Special Announcements
Information of special interest to members including Thai Immigration updates

Club Announcements
The latest announcements of interest to members and Expats living in Thailand

Upcoming Club Related & Special Events
A list of upcoming Club related and other events of special interest – for an overall list of upcoming events in and around Pattaya & Bangkok, see the latest Club Newsletter

Excursions Being Organized
Members often organize excursions which can be one day tours, overnighters, and sometimes international travel. If any are being planned, they will be listed here.

Upcoming Holidays
Public Holidays during the next month or two are listed. Main Bank branches and Government Offices including Immigration will be closed.

Information of Interest from the Open Forum and Other Sources
Information of interest is often announced by fellow expats at the Open Forum session during the Club’s Sunday Meeting. Items of continuing interest are included here until they are incorporated into the appropriate section of the Club’s website.

Government Holidays -
These are the dates that Government Offices and Bank Branch Offices will be closed – Source is Bank of Thailand

REMINDER: If you are not already a subscriber to the Club’s weekly Newsletter, to subscribe go to www.pcec.club and select NEWSLETTER from the left-hand column. Enter your email address in the box and click “subscribe.” You will receive an email so you can “confirm” you want the newsletter. Once you confirm, you will be in our automated mailing list for receipt of the Newsletter.
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO MORE "INCOME LETTERS" FOR THAI IMMIGRATION FROM UK, US, & AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2019

The UK Embassy has very recently announced and the US Embassy subsequently announced that they will no longer be providing letters for Thai Immigration certifying monthly income effective January 1, 2019. The Australian Embassy this past week also announced they would discontinue issuing the letters effective January 7, 2019.

The US Embassy says they are working closely with Thai Immigration and Officials there have indicated they will accept bank statements showing a person has transferred into their Thai bank the necessary funds to qualify for retirement and marriage extensions.

We will do our best to keep everyone informed of the latest developments based on reliable or authoritative information. To date, we have received no reports of anyone having their Embassy income letter refused. However, there have been reports that Chang Mai and Phuket may be asking to see supporting documents when using the income letter from the US Embassy. Click here for what information we have as 7 November 2018.

FOR USA EXPATS THAT USE BANGKOK BANK’S NEW YORK BRANCH TO TRANSFER FUNDS OR MAKE DIRECT DEPOSITS

We previously announced changes for those transferring funds from their USA bank account to or Direct Depositing pension payments (includes social security) into their Bangkok Bank Thai account using the Automated Clearing House (ACH) system to route it through Bangkok Bank’s New York Branch. The ability to do may cease on 1 April 2019. Recent postings on Thaivisa.com indicate that Social Security and perhaps other US Gov’t pensions may be able to be delivered in the proper format. We have updated our information to include this information along with a contact person and telephone number at Bangkok Bank’s Headquarters that may be able to assist. Click here for more information and link to Bangkok Bank’s web site.

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THAI IMMIGRATION NEWS

Click Here to read the latest reports we have on what is happening at Thai Immigration in Pattaya (updated October 2, 2018).

KEEP US INFORMED – If you experience something different at Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration office then what we post here and, in the Visa, & Immigration section of the website, let us know so we can keep our information up to date – we also appreciate notification if you find the information we provide was what your experienced - you can email your information to darrel-pcec@inbox.com.

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Club Announcements

**ARE YOU DUE FOR A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL?**

Judy Edmonds asks that members check their renewal dates. If you are due to renew your membership in the remainder of 2018, Judy would like all to know that it is an extremely busy time for her as many of our members are due for renewal during this period.

It will be a GREAT HELP to Judy if you could renew early. You will still get a full year's membership but will save her from being inundated with renewal requests in December.

**DON'T FORGET TO DONATE FOR XMAS GIFTS FOR PATTAYA ORPHANAGE CHILDREN**

Each year, Judy Edmonds sets up a “donation jar” at the Sunday meeting. The money collected is used to buy Christmas Gifts for Pattaya Orphanage Children. Each year in December, Khun Toy brings the Orphanage Children’s Choir to entertain us at a Sunday meeting.

