Atomic Theory is fundamental to science learning. Our Year 1 children are amongst few in the world learning and exploring these concepts at such a young age, adding science literacy to their fundamental knowledge.
Dear CanCham Members:

Events & Activities - Under the current situation (COVID-19), all CanCham events and activities from now until Sunday, May 31, 2020 have been postponed or cancelled. Members can view our schedule of upcoming events on the website.

Annual General Meeting - The CanCham constitution and the regulations of the Ministry of Commerce require CanCham to hold an annual general meeting. Due to the circumstances this year, the decision has been made to organize this year’s meeting virtually. The regulations require an actual meeting to be convened so we will have several members of the board together to run the online meeting. Those members who will be physically present are required to sign proxy forms in order to form a quorum and vote your intentions at the meeting. Please submit your proxy forms by Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Future CanCham - Since the beginning of 2020, we have been discussing with several members ways to “raise Canada’s profile” in Thailand. We would like to bring Canadian products and services together, and present them to the Thai/International business community here. For example; weekly online articles on “Canada First”, monthly travelling articles on Canada, and other Canadian related features focusing on nature, green technology, agricultural technology, food safety, etc. We encourage you to be a part of this initiative by being part of our marketing & communications committee helping us to lay out strategies to raise Canada’s profile in Thailand.

Canadians in Thailand Facebook Group - For fellow Canadians in Thailand CanCham has created a closed Facebook group called “Canadians in Thailand | Canadiens en Thailande”. With the current situation, we hope that this Facebook group will be a strong platform of information sharing, discussion and unity among Canadians living in Thailand. With the strong Canadian spirit, we will get through this hardship together.

Lastly, let me wish you the best of luck. Take care and stay safe.

Jen Meckhayai | Executive Director
Dr. Sarah Taylor hit the ground running after she was officially named Canada’s Ambassador to the Kingdoms of Thailand and Cambodia, and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. In the first few weeks she was here she hosted the annual Canadian BBQ at her official residence, was a speaker at Can-Cham Thailand’s Women in Leadership conference and was a panelist at the FCCT’s seminar on the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). And we get the feeling, she’s just getting started.

Dr. Taylor brings with her over three decades of experience dealing with Asia, including diplomatic assignments in Hong Kong, Beijing and Jakarta. She also served as Deputy Head of Mission in China from 2011 to 2015.

The ambassador succeeded Donica Pottie, so after never having a woman as head of mission in Thailand the Canadian embassy in Bangkok now has had two in a row.

Climbing Up the Ranks

Dr. Taylor was born in Ottawa, which is actually rare for a member of Canada’s Foreign Service. Her father was in the foreign service, so she grew up moving around the world every three years or so. Half her childhood was in Ottawa; the other half, in various countries around the world. Her father, James, nicknamed “Si” was also an ambassador and his last post before he retired was as Canada’s ambassador to Japan. He also served as Ambassador to NATO; Director-General of European Affairs and Undersecretary of State for External Affairs and was the Chancellor of McMaster University.

Dr. Taylor says being the child of a diplomat affects you to one extreme or the other: either it gets in your blood and you want to travel the world or you say “that’s it, I have done enough moving, I am staying in one place.” This is even reflected in her own family where a sister is also in the foreign service, while the other three siblings have stayed home in Canada.

In university, Ambassador Taylor became interested in archaeology, anthropology and East Asian studies. When she was at university, there was a big re-opening to China in the aftermath of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution as the universities were re-established and China sent a large exhibition of archeological finds to Canada and other countries.

So along with archaeology, the ambassador decided to study Mandarin at the University of Toronto for her undergraduate degree. After graduation, she went on an exchange program to Beijing University, which
was an eye-opener for her. She continued with her graduate studies at Cambridge University in the UK, starting with an M. Phil. and then earning a doctorate in East Asian archaeology.

Her initial interest was China, but as it was difficult to do field work in China at the time, she gravitated to do work on Japan and Korea. When she came close to finishing her doctorate, she started questioning whether she wanted a career as an academic and the academic job market was quite difficult as well. So, she sat the Foreign Service exam in 1990, and the rest is history.

When the ambassador first joined the Foreign Service she spent a year in Ottawa on three short assignments. The first was on women’s rights in the bureau of human rights (that was when the UN and international organizations were starting to get more active on women’s rights in a global context leading up to the big Beijing Conference on Women in 1995. Before that, women’s rights were handled within the broader area of human rights; this was the first time Canada’s foreign ministry had a stand-alone division for women’s rights).

She also worked on the China Desk, managing a trip to Ottawa by the Dalai Lama (yes, she did get to meet and talk with him), and then she worked on the Gulf War Task Force, providing crisis management and support to Canadians affected in the region.

Dr. Taylor feels she was fated to become our ambassador. Reason being, after a one-year stint in Hong Kong to brush up on her Mandarin, her first foreign posting was to Beijing from 1992-95. In the last year of her assignment her two fellow political officers were Phil Calvert and Donica Pottie, her two predecessors as Canada’s ambassador to Thailand. The three of them have been friends to this day. Also, worth noting was that Canada’s ambassador to China at the time was Fred Bild who had previously served as – you guessed it – Canada’s ambassador to Thailand.

Ambassador Taylor then returned to Ottawa to work in the Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy’s office – a lot was going on including formalizing the Ottawa Treaty on Landmines, and establishing diplomatic retains with North Korea. The ambassador says that at that time we developed a lot of programming in areas that crossed over between foreign policy and development assistance – the so-called human security agenda.
With the Cold War over, there were growing concerns about global issues like terrorism and transnational crime, and ways needed to be found to engage on those issues and find needed resources for programs. Traditionally the people who spent money on programing were development agencies, not foreign ministries. Minister Axworthy identified that gap and set up human security programs that we still use today. For example, under these programs, since 2010 Canada has spent about CAN$16 million in ASEAN to develop capacity to fight both terrorism and crime.

From 1998-2000, the Ambassador was Deputy Director of the Southeast Asian division working on ASEAN and political relations with each member nation. It was an interesting time in the aftermath of the fall of Suharto and the Asian financial crisis.

Next up, from 2000-2003, she was political counsellor in Jakarta, in Indonesia’s early democratic period. Following the Bali bombing, the focus of her work in Indonesia shifted more towards counter-terrorism. In late 2003, she went back to Ottawa to headquarters and worked as Deputy Director and later Director of the Development Policies and Institutions Division. This division worked closely with the then CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and Finance Canada on coordination of Canada’s international development policy and its role in the international financial institutions.

In 2006, she took a detour and joined the Privy Council Office (PCO), as director responsible for strategic direction and the oversight of assessments relating to the Asia Pacific region within the International Assessments secretariat. In 2008, she was made Deputy Executive Director of the secretariat and from 2010-2011 she was the acting Executive Director.

Next she was named deputy head of mission in Beijing from 2011-2015, the number two to the ambassador. This was at a period of high activity in the Canada-China relationship with expanding trade and visits by the Governor General and the Prime Minister.

From 2016 to 2019, Dr. Taylor was back in Ottawa where she served as Director General for North Asia and Oceania, and as “Champion for Women” in Global Affairs Canada, Canada’s foreign ministry. She was tasked with advancing equity for women and women’s leadership in the foreign ministry. Today, almost half of our Canada’s ambassadors and heads of mission abroad are now women.

