



June 12, 2006

TO ALL THAILAND CONFERENCE DELEGATES and PRAC PRIMARY CONTACTS

Sawadee Friends and Colleagues:

It is just weeks since we attended PRAC's 39th International Conference in Thailand. I hope that your travels onward were pleasant.

Saturday's Bangkok programme opened with a reception at the Oriental Bangkok's famous "Author's Lounge" where our gracious host, Tilleke & Gibbins International's CEO, David Lyman, welcomed us. Earlier in the day, some of the Delegates and Guests attended an early arrivals tour of the Grand Palace. Not even the torrential downpour, thunder and lightening stopped this hearty group from visiting the dazzling Wat Phra Kaew and its revered Emerald Buddha, the Golden Chedi, and Pantheon of the Chakri Kings. Dine arounds at local restaurants provided further opportunity for our Host Firm, Delegates, and Guests to be re-acquainted and enjoy local cuisine.

Following a luncheon, Sunday's group tour was of Vimanmek, the magnificent golden teakwood residence of King Chulalongkorn. Earlier, several Delegates and Guests took in the cornucopia of Thailand, the Weekend Market. Small groups were expertly led around the maze of the market by "trained" Tilleke guide and successful shopping was the end result!

Later that evening, David Lyman and his wife, Poo, hosted the Partner In Home Dinner at their stunning "House of the Rainforest". Cultural entertainment abounded, with wonderful cuisine and excellent company – to say nothing of the elephants – momma and two babies! We only hope David's neighbors were invited as well! It was a warm evening (temperature wise), however the ambient warmth of our gracious hosts was even warmer.

Our business programme began Monday morning with Welcome and Introductions, followed by Country Briefings presented by our Host Firm's David Lyman and DataConsult Ltd's Christopher Bruton; and Chile – Carey y Cia (Rafael Vergara).

One on One Meetings followed, with each firm having two separate half hour sessions with other firms. .

PRACTice Management took center stage and presented panel discussions "Succession Planning for Layers and Management" led by Co-Chairs John Shirbin (Clayton Utz – Australia) and Warren Gorrell (Hogan & Hartson – Washington). Speakers included Patrick Sherrington (Lovells – London); Joyce Fan (Lee and Li – Taiwan); and Christophe Eck (Gide Loyrette Nouel – Paris).

Monday's business session ended with the PRACTice Management's second topic for the Marketing segment "Marketing Budgets – Can They Be Managed". Led by Jorge Perez-Taiman (Muniz Ramirez Perez-Taiman & Luna-Victoria – Peru), panelists discussed the role of marketing / business development functions in law firms, with a particular focus on marketing budget management, including budget percentage breakdowns. Panelists included S. Sivanesan (Rodyk & Davidson – Singapore); Warren Gorrell (Hogan & Hartson – Washington); John Shirbin (Clayton Utz – Australia); and Paul Finigan (Morgan Lewis & Bockius – San Francisco).

The Membership Committee had its meeting thereafter.

Earlier in the day Accompanying Guests visited the picturesque ruins of the ancient capital city of Ayudhaya.

Tuesday meetings began with Business Investment & International Trade Practice Group Meeting "Potential Pitfalls in FTA Negotiations". Led by Co-Chairs A. Peter Parsons (Davis Wright Tremaine – Seattle) and Joyce Fan (Lee and Li – Taiwan), speakers included Ray Batla (Hogan & Hartson – Washington); John Fotiadis (Tilleke and Gibbins – Thailand); Bruno de Cazalet (Gide Loyrette Nouel – Paris); and Marcio Baptista (Tozzini Freire Teixeira e Silva – Brazil)...

The Privatization & Infrastructure Practice Group Meeting focused on "Project Finance in Wind Projects in Europe, India and USA" with presentations by co-chairs Ray Batla (Hogan & Hartson – Washington) and Shardul Thacker (Mulla and Mulla and Craigie Blunt and Caroe – Mumbai).

Tuesday afternoon's Public Seminar before an audience of PRAC Delegates and nearly 200 local clients, – "Role of Intellectual Property As A Future Economic and Business Driver" – featured guest speaker Douglas Chi Shing Cheung, Managing Director, MSD Thailand Limited, along with PRAC Delegates A. Peter Parsons (Davis Wright Tremaine – Seattle); Kalley Chen (King & Wood – Beijing); and Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd Edward Kelly. This proved to be a very interesting Seminar and it generated much discussion amongst the delegates.

