



**JFCCT PM Lunch 25 November 2016. Extracts from MC talk:
Early Years and JFCCT Today.**

Early Years

This year marks the 40-year anniversary of the JFCCT. Four decades of providing advocacy to the Thai Government. You can just imagine the volume of people who have worked tirelessly over the years to make it possible for us to be meeting here today.

To be able to provide real insight into all that has been accomplished we had the generous support of some key individuals who helped us write about the Early Years of the JFCCT. We would like to especially recognize Mr. David Lyman, co-founder of the F4C, which was the predecessor to the JFCCT; Mr. Peter van Haren, who was one of the previous JFCCT Chairmen, and Mr. Nandor von der Luehe, who is the Immediate Past Chairman of the JFCCT, prior to Stanley Kang.

Contribution to the early years in the history was possible with recollections and materials from many and I apologise in advance for not being able to recognize all. They include David Lyman, Ron Endley, Dr Paul Strunk, Dr Peter Brimble, John Hancock, Sam Cohen, Adolph Kneiss, Ulrich Weber amongst others.



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JFCCT Today

The JFCCT sees itself as the leader in using best practices to make Thailand more attractive for foreign investment, and in attracting the most valuable kinds of foreign investment. There are several facets to this, including an open, competitive, level playing field, enhancing ease of doing business, increasing capacity in the economy and stimulating innovation.

Competitiveness includes ease of doing business, being attractive for investment, making necessary structural reforms, enhancing skills, real achievement for Thailand 4.0, and other measures. Much progress has been made but for the next stage these are challenges which involve not just incremental change but also structural change.

As JFCCT's membership base represents the rest of the world outside of Thailand, we believe it is in a good position to bring to bear the best and most appropriate ideas, insights and to propose solutions to help grow the Thai economy both qualitatively and quantitatively. The organization's structure is designed to ensure consensus is built and the most constructive proposals and relevant experiences come to the fore.

As mentioned, a number of specialist committees exist to analyze issues and make recommendations consistent with the JFCCT mission and purpose as described. The development process usually involves, initially, a white paper and positions on key issues (developed in one or more committees which will have gathered inputs from many sources), which are then covered at the monthly Presidents' Council meeting. The engagement process with government and industry organizations is via dialogue, conferences, small group meetings, seminars and other ways usually involving a written outline and detailed



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submissions. Through this process the consensus built with the foreign business community is put forward and considered.

In addition, major economy-wide or cross-sectoral topics are developed by one or more of the committees, alternatively by a special purpose working group, and brought to the monthly Presidents' Council meeting.

Economy-wide issues include work permits and visas, general trade and investment issues, the Foreign Business Act, ease of doing business, and service sector liberalization.

Several member chambers and business associations have their own sectoral-focused or specialist committees. This representation increases the level of interest in a specific topic and draws in wider experience and ideas. Representatives of these committees typically participate in the relevant JFCCT committee.

The JFCCT is governed by a Charter which is publicly available on the JFCCT website. Membership of the committees is open to any representative of a JFCCT member chamber or business association.