Canada has long-standing employment equity legislation that recognises four groups that were, and sometime still are, underrepresented in the public service. Global Affairs has a champion for each group (women, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and First Nations). Part of their goal is to close gaps in representation and more generally to make Global Affairs a more welcoming and diverse work environment. Seen from the outside Canada does well on gender equity, but internally the Ambassador says we still have some gaps: Global Affairs is still short of women in our senior rotational Foreign Service roles, in senior management and in the IT sector.

The Here and Now

The ambassador has a number of objectives and roles; a key one is to advance trade relations between Canada and Thailand. As such, the ambassador says part of Canada’s trade diversification strategy is pursuing an inclusive approach to trade that seeks to ensure that all segments of society, both domestically and internationally, can take advantage of the opportunities that flow from trade and investment.
This approach is enhanced by an ongoing dialogue with a broad range of Canadians, including groups often underrepresented in international trade, such as women, SMEs and Indigenous people.

The aim is to ensure that more Canadians benefit from increased trade and investment by ensuring a more diverse group engages in international trade, and by including in our international trade agreements provisions on labour rights, the environment, SMEs, gender equality, and Indigenous peoples.

Ambassador Taylor believes that trade policies should be responsive to the interests and opportunities of the many and not just the few. In doing so, more Canadians can be better equipped to build their own prosperity and to contribute more to broader economic, social, and environmental objectives.

The ambassador says by applying a feminist perspective to trade policy we can help ensure that Canada’s free trade agreements do not perpetuate economic barriers that often work against women.

That’s why she says events such as the “Women in Leadership” conference are so important. “By promoting and supporting women’s leadership in business in Thailand, we are contributing not just to helping women succeed, but also to advancing the Thai economy and to sustainable prosperity for all.”

In house, the ambassador says the Bangkok mission must “walk our own talk” and look at hosting gender-balanced events, not “manels”, as well as promoting career development and support for female staff members and an inclusive workplace.

Ambassador Taylor is keen to increase the volume of trade between the two countries as she sees lots of unexplored potential; she notes Canada and Thailand have a smaller trading relationship than Canada and Vietnam, even though Thailand is the wealthier country.

And the ambassador notes that if Thailand joins the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), or if Canada and ASEAN hammer out a free trade agreement, tariffs would go down significantly and trade between the two countries could increase considerably.

Canada is seen positively in Thailand but still doesn’t have a high profile here – the ambassador says the embassy has to make better use of social media, the wave of the future. “You don’t need a huge presence, you just need to be smart about it — but we really need to up our game when it comes to our social media presence.”

The ambassador’s son, Cass, is in high school here in Bangkok, while her husband, Patrick Kavanagh, is a professional writer who worked with the IDRC for many years. He has also published a novel, partly based on his experiences growing up in Newfoundland called, Gaff Topsails. The ambassador’s daughter Mairi is currently finishing her final year of high school in Ottawa.

We are lucky to have Dr Taylor as our ambassador in Thailand and she is backed by a superb team led by superstar Senior Trade Commissioner Sanjeev Chowdhury and his all-star team at the Trade Commissioner’s Service. The ambassador also has great help from her Executive Assistant Susan Shu-Mei Hsu, Social Secretary Darin Dararuja, and Khun Akapong Sungtet, her trusted chauffeur.

CanCham Thailand looks forward to working with Ambassador Taylor and her team to help foster trade relations between Canada and Thailand and to help promote Canadian values.
On February 26th, before the coronavirus became a pandemic, the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel hosted CanCham Thailand’s fourth Women in Leadership conference under the theme “Vision for Impact.” The main program was followed by three mentoring sessions led by the event’s three featured speakers.

Yvonne Chin, the Regional Director for the Canadian Commercial Cooperation & a WIL co-founder, was the Master of Ceremonies and did a superb job of keeping the event on track. Yvonne kicked things off by asking CanCham President John Stevens to come to the stage to introduce Canada’s new ambassador to Thailand, Dr. Sarah Taylor. The ambassador discussed her role as an advocate for women’s rights before coming to Canada as she was mandated to advance equity for women and women’s leadership in Canada’s foreign ministry, where among other achievements she successfully lobbied to have the first foreign-service building named after a woman.

Next up was Caroline Kwan, the vice-president and Chair of WIL; quite simply if not for Caroline’s hard work and effort there wouldn’t be a WIL. Caroline noted how Canada leads by example when it comes to gender equality and women’s empowerment and she made a special call-out to the 23 WIL-inspired students in the audience, asking them to pay it forward with the sponsorship they had received to attend the event.

Next was young Thai activist Ralyn “Lilly” Satidtanasarn, who has been called the Thai Greta Thunberg. Lilly started campaigning at age eight, and played a vital role in the banning of single-use plastic bag
handouts at major retailers in Thailand, which took effect in January, 2020. Through a video the audience learned a little about Lilly’s life and worked and Lilly spoke about her inspirations and goals.

The three keynote speakers followed in quick succession each taking fifteen minutes. First up was Singaporean Lena Ng, Chief Investment Officer for the AMATA Corporation PCL whose presentation was entitled: “Lena 7.0 Transformation Journey.” She was followed by Nopparat Aumpa, SAVP/GM of the Banyan Tree Bangkok whose topic was, “Yes, I Can, Yes, We Can”.

The third keynote speaker was Pranapda Phornpapha, Director of the Siam Motors Group and Founder of the Dragonfly 360 who spoke on “Redefining Feminism”. Khun Pranapada grew up in Canada and is a Canadian citizen. Her father, Phornthep, fell on hard times when she was young, losing almost everything so he went to see a monk for advice, who told him to move faraway to a cold country. He did, moving his family to Canada, where he was able to turn his fortunes around and eventually return to Thailand. The monk also told her father he would “leave a dog, and come back as a lion” – proved true,

The three speakers were followed by a video presentation on Chumrueng Panrintr, the first female village head in Ban Nong Takem Village. Spurred on by the Mechai Viravaidya Foundation’s School-Based SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Project, Chumrueng’s role along with the appointment of five female assistant village heads has been a major step forward in improving gender equality in rural areas.

The speakers were then joined on stage by Lilly and Yvonne Chin conducted a lively Q & A with the audience.

Joni Simpson, WE-Can Founder & Co-Founder of WIL, was the final speaker on the day and she discussed WE-Can, which provides a dedicated space for women entrepreneurs who want to take their business
to the next level to connect, reflect and take action on their objectives. Women entrepreneurs participating in WE-Can can benefit from networking, peer learning and group coaching from experts from the CanCham community.

John Stevens wrapped up the event thanking the sponsors and the speakers saying that Lily proved that there is no age limit to inspiration, and that the three keynotes informed, inspired and challenged everyone in the audience. Lena Ng demonstrated perseverance through the highs and lows of life; Nopparat Aumpa showed us that passion and commitment can win the way as well as a determination to never stop learning and Pranapda Phomprapha taught the audience they need to empower themselves to lift themselves up for in only so doing can they empower others.