The day ended for most Delegates, save for the Policy and Planning Committee which held its ancillary meeting.

Earlier in the day, Accompanying Delegates traveled by canal for a luncheon and a tour of the famed Jim Thompson House.

Tuesday evening's closing dinner at Patravadi Theatre will long be remembered not only for the multi mode of transport to the event (including by way of the famed "Tuk – Tuk" , each customized with lights and signage for PRACites (!); but also for the view from the Chao Praya River; the innovative choreography of the Thai dancers and also for the most memorable rehearsal of the Royal Barge Procession in preparation for the King's 60th accession to the throne ceremony (to take place in June). As we arrived, the Procession with magnificent barges gliding smoothly along the river, made its way past us accompanied by, what most of us felt was magical, yet haunting chanting of the multitude of rowers on the Barges. A most memorable evening!

The Wednesday Board Meeting summarized the events of the Conference and dealt with substantive issues effecting PRAC. The various committees have been tasked to perform certain duties and functions. The Bangkok portion of the conference closed thereafter and the Optional Program to Chiang Mai had Delegates and Accompanying Guests traveling to Bangkok Airport for the 90 minute flight to Chiang Mai. Once in Chiang Mai, Delegates & Accompanying Guests were surprised and delighted with the surrounds of the Mandarin Dhara Dhevi Chiang Mai.

Wednesday evening's optional reception and dinner at the Lotus Pond gave everyone a chance to relax and enjoy cultural performances performed by local groups and of course, the company of fellow PRACites and guests.

Thursday morning's Business Presentation by Tilleke and Gibbins International Ltd proved to be one of the most interesting, participative and successful sessions. Led by Tilleke's Ed Kelly, Ed Madden, John Fotiadis and Liza Leung, the Tilleke IP Team provided concise and interesting exchanges with Delegates on the challenges of IP Enforcement in Thailand; The Anti-Dumping Tsunami and Thailand's Fight Against Corruption.

Following a group luncheon, the conference closed and Delegates and Guests departed for onward flights or took some time to discover the city of Chiang Mai. Several Delegates and Accompanying Guests took in the Friday optional tour to the Mae Sae Elephant Camp and Doi Suthep Temple.

Board Meeting Notes

The Board Meeting held on Wednesday morning attended to the business aspects. Draft minutes will be available shortly at the PRAC web site. PRAC Practice Group Co-Chairs meeting in Thailand are reminded to kindly submit their minutes to Susan Iannetta by 30 June 2006 for inclusion in the Board Minutes.

Policy and Planning Committee Report

- 1) Member consensus regarding Thailand's Conference was very positive and appreciation was extended to Tilleke and Gibbins.
- 2). Terms of Reference regarding specific issues were referred to the PPC subcommittee with instructions to canvass the members prior to San Diego Conference and report back to the PPC.

3. Members were requested to provide the PPC Chairman with suggestions regarding the format, content and presentation of Conference, including Committee and Practice Group sessions. Suggestions will be reviewed with the PRAC Chairman, Vice Chairman and Director prior to the San Diego Conference.

Membership Committee Report

1) South Africa and Spain. In view of the lack of interest to pursue these jurisdictions, both items were dropped and activity closed for the time being.

2) Venezuela

Venezuela indicated that is willing to continue in PRAC and looks forward to the conclusion of the job assigned to the sub-committee presided by John Shirbin.

3) Indonesia

Indonesia has been found a non-performing member. Post Thailand Conference, PRAC Chairman has been in contact with ABNR and ABNR have reconfirmed their commitment to PRAC.

4) Chicago

The Chicago issue has been put aside by the committee in view that no one is pursuing it at the present time.

5) New jurisdiction: Houston.

Our Peru member has indicated to the Chair its willingness to present a Stage 1 Report on Houston, Texas (oil and gas) for membership consideration. The report will be prepared in advance of the San Diego Conference.

6) The terms of reference report prepared by John Shirbin shall be canvassed among the members to obtain points of view in the different matters

Future Conferences

San Diego - October 14-18, 2006

Member Firm Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps have begun their staging. Preliminary Invitation Packages were delivered to Delegates and early registration is available on line at the PRAC web site.