Before that, Judy will be busy doing the shopping and bagging of the items so that Santa can hand them out to the Orphanage Choir on the day they sing to us. BUT, GUESS WHAT? The donations are needed now so that Judy will have time to use them to purchase the gifts.

So, if you wish to donate to a merry Christmas for the Pattaya Orphanage Children, please drop it into the donation box this Sunday.

**REMEMBER, RAFFLE FOR MEMBER’S FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET ON FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

A reminder for members to bring their current membership card in order to participate in the drawing. There will be drawings on the first Sunday of each month; raffle tickets are given out only to current PCEC members. At the end of the meeting, a ticket is drawn for the full breakfast buffet, which can be obtained at the next or subsequent Sunday meeting – be sure to see Judy to claim your “prize.”

**PCEC MEMBER DISCOUNT FOR HI CLUB MEMBERSHIP AT HOLIDAY INN**

PCEC members receive a discount when they sign up for the Holiday Inn’s HiClub member program. The program normally costs 500 baht but for PCEC members it will cost only 300 baht. This program will still entitle you to a 25% discount at Holiday Inn venues as well as 25% discount on Food and 15% discount on beverages at the Intercontinental Pattaya Resort (formerly the Sheraton) Elements and Infiniti Restaurants. In addition, they will be hosting 2 more parties free during the year for their HiClub members (member guests will be charged 750 baht).
INTERESTED IN A SHOPPING TRIP TO IKEA & THE MEGA MALL

There is a sign-up list at the Sunday’s PCEC Meeting for those interested in sharing the 2,500 baht Van charge for a trip to IKEA and the Mega Mall. The trip will be scheduled when there are enough participants to share the Van charge. For questions, please email Roger Fox at rogerbfox@hotmail.com or call him at 084-073-1270.

REMINDER FOR SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS

If you wish to provide a suggestion or comment to the Governing Board, please place it in the suggestion box at the back of the meeting room. If you wish a response from the Board, please include your email address.

You can also send suggestions and comments to: suggestionbox@pcec.club.

DO YOU KNOW OF A BUSINESS THAT YOU COULD RECOMMEND TO YOUR FELLOW EXPATS?

Often during the Open Forum portion of the meeting, someone will recommend a particular business such as a handyman, auto mechanic or body shop, air conditioning service, clothing shop (with large sizes to fit our heftier expats), computer service, etc. The listing is based on recommendations from fellow Expats and are provided for information purposes only. The PCEC does not guarantee, approve, or endorse the products or services listed. The latest recommendation:

To see information on businesses that have been recommended, click here to visit our webpage listing. Do you know of a business that you can recommend, please let us know by email to info@pcecclub.org or info@pcec.club.

WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR INTERESTING SPEAKERS

The Club’s needs your assistance in finding interesting speakers for the Club’s Sunday meetings. If you know of someone with an interesting topic, please let us know along with how to contact them. To make suggestions for speakers or topics, please email speakers@pcec.club.

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Upcoming Special & Club Events

DRIVER LICENSE ASSISTANCE TRIP FOR PCEC MEMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Monthly assistance trips are provided to the Land Transport Office for obtaining Thai driving licenses. This assistance is for PCEC Club members only with a current membership card. Member Henk Hauer usually conducts the trip on the last Wednesday of the month, but will not be having a trip in September. The trip departs at 8am from parking area opposite IBIS hotel - on same Soi off 2nd Road that goes to Holiday Inn - click here for map. You should contact Henk beforehand to confirm the trip date, time, meeting location, and let him know you wish to participate in the trip. Email him at henk2223@gmail.com AND include your contact telephone number. Henk will then confirm your participation in the trip. See the Driving License page on the Club’s website for information on the process and the documents needed.

