm.

When we arrived, both twins came out to welcome us.

Patrick was there with his wife and their two children. The older child, August, was almost three years old and the youngest, Laust, had been born only about three weeks earlier. Steffen also has a three-year-old daughter, although she and her mother could not join us that evening because the little girl was unwell.

Seeing the twins again made the passing of fourteen years suddenly very tangible. The two teenagers I remembered from their journey to Thailand in 2011 now had children of their own.

While we were sitting together, I opened Messenger and video-called Mayuree.

Suddenly, she was there on the screen, looking into the Danish home where her sons were sitting with the parents who had raised them.

It was already late in Thailand and Mayuree had been sleeping, but she got up to join us. Soon she was sitting with tears in her eyes, looking at Steffen and Patrick and at her grandchildren in Denmark.

Patrick's wife was moved to tears as well.

Other members of the Thai family joined the call, and Steffen and Patrick saw their three siblings, a girl and another set of twin boys, now also grown up. We exchanged greetings and I translated where necessary.



Final photo before Sporløse returned to Denmark in 2011: Disraporn Yatprom, program host Louise Wolff, Steffen and Patrick Agerskov, cameraman Jesper Brahe Nyman, the driver and producer Thomas "Luffe" Jørgensen. Photo: Disraporn Yatprom



The twins today, sitting between their father Anton and their mother, Marrit Agerskov at their parents house in Denmark.
Photo: Private.

“
For the television programme, that reunion was the culmination of the story. For the family, it turned out to be the beginning of another one.”

It was not a long conversation, but it didn't need to be.

As we talked afterwards, I was surprised by how clearly Steffen and Patrick still remembered the journey we had made together fourteen years earlier. They remembered their mother, their siblings, places we had visited and things that had happened during filming.

They still follow their siblings' lives on Facebook. Photographs and occasional video calls may not overcome the language barrier, but they have been enough to keep the connection alive.

“And our parents chose us.”

Later that evening, the conversation went further back, to the decision that had brought Steffen and Patrick to Denmark in the first place.

Their Danish mother told us that before the adoption she had suffered eleven miscarriages. Eventually, she and her husband began considering another way of becoming parents. They decided to adopt.

They were offered a choice in Thailand: a child of around five years old or twin boys aged two years and five months. As their mother reached this point in the story, Steffen interrupted her with a smile.

“And our parents chose us.”

Everyone around the table smiled.

It was only a short sentence, but it said a great deal about how Steffen and Patrick see their adoption. They had not simply ended up in this family. They had been wanted.

Their parents had always been open with them about their origins. The twins themselves remember little about leaving the orphanage in Thailand. They were too young to understand that the Danish couple who had come for them were about to become their mother and father.

Their father still remembers the first days together in Bangkok. Before flying home, they stayed at the Baiyoke Tower Hotel on the 32nd floor, where the two small boys were frightened when they looked down from the window.

Years later in Denmark, Steffen and Patrick began asking different questions. In kindergarten, they noticed that the other children had blond hair. Their parents had blond hair.

Why did they have black hair?

The answer was never hidden from them. They grew up knowing that they came from Thailand and had been adopted, while apparently never doubting that the Danish couple raising them were their parents.



Marrit Agerskov with her youngest grandchild, Laust, who was only three weeks old, during a visit to their home in Herning in September 2026. Photo: Disraporn Yatprom.

Sitting around the dinner table decades later, that bond was unmistakable.

There was also something else that struck me as Thai. Steffen and Patrick had spent less than three years of their lives in Thailand and had been raised entirely by Danish parents. Yet in the way they spoke to their parents, the respect they showed them and the quiet gratitude with which they talked about what their parents had done for them, I recognised values that are deeply familiar to me from Thai family life.

Perhaps it was simply the way their Danish parents had raised them. Perhaps I noticed it because I am Thai myself. But sitting there watching them together, I could not help thinking that there was something very Thai in the way these two Danish sons treated their parents.

Coming home with their own children

Today, Steffen and Patrick have jobs, homes and families of their own. They remain close to their parents and visit regularly, usually bringing their children with them.

Watching the grandchildren running around their grandparents' home, I thought about how the roles had changed.

Once, Steffen and Patrick were the little boys being brought home by their new parents. Now they were fathers bringing their own children back to the people who raised them.

Their lives are rooted in Denmark. It is where they grew up and where they are now raising the next generation.

But Thailand has not disappeared.

There is still a mother called Mayuree and there are brothers and sisters whose lives they follow from afar. Knowing their Thai family has not competed with their love for the Danish parents who raised them. Both can be part of the same story.

And perhaps that is what makes this particular Sporløs assignment so special to me.

I have helped with other searches before and since. I have witnessed the moment when someone finally meets the person they have travelled halfway around the world to find. There are tears, embraces and sometimes answers to questions that have been waiting for years.

Then the production team leaves.

Fifteen years ago, the cameras also left Steffen and Patrick and their newly found Thai family.

But somehow the story continued.