The three featured speakers then broke off into their mentoring sessions. Lena Ng’s mentoring session was facilitated by Sunny Patel, MD, Trends Digital; Nopparat Aumpa’s session was facilitated by Dean Outerson, ambassador & writer-in-Residence, Sasin School of Management; and Pranapda Phomprapha’s session facilitated by Marisha Wojciechowska, author of the My Globetrotter Book. Interestingly, two of the speakers from last year’s event supermodel model, TV host and actress Cindy Bishop and Rob Candelino, CEO of Unilever Thailand, were both on hand at this year’s event.

Summing up, Caroline Kwan said, “We celebrate our speakers and special guests who have established themselves as leaders in their industries or communities, in worlds mostly dominated by men. They have each, in their own way, influenced businesses, cultures, and/or the environment. Their unique stories and passions are inspirational and uplifting. Their visions and strive for achievement have made positive impact. Most importantly, they have demonstrated that women empowerment is the most formidable force for transformation and progress.”

### Speaker Bios

**Lena Ng** is the Chief Investment Officer for Amata Corporation PCL and oversees Smart Cities development, Urban Transformation, Strategic Investments and Mergers & Acquisitions. She is the Chairperson of the Investment Committee for China’s Belt & Road Initiative for Greater Mekong Sub-region. She is also the Chairperson/Director of Amata Thai-Japanese Co. Ltd., the Joint-Venture company for Hotel Nikko Chonburi development and Director of Amata Global Pte Ltd. in Singapore. Lena was honoured as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in March 2014 and nominated as a Global Agenda Council Member of the World Economic Forum.

**Nopparat Aumpa** was appointed to her current position as SAVP/General Manager for Banyan Tree Bangkok in early 2019. Ms. Aumpa was also recently nominated as a finalist for best General Manager Award by the Hotelier Awards Asia 2018. In June 2019, she received the Best General Manager Award for large hotels (Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts), received Thailand’s Best General Manager by CMO Asia in 2019 and in January 2020 was recognized by the Golden Globe Tigers Award as Thailand Best General Manager award recipient in January 2020. In the same month she also received AACSB’s 2020 Influential Leader award.

**Pranapda Phomprapha** holds numerous management positions in her family business, Siam Motors Group, a diversified group of companies that has dominated the automobile and parts industry in Thailand for over 60 years with an annual turnover of over 8 Billion USD. Pranapda is in charge of Business Development and is also President of Siam Music Yamaha and Siam Nissan Sales. She is also heading up a mixed-use development real estate project in the heart of Bangkok.
At KIS International School in Bangkok, Thailand all students can shine. The midsize, caring community allows KIS students to be confident and to be appreciated as an individual, with unique dreams and strengths.

The school is a full IB school, offering the International Baccalaureate Programmes for all age groups (IB Primary Years Programme, IB Middle Years Programme and IB Diploma), ensuring an academically rigorous curriculum that not only prepares students to be successful at university, but also teaches important life skills. Please ask us about our scholarships.

“Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.”
- Lady Bird Johnson
As globalization and rapid advancements in technology continue to transform civic space and the world of work, education systems have grown increasingly disconnected from the realities and needs of global economies and societies (World Economic Forum, 2019). Often described as tinkering around the edges, schools continue to recraft and revise the wooden wheels of the Carne-
egie Unit based learning programs that dominate the landscape with little ‘real’ impact. An obvious signal is the declining mental health of students in schools and universities which can largely be attributed to the increased work expectations and the reduced reward of employment post-study. In addition, the micro credentialing movement seeing dissatisfaction of the university product and a rise in students assembling their own degrees and valuable experiences to complete their profile.

The world of work is changing rapidly through exponential advances in digital technologies. In particular, the rise of smart machines and the decline of full-time employment are reshaping the ways in which people work and are creating significant uncertainties about what readiness for further learning, career, and life will look like in 2040. (Knowledge- works 2017). Yet, schools pay lip service to these rapid advances. Slow on the uptake in schools is the intentional focus on the development of skills of an innovator’s mindset. Curriculum continues to focus on linear knowledge-based and predetermined courses rather than open ended, human centered design thinking problems.

Changing complex systems such as schools is difficult. In well-established international schools, for example, change is almost glacial and whole-system change is very challenging. What is emerging and gaining some traction is the incubator spaces in schools or “schools within a school” and can be seen as designated spaces or bespoke programs. Schools sometimes see this as a gaping hole in their offerings and a need that their students in turn, respond to with great enthusiasm. While these efforts are admirable, they only reach a small group. Singapore American School for example has developed the Catalyst Program, an individualized extension to their Advanced Placement and Advanced Topics-based high school curricula that opens the doors and windows to students to take a deep dive into something that they care deeply about. The school now celebrates their students’ independent innovative projects proudly though their SAS Impact Fellowship highlighting how well students respond to these initiatives.

At the American School in Japan (ASIJ) where I was the Director of Learning Innovation, we developed the IMPACT program. IMPACT is a capstone-like program which provides a personalized learning framework designed to empower students with skills for self-efficacy and a passion for learning that transcends school. Diverse possibilities within this experience are driven by the students’ interest in becoming self-guided, lifelong learners, giving them time and space in their schedule to dig deep into something they care about. A successful IMPACT experience provides a foundation for students as they continue to chart their path towards university, summer opportunities, internships, and other chances to pursue their future goals. Universities are taking more notice of demonstrated soft skills and real social entrepreneurship through this kind of self-directed portfolio based experience.

The following two stories emphasize how a student’s passion and purpose can be legitimate deciders of their future when they are recognized, cultivated and supported through a research and development process. This is what can happen when students are trusted and given agency and support.
Yusuke Ma is a horologist. In high school, his passion for watchmaking developed into a skill he eventually taught himself. He didn’t know what to do with this interest he had and joined the IMPACT program to expand his horizons and be coached through possibilities. This process simply inspired his own internal motivation to find a place for this interest in his future. Yusuke developed a business confidence and began building his own professional learning network. He connected with leading international watchmakers, including Edouard Meylan, the CEO of H. Moser & Cie; Romain Gauthier, Founder and CEO of Manufacturing Romain Gauthier, and negotiated an internship at Watch Labo, a well-known watchmaker and jeweler in Japan as a repairer. His story and actions throughout the program gained him a place at Stern Business School at NYU where his ideas will grow to form some creative associated business acumen potentially in the fashion industry.

Sayuri Sekimutsu had completed all the science and math subjects in school and wanted more. She was steered towards the IMPACT Program where her passion for cooking and chemistry brought about the Molecular Gastronomy Challenge. This was a self-designed YouTube-based instructional channel where Sayuri did live experiments of food based chemical phenomena. Questions such as: Why does lime neutralize chili? What happens when you caramelize sugar? guided her inquiry. She incorporated her instructional videos with student interviews, and in a fun and playful way explained complex chemical ideas that happen in every kitchen. Her videos and blogs were highly respected by the Stanford University Admissions office and she is now studying nutrition at Stanford University and is a Research Assistant at the Stanford School of Medicine, exploring the links between genetics and nutrition. Sayuri said she could not have hoped nor wished for a better outcome and that this would never have happened had she not been encouraged to connect her passion for cooking to her interest in science under the IMPACT program.

The International School of Beijing (ISB)’s Futures Academy started as an idea to give students the ability to become the architects of their own learning. ISB’s goal was to encourage students to experience a different form of education that is equally about developing proficiency in academic standards as it is about learning to be creative problem solvers. As part of a broader movement with other schools in Beijing and around the world, ISB has started to implement both project and experience-based learning.

