



Introduction

Soon we will be in the closing month of another year. 2009 has been an iconic year for global economics, with most of the countries in the world bottoming out from the worst economic recession since The Great Depression. Thankfully, the situation has been slowly recovering, albeit with cautious optimism. However, there may be some set-back now with the financial uncertainty now coming out of Dubai.

In spite of the uncertainties, it has, so far, also been a very active and busy year for the Singapore-Thai Chamber of Commerce, especially in the last couple of months.

In October 09, STCC celebrated its 16th anniversary with a bash at the Millennium Hilton Hotel (details inside this newsletter).

Another major event in October was the 10th STCC-THTA Annual Charity Golf Tournament, jointly organized by the Singapore-Thai Chamber of Commerce (STCC) and Thai-Hong Kong Trade Association (THTA). More than Bht 330,000 was raised at this event, which will go towards funding the charity projects for both chambers.

Other events include an Oktoberfest outing in Pattaya and a Dinner Forum organized in conjunction with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

With the many activities organized throughout the year – networking functions, dinner talks, golf tournaments and other events – STCC is reputed to be one of the most active business chambers in Thailand. All these many activities certainly provided STCC members with many opportunities to socialize with friends, and network with both existing and prospective business associates and partners – not only among just STCC members, but also with members from other business chambers.

A lot of resources are required in the organization of such activities. In the coming months we will continue to plan and organize more activities for the benefit of members. However, towards this end, we also need assistance from fellow members. So we are inviting members who are interested in contributing to these activities by joining our organizing sub-committees.

Please do contact our STCC office for more information.

With the approaching year-end holiday season around the corner, we would like to wish all members and friends many happy holidays.

Khoo Thiam Hock
Zaw Zaw Aye
(Newsletter Committee)



Oktoberfest

STCC Organized the 3rd Annual Oktoberfest in Pattaya. 45 members attended this 2-day trip held on the 3rd to 4th of October 2009. There was even a game of golf, and dinner gathering with lots of beer and German music. Thanks to Khun Pakdee and Khun Helmut for organizing this wonderful event.





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16th Anniversary Joint Networking Night

STCC celebrated its 16th anniversary on 8th October 2009 with a bash at the Millennium Hilton Hotel. This event was attended by more than 300 members and friends of STCC and 10 other business chambers in Thailand; and graced by His Excellency, the Singapore Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Peter Chan, and Mrs Chan. It was indeed a memorable evening for those who attended the function – with sumptuous food, beer, lucky draw prizes (including air-tickets) and good net-working.





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STCC – THTA 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

On the 29th of October 2009, STCC and THTA jointly organized the annual charity golf tournament at the Summit Windmill Golf Club. We would like to thank all participants and sponsors for helping make this event a success.





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A photograph of a swimming pool at dusk, with a city skyline and a person walking on a bridge in the background. The water reflects the lights and the sky.

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A photograph of a woman in a red dress sitting at a table, holding a glass of red wine and smiling. The setting appears to be a restaurant or bar.

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A photograph of a man and a woman lying in bed in a hotel room, looking at each other. The room is dimly lit with warm tones.

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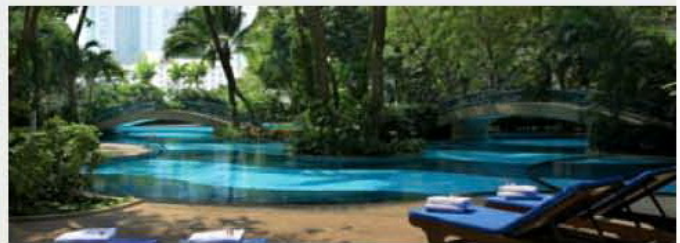
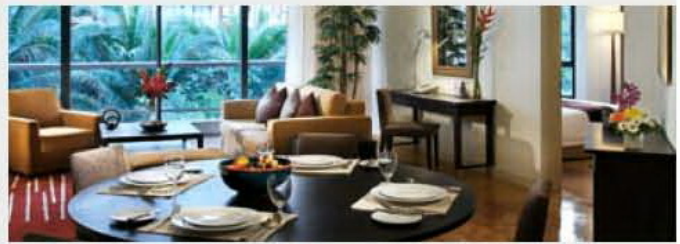
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Dinner Forum with World Bank and Asian Development Bank

This was a special event organized by STCC for members and friends. Officials from the two reputed organizations gave their insights on the current economic downturn, and the economic prospects following that. We would like to thank Ms Annette Dixon from the World Bank and Mr Soo-Nam Oh from the Asian Development Bank for their insightful contribution at this forum. We would also like to thank Mr Bobby Tai who moderated the discussion at this dinner forum.