Sitting in Denmark this summer, watching Steffen and Patrick with children of their own, I realised I was seeing the sequel that we could not possibly have filmed in 2011.

The cameras left long ago.

But the connection remained.



Erlend Johannesen turned one encounter into a lifelong mission

A chance encounter on a street in the Philippines changed the course of Norwegian Erlend Johannesen's life. More than twenty years later, Streetlight continues to support vulnerable children and families.

By Helene Sadjadi-Munk

Photo: Helene Sadjadi-Munk

“One warm summer day, I was standing, waiting for a bus. I noticed something coming down the street. Cars stopped. People stopped and stared. Something was approaching, and as it came closer, I realised it was a funeral.

The nearer it got, the more I could see. It was children carrying a coffin made from broken pieces of wood and plastic, held together on bamboo stilts. They were barefoot, wearing clothes full of holes. They were around 8 to 15 years old. The coffin was only about a meter long.

The procession passed me, and traffic returned to normal. I got on the bus, but I kept thinking about what I had just seen.

My first thought was that it was horrible because they were children. It felt deeply unfair. What had they done to deserve that?



But during the three-hour bus ride that followed, I started to reflect more deeply on what I had witnessed. What had happened before I saw that procession? They had found a friend who had died, gone to the sea to gather materials, carefully built a coffin, organised themselves, and planned the funeral: 'We meet here, we bury her there.'

Then they carried her through the city in broad daylight, fully aware of the stigma attached to them. People are often afraid of street children. They are seen as thieves, as dirty – and they know that people see them this way.

Yet they chose to do this anyway.

Why? To give their friend a dignified farewell. They showed compassion, even in a world where they themselves often experience very little of it."

That moment became the turning point. Then 21-year-old Erlend Johannesen, once a smoke-diving squad leader in the Norwegian navy, decided he would not return to the safety of his old life.

He sold his car and drum set and bought an abandoned warehouse.

Out of it grew Streetlight: an organisation built on the conviction that children deserve dignity, education, and a chance to dream.

Roots of action

What began as a shelter for street children in a renovated storage building gradually grew into a non-profit

organisation supporting vulnerable children and families in the Philippines.

Over the years, Streetlight expanded far beyond emergency care. More than 20 years after its founding, Streetlight supports hundreds of children each year.

While the programmes have evolved, the idea remains the same as it was when Erlend first arrived in the Philippines: that every child deserves dignity and the chance to build a different future.

That belief was rooted in values Erlend had carried with him long before he arrived in the Philippines.

Erlend grew up listening to stories from his grandfather, a man of the Second World War generation whose life was guided by a simple principle.

"My grandfather would always say: the most important thing isn't what you do but that you do something," Erlend recalls.

His grandfather started festivals for the elderly, created emergency buttons for seniors to call for help, fought the closure of nursing homes, and opened new ones, all as a volunteer.

"That has been with me for as long as I can remember," Erlend says.

For his decades of service, he was even awarded the King's Medal of Honor.

"We could sit and talk for weeks about his stories. He reminded me that action matters more than words."

That ethic carried Erlend through the early years of Streetlight.

During the first year of travel, he met his wife while volunteering in an orphanage.

She was a social worker, hired as executive director, and she had two conditions before joining him in building Streetlight: she would not be paid, and he had to cut his hair and dress appropriately.

"I had no idea what I was doing," Erlend admits.

He remembers following her into the field, watching how she spoke to families and how she listened to children.

"I was a sponge just learning from her."

So Erlend cut his hair, changed his clothes, and kept his promise. It was about learning from those who knew the culture better than he did.

After a few years, they started dating.

Together, they built the foundation of Streetlight. Over the years, they raised three children of their own while helping hundreds through the organisation.

Rebuilding more than homes

In November 2013, disaster struck.

Super Typhoon Haiyan tore across the Philippines with winds of 315 kilometres per hour.

At Streetlight's study centre, the water rose so fast that children and staff had to flee to the second floor. Moments later, they had to break through to the roof as the flood kept climbing.





Stranded above the wreckage, the children and staff waited while the city drowned beneath them. Seven thousand people died, and two thousand went missing.

Every Streetlight child survived – but everything else was gone.

In the aftermath, the children were evacuated to Davao. Support poured in from around the world.

Streetlight chose not to rebuild in the destroyed seawall area, but in Tagpuro, forty minutes north of Tacloban, where relocated families now lived with unstable electricity or running water.

The relocation was meant to protect lives, but it also tore families away from the places where they earned their living. Fishing boats and daily work along the coast could not simply be replaced by new houses inland.

“They lived there for a reason. That’s where they earned money. Take that away and replace it with a good home, then you get a challenging situation. Increased crime, selling drugs, using drugs, selling bodies, selling children, organ harvesting. Things we see every day here. And

who are the most vulnerable? The children,” Erlend says.

He explains how such conditions shape the next generation. When exploitation surrounds children, it becomes part of their normal world.