Los Angeles – October 18-19, 2006

PRAC's four Los Angeles Shared City Members (Davis Wright Tremaine; Hogan & Hartson; Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps; and Morgan Lewis & Bockius) will jointly host a follow on programme in Los Angeles. Preliminary Agenda was provided to Delegates and available on line at PRAC web site

Colombia – March 17-21, 2007

Brigard & Urrutia will host a double venue conference, starting in Bogota and moving to Cartagena. Additional details including Preliminary Invitation package will be available in October.

Seoul, Korea – September/October, 2007

Initial planning underway for the undertaking by Kim Chang & Lee. Additional details will be provided as they become known.

PRAC Marketing

The PRAC web site overhaul has been completed. Visit www.prac.org

1. A reminder to complete the Post Conference Survey – attached.

2. Please follow up with your One on One meetings

3. Mention the PRAC web site (www.prac.org) in your firm's internal network

4. Our e-Bulletin continues to gain recognition both among our members and externally. The PRAC e-Bulletin is published and distributed on or about the 15th of each month via email to Primary Contacts and Marketing

Contacts. Please continue to send contributions to Susan Iannetta. Consider adding Susan's name to your firm's internal marketing email or mailing list (susan.iannetta@prac.org). Deadline for contributions is the 10th of each month. Issues are available on line at the PRAC web site (e-Bulletin link). Primary Contacts are encouraged to distribute the e-Bulletin throughout your firm.

4. If you have provided contact information for your firm's practice group representatives, they will be added to the Contacts Matrix (available at PRAC web site).

5. 2006 Directory hard copies have been distributed. Updates for the web site should be sent to Susan Iannetta.

6. Due to increased submissions to the monthly e-Bulletin, a Public Libraries section has been established at the PRAC web site to host larger member publications. Members wishing to contribute manuals or other timely publications should submit same in pdf format by email to S. Iannetta. Members are reminded that this new section "Public Libraries" will be open viewing for the public.

Other Business - Conference Materials.

Thailand's conference materials (including photos) will be provided at the PRAC web site (Thailand Conference Materials link) in the immediate future. Members are reminded of their private access information (example: user=asahi password=asahi8). Special note – our Toronto host firm advises that unfortunately with the exception of the Group Photo, all other photos have been lost. Members are encouraged to send conference photos to Susan Iannetta (jpg format please) for inclusion in the conference photo album available at the PRAC web site.

I think every delegate and accompanying guest will agree with me that this conference was very special for the variety, atmosphere, excitement and sheer beauty of Thailand. We were so fortunate to experience so much of Thailand's culture, history, food, hospitality and of course the shopping! Our hosts made this possible by attending to little details, pampering us and sharing their own warmth and special brand of Tilleke and Gibbins International hospitality.

The business sessions proved to be beneficial to us. The general feedback was that it may be time to re-look at some of the sessions, the conference format and methods of presentations so that delegates will have more to share, exchange and learn from each other. I will review this together with the relevant co-chairs of the various committees. My intent would be to inject a more business-oriented approach to the sessions with a focus on how delegates will be able to obtain more "take-away" and value-added benefits, either for themselves or the member firms.

This being my first conference as Chairman of this wonderful and prestigious organization, I was mindful of the excellent leadership of my predecessors, John Brooks, George Link, Andy Gatmaitan, John Elder, John Shirbin, Willem Sodderland and of course Osvaldo Marzorati. All of them having served PRAC so well and have taken it through vital challenges and at times, turbulent changes in the global legal and commercial landscape. To my PRAC family, I can only assure you that I want to do my best for PRAC and its members and I want to continue the good work which all the previous Chairmen have done. I believe that I am blessed with many brilliant and equally well-meaning PRAC colleagues who are willing to work with me. I am also very fortunate to continue to have a very capable, thoughtful and superbly efficient Director. Susan has worked with the past 4 Chairs, so she is well placed to contribute useful and constructive guidance to me.

As we bid farewell to Thailand and its smiles, I look forward to seeing you all in San Diego in October for the 40th PRAC conference. Our host firm, Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps has proudly invited all of us "Back to the Beginning". I am sure John Brooks and his team eagerly awaits us.

In the meantime, I wish all of you more success in your business, good health and well being.

S. Sivanesan
PRAC Chairman



PRAC Thailand 2006 Conference
13-17 May 2006

