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THAI - ITALIAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Volume No. V/2026

# INFORMA

BUSINESS MAGAZINE





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# A Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends,

As we continue to strengthen the ties between Thailand and Italy, the past months have offered rich opportunities to promote dialogue, innovation, and cultural exchange across a wide range of sectors.

In May, the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce** proudly participated in the conference **"Thailand's Next Frontier: Shaping the Future of Investment and Innovation - Navigating Global Shifts and Opportunities in Southeast Asia."** The Chamber's contribution highlighted the importance of understanding the incentives and privileges available through Thailand's Board of Investment framework, reaffirming our role in supporting informed and sustainable investment decisions.

Another important highlight was the return of the **Top Italian Wines Roadshow Thailand 2026**, organized in partnership with **Gambero Rosso International at Dusit Thani Bangkok**. Three fully booked masterclasses led by Gambero Rosso Editor-in-Chief Giuseppe Carrus once again demonstrated the growing appreciation for Italian wine culture in Thailand and the vitality of our bilateral ties.

The Chamber was also delighted to launch the first edition of **All You Need is Pizza**, a hands-on masterclass on traditional Neapolitan-style pizza hosted at **The Food School Bangkok**. Guided by the chefs of **Peppina Pizza**, participants from the media and influencer community gained a deeper appreciation

of the techniques, ingredients, and cultural heritage that make Italian cuisine celebrated throughout the world.

On 27 May, TICC hosted a memorable evening of **Aperitivo & Networking**, bringing together members and prospective members for lively conversation and authentic Italian hospitality. The elegant setting of Gigi Ristorante provided the perfect backdrop for new connections to form and existing ones to flourish.

We also continued our commitment to Thailand's gem and jewelry sector through the latest edition of our 2026 Series of Gemology and Jewelry Industry Seminars. Held at TICC Connect, the seminar **"Greenland Rubies: The Oldest Rubies in the World and Their Relevancy Even After Closure of the Mine"** drew a full audience of professionals and industry stakeholders, reaffirming the value of knowledge-sharing platforms that connect experts and promote excellence.

As always, I extend my sincere gratitude to our members, partners, sponsors, and institutional supporters, whose continued trust and engagement enable the Chamber to grow and create meaningful opportunities for collaboration.

Arrivederci,  
**Federico Cardini**  
President

## INFORMA BUSINESS MAGAZINE

is produced by the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce**

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### The Chamber

The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC), founded in 1978, is an independent, private, non-profit organization of Italian and Thai businessmen and professionals, duly constituted and registered in accordance with legislative regulations in Thailand and fully recognized by the Ministry of Economic Development and International Cooperation in Italy.

The Chamber, with its headquarters in Bangkok (Thailand), is proud to host a wide network of companies and entrepreneurs from all around the world -mostly Italian and Thai businesses, which allow TICC to pursue its objectives of enhancing commercial cooperation between Italy and Thailand. The Chamber constantly organizes activities, meetings, seminars, missions, and networking events to facilitate the promotion of economic, industrial, and cultural collaborations.



# Thai - Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)

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## COVER STORY

### Thailand at the Heart of ASEAN Trade

Situated at the heart of mainland Southeast Asia, Thailand is a key regional hub for trade, investment, and logistics. Supported by modern infrastructure and strong connectivity, the country serves as a gateway to ASEAN's market of more than 600 million people and remains an important destination for international business and manufacturing. The cover image highlights Thailand's role in regional and global supply chains, featuring Bangkok's skyline alongside cargo shipping, rail transport, and aviation, symbols of the connectivity that drives trade and economic cooperation across Southeast Asia and beyond.

#### Cover Image

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## THAILAND

### Specialist Urges Review of Thailand's Visa-Free Policy

Retrieved from Bangkok Post, 4 May 2026

Thailand's visa-free entry programme is coming under increased scrutiny amid concerns over misuse by some visitors engaging in unauthorized work and illegal activities. Experts have proposed reducing the current 60-day visa-free stay to 30 days, arguing it better reflects typical tourist behaviour. The review is part of broader efforts to strengthen immigration controls, enhance security, and attract higher-value tourism while preserving Thailand's appeal as a leading travel destination.

### Thai Banks Set to Introduce Standardised Fees by July

Retrieved from Bangkokpost, 8 May 2026

The **Bank of Thailand (BOT)** is working with commercial banks to introduce a unified “**standardised fees**” structure, expected to become clearer by July and initially covering around 10 to 15 common banking services. The central bank says many current charges no longer reflect actual operational costs, particularly following the growth of digital banking. Services under review include bank statements, ATM cards, interprovincial transfers, and SME-related fees, which currently vary widely across banks. The reform aims to improve transparency and align charges more closely with real service costs. Authorities also expect the move to help reduce household expenses and ease financial pressure on SMEs, supporting broader efforts to strengthen the economy during a period of slow recovery.