“You are a product of DNA but also of environment. The abnormal becomes normal, and when they grow up and they have children it’s embedded even more. The echo chamber gets stronger and stronger. We want to be the counter to that scale.”

The storm scattered families, stripped them of their work, and left children exposed to dangers that had always lurked in the margins.

From the ruins grew a place where children could study, play, and imagine futures untouched by the cycle around them.

A Dream Factory in Tacloban

On the grounds of Streetlight, the transformation is palpable.

Children chase each other across the basketball



court, voices rising in laughter and song. A girl perched high on a stack of chairs points finger-guns at Erlend, and he fires back in a mock duel until she collapses in giggles.

It is hard to imagine the trauma these children carry, yet here it is met with play, with dignity, with the chance to dream.

Those dreams are not abstract. Streetlight calls itself a “dream factory”, and its vision is to change the world one child at a time.

Many of the dreams begin small: a clean shirt or a pair of shoes, but they grow into futures as teachers, nurses, and police officers.

Former street children now serve in those dreams; Camille, once a scholar, is today a public school teacher and a board member of Streetlight. Marlin, who once arrived at Streetlight in the back of a police car, is now a police officer himself.

Behind the laughter lies structure: safe-space facilities, food and shelter, and reconnection with families when possible.

Parenting sessions teach alternatives to punishment, and family days bring parents and children together. Children even learn their rights and sometimes correct their parents during meetings.

Education is the backbone. Streetlight distributes notebooks, pens, uniforms, and shoes – essentials that otherwise force children out of school.

Health and nutrition are woven in: dental care, hospital support, and fundraising for surgeries.

And behind every part of the work lies a consistent approach.

“We are not a shopping mall where everything is fast and quick. We are the small tailor hidden in the corner. Tailored for each and every child. Each child is seen. And we want to do that for as many as possible.”

The laughter on the basketball court and the duel of finger-guns are small reminders that even in places marked by hardship, childhood still finds its way back.

And that a single child’s dream can echo far beyond what anyone first imagined.



Four friends, a big world to explore and no interest in the easy route

Four Danish friends are setting out to explore one of the more challenging routes through the Philippines as they officially launch their new travel channel, The Nomadic 4.

Lars, Henrik, Thomas and Anders have already travelled and filmed across Europe, Jordan, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. This latest adventure will take them from Manila south towards Balabac, at the southern end of Palawan – through an archipelago famous for spectacular islands and beaches, but where distance, weather and transport can quickly change even the best-laid travel plans.

They know there are easier ways to travel through the Philippines. There are comfortable resorts, organised excursions and itineraries in which every transfer has been confirmed in advance. The Nomadic 4, however, has never been especially interested in the easy way.

This latest adventure – from the intensity of Manila towards the remote islands of southern Palawan – is a journey through one of the world's most beautiful archipelagos, but also one in which transport, weather and geography have a habit of rewriting the plan. The expedition will unfold across six episodes on their YouTube channel, combining spectacular scenery with the ingredient that makes their films work: four friends from Denmark who approach the same experience in completely different ways.

The Philippines series also marks the official launch of The Nomadic 4 this August. While the channel may appear to be a new arrival on YouTube, it is far from an overnight project. The team behind it have spent the past two years patiently travelling, filming and editing, steadily building a substantial catalogue before formally introducing the channel to the world.

That distinction matters. The audience is new; the work behind the channel is not. Rather than launching one or two films and then racing to produce more, the four decided to take their time, find their voice and create a varied collection of journeys. The Philippines adventure

“
*Four experienced,
down-to-earth men
travelling together
might sound relatively
sensible. It is not.*
”

will lead the official launch, with its six episodes being released throughout the remainder of the year, while an already established catalogue gives viewers plenty more to discover.

The four friends from Denmark – Lars, Henrik, Thomas and Anders – are in their forties and fifties and travel the world in search of unusual places and experiences. Their channel is not about ticking countries off a list or presenting a flawless version of life abroad. It is about getting involved, taking the less obvious route and accepting that the best stories often begin shortly after a plan has gone wrong.

The idea was born one evening when Lars and Henrik opened a bottle of wine and decided to create





something fun together. Both had spent much of their lives travelling, and Lars had worked in the travel industry before becoming a full-time YouTuber. Henrik, an architect, had sold his studio and moved into real-estate development. They wanted to combine their experience with a shared appetite for adventure – not simply to show where they had been, but to inspire, and perhaps entertain, others into setting off themselves. And – most importantly – have fun while doing it.

Thomas and Anders soon joined them, and the channel found its real identity. Four experienced, down-to-earth men travelling together might sound relatively sensible. It is not.

Lars is the calmest member of the group, and it takes quite a lot to rattle him. When Henrik comes up with an idea, regardless of how questionable it may initially sound, Lars is usually willing to participate. Henrik and Anders occupy the more unpredictable end of the spectrum. When those two travel together, something tends to happen. Sometimes it is good; often it is not. Like in Albania, where they had to be rescued out of Osumi Canyon by the rescue service, trying to scale it on inflatable paddle boards after a heavy rainstorm.