NO CLUB DINNERS PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER

Michel and Darrel are taking a break during these two months because many of our participants will be celebrating American Thanksgiving dinners at the end of November and most of us will have plans to attend many of the Christmas Dinners that will be available at the end of December. So, our next Club Dinner will be in January 2019.

SOULED OUT 7TH ANNIVERSARY ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

It will be at the Lion Pub Pattaya from 8pm-10pm with FREE flow Wine & San Miguel. Entry fee is 500 baht with all proceeds to “Baan Jing Orphanage Pattaya.”
Ben’s Theater presents non-profit-making concerts that bring quality musicians to Pattaya. There are no sponsors and income from ticket sales goes directly to the performers. Reservations may be made by email to benstheaterjomtien@gmail.com. Please include your name, number of tickets and mobile number.

24 November, Saturday - The Bandung Trio, Music for oboe, French horn and piano, 8 PM -- 950 Baht

25 November, Sunday - Opera and Art Songs by Three Sopranos of Mahidol, Bellini, Bizet, Faure and more, 8 PM -- 950 Baht

PILC 25TH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Bazaar will again be at the Holiday Inn Pattaya from 10am to 4pm. While you shop for Christmas presents your children will have the opportunity to meet Santa. Meet your friends in the cafe and support the PILC Christmas Bazaar Charity Raffle - your chance to win prizes. With over 70 vendors present there will be shopping to be done by ALL.

From small beginnings in 1987, PILC has grown to encompass around 200 members from more than 30 countries. The Club provides expatriate women with the opportunity to network, socialize, make friends and participate in a wide range of monthly and weekly activities including sporting and cultural pursuits. PILC is involved in supporting several welfare projects both through volunteer help and fundraising.
CANADIAN PIANIST COREY HAMM IN CONCERT AT EELSWAMP ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Canadian pianist, Corey Hamm is the winner of the Spotify, ‘Classical Recording of the Year’ award. He will perform two concerts:

**Friday, 23rd November at 6pm:** Rzewski’s “People United Will Never be Defeated” variations. This was the work played last year by Yevgeny Starodubtsev, to great audience acclaim.

**Sunday 25th at 5pm:** Prokofiev’s monumental 8th Sonata and two works by lesser known, but nonetheless inspiring, composers, Duitilleux and Kapustin.

Reservations: 1,200 baht for one concert. 2,000 baht for two in the same series. Email asiachart@hotmail.com or call 038 069681 office hours. Due to limited number of places payment must be received before the day.


BRUNO’S WINE DINNER ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Bruno’s Restaurant next Wine Dinner will serve Italian Wines and one Argentinian Wine accompanied by some great new dishes prepared by Chef Jordi. Price is 2,800 baht net and the event starts at 7pm. To see the menu, [click here](https://eelswamp.blogspot.com/2018/10/winner-of-spotifys-best-classical-cd.html). To make reservations or for more information [Click here](https://eelswamp.blogspot.com/2018/10/winner-of-spotifys-best-classical-cd.html) (also has map for location).

Please note, the PCEC discount DOES NOT apply to Bruno’s Wine Dinner or other promotional offers.

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Excursions are usually open to all, but Club members may receive priority if limited space is available. Excursions are organized by individual members for their and other Expat benefit and are not arranged, operated, or guaranteed in any way by the Pattaya City Expats Club. They are publicized here as a service to our subscribers that may be interested in participating.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GOING ON A SAFARI IN TANZANIA OR A VISIT TO BHUTAN, THE LAND OF THE DRAGONS?

Club member Allan Riddell is with the South African Thai Chamber of Commerce and in that capacity has visited and toured other countries. If you think you may be interested, then contact Allan Riddell for enquiries and bookings: allanmriddell@hotmail.com.

Allan Riddell is currently arranging the latest No.1 Safari in the World in Tanzania. Click here for the itinerary for a safari created for JABULANI which is the social club for South Africans resident and working in Thailand. Allan has arranged that the same program at the same discounted price for PCEC members.