### SET to Improve Market Controls and Trading Standards

Retrieved from Bangkok Post, 14 May 2026

A rare Egyptian vase has been uncovered in Pompeii's ancient “**street food**” area, revealing cultural and commercial links between Pompeii and Eastern communities. Found in the kitchen of the Thermopolium of Regio V, the vase, decorated with Egyptian-style hunting scenes, likely served as a food container. According to the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, it illustrates the rich cultural mix that shaped daily life before Vesuvius destroyed the city in AD 79. The discovery also sheds light on trade networks and everyday interactions among lower and middle social classes in ancient Pompeii.

### Economic Pressure Mounts Amid Policy Crackdown

Retrieved from Bangkok Post, 18 May 2026

Thailand's economy is under growing pressure from rising energy prices linked to the Middle East conflict, driving inflation higher and weakening consumer spending. Kasikorn Research Center has raised its inflation forecast to 5–6% and lowered GDP growth expectations to **1.2%**. The government has responded with a 400-billion-baht stimulus package, though concerns remain over its impact on public debt. Businesses are facing higher costs, tighter financing conditions, and softer demand, with tourism and hospitality among the most affected sectors.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### ASEAN Voices Concern Over Oil Supply Stability with East Asian Nations

Retrieved from The Nation Thailand, 6 November 2025

**Borge Brende**, President of the **World Economic Forum**, has warned of three potential global economic bubbles in AI, public debt, and cryptocurrency, following sharp sell-offs in technology stocks. Speaking in São Paulo, he highlighted that global public debt is now at its highest level since 1945. While analysts note the tech correction signals caution, they say it is not yet cause for panic, as markets have reached record highs multiple times this year. Optimism over AI's potential to transform productivity and business competitiveness continues to drive global financial markets despite high interest rates, inflation, and trade tensions.

### US, South Korea Release Details of Trade Deal

Retrieved from Reuters, 14 November 2025

Washington and Seoul have agreed to cut U.S. tariffs on Korean autos and auto parts from **25%** to **15%**, matching Japanese rates, retroactive to November 1 once the \$350 billion investment bill is submitted. Tariffs on Korean wood products and pharmaceuticals will not exceed 15%, while aircraft parts and generic drugs will be tariff-free. The U.S. will offer South Korea semiconductor terms no less favorable than those for Taiwan. Both countries will also address non-tariff barriers in agriculture and digital services, and Korea Gas will buy 3.3 million tons of U.S. LNG annually under long-term agreements.

## ITALY

### Europe's New Tax Haven for the Global Rich

Retrieved from BCC News, 02 May 2026

Italy is rapidly emerging as a preferred destination for high-net-worth individuals, thanks to its attractive tax regime, favourable inheritance rules, and growing uncertainty in traditional wealth hubs such as France and the UAE. With a flat tax on foreign income capped at €300,000 per year, no wealth tax, and lower inheritance taxes, Italy offers both financial advantages and fiscal certainty. Combined with its renowned quality of life, the country is increasingly attracting wealthy individuals seeking a new tax residence.

### Portugal and Italy Keep Digital Entry Controls for British Travellers

Retrieved from BBC, 07 May 2026

Portugal and Italy will not exempt British nationals from the **EU's new Entry-Exit System (EES)**, which requires fingerprinting and facial scans for short-stay visitors. The European Commission confirmed that the rules remain in place, despite earlier reports suggesting possible exemptions similar to those introduced by Greece to ease summer travel disruptions. The system, first introduced in October and now moving toward full rollout, has already led to delays at some European border points. Authorities and travel operators have raised concerns that it could result in longer queues during the peak summer holiday season.

### Crowds Gather to Celebrate Catherine's Return to Italy

Retrieved from TG La 7, 13 May 2026

Princess **Kate** visited Reggio Emilia to explore the world-renowned Reggio Emilia educational approach. During the visit, she received the Tricolore, the city's highest civic honour, and met educators at the International Loris Malaguzzi Centre. The Princess showed particular interest in how the approach could inspire initiatives focused on early childhood development and mental wellbeing. The visit highlights the global influence of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and its continued relevance in shaping innovative approaches to education and children's wellbeing around the world.

### Italian Court Rules Hotel Acted Lawfully in Refusing Free Tap Water to Tourist

Retrieved from BBC, 27 May 2026

Italy's Supreme Court has ruled that a five-star Dolomites hotel acted lawfully when it refused to provide tap water to a tourist. The woman, who was offered bottled water instead, had claimed emotional and financial damages, arguing that water is a universal human right. However, the court rejected her claim, stating that Italian law does not require restaurants to serve tap water and that no obligation existed for the hotel to provide it. The ruling highlights a key difference with countries like England and Wales, where venues are legally required to provide free drinking water on request.

## AN EVENING WITH THE BOD AT UNICO APERITIVO



Bangkok, 5 May 2026 - The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) was delighted to host another successful edition of **Unico Aperitivo**, the Chamber's exclusive members-only networking event, held at TICC Connect.

Designed to foster meaningful connections and strengthen engagement within the TICC community, **Unico Aperitivo** offers a unique platform where members can interact directly with the Chamber's Board of Directors in an open, welcoming, and collaborative environment. This distinctive opportunity enables participants to build valuable relationships, exchange insights, and gain closer access to the leadership driving the Chamber's initiatives and vision.