Anders maintains that these situations always begin with one of Henrik's ideas. Henrik does not appear to disagree.

Thomas is the least travelled and most cautious of the four, but this has become one of the channel's greatest strengths. Experienced travellers can develop the habit of feeling they have seen everything before. Thomas has not. His enthusiasm and sometimes innocent approach make the others stop and look again. Through his reaction, a familiar view becomes remarkable, an ordinary encounter becomes memorable, and the pleasure of discovery returns.

Thomas and Anders also share a fear of heights, a weakness Lars and Henrik have treated less as a personal boundary than as a content opportunity. Unfortunately for Lars and Henrik – and possibly for the audience – the repeated exposure appears to be working. Thomas and Anders are gradually conquering their fear, which is excellent news for them but a serious threat to one of the channel's most dependable sources of entertainment.

In the Philippines, this mixture of personalities is placed against an extraordinary backdrop. With more than 7,000 islands, the country offers postcard beaches, limestone cliffs, dense jungle and seas of almost unreasonable shades of blue. Yet The Nomadic 4 are interested in what lies beyond the postcard. Their route south through Palawan is not simply a search for beautiful islands; it is about the experience of reaching them – the long transfers, local boats, changing conditions and unexpected



encounters that packaged tourism often edits out. And apparently, it hasn't been done by tourists before because of unrest and kidnappings in the past, so being the first adds another thrill to the journey.

The catalogue they have built over the past two years shows the scope of their ambitions. The films take viewers across Europe, along the roads of Jordan and onto bike trips through Vietnam, as well as around Sri Lanka in colourful tuk-tuks. The destinations and methods of transport may change, but the underlying idea remains the same: leave the familiar route behind, get closer to the place and accept a little uncertainty along the way. Preferably with a working camera and, when Henrik is involved, access to the local rescue-service number.

The group has deliberately agreed not to make the channel political. Travel is their opportunity to step away from a world dominated by conflict, division and climate anxiety and concentrate on the immediate: where they are, whom they meet and what they must do next. They do not arrive intending to lecture viewers about a country or reduce it to its problems. Their purpose is to be present, remain curious and allow each journey to unfold on its own terms.

The Philippines expedition follows the spirit established during what the group still considers its best adventure: racing around Sri Lanka in their own decorated

tuk-tuks. For three weeks, with a two-week international tournament at the centre of the journey, the four crossed the island on three wheels alongside teams from around the world.

The tuk-tuks were slow, exposed to the weather and only loosely connected to the idea of comfort. Naturally, they were ideal.

Sri Lanka demonstrated what The Nomadic 4 does best. The group did not observe the country from behind the windows of an air-conditioned vehicle. They heard it, smelled it, got soaked by it and occasionally had to persuade a brightly coloured three-wheeler to continue moving through it. The open sides removed the usual barrier between visitor and destination, leaving room for spontaneous encounters – and for buses and trucks to pass at distances no reasonable person would consider relaxing.

The channel itself is divided into 2 parts: Unique Adventures and Travel Advice, although the former remains its beating heart. Sometimes all four travel together; sometimes they go alone or invite friends of the channel. They are not trying to compete with other travel creators or polish themselves into algorithm-friendly personalities. They are simply themselves: experienced but curious, down-to-earth, occasionally politically incorrect and always willing to laugh at one another.

And there is plenty more to come. Further adventures in Vietnam are already on the horizon, along with an expedition to Raja Ampat, the remote Indonesian archipelago known for its remarkable marine life, forested islands and almost impossibly clear water.

Beyond that lies Nepal, where the group hopes to raise the adventure level again with downhill mountain biking, hard-core white-water rafting and whatever else they can find in the category marked “crazy and ambitious.” If previous expeditions are any indication, Henrik will suggest something rather stupid, Anders will blame Henrik, Lars will calmly agree to it, and Thomas will ask the entirely reasonable question of whether this really is a good idea.

At its best, The Nomadic 4 is not about collecting destinations. Whether the journey takes them across Europe, along the roads of Jordan, onto bikes in Vietnam or between remote Philippine islands, it is about remaining open to surprise. Age and experience have not made these four friends less adventurous; they have simply given them better cameras and more elaborate ways to get into trouble.

Their message is uncomplicated: take the journey, choose the unusual route and bring people who make the inevitable mishaps worth remembering. The world may be unsettled, but it remains vast, funny, beautiful and capable of astonishment.

After two years behind the scenes, The Nomadic 4 are finally ready to invite everyone else along for the ride on YouTube. And again, all in the name of adventure, travel and having fun while doing it.



Agneta's
World

Agneta de Bekassy

Sitting and reflecting over the summer that has been!

A story about a humble, skilled Swedish chef
and our meeting with a little help by Facebook.





“
*Growing up with both
 a grandmother and
 a mother who were
 passionate about
 cooking, I was naturally
 drawn to the kitchen.*
 ”

For me, the summer of 2026 was truly unforgettable, not only because I had my mom's ashes scattered at sea, but also because of all the lovely people I met.