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STCC Friendship Networking Day

STCC organized a friendship networking day at Siam Paragon's Blue'O Bowling alley. Held on the 14th of November, members and friends of STCC had an afternoon of fun packed with bowling and karaoke.





Party by the Pool

Attended by over 90 members and non-members, **STCC Party by the Pool Networking Night** was held at the Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok on 19 November 2009. A number of new faces chatting with old and new friends were noticed in this enjoyable gathering - excellent atmosphere by the pool in fairly cool and breezy evening.





Special Feature

Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia – Are they different ?

By Calvin Lee

Malay and Bahasa Indonesia – 'same same' or different? Let's take a closer look at these two languages, their compelling differences and discerning similarities. Not to be confused with Malagasy which is a language spoken in Madagascar. And no, Malay is not the short form of Malayalam. Malayalam is another language altogether, from South India. Malay is the official language of Brunei and Malaysia, and one of the official languages in Singapore. The national language of Indonesia is Indonesian, formally referred to as Bahasa Indonesia which literally translates as "Indonesian language". Indonesian is also used in East Timor. In Malaysia, the language is now officially known as Bahasa Malaysia ("Malaysian language"), though constitutionally it is called *Bahasa Melayu*. Singapore, Brunei and southern Thailand refer to the language as Bahasa Melayu ("Malay language").

From a language translation perspective, these are two distinct languages with their own set of rules. Often, we hear clients ordering or asking for translation of their marketing collateral into Bahasa and Malay. Most translation companies would know that most of the time, Bahasa refers to Indonesian. But in fact, Bahasa literally means language; Bahasa Indonesia = Indonesian language. But there are cases where the client actually meant Malay (as in Bahasa = Malay). Confusing?

Translation text for Malay that is entirely lifted from Indonesian, with minimal and insufficient editing is not something new. It is a common misunderstanding that both Bahasa are the same language, but used in different countries. Wrong again...

From the listener's point of view, these two languages do sound alike. When a Malaysian visits Indonesia and speaks Malay to the street vendor, chances are they will both understand each other or at the very least, comprehend a part of it. Both languages are from the same Austronesian family after all. From the linguistic or reading standpoint, of course they are not the same. Both languages have different sentence structures, slightly different grammar and even varying definitions for certain words



BAHASA





The Malay language is indigenous to Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatera, and the group of islands south of Singapore, more known as the Riau-Lingga archipelago. From historical records, Malay was already in use by the Buddhist Srivijaya empire which flourished from the 7th to the 14th century A.D. Today, Bahasa Melayu or the Malay language is the official language of Malaysia and the second official language of Singapore. The national anthem of Singapore is sung in Malay although there are English, Mandarin and Tamil translations of it.

Two languages are said to be similar if they share a common volume of vocabulary. Based on the Ethnologue.com, Spanish and Catalan boast an 85% lexical similarity. This shows a high percentage of shared vocabulary between a pair of similar languages.

¹The Cultural Agreement signed by both Malaysia and Indonesia in 1959 was the first step in unifying the spelling systems used in both countries. The Indonesian spelling was based on the Dutch spelling system, adopting Dutch graphemes like *oe* for *u*, and *tj* for *c* and so on. The Malay spelling on the other hand was English-based. This common spelling system lays the foundation for the coining of scientific terms for both countries. Scientific terminologies were taken from English, and through this common spelling platform, we were able to adapt those terms while retaining the phonological features of the Malay language. For example, oxygen is now *oksigen* and not *oksijan* (formerly in Malaysia) and *zat azam* (formerly in Indonesia). Outside the realm of science, both languages still maintain different words and spellings.

In addition to that, many words in Malay and Indonesian are borrowed from English and Dutch respectively. For example, the month of March is *Mac* (Malay) and *Maret* (Indonesian). Another example is the word **ticket** which is translated as **tiket** in Malay but **karcis** in Indonesian. Take a look at the next example. Clearly, there is only a slight variation in the spelling.