What’s interesting and an ongoing challenge to schools like these is that the “Futures Academy” style models tend to work on a small scale. They gain traction with staff, students and families and produce quite progressive outcomes, showcasing how far students can go when given agency over their own work. Schools also tend to want more and universities appreciate the point of difference that student-led learning provides as a real and significant addition to the old transcript based on subject area performance. However, when schools try to scale this model, they often come unstuck. It is hard to scale change in an established school. What is clear, however, is that the need to embrace and engage learners in an innovation and entrepreneurial
Paul O’Neill, is the Hub Director at VERSO International School, tasked with designing and implementing the school’s unique learning experiences.

In Thailand, the new kid on the block, VERSO International School is striving to overcome the difficulties of an established school system. Opening in Bangkok in August 2020, VERSO will deliver an innovative American curriculum with an emphasis on learning that is interdisciplinary, project-based and increasingly personalized. The school was designed in partnership with IDEO, the global innovation and design firm in San Francisco and is turning the page in education. Designed with human-centered possibilities at the heart of the learning program, VERSO is responding to critical change drivers around the nature of work and the pathways to universities by providing more student choice and a willingness to engage the student’s voice in the design of their learning program. Students will be encouraged to recognize and embrace their interests and will be given time and space as this is an important learning process that could lead them into creating something innovative and becoming an entrepreneur. And while entrepreneurship may not be for everyone, the mindset and attitudes created through this human-centered design process are foundational skills for any growing and developing professional pursuit.

It is pertinent to note that the shift in education needs to be away from a right answer “vending machine” approach to learning (Daniel Pink) to a model that engages students in learning that is applied and meaningful to them and to people in their world. Prescribed curricula had a place sometime earlier in this century, however as the speed of change and the reinvention of many of our societal systems and processes go on, it is critical that schools learn to be more agile and adaptive to the world around us. It is a trend to choose a school based on a trust that this system has been around for a long time and is therefore will be adequate for our needs today. However, we see many of our tried and true systems being challenged. Take democracy and the banking system as two classic foundations of our society that are ostensibly broken and reeling to be reimagined. Copyright Law being completely replaced by the Creative Commons movement. Apps like Spotify, Uber and Airbnb are revolutionizing these industries. Schools too need to pay attention. Our feet need to come out of our concrete boots about our perception of what schools need to be like to prepare our kids for what will be an amazing future. This will not happen by applying 19th century approaches to learning. What is clear in the research is that young people learn best when actively engaged, creating, and solving problems they care about, and supported by peers and mentors who appreciate and recognize their accomplishments.

So for anyone looking for a school that will purposefully prepare their children for the future, the question is not about ‘which university will students go to?’ because in 12 years’ time, the university landscape will be very different. The questions should be: What is your school doing differently now that will actively prepare my child for an exciting future? What is the future focus you incorporate in your learning program? Who are you, as a school, learning from to adequately prepare children for the future? The answers ought to be good.

Paul O’Neill, is the Hub Director at VERSO International School, tasked with designing and implementing the school’s unique learning experiences.

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Sirirojana Thayyanan
Thanida (May) Doltunyapornpakapob
Anna Frummerin
Pacharee (Nui) Pantoomano
Araya Santisan
Jennifer Sims
I think to put the Mekong Cup into perspective, one needs to understand the context of being overseas in the mid-90s – email was just taking off, we plugged in our computers to telephone lines and waited overnight for documents to be downloaded, and to watch sports – we had video tapes couriered to a city and would hopefully be able to find a pub or an Embassy that would play it for us – 2 weeks after the game was finished, and we actually tried to avoid reading the paper so we wouldn’t know who won the game in advance!

For a group of Canadians – that game was hockey. And in the tropics at the time, it was ball hockey. I lived in Kuala Lumpur and was working for PricewaterhouseCoopers at the time – it was 1994/95 – and a group of us started playing ball hockey at an indiscriminate parking lot in KL – no boards or walls, some parking stall cement blocks, pretty old school. We had a blast every weekend, play hard in 35 Celsius heat, and a few beers with good friends after. It does not get much better for a group of Canucks and the odd Swede or American.

At the same time, there was a rumour of ball hockey being played elsewhere in SEA. Somehow we heard via fax or the telephone – later confirmed by a random traveller - that there actually was a group of guys doing the same thing on the top of a rooftop in Bangkok – we heard it was the AIA Building off Silom Road. A vision emerged – what if we connected with the Bangkok guys and had a tournament – and to make it even better – let’s organize it during the Stanley Cup Final at a destination where some unknown pub would play the game for us!

Well, as good fortune would have it, I was transferred to Bangkok and, of course, was looking to join the weekend games with the guys in the city. From there, it all came together. We decided on Phuket, a tropical, international destination where everyone could enjoy both a great holiday weekend, perhaps some golf, but better yet, play some ball hockey in the jungle – old-school style.

We connected with some great guys from the Flying Farangs – a separate story – that play ice hockey in Bangkok. I met Kevin Hall, who both played for the Flying Farangs, but also was a GM at the Amari Hotel that had a number of properties in Thailand. The Amari had two old tennis courts deep in the jungle behind their Patong resort – I recall doing a recon visit confirming the logistics, the setup, etc, for a tournament while Kevin was in Phuket. We both thought it would be tremendous and the deal was done – we had our location for the first ever Mekong Cup (named after the hearty meandering river that traverses SEA) it became our Montreal Forum, the Pacific Coliseum, the Gardens, the MSG...depending where you came from in NA.

The winning Thai Stix team

HOW THE MEKONG CUP CAME TO BE

By Richard Meiklejohn
So many guys were instrumental in making this happen – both in KL and Bangkok – I was lucky enough to become the link having lived in both cities, but key players and shout outs to others involved included from KL Paddi Rice and John Keller, and in Bangkok, Lorne Yawney and Luc Perron, and of course, Kevin Hall. He was an unsung hero in this, always supportive and made the Amari and their staff treat us like it really was the Stanley Cup final. As in everything good, it always takes a village.

The foundation for all of this – without sounding too sappy – was that it was about friendship and the camaraderie of fellow countrymen – but it reflected the importance of friendship when you are far from home – and the joy of playing a sport that we all loved since we were kids – and having the opportunity to compete hard, and boy did we compete hard.

So the first game was played between the Kuala Lumpur Sharks whose motto was “cuts heal” and the Bangkok team warmly known as the Thai Stix – we all played on a natural high at the Amari Coral Beach. I recall vividly how hard fought that game was – there were no referees – it was called “gentlemen’s hockey” – but as the day progressed and tied two games to two late afternoon – the fifth game and tie breaker amped up and we played hard slipping, sliding and hitting on a court that was deteriorating after every step. While never ever fun to end without a win – after both teams huddled around dusk that tropical evening there was major concerns about guys getting injured (we had metal light poles on the courts and tennis poles) – while everyone was hesitant to give up the win, we all agreed that the game should be called – so we ended up finishing in a draw due to darkness.

And as the evening fell upon us, cold beers, stories and laughter took us late into the night. The night before, carousing the night scene, we found an ornate blue speckled vase that while not known for its beauty, is now very affectionately and sought after, called the Mekong Cup.

