Our 18th year of Expats helping Expats

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JANUARY 15, 2018

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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, overnights, 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.
NEW RULES APPROVED BY THAI IMMIGRATION FOR USE OF MONTHLY INCOME TO QUALIFY FOR EXTENSIONS STAY

We have previously reported that the UK, US, Australian, and Denmark Embassies have announced they have stopped or will no longer be issuing "income" certifications/affidavits.

On December 20, the US Consul General appeared on the morning program of Pattaya FM 103 and provides some additional information. We have included his comments in the latest update including the expectation that Thai Immigration Headquarters will be issuing a new Police Order in January 2019 that will include information on documentation needed to support having 65,000 baht in monthly income. Further, income affidavits continue to be issued up to the end of this year and should be valid for 6 months from date of issue.

Immigration issued their memorandum supplementing the Police Orders governing extensions of stay in the Kingdom. There have been no changes re those that choose to keep 800,000 baht (retirement) or 400,000 baht (married/related to a Thai). The rules are as they have always been.

For those choosing monthly income of 65,000 baht (retirement) or 40,000 baht (married/related to a Thai) per month, Immigration will accept Embassy certifications if you have one OR they will want to see the minimum amount being deposited monthly into your Thai bank account. For first time applicants, the minimum amount should be deposited for at least one month at the start of the retirement extension - for subsequent renewal, the monthly deposit for the full 12 months will be required. Evidence will be based on your Thai Bank confirmation and your bank book.

Click here for the details.
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. Click here for more information and link to Bangkok Bank’s web site.

We have received several recommendations for use of www.transferwise.com as a means of transferring funds from USA to your Thai bank account (also can be used for transferring money from other countries and to more than one Thai bank). The PCEC does not endorse or guarantee this service in any way, is providing this information for those that may wish to use it, and recommends due diligence if you choose to use it. Contact darrel-pcec@inbox.com for information based on his and others experience in using Transferwise.

THAI IMMIGRATION NEWS

Click Here to read the latest reports we have on what is happening at Thai Immigration in Pattaya (updated January 10, 2019).

At the present, we received information that the Thai Immigration Police have issued a Police Order regarding documentation needed to support monthly income if using that as a basis for extending your stay based for retirement or marriage. Our updates on this issue are included in the announcement above dealing specifically with certain Embassies no longer issuing certification/affidavit of monthly income for Thai Immigration.

At the present, we have not received any recent reports from folks using Embassy income letters at Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration. Thai Immigration has issued their new rule for documenting monthly income for retirement & married/related to a Thai. Details are included in the separate announcement above.

We have also received reports that it may be more difficult to get a Certificate of Residence from Chonburi Immigration (needed for registration of purchase of a Condo, buying/selling a vehicle, and obtaining a Thai Driving License. See the linked announcement for more information.

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.
Club Announcements

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 Judith to claim your “prize.”

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@pceccclub.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.
Upcoming Special & Club Events

CLUB RELATED EVENTS

DRIVER LICENSE ASSISTANCE TRIP FOR PCEC MEMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

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 December. 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.
Classical Music Pattaya announces a concert featuring Tasana Nagavajara on Violin and Kanaka Kato on Accordion to benefit Pattaya Orphanage. It will take place at the Diana Garden Resort & Hotel beginning at 6pm.

Tickets 500 baht and 300 baht for students available from Pattaya Orphanage – please contact toy@thepattayaorphanage.org and Pattaya City Expats Club email: judithpcec@gmail.com.

Diana Garden Resort Hotel: Address: 209/112 Moo6, North Pattaya, Pattaya City. Phone: 038 415 212
Excursions Being Organized

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.

RIVER KWAI TRIP BEING ORGANIZED MID MARCH OR APRIL

Member Roger Fox is spearheading an effort to repeat last year’s well appreciated River Kwai trip. A sign-up sheet shows a 3 day 2 night jaunt that will cost about 5,500 baht shared or 800 more as a single. Although we can go with any number, if we have at least 7 or 8 we will get our own van and try to do a 4day 3 night trip. In addition, having our own van gives us significant flexibility to do what we want. Planned are war museum visits, trains, wading through markets, elephant rides, river rafting, swimming in same, waterfalls, shopping or just sitting on your own porch watching the river go by sipping on your favorite bev.

All meals are included and last year were plentiful and excellent. Accommodations are either right on the river (the preferred place) or a nice chalet on the top of the hill. Camaraderie within the van was better than nice and this getaway promises to be very relaxing at reasonable rates. Although no specific date has been set, the time frame for the trip will be mid to late March or early April. Come on along and get to know some nice people on a deeper level.

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.

Allen has just returned from East Africa where he had the pleasure of joining with the President of SKAL Andrew Wood and Skal’s PR man Khun Pichai on ad educational visit. He gas fine-tuned their once in a lifetime safari’s for PCEC members for both 2019 and 2020. Click here to review the new Itinerary and Click here for the rates.

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 Itinaries 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.

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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.

None in February
**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 will 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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} January</td>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Makha Bucha Day</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8\textsuperscript{th} April</td>
<td>Substitution for Chakri Memorial Day</td>
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<td>(Saturday 6\textsuperscript{th} April 2019)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15\textsuperscript{th} April</td>
<td>Songkran Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} April</td>
<td>Substitution for Songkran Festival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Saturday 13\textsuperscript{th} April 2019 and Sunday 14\textsuperscript{th} April 2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} May</td>
<td>National Labour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20\textsuperscript{th} May</td>
<td>Substitution for Wisakha Bucha Day</td>
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<td>(Saturday 18\textsuperscript{th} May 2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} July</td>
<td>Asarnha Bucha Day\textsuperscript{1}</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>29\textsuperscript{th} July</td>
<td>Substitution for H.M. King Maha</td>
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<td>Vajiralongkorn’s Birthday</td>
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<td>(Sunday 28\textsuperscript{th} July 2019)</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12\textsuperscript{th} August</td>
<td>H.M. Queen Sirikit’s Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14\textsuperscript{th} October</td>
<td>Substitution for H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej</td>
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<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<td>(Sunday 13\textsuperscript{th} October 2019)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23\textsuperscript{th} October</td>
<td>Chulalongkorn Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s Birthday / National Day / Father’s Day</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>Constitution Day</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>31\textsuperscript{st} 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.