As he mentioned in Open Forum, Allan is now able to arrange add-ons to Zanzibar and, if requested, a separate visit to Kenya. Safaris are made to suit individuals; Two to six persons per safari; Length of safari..flexible number of days; Dates..any time of the year; Air and land arrangements; Flights on carriers to Mount Kilimanjaro. He offers a one stop shop and Itineraries and prices provided once he is given dates and number of passengers.

PRICES INCLUDE: *Meet & greet upon arrival at Mount Kilimanjaro airport *4 x 4 transportation (Regular Safari L/Cruiser) throughout safari with qualified English speaking driver-guide & unlimited mileage *Mineral water aboard 4 x 4 *Full board throughout safari (3 meals a day) *All park, crater, camping & concession fees as per itinerary *Walking safari & Night Game Drive at Grumeti Hills *Day out with Hadzabes.

Allan notes their tours are small in group size but big on inspiration, exploration & cultural authenticity. For follow up info you may care to drop me a line: allanmriddell@hotmail.com.

Click here for more information on Bhutan with links to specific itineraries.
During Public Holidays, main Bank branches and Government Offices, including Immigration, will be closed. Also, for Buddhist Holidays (which may or may not also be a Government holiday), there may be a prohibition on the sale of alcohol (hotels are usually exempt); consequently, some entertainment venues may be closed.

No Government Holidays in November
ANNUAL VEHICLE ROAD TAX IN PATTAYA – Many car owners trek to the Land Transport Office off of Highway 36 to pay their annual tax and get a current “sticker” to place on their windshield (windscreen). But, it isn't necessary. Every Saturday from 10am to 4pm, they have staff available at Central Festival Pattaya. They are on the It has now moved to Central Festival near the information booth and the McDonald's at the Beach Road end of the mall. They are open every Saturday from 11am (time Central Festival opens). You will need your vehicle ownership book and evidence of Thailand compulsory insurance. But, if your car is 7 or more years old, you need to have it inspected before you can register it at Central Festival or the Land Transport Office. The inspection can be done at many locations throughout Pattaya.

Look for this sign. Also, for a small fee (usually around 200 baht), the staff at the Inspection station will take your documents and registration fee to the Land Transport Office for you. They will have the vehicle ownership book and Road Tax registration sticker for the current year back for pick up the next or following day.
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<td>New Year's Day</td>
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<td>Substitution for New Year's Eve (Sunday 31 December 2017)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Makha Bucha Day</td>
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<td>6 April</td>
<td>Chakri Memorial Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Songkran Festival (Note: Cabinet has designated Thursday 12 April as an additional day.)</td>
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<td>16 April</td>
<td>Substitution for Songkran Festival (Saturday 14 April and Sunday 15 April 2018)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wisakha Bucha Day</td>
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<td>27 July</td>
<td>Asarnha Bucha Day</td>
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<td>30 July</td>
<td>Substitution for H.M. King Maha Vajiralongkorn's Birthday (Saturday 28 July 2018)</td>
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<td>13 August</td>
<td>Substitution for H.M. the Queen's Birthday (Sunday 12 August 2018)</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<td>23 October</td>
<td>Chulalongkorn Day</td>
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<td>14.</td>
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<td>5 December</td>
<td>H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Birthday</td>
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<td>10 December</td>
<td>Constitution Day</td>
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<td>31 December</td>
<td>New Year's Eve</td>
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**Note:** When the Holiday occurs during the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) the following Monday (substitution day) is when Banks and Government offices will be closed.

Observance of a Buddhist (religious) holiday – usually the sale of alcohol is prohibited and some entertainment venues may subsequently be closed. Hotel restaurants and bars are usually exempt from the ban. The Cabinet may designate additional days for a holiday, we publish this information in the Club Newsletter. [Click here](#) for a website that lists the Holidays along with a link to get more information about the Holiday.

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