Little did we know that the tournament would go on for another 25 years with teams joining from Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Slovakia, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and others – and in our little world, it became the biggest ball hockey tournament in Asia – and we all had our chance to live out our hockey dreams with some great friends. It gave all of us, wherever we were from, a little piece of home while being far away from family and friends...but most important, as young men still wanting to be boys, it gave us memories of competition and glory that we know is short lived, but it has become a journey that we all cherish as a moment in time that will live with us forever.

STIX & Stones clash in 26th Mekong Cup final

On the third weekend in February, before the coronavirus had become a pandemic, the 26th annual Mekong Cup was held at Bangkok’s British Club. It was the fourth straight year the two-day event was staged there. For the first twenty-two years, it was staged in Phuket at two venues, first, the Amari Coral Beach and the Centara Karon resort.

Six teams competed in a round-robin format, with the two squads with the best records getting a bye into the semi-finals. Bangkok’s Rolling Stones were victorious over the Hong Kong Hitmen 5-4 in one quarter final while Hanoi defeated the Cambodian squad 6-2 in other quarter-final match-up. This let the Rolling Stones play Singapore in one semi-final, beating them 5-4, while the Thai Stix team played Hanoi in the other, winning 8-2.

The championship then came down to a battle of the two Bangkok squads and the younger Thai Stix squad prevailed beating the Rolling Stones 6-3 in the final. Mekong Cup founder Rich Meiklejohn was on hand to give out the Mekong Cup to Thai Stix captain Devin Michael.

CanCham member Yves Gaboriault organized the event, but was unable to play due to injury. CanCham President John Stevens was a member of the Rolling Stones squad organized by Geoff McIntyre. Referee Jeremy Hutchins did a great job of referring every single game and Alex Manton was terrific with the time/scorekeeping. And former CanCham President John Casella played a huge role in keeping the Mekong Cup going for years.
The University of Victoria, located on beautiful Vancouver Island annually welcomes over 180 incoming business exchange students from 40 different countries. The University of Victoria (UVic) is one of Canada’s top-ranking universities, and the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business is recognized for its international expertise and entrepreneurial excellence. The curriculum is practical and always evolving to coincide with today’s demands in the business community. Our dynamic business world requires us to continually innovate.

A key to this success is to build a diverse team through gender, age, ethnicity, language, and nationality. With diversity you gain a variety of perspectives, increased skill sets, creativity and productivity. To be an effective and cooperative team player, it is crucial to expand your cultural knowledge, awareness and intellect. As young students what better way to achieve this than taking part in an exchange program. The complete immersion and comprehensive period spent with a new culture is truly unrivalled. There are many transferable skills attained that increase your competitiveness when entering the labour pool.

I can personally attest to this having completed two exchanges and am currently on an internship with the Thai Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, I have had the pleasure to interview two Thai Mahidol University International College students who recently completed an exchange semester at UVic. Niracha (Claire) Viboonudtakorn & Kong Kornpat (seen below) are finishing their third year, majoring in International Business Management. Victoria was highly recommended by a friend and the typical stereotype of Canadians being very friendly intrigued them. After a successful application process, they were off to Canada. After arriving, they were pleasantly surprised by the weather and through the months of September and October, found it was comfortable to be outside with just a light sweater. After a short while they began to realize that friendly took on a whole new meaning for them. Not only were people easy to approach, had kind faces, but the concept of spatial awareness was increasingly prevalent. In line ups, passing by a stranger, taking the bus, a conversation with someone new; everyone consciously or sub-consciously considers the distance between one another, careful not to over crowd, and cautious of whom they touch. In Thailand, this is often not the case, where is little recognition related to spatial awareness.

After getting settled in their quaint Airbnb in the heart of downtown Victoria, Kong and Claire explored many of the different eateries available, their newfound favorite and one of the things they miss most about Canada is breakfast food: delicious Eggs Benedict, bacon, waffles and pancakes. In fact, it’s what I miss the most, too! As a Victoria native, bussing at times can be a challenge. However, for Kong and Claire it was quite the upgrade comfort wise and really makes you reconsider what we take for granted. Like many international students they had the joy of learning how to recycle and compost.

The UVic campus is 403 stunning acres, with many green spaces that Claire and Kong had the privilege to see through summer and fall months. With approximately 20,000 registered students, it is not uncommon to have a class of 200+ students,

The complete immersion and comprehensive period spent with a new culture is truly unrivalled. There are many transferable skills attained that increase your competitiveness when entering the labour pool.
compared to a maximum of 40 at Mahidol, this can be an exciting new experience! Professors usually require students to prepare for lectures by assigning readings from published material or textbooks and throughout class encourage students to participate in order to ensure understanding and spark debate.

Kong and Claire returned to Thailand with a greater appreciation for cross-cultural education, integration and new awareness for Canadian Environmental Social Governments. I asked if they would recommend studying in Canada to which they both replied with a big grin “very much”.

Kong now makes the effort to bring a reusable mug wherever he goes. In Claire’s own words, “For me, what I gained the most was improving my self-confidence. I learnt a lot about how to live by myself without my parents, making new friends, cooking by myself, managing my daily life such as my washing clothes and dishes. I learned to adapt with new friends and new norms and rules that I had to comply with such as separating garbage and using reusable containers.”

It’s the little things about experiencing different cultural norms, how each reacts to and absorbs knowledge that creates an environment for effective innovation. Academia is rooted very deep in Thai society; it only seems fitting if given the opportunity to take the leap and study abroad!
Learning does not finish at the end of academic lessons. At my school we enjoy a diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities as our learning continues far outside the walls of classrooms and well beyond the regular school day. The number of different clubs, sports and activities is truly amazing.

Balancing the need to complete tasks, revise for tests and maintain good mental health can be a struggle; but I cope with this stress through participation in Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs). A particular passion of mine is musical theatre and being able to participate in the school musical production is something which allows me to take my mind off anything stressful.

I have enthusiastically joined ECAs, discovering my passions and gaining incredible experiences along the way. Music has always been a passion of mine and the broad array of instruments available from the violin to Thai Khim and the DJ deck is something students appreciate. I have been able to learn so much about music and increase my technical skills as well as form new friendships, deepening my appreciation for working collaboratively and discovering the aspects of music I especially enjoy.

Alongside the arts and music, we have an array of sports activities. My fellow student, Clara Boucher, is on the Cross Country, Volleyball and Tennis teams and comments that “being able to participate in sports helps me to take my mind off of everything. It’s great because I can put basic skills we learn in classrooms like social skills and teamwork into use to make new friends.”
Extra-Curricular Activities also include an inspiring number of CAT (Community Action Team) clubs dedicated to a variety of worthy causes, many strive to ensure that people are educated about social, political, economic and environmental issues. Others work with an organisation or group in order to raise funds to make a change. The focus of our clubs range from advocating for human rights in Amnesty to raising funds to sponsor a child’s education for a year in the North of Thailand in One4One. This variety allows us to make a significant contribution to our world as global citizens. Through our involvement in service opportunities we are able to be more inclusive and informed.

The prominent Student Environmental Committee (SEC) is a student-led group that has made significant changes to my school. Everyone at school has been able to help conserve the environment through the SEC’s recycling bins, new wrappers and biodegradable cups. They inspired our school to become more sustainable in our production of energy by introducing solar panelling.