People often tell me that I spend a little too much time on Facebook. Well, there may be some truth to that. But thanks to Facebook, I have occasionally been reunited with friends whom I had, for one reason or another, lost touch with.

When I was 14 years old, my parents hosted three American teenagers who came to Sweden through an organization called “People to People”. They were to spend a few summer weeks living with our family. Two were 16-year-old girls from California, and the third was a young man.

One of the girls and I stayed in touch, and I have visited her several times in the United States. Sadly, I lost contact with the other girl, who got engaged during the trip.

Imagine my surprise when, just a few years ago, I received a message from her saying that she had found me on Facebook. She wondered if we could meet because she and her husband – although not the young man she had been engaged to all those years ago – were planning a trip to Bangkok.

I immediately replied that they would be most welcome, and I invited them to dinner at my home.

It was as if time had stood still. We simply picked up where we had left off so many years earlier, while her husband sat there smiling quietly as we reminisced and brought old memories back to life.

I couldn't help but spare a grateful thought for Facebook.

For quite some time, I have been following a Swedish chef on Facebook. What first caught my attention was his genuine passion for food and the mouthwatering photographs of the dishes he has created in different parts of the world. I felt that we shared the same appreciation for honest, well-cooked food, beautifully presented, yet without the, in my opinion, unnecessary extravagance that often characterizes so-called “fine dining”.

Over the years, I have been invited to quite a number of fine dining dinners. Yet, more often than not, I have left the table feeling rather disappointed. In fact, if I had happened to pass a hot dog stand on my way home, I probably would have stopped to buy one!

I've even experienced being expected to lick the food directly from the plate. Whatever the purpose of that is when perfectly good cutlery exists, I have no idea.

No, give me good, honest bistro food any day – freshly prepared, full of flavor, and, most importantly, satisfying enough to leave you feeling pleasantly full.

Perhaps not everyone will agree with me, but that's the beauty of it. As we say in Sweden, “taste is like the backside – everyone has one”.

During my visit to Stockholm this summer, I discovered that Chef Stefan Jerkfelt was the head chef aboard one of the city's most popular party boats, MS Molly. Out of genuine curiosity, I decided to get in touch with him in person and hear how his great passion for food had begun.





Of course, I sent him a message on Facebook and received an immediate reply. Unfortunately, we couldn't meet aboard MS Molly, where Chef Stefan was busy overseeing countless summer events. Instead, we met at a cafe in Gothenburg shortly before I flew back home to Bangkok.

Chef Stefan turned out to be a modest man from Gothenburg, speaking with a distinct Gothenburg accent and a twinkle in his eyes. He told me that he was born in Gothenburg and attended school in nearby Mölndal.

Growing up with both a grandmother and a mother who were passionate about cooking and highly skilled in the kitchen, he was naturally drawn there – much like a bee to honey. From an early age, he knew that his future would be among the pots and pans of professional kitchens.

After graduating from high school, he headed to the famous ski resort of Chamonix in France. There, he found work in the kitchens of several hotels and enjoyed what many young men would consider a dream life – skiing during the day and working in the kitchens in the evenings.

After carving his way down most of the slopes in Chamonix, he made a brief visit to Sweden before it was time to get serious. He enrolled at L'Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne (EHL) in Switzerland, widely regarded as the world's oldest hotel management school, founded in 1893. As if that wasn't enough, he also attended the Hospitality Business School Cesar Ritz College in Brig,

Valais, Switzerland, which is also considered one of the best hotel schools, awarded "Top Five School" worldwide.

After many years of education, it was time to put it into practice, and now we are talking about an extensive CV.

His adventure started after a six-month practice at the Hotel Richemond in Geneva.

And now for the remarkable part. His career took him to Germany, Egypt, the United States, and many other countries around the world, to name just a few.

At this point, I felt compelled to interrupt and ask Stefan about his private life.

"Are you married? Do you have a family?"

The answer came without hesitation.

"No, I've never been married, and I'm not. I don't have any children, but I do spoil my nieces and nephews. I've devoted my life to food, and, at least for now, I'm perfectly content with that."

A faint smile appears on his lips. I find myself wondering whether it is touched by a hint of melancholy or simply the smile of a man who is genuinely at peace with the life he has chosen. I decided not to ask.

I can now also reveal that Chef Stefan was part of the team that opened The Ritz-Carlton in Bangkok.

Stefan has traveled to Thailand countless times and worked in a wide variety of places, even in the Thai jungle. He has also worked for Volvo in Phuket and elsewhere in Asia, and serves as ambassador for Nordhamn, a company that imports exclusive, manufactured teak cutlery



“
*After all these years
of traveling and
constantly seeking
new challenges,
that would be the
ideal position for me.*
”

from Willow Tree Decor in Bangkok, Thailand.

One slowly begins to wonder whether there is anything this young man, born in 1967, has not done or been involved in.