English	Malay	Indonesian
Animal	Haiwan	Hewan
Newspaper	Surat khabar	Surat kabar
Zone	Zon	Zona

¹ Asmah Haji Omar, Professor Emerita of Malay linguistics, University Malaya, Malaysia.



To further illustrate my point, let's observe the translation for the word aide-de-camp. In Malay, that will be **adikung**. For Indonesian, the translation will be **pembantu pribadi**. And here is an even better example. Football in Malay is **bola sepak** (two words). In Indonesian, it is **sepakbola** (two words joint as one).

Here is yet another example showing two different set of rules.

English	Malay	Indonesian
On the same day	Pada hari yang sama	Di hari yang sama

Only the first word differs, because in Malay, we do not use the word 'Di' when referring to time (be in hour, day, month or year).

In conclusion, there are two types of belief in the relationship between the language used in Indonesia and that used in Malaysia, namely Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia. The first belief states that these two are varieties of a single language. The second belief maintains that Bahasa Indonesia is a language in its own right although it had its foundation in the Malay language. Remarks have been made quite freely that the relationship between Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Melayu is akin to that of British and American English. In my opinion, this is true to a certain extend. Linguists and historians from both countries have researched and studied this extensively. The gap between Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Malaysia is bigger than that between the American and the British varieties of English. For now, they remain two distinct varieties of a language, marked by their individual features caused by the different social and cultural milieu they are in.

Author Bio

Calvin Lee is the General Manager for Elanex Thailand (Elanex.com) and is charged to establish a solid presence of Elanex here to cater to the many multilingual needs of large corporations. A linguist at heart, Calvin still dabbles in translation projects and edits movie subtitles during his free time.

Out from the translation realm, Calvin reviews restaurants and spas in Thailand for several publications, both here and in Singapore. And when his imaginative mind takes over, Calvin will be weaving the chapters in his first attempt to complete a novel. Calvin has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a penchant for analyzing airline commercial routes



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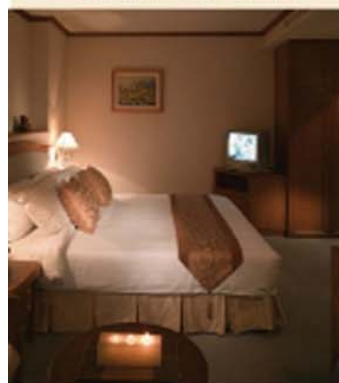
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Interesting perspective of Life explained.....

A business consultant was on one of his trips to Mexico. One evening he took a break and walked to the pier at a nearby fishing village to wander around.

As he stood at the pier, a fishing boat docked in.

The business consultant started chatting with the two local fishermen from the boat, and complimented them on the quality of their fish and asked how long it took to catch them.

"Not very long." they answered in unison.

"Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?"

One fisherman explained that their small catches were sufficient to meet their needs and those of their families.

"But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"We sleep late, fish a little, play with our children, and take siestas with our wives. In the evenings, we go into the village to see our friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. We have a full life."

The consultant interrupted, "I am a business consultant with an MBA from Harvard, and I can help you!"

"You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."

"And after that?" asked one fisherman.

"With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one, and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers.....

Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants, and maybe even open your own plant.

You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City!

From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."

"How long will that take?" asked the other fisherman.

"Fifteen, perhaps twenty years." replied the consultant.

"And after that?" one fisherman asked.

"And after that? Well, my friends, that's when it gets really interesting." answered the consultant, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start buying and selling stocks and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?" asked both the fishermen.

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends."

"But that's what we are doing now !!" The fishermen responded.

And the moral of this story is:

Know where you're going in life.... you may already be there!!



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Chinese New Year Dinner Party

Date: February 2010 (date to be announced later)

Chinese New Year Party Organizing Committee



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Company: Otaione Strategic Co., Ltd.
Position: Director



Name: Mr. Peter Wee
Company: Royal Pacific Healthy Marketing Co., Ltd.
Position: Managing Director



Name: Mr. Alvin Tan
Company: Cortina Watch (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
Position: Head, Business Development



Name: Mr. Laval Wong
Company: Achieve Realty Co., Ltd.
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