While it is important to focus on academic studies, it is also crucial to take the time to enjoy your passions, experience something new and join a group to make a positive impact on our world. This shows that you uphold the values of global citizenship and, more importantly, it enriches your experience of school with long lasting memories and strategies to cope with stressful situations in the future.
DESIGN FUTURES

**ELC international schools** are places where children are active protagonists in their own learning. They comprise a family of unique schools where students base their research, discovery, and experimentation within the context of contemporary culture and learning. Those within strive to resolve dilemmas of individual and shared importance in their quest for knowledge and understanding but most importantly, imagine possibilities for a better future.

In the daily life of ELC schools, we can perceive a pronounced increase in children’s creativity, the quality of their research, and their ability to access information. This facilitates the development of complex digital projects and products of knowledge, which are elaborated between children and between children and adults.

digital bicycles for enjoyment in the park using arduino technology designed by Pop and Anna (ages 8 to 9 years)

automated solar and wind-powered street cleaner using arduino technology designed by Caden, Fabian and India (ages 10 to 11 years)
Families with children finishing high school soon will be looking at suitable universities for the next step of their child’s education. But how do you find the university that is right for your child? With so many good universities around the world, where do you even start? At KIS International School students are guided by a team of outstanding university counselors, but parents and students themselves must play their part and they can follow these tips for a successful university admission, and indeed a successful university experience.

Finding your university match comes down to one simple question, does it have the characteristics you are looking for? There are a lot of factors to consider when researching universities; and naturally, each student’s emphasis will be different. By identifying your needs early on, you can eliminate numerous schools and focus on the things that matter most. The categories below each include a list of questions you may want to consider when researching universities and striving to find your perfect fit.

**Academics**
- Does the university have the major(s) I’m considering?
- Does the university have other majors that interest me (in case I change my mind)?
- What is the academic reputation of the university? What about my major(s)?
- What are the professors like? What have they accomplished?
- What is the four-year (or six-year) graduation rate?
- What is the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate?
- What is the average class size for introductory courses? For advanced courses?
- What is the student-faculty ratio overall? In my potential major?
- What accreditation(s) does the school hold? What about my major?
- What are the qualities of the academic facilities (e.g., libraries, labs, etc.)?
- What kind of research opportunities exist on campus?
- Can I study abroad?

**Location**
- Which countries would I consider living in?
- Do I want to attend university in a rural, suburban, or urban area?
- Do I want to be far away? Or close enough to travel home on the weekends?
- What is the weather typically like during the academic year?
- What kinds of recreational opportunities and amenities are in the area?
- What is the transportation system for students who don’t have a car?
- How safe is the surrounding area of the campus?
- What is the relationship between the university and surrounding community?
- What are the local employment opportunities for students looking for internships and part-time jobs? Recent grads looking for full-time positions?
- Can I live off campus? Does the school provide assistance with off campus housing?
- If I want to stay on campus, is housing guaranteed/available all four years?
- What is the average cost of living and general quality of life?

**Community**
- What is the social scene on campus?
- How do students spend their free time on campus? Off campus?
- Is there housing on campus and how many students live on campus full-time?
- How many students stay on campus during the weekends?
- What percentage of students remain on campus during holiday breaks?
- What fun and engaging activities are available to students through the school? In the community?
- How friendly and welcoming are the students and staff?
- What is there to do when I’m not in class?
- How many students participate in extracurricular activities?
- Are there clubs, societies or pre-professional organizations related to my major? Or intended career?
- Can students start their own clubs?
- What athletic conference and division is the school?
- What are the student demographics?

**Size**
- What is the overall student body population?
- What is the overall average class size? In the
academic program that interests me?
- What is the overall student-faculty ratio? In the academic program that interests me?
- Are most courses taught through lectures? Or are there opportunities for interaction and discussion?
- Are the courses taught by a professor or a teacher’s assistant?

Cost, Financial Aid, and Affordability
- How much does the school cost?
- How much is the cost of living?
- Are student loans available in this country?
- What percentage of students receives financial aid? How much on average?
- What percentage of students graduate with debt? How much on average?
- Are international students eligible for need-based scholarships? Loans?
- Is the school need-blind or need-aware in admission?
- How many years does it typically take students to graduate (each year is another year of tuition, and oftentimes financial aid and scholarships does not extend beyond four years)?
- What kinds of university scholarships are available to students (awarded by academic achievement, through college departments, etc.)?

- What kinds of work-study opportunities are there for students?

Campus Support & Career Services
- How will the school help me determine and achieve my career goals?
- What is the postgraduate job placement rate (in positions related to students' degrees)?
- Is there a career services office? What does the career services office offer?
- What kinds of experiential education opportunities, such as internships, co-ops, and volunteering, exist on and around campus?
- Are career services available after graduation?
- What academic services are available?
- What kinds of writing support or other tutoring programs does the school offer?
- What health and wellness services are available, such as mental health counseling and fitness facilities?

Addressing these questions will help you reach your goal of finding your ideal university. Figuring out what's important to you will help you narrow the field when choosing a university, and you may discover some options that weren't initially on your radar. From there you can make a shortlist of universities to apply to. Consider a range of options and include universities you are likely to get accepted to as well as universities that are harder to get into.

Once you have made a shortlist go and visit the university if you can. Actually setting foot at the university will give you an instant feeling of whether it may be the right fit. If you are not able to travel to visit the universities, an alternative is to go to university fairs. These are events where university representatives from universities in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands and other countries come together to meet with students and answer their questions. It’s a great opportunity to get direct information about a university that may be harder to find on a website. There are many of these fairs in Bangkok and they are worth attending.

Selecting a university because your friends are going there or because of its prestigious name or where it ranks on a list does not take into account who you are and who you will become. College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won. Therefore, finding a good fit requires time and thoughtfulness.

If you are interested in joining a school where students receive excellent career and university counseling, resulting in great fit university acceptances all around the world, please contact KIS International School, admissions@kis.ac.th or visit the website www.kis.ac.th.
FORMING CONNECTIONS THROUGH ART

Feeling a sense of belonging is paramount to a child’s overall well-being. We feel this belonging when we are accepted and when we are given the freedom to be ourselves. How can schools with diverse and international student demographics foster a sense of belonging? At International School Bangkok (ISB), we see art as an important avenue to celebrate diversity and different cultures and to foster connection.

Every year, at ISB, we celebrate Intercultural Week.

This is a week full of activities and assemblies that provide students with the platform to share and celebrate their home country or culture, as well as learn about those of others. This year, Elementary School art students also created a unique art project called, ‘Cultures Connecting through the Arts’, which was inspired by artistic styles from around the world.
The end result was a kinetic sound-sculpture. The students researched interactive art pieces, those which used varying objects to create sound and that were used in a range of different cultures.

**Inspiring Creativity and Learning**

The installation was developed with the use of bamboo, coconuts, and rattan, which the students used to create individual art pieces. These were combined together to become creative sculptures. All these were brought together into one final art piece, the style of which was inspired by great artists, whose work draws on the use of lines, dots and circles.

The end result was a community art piece, placed centrally on the ISB campus, which encourages our students, parents, teachers and visitors to participate and create a cacophony of sound while celebrating cultures, embracing differences, connecting to the art and others, and recognizing the work of our young artists.