I could easily fill an entire book if I were to tell the story of everything he has accomplished. I should, however, mention that he holds a professorship in culinary arts from India, where he has also taught.

Finally, it must be said that a large part of Stefan's heart belongs to MS Molly, the beautiful houseboat complete with a sauna and a hot tub. When she is not cruising the Stockholm archipelago, she is moored along Strandvägen, just a stone's throw from the historic vessel Motala Express, which I mentioned earlier.

Countless events have been held aboard MS Molly, with Chef Stefan single-handedly responsible for every meal. Over the years, many well-known personalities and celebrities have enjoyed his cuisine on board. Stefan proudly told me about the opportunity he had to work alongside the renowned Nobel Chef Johnny Johansson. Johnny Johansson was the head chef responsible for eleven consecutive years, from 1978 to 1989. He remains the only chef ever to have been officially granted the title “Nobel Chef” by the Nobel Foundation, and he is also the only chef to have received the “Nobel Foundation's Gold Medal” in recognition of outstanding contributions.

In 2025, Johnny tragically suffered a cardiac arrest aboard MS Molly while preparing the menu for Swedish table tennis legend “Jan-Ove” Waldner's 60th birthday

celebration. Despite receiving immediate medical attention, he unfortunately passed away. Following Chef Johnny's untimely death, it was none other than Chef Stefan Jerkfelt who took over the role of head chef aboard MS Molly, continuing the culinary legacy of one of Sweden's most celebrated chefs.

My final question to Stefan was, “Do you have any particular plans or dreams for the future?”

His answer was immediate:

“Looking ahead, I would most like to become the resident chef at an ambassador's residence. After all these years of traveling and constantly seeking new challenges, that would be the ideal position for me.”

I could not agree more. Without a doubt, Chef Stefan would make an outstanding chef at any Swedish residence anywhere in the world. His passion for food, together with his deep knowledge of cuisine – especially traditional Swedish cooking – would undoubtedly be a tremendous success.

For now, we can look forward to welcoming Stefan back to Bangkok towards the end of the year. Who knows where he will be appearing as a guest chef this time?

I'll keep you updated.

It is remarkable people like Stefan that one comes across while browsing Facebook. I think I'll continue doing just that!

Stay tuned.

Denmark supports Philippine efforts to strengthen shipbuilding industry



Denmark is working with Philippine authorities on efforts to strengthen the country's shipbuilding and ship-repair industry, with a focus on reducing regulatory barriers and exploring digital solu-

tions, according to a Facebook post from the Embassy.

Franz-Michael Mellbin, Danish Ambassador to the Philippines recently took part in a Strategic Whole-of-Government Forum organised by the Philippines' Anti-Red Tape Authority, which brought together government agencies and private-sector stakeholders from the shipbuilding and ship-repair sector.

The discussions identified permits, licences and regulatory procedures as some of the challenges affecting the competitiveness and growth of the industry.

Mellbin also met with officials from the Maritime Industry Authority to discuss how Danish technology could support the digitalisation of government services and case management.

The cooperation is part of Denmark's support for the revitalisation of the Philippine shipbuilding and ship-repair industry.

The Philippines is already a major shipbuilding country, and the Danish embassy said the collaboration aims to help improve the sector's business environment and competitiveness.

Norway and the Philippines strengthen maritime cooperation

Norway's new Ambassador to the Philippines, Kristian Netland, has identified maritime cooperation and the role of Filipino seafarers as key priorities in the relationship between the two countries.

More than 25,000 Filipino seafarers work aboard Norwegian or Norwegian-controlled vessels, Netland said in an interview with The Philippine Business and News published in September. He described the maritime industry as "very high on the agenda" for his new posting.

Netland also met Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan to discuss areas including digital seafarer certificates, electric ferries, ship decarbonisation, autonomous vessels and opportunities for women in the maritime sector.

The meeting followed Netland's presentation of his credentials

to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on September 8. During the ceremony, the two sides identified maritime cooperation, trade and investment, education, innovation, sustainable growth and the green transition as areas for further cooperation.

Beyond maritime cooperation, Netland has identified renewable

energy, trade, investment and ocean issues as other priorities. He also said Norway would continue promoting Norwegian seafood in the Philippine market.

Netland previously served in Manila as first secretary and deputy head of mission before returning to the Philippines in August to take up his new post.



Eric Kahl turns down Thailand approach as he eyes Sweden call-up

Swedish-born defender Eric Kahl has turned down an approach from the Thai national team ahead of the upcoming FIFA ASEAN Cup, according to Thai media.

Kahl, 24, was born and raised in Solna, Stockholm, to a Swedish father and Thai mother. He has represented Sweden at U21 level 13 times and remains hopeful of earning a senior call-up.

According to Vietnamese newspaper Thanh Niên, as reported by Vietnam.vn, Kahl informed Thailand Football Association president Nualphan “Madam Pang” Lamsam and national team coach Anthony Hudson that he would not represent Thailand in the upcoming

tournament. The report said Kahl believes he still has a chance of being called up by Sweden.

