

## **OPENING REMARKS**

### **“JOINT EMBASSIES AND CHAMBERS NETWORKING 2017”**

**AT BANGKOK MARRIOTT MARQUIS QUEEN’S PARK HOTEL  
ON WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**BY DAVID LYMAN**

**FOUNDER OF JFCCT**

**CHAIRMAN & CHIEF VALUES OFFICER  
TILLEKE & GIBBINS**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (the “JFCCT”), I welcome each of you to an evening of networking and camaraderie.

As to how we and the JFCCT got to today from whence we came, back in the unstable days of 1975, when I was President of the American Chamber of commerce in Thailand, I proposed to then Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj the idea of creating a grouping of local foreign business advisors, from the various foreign national chambers of commerce and business associations, to help guide Thailand to create and sustain an attitude and atmosphere conducive for and attractive to foreign investment, while concurrently protecting Thailand from improper and unfair economic manipulation.

The prime minister bought the idea and created the “Foreign Investment Advisory Council” – the “FIAC”. From that beginning, 42 years ago, the JFCCT has evolved to become the combined voice of most of the foreign investment community in Thailand through their respective chambers of commerce and business associations.

Building on the decades of efforts of the JFCCT, the foreign and Thai business communities have blended their respective issues and concerns to work in harmony and won the respect and the ears of the successive Thai governments. All these groups, working both independently and in combination, have created, sustained and strengthened the investment friendly community for the betterment of our Thai homeland, its economy and the lifestyles and privileges of its people.