Art creates an avenue to communicate with one another through creative and personal expression. Art can speak through barriers created by different languages and identities. It allows for human connection and the intercultural sound sculpture created by the ISB students was a beautiful example of this.

For more information about ISB please visit our website www.isb.ac.th
BERKELEY GROOMING RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZENS

Berkeley International School prides itself on providing students with a small school feel, while achieving large school results. Because of our size, our students and teachers are able to work together in an environment where everyone is known and valued as an individual, and not just another face on campus. This extends to the classroom, where teachers know each student’s strengths and weaknesses and use that knowledge to help them succeed.

Berkeley seeks to instill strong values in its students. Together with their teachers, the school’s students work to address both local and global issues directly seeking to make an impact now instead of just learning about how they might make a difference later. This might take the form of partnering with local groups to support underserved communities in Klong Toey, or speaking at a conference coordinated by the UN Environment Program.

Berkeley achieves this without sacrificing academics. The school’s students consistently perform well above average on achievement tests and gain entry to top universities around the world. During last fall’s SAT testing cycle twenty percent of Berkeley’s students scored above 1400, and more than half of Berkeley students that took the test scored above the 75th percentile globally. The list of universities that extended offers to Berkeley students in the last two years includes: University of Washington, Dalhousie University, Purdue University, University of Kansas, University of California Santa Cruz, University of California San Diego, Sophia University, University of Stirling, University of Waterloo, University of West Virginia, Hofstra University, University of Arizona, Mississippi State University, Michigan State University, and the University of San Francisco.

At Berkeley International School the focus is not just on community, or responsibility, or academics. Rather, the school’s focus is on raising effective, engaged young people who will leave Berkeley equipped to make the world a better place through knowledge, advocacy, and just by being good people (www.berkeley.ac.th).
The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 report shows that Canada’s education system consistently beats the competition in science, reading, and on equity issues like gender balance. Compared to the NZ (#16), AU (#21), UK (#23), and the USA (#31), we’re doing particularly well with an overall ranking in 6th place.

Canada’s safety record is second to none, and our post-graduate work and immigration opportunities matched by only 1 or 2 other countries. Canada is welcoming to new immigrants. According to data from the 2011 National Household Survey, 22 percent of the population aged 16–65 are immigrants. This high quality of education comes at a very reasonable cost. It offers some of the best value for money spent.

One full year of high school starts as little as 525,000 Baht, which is comparable to a mid-range private school in Thailand. Price includes ten months of tuition, homestay, & insurance, airport pick-up and drop, and all application fees.

Get a Canadian college diploma or university degree, and receive a three-year post-graduate work permit, which allows you to apply for Permanent Residency. College and university diplomas start as low as $10,000 per year and average about $20,000. The cost of living will vary from city to city. Still, general or basic room & board can be had for about $1,000 per month, with prices a bit higher in the larger cities. Your study permit is also a work permit allowing you to work 20 hours per week during school and full time during the summer breaks, thus helping to reduce your costs.

As you can see, Canadian education is more than a diploma or degree. It offers you work experience and a chance to acquire a second passport, making you a true global citizen with more lifestyle and work opportunities.

Getting to Canada is simple. We make it easy!

New World Education (dba. GoStudyCanada) is a Bangkok based, Canadian managed, Thai registered company with an office in Vancouver, BC. We have Canadian and Thai staff and have been helping students and parents make the right choice in education since 2006. We take care of all pre-travel arrangements, and the institutions cover the costs, so there is no reason not to use us.

To get started, email info@gostudycanada.net or visit us at www.gostudycanada.net, and download our company profile.
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH CONVERGENCE.TECH

“We are honoured to have the opportunity to partner and collaborate with a world class academic institution like Thammasat University”, said Chami Akmeemana, CEO of Convergence.tech.

As a global leader, Thammasat embraces technology when it can improve learning outcomes and student performance. Seeing the need to advance technology so that they can support the development of high quality domestic and international graduates, Thammasat has taken a leadership role both in Thailand and internationally. Thammasat and Canadian Blockchain company Convergence.tech will co-create new credential uses for educational progress and recognition, potentially leading-edge uses for digital identity. “We’re excited to collaborate with Thammasat University and believe there is great potential to drive positive change across the global education industry. We feel strongly that Digital Identity will play a major role”, Chami said. Convergence.tech will be providing support through the use of their digital credential management platform, Trybe.ID.

Trybe.ID will be leveraged to issue, manage and verify digital credentials for a variety of Thammasat’s offerings. Most notably, Trybe.ID will be utilized to enable learning pathways and the collection of online credits leading to the issuance of a digital certificate. This certificate may then be presented within the application process to specific Thammasat graduate programs growing across the global industry. These credentials are managed digitally and students are given immediate access and complete control over them. Finally, the credentials are powered by various cryptographic features making them highly secure and tamper-proof. “We thank Thammasat University again for the opportunity and we very much look forward to getting started!”, said Chami.

As a leading higher education institution in Thailand, Thammasat University aims to provide needed future workforce skill training and competencies. Partnership with Canadian Blockchain company Convergence.tech can help ensure that program learners know their education progress, recognition and life-long learning goal. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chalie Charoenlarpnopparut, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of Thammasat University, believes that this opportunity will be a new milestone in Thai higher education and the personal credit bank system. Recently, Thammasat University announced its plans to open three new fully online master’s degree programs, namely (1) MBA (Business Innovation) (2) MSc. (Digital Transformation) and (3) MEng. (Applied Artificial Intelligence) as part of the Thammasat University Gen Next Academy project. Learners from these programs will receive the credentials in the form of a digital certificate through the Convergence.tech system which can then be recognized and verified online globally. The system provides a great benefit on authenticity and access controllability. Thammasat University hopes that this collaboration will be extended further to a higher level of digital credential issuing and will set the new industry standard together, hand in hand with Convergence.tech.
British Columbia International School, Bangkok (BCISB) is a place where everyone knows your name. The school’s small class sizes and tight-knit community lend themselves to a personalized education that values every student. It is a place where teachers take pride in creating fun and meaningful educational experiences for your child.

The Canadian provincial curriculum of British Columbia is known for its conceptual-based learning and development of strong fundamentals. Deep learning and exploration in the early years extend to the fast-paced rigorous curriculum within the middle and secondary schools. There is great focus on being learner-centred and flexible as students develop communication, thinking, personal and social skills that transcend all subjects.

A day in the life of a BCISB student includes close interactions with educators, quality time spent with friends, project-based learning and exploration, with a large emphasis placed on the physical and mental well being of learners. Student achievement and individual growth are recognized and personal paths for each student are celebrated. At BCISB students can be comfortable with who they are and participate in a variety of academic, arts and athletic teams or clubs. These take place in the BCISB’s safe and wonderful learning facilities which have the new addition of a beautiful 25m swimming pool for learners.

The BCISB community is truly a pillar of success. Parents and family members often come together in celebration of school events or opportunities to give back to the community. Whether it’s participating in a charity fun run or attending a teacher-led parent workshop on how learning looks at our school, there is no shortage of opportunity for community involvement as we grow together. Doesn’t that sound like something you’d love to be a part of?

BCISB prepares its students for entry into a world that is continuously changing and connected. Students are multi-lingual and proactive global citizens who value their own learning. The school’s guidance team has helped multiple students gain opportunities in exchange programs and attending universities abroad.