Kahl has played for Danish club AGF since joining from Swedish side AIK in 2021. He was part of the AGF team that won the Danish championship in the 2025/26 season, the club's first league title in 40 years.

His performances also earned him a new contract with AGF in May, keeping him at the club until 2029. AGF said Kahl played every league match during the championship season and described him as a key player in the team's success.

Kahl's decision means Thailand will have to look elsewhere for defensive reinforcements ahead of its upcoming fixtures.



Åshild Nakken: Norwegian salmon loses ground in Vietnam



Åshild Nakken, Southeast Asia Director at the Norwegian Seafood Council, says exports of fresh Norwegian salmon to Vietnam have fallen sharply in 2026.

Export volume has dropped by 16 percent, while export value has declined by 14 percent. Nakken points to stronger competition from

Australian salmon and higher freight costs following disruptions to global shipping routes.

The figures mark a reversal from the beginning of the year. In March, ScandAsia reported that Vietnam had become the fastest-growing Southeast Asian market for Norwegian salmon, with fresh

salmon exports rising by 16 percent during the first two months of 2026.

The decline comes despite a Norwegian Seafood Council survey showing that 52 percent of Vietnamese respondents prefer Norwegian salmon. According to the council, many consumers associate salmon sushi with Japan without knowing that the fish may come from Norway.

The council has therefore launched its largest Vietnamese salmon campaign of the year with retailers and restaurant chains including Lotte Mart, MM Mega Market, Morico, Botejyu and Sushi Bon.

Nakken also expects the planned EFTA–Vietnam free trade agreement to strengthen Norway's competitiveness by reducing import tariffs once it enters into force.

Carlsberg, H&M and Ericsson joins Vietnam green industries summit



Swedish companies and organisations joined Vietnamese business leaders and policymakers at the Green Industries Summit 2026 in Ho Chi Minh City on 10 September, as the country looks to

turn its green and digital transition into new business opportunities.

More than 200 business leaders, policymakers and experts attended the summit, according to the Swedish Embassy in Vietnam.

Swedish participants included Ericsson, Business Sweden and H&M Group. Sweden's Ambassador to Vietnam, Johan Ndisi, also took part in the event.

Discussions focused on topics including digitalisation, sustainable production, future factories, global supply chains and the skills needed for emerging industries.

The summit was organised by NordCham Vietnam and brought together representatives from business, government and other sectors to discuss how Vietnam can combine economic competitiveness with its green transition.

The Swedish Embassy highlighted the role of partnerships between companies, government and academia in supporting Vietnam's industrial transformation.

Danish companies target Indonesia's growing dairy sector

Three Danish companies presented their technology in Jakarta as Indonesia seeks to expand local milk production and reduce its dependence on imports.

Carsten Bo Pedersen from SKOV-SECCO, Vicentius Suyanto from FOSS and Steven Chan from Novonesis spoke at a Denmark-Indonesia dairy seminar on September 24.

The Embassy of Denmark in Indonesia and the Danish Agriculture & Food Council organised the event.

Indonesia currently produces only around 16 percent of the milk consumed in the country. The government plans to import one mil-



lion dairy cows over five years and increase the national herd from approximately 220,000 cows to more than one million.

The expansion is intended

to help supply President Prabowo Subianto's national meal programme for 83 million children and pregnant women.

For the Danish companies, the programme could create demand across the dairy supply chain. SKOV-SECCO develops ventilation and climate systems for livestock buildings, FOSS supplies equipment for analysing milk and dairy products, while Novonesis produces biosolutions for animal nutrition and dairy processing.

The seminar brought the companies together with Indonesian dairy producers and other industry representatives.

Finnish AQ Biotech raises €2.5M to scale cancer screening in China

Finnish biotechnology company AQ BioTech has raised €2.5 million in a seed funding round as it prepares to expand its business into China.

The funding will support the company's international growth and the development of its next-generation biomarker discovery technology, according to the company.

AQ BioTech develops technology for biomarker discovery, which can help researchers identify biological indicators linked to diseases and other health conditions. The

company aims to use its technology to support drug development and more personalised approaches to healthcare.

As part of its expansion plans, AQ BioTech is targeting the Chinese market, where it sees opportunities to develop partnerships and grow its presence in the country's biotechnology sector.

The new funding will also be used to further develop the company's technology and support its continued growth.

The funding round adds to a



growing number of Nordic companies looking towards China as a market for biotechnology, healthcare and other technology-driven industries.

Norway's ambassador-designate visits shipyard and plastic recycling company in Vietnam



Norway's ambassador-designate to Vietnam, Stein Iversen, visited two Norwegian-linked businesses in southern Vietnam, highlighting cooperation between the two countries in

shipbuilding and plastic recycling.

During a visit to VARD's shipyard in Vung Tau, Iversen saw how Norwegian expertise and technology are combined with Vietnamese capabilities to build vessels for cus-

tomers around the world.