At BCISB, the administrative team and teachers are committed to continually improving the educational experience given to students and families. BCISB is reflective of best practices and utilizes its strength of being a small community. It puts students first.

Come and tour BCISB on any weekday to see the great things that are happening in the school’s community. BCISB is confident that parents will value the school and realize that it is one of the best places in Bangkok for your child to learn and grow (https://bcisb.ac.th/).
In 1665, the University of Cambridge temporarily closed its doors due to the spread of the bubonic plague. Isaac Newton decided to lock himself away and work at home with a sack of apples and used the time to develop calculus and deduce the theory of gravity.

The social norm that people must go to the classroom, a meeting room or an office has, until now, outlived the proliferation of video conferencing and the dawn of the era of convenient, low cost unlimited online access. It has taken the outbreak of covid-19 for employers and employees to ask themselves, and each other, whether we really need to go to the office at all? Certainly, in Canada, with travel restrictions in place, stay at home being encouraged by the government and federal employees receiving paid vacations, although there is the downside of the closure of bars and meeting places.

Once the covid-19 panic abates, the benefits of working at home might have become so apparent that we might not see any great enthusiasm for a mass return to the office, at least on a full-time basis. This could finally be the big shift in working practices that we promised the internet would bring and even before that, the much-vaunted paperless office (I still haven’t found one!).

The benefits might attach equally to employers as to employees – imagine the real estate cost savings if offices no longer need to hold a full work force at one-time or if schools no longer need as many classrooms – in 2013 Lord Puttnam spoke at a lunch in Bangkok sponsored by MBMG about how technology was redefining the concept of the classroom from traditional to something more virtual; it now looks as though his vision might be finally realized.

Whilst property companies or Real Estate Investment Trusts might face the risk of even lower rental yields and much more limited development potential on their prime downtown portfolios, this could permanently change the business landscape in many other ways – the huge capital outlay of mass transit operators would suddenly be blighted for infrastructure businesses long admired by investors for their constant income stream.

Any improvements in traffic congestion could lead to reduction in pollution that not only has health benefits but brings a happy ending to the tragedy of the commons whereby everyone in society bears the cost of environmental damage for the economic benefit of the few.

Empowering employees is the best way to develop responsibility and creative thinking, especially alongside flatter management structures, which technology was supposed to enable but hasn’t by itself been able to deliver. I’m not expecting an immediate reversal in the hierarchical tendency to take orders unquestioningly in Confucian style, but this can change over time would help Thailand to become a so-called 5-G economy. Ironically, China, the birthplace of Confucius, seems to have already overtaken Thailand in this respect and there are early signs, according to a survey by the BBC, that covid-19 in China has led Chinese corporates to trust their employees more and devolve greater responsibility to them.

David Puttnam’s vision of students everywhere accessing the best educational resources was apparently possible from a technological point of view 7 years ago but with children around the he was also mindful of the importance of the social aspect.
of school life including sporting achievements but it’s important not lose sight of this in any brave new post-covid-19 world.

It’s also long been recognized that millennials are the ideal generation to help transition to a world of freelancing and entrepreneurship built on connectivity further fueling the rise of such technological phenomena as Software as a Service (SaaS).

Thailand will be an interesting place to watch this develop – whereas Europe seems to be writing the template for how not to manage the situation:

The UK National Health Service proposes that covid-19 patients stay home rather than at an already under-resourced state hospital, seemingly oblivious to the dangers of the virus mutating, just like the Spanish pandemic of 100 years ago. The flu did not begin in Spain but this is where the pandemic was first accurately reported (as World War One rumbled interminably on, the combatants were anxious not to release any information that might be seen as weakness). Reports indicate that the flu was prevalent in Kansas in March 1918 as a mild new or novel virus (far milder than covid-19) with a mortality rate of less than 1%. Brought to the European theatre of war most likely by US soldiers or Chinese labourers, it spread through the trenches (at a rate that appears to be slightly less than that of covid-19) before it evolved and by August 2018 had a mortality rate of 50%. By December 2018, a second wave spread quickly, killing about 50 million people. A third and final wave was a weaker strain, but experts have estimated that over the next few years up a further 50 million people may have perished from it.

Spanish flu helped improve health services for the masses in the western hemisphere, especially when British society realized that wealth and social status provided no immunity (herd or otherwise). A similar outcome in Thailand could be another lasting benefit of the changes brought by covid-19, alongside hopefully encouraging empowerment and creativity.

Finally, extreme times lead to extreme economic measures – the C$25 Bn relief package announced by the Trudeau government (with other governments also looking at providing direct aid to the people, such as the Hong Kong policy of sending HK$10,000 to all adult permanent residents) is groundbreaking and could help to demonstrate to Canada’s neighbour that countries benefit more from supporting their people than bailing out banks, car makers or maybe this time airlines and cruise operators.

If Isaac Newton was here today, he’d no doubt be locked away with his Apple Mac, observing the gravity of the situation........

Paul Gambles, Managing Director

MBMG Group is an advisory firm that assists expatriates and locals within the South East Asia Region with services ranging from Personal Advisory, Insurance Services, Private Equity, Accounting & Auditing, Legal Services, Property Solutions and Estate Planning.

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Lacia Olofsson discusses her new line of impeccably crafted, stylish yet comfortable clothing:

“Dear ChanCham friends & colleagues. This Fashion season is about showing femininity through sheer fabrics with underlays like our print dresses, top & pants ensemble or our modern version of a more formal sheer polka dots dress. (the underlay and dress can be worn separately)

“If you are looking for a casual but elegant outfit, our white stripped Knit collection is the way to go. This dress or skirt looks equally great with sneakers or sandals.

“Working with muted shades as a principal is the base of all Shared Philosophy collections as they are my personal favorites. For me, muted shades are modern, classy, timeless…..and easy to mix & match and accessorize as it helps the modern business woman quickly put together a stylish and different look each day.

“I also like to point out that our Collections are made in small family workshops run by women who are supporting their families through their business. When you purchase a Shared Philosophy garment, you are supporting these women to provide for their families and community as well as grow and develop their business skills.

“Weather you prefer solids or prints, knits or chiffon-this Spring collection has something for every female CanCham member. Thank you in advance for supporting my passion!”

(PS: All CanCham members will receive a free gift and every purchase is packed in a reversible branded Shared philosophy bag.)

www.sharedphilosophy.online, IG: sharedphilosophy, FB: shared philosophy
Don’t compromise your heart health!

Regular heart check-ups are recommended to help prevent heart disease.

We especially recommend you have your heart checked if you:

- Are overweight
- Suffer from diabetes
- Are a smoker
- Have high cholesterol
- Have high blood pressure
- Have a family history of coronary artery disease
- Simply want to have a heart check-up

You should also have your heart checked if you experience:

- Tightness in the chest with jaw and shoulder pain, and shortness of breath
- Heart palpitations
- Dizziness and fainting

Scan the QR code to view our heart check-up programs

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at: 02 011 2222 or 02 011 3491
Heart (Cardiology) Center
Bumrungrad International Clinic (BIC) Building, 14th floor
Ideas are Heard

“Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard,” Liz Fosslien and Mollie West Duffy. At ISB, our community is diverse and inclusive, and our students’ voices and ideas are heard.