The delegation also visited Circular Plastic Company (CPC) in Ho Chi Minh City, a Vietnamese plastic recycling company producing recycled PET flakes and food-grade recycled PET resin for domestic and European markets.

CPC received a USD 4 million investment from Norway's development finance institution Norfund earlier this year. The investment is supporting the company's expansion and increased recycling capacity while helping reduce plastic pollution and emissions and create additional jobs.

The visits highlighted Norwegian-Vietnamese cooperation in industries ranging from maritime technology to recycling, with sustainable development and job creation as common themes.

Danish Embassy donates more than 100 children's artworks to Hanoi hospital

The Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam has donated more than 100 artworks from its **Denmark in Your Eyes** painting competition to E Hospital in Hanoi.

The paintings were handed over on 11 September by Danish Ambassador Lina Gandløse Hansen. They will be displayed in several departments at the hospital, including paediatric and mental health units, with the aim of bringing more colour and a positive atmosphere to patients, families and medical staff.

The artworks were selected from more than 130,000 entries submitted to the 2025–2026 edi-



tion of **Denmark in Your Eyes**, which had the theme "Green Living". The competition encouraged Vietnamese primary and lower-secondary students to express ideas about environmental protection and sustain-

able development through art. The number of entries was a record for the competition.

The competition was organised by the Danish Embassy together with the Vietnam–Denmark Friendship Association. The 2025–2026 edition marked 10 years since the competition was first launched in 2016.

The donation comes as Denmark and Vietnam mark 55 years of diplomatic relations. Alongside the paintings, the Danish Embassy also donated children's books by Danish authors and Danish toys to patients at E Hospital.

Finland explores student recruitment opportunities in Vietnam



Finland's Ambassador to Vietnam, Pekka Voutilainen, met representatives of three Finnish education providers in Hanoi to discuss attracting Vietnamese students to Finland.

Voutilainen and Deputy Head of Mission Riikka Seppälä met representatives from RAB Academy, Turun AKK and Tampere Adult Education Centre (TAKK) at the Finnish Embassy on September 9.

The meeting covered student recruitment, plans to promote Finnish education in Vietnam and opportunities for Finnish education providers. The participants also discussed the Vietnamese community in Finland.

RAB Academy is currently promoting a Turun AKK intake beginning in February 2027, with applicants from Vietnam and four other South-east Asian countries eligible to apply.

TAKK offers vocational programmes for students from outside the EU, including food-service and practical nursing training, and has previously recruited Vietnamese students for its vocational courses.

The embassy has not announced any new agreements or recruitment targets following the meeting.

Norwegian police investigate Telenor over alleged crimes against humanity in Myanmar

Norwegian police have opened an investigation into Telenor over its former operations in Myanmar, including allegations that the telecom company may have aided and abetted crimes against humanity.

The investigation covers Telenor's activities in Myanmar following the military coup in February 2021 and until the company sold its Myanmar subsidiary in March 2022.

Norwegian police and the country's security service, PST, searched Telenor's headquarters in Fornebu, Oslo, as part of the investigation. The case also includes suspected violations of Norway's sanctions legislation.

According to Norwegian police, Telenor Myanmar repeatedly provided historical customer traffic data to Myanmar's military authorities during this period.

The authorities are investigating whether the disclosure of such information contributed to serious abuses committed against civilians by the military regime.

Telenor has rejected the suggestion that it had a meaningful choice in complying with the military authorities' demands.

"Our employees risked imprisonment, torture or the death penalty if the military authorities' orders were not complied with," Telenor said in a statement. The company said it believed it could not put its employees' lives at risk.

Investigation also concerns surveillance equipment

A separate part of the case concerns Telenor's exit from Myanmar.

Norwegian authorities are investigating whether the sale of Telenor Myanmar involved sanctioned surveillance equipment and whether the company had obtained the necessary approval from Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Telenor sold its Myanmar operation in March 2022, following growing pressure over the military regime's demands for access to customer information.

The company said no individuals had been charged or were under

investigation. Telenor also said it had been in dialogue with Norwegian prosecutors for a long time and had provided extensive documentation and information.

"We will, of course, cooperate fully with the police and help ensure that the case is thoroughly examined," Telenor said.

The investigation follows years of scrutiny of Telenor's conduct in Myanmar and the challenges faced by foreign companies operating under military rule.

Telenor entered Myanmar in 2014 as one of the first major international telecom operators to enter the rapidly expanding market. Its withdrawal in 2022 came after the military authorities imposed increasingly strict requirements on telecommunications companies.

The investigation will examine whether the company's actions during this period amounted to violations of Norwegian law. No conclusion has been reached in the case.



APPLIED SCIENCE IN THE NATURAL WORLD

From insects to amphibians, in our on-campus Outdoor Classroom, students discover that Science is something we live, explore and question every day.



Read about how
students learn in our
Outdoor Classroom

Give your child
**A WORLD OF
OPPORTUNITY**



Bangkok Patana School
The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957

admissions@patana.ac.th
www.patana.ac.th
Tel: +66 (0) 2785 2200

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