Throughout the evening, members and guests gathered in a warm and convivial atmosphere inspired by the Italian aperitivo tradition. The event provided the ideal setting for professionals from diverse sectors to connect, share experiences, explore new business opportunities, and reinforce existing partnerships within the Thai-Italian business community.

As one of TICC's signature member benefits, **Unico Aperitivo** continues to demonstrate the Chamber's commitment to creating high-value networking opportunities that encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing, and sustainable business growth. The informal yet carefully curated format allows authentic conversations to flourish, often leading to lasting professional relationships and future collaborations.

TICC extends its sincere appreciation to all members and guests who participated in this edition and contributed to its success. We would also like to express our special thanks to **Massilia Thailand** for their generous support as sponsor of the event.

We look forward to welcoming our members to the next edition of **Unico Aperitivo** and to many more occasions that celebrate Italian hospitality, strengthen our business community, and inspire new opportunities for collaboration.

## TICC JOINS STRATEGIC BOI DIALOGUE ON THAILAND'S INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION FUTURE



Bangkok, 15 May 2026 - The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) proudly participated in the conference "Thailand's Next Frontier: Shaping the Future of Investment and Innovation - Navigating Global Shifts and Opportunities in Southeast Asia", held at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC), Bangna.

Organized by the **Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) Paris Office**, the seminar brought together international business leaders, chamber representatives, and investment experts to discuss Thailand's evolving role in the global economy, with a particular focus on investment opportunities, geopolitical dynamics, and the country's competitiveness within the region. The conference opened with welcome remarks by Ms. **Nuntanart Krishnachinda**, Director of the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) Paris Office, followed by opening remarks from Ms. **Tanita Sirisup**, Deputy Secretary General of the Thailand Board of Investment.

A key highlight of the event was the panel discussion titled "Investing in Thailand: Opportunities and Strategies in a Shifting Global Landscape," moderated by Ms. **Souchitra Abhay Sassady**. Representing TICC, Ms. **Mallika Margherita**, Vice President of the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce**, joined distinguished representatives from leading international chambers and business organizations operating in Thailand.

During the discussion, Ms. **Mallika Margherita** emphasized the importance of a strategic and informed approach for international investors, stating that: "Foreign investors should assess the investment incentives and privileges available under the BOI framework."

The panel discussion also highlighted Thailand's strengths as a relatively safe and stable environment for international business, underlining the country's strategic location, diversified economy, evolving regulatory framework, and growing importance within Southeast Asia's supply chain ecosystem.



# HOW MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS ARE RESHAPING ASIA-EUROPE SUPPLY CHAINS



Interview with Mr. Giuseppe De Peppo, South East Asia Area Manager of D.B. Group

Global supply chains are once again being rewritten in real time, and for companies operating at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, the stakes have rarely been higher. In Bangkok, where maritime routes and manufacturing networks converge, the effects of geopolitical tension are no longer abstract—they are measured in days of delay, rising costs, and difficult decisions. For **DB Group**, a company deeply embedded in the logistics and trade ecosystem, these shifts are not just headlines but daily operational realities. In this interview, **DB Group** offers a clear-eyed view of how disruptions in the Middle East—from the Red Sea to the Strait of Hormuz—are rippling across ASEAN economies and reshaping long-established shipping patterns. What emerges is a picture of an industry under pressure, but also one facing a pivotal moment: adapt quickly and strategically, or risk falling behind in a rapidly evolving global trade landscape.

## How are current Middle East disruptions affecting supply chains connecting Asia to Europe?

Honestly, the impact has been significant

and very tangible for us here in Bangkok. Since the Red Sea situation escalated, we've seen vessels rerouting around the Cape of Good Hope almost as a matter of routine now. What used to be a 25-28 day transit from Southeast Asia to Northern Europe has stretched to 35-40 days in many cases. For our customers, whether they're exporting Thai agricultural products, automotive parts, or electronics, that extra time translates directly into higher inventory costs, tighter cash flow, and a lot of nervous phone calls. The predictability that shippers depend on has simply eroded.

## Is ASEAN seeing increased pressure or opportunities as traffic shifts?

Both, really, and that's the honest answer. On one hand, ports like Laem Chabang and Singapore are handling more volume as transshipment patterns shift. There's genuine interest from shipping lines in consolidating calls in this region. On the other hand, the infrastructure wasn't built overnight, and congestion is a real concern. I'd say the opportunity is there, but only for those who move fast and invest smartly. ASEAN has always punched above its weight as a maritime crossroads, this moment could either confirm that or expose the gaps.

## What indirect effects are ASEAN economies feeling from disruptions at the Strait of Hormuz?

The energy angle is the most direct one. Thailand imports a substantial share of its oil from the Gulf, so any tension around the Hormuz Strait feeds almost immediately into fuel costs domestically. But beyond energy, you feel it in delayed raw material imports such as petrochemicals, fertilizers, certain industrial inputs that come through that corridor. Manufacturers here have had to build bigger buffer stocks, which ties up working capital. It's a slow bleed rather than a dramatic shock, but it adds up over months.

## How are rising freight costs and war-risk premiums hitting Thai exporters?

This is where it gets very concrete for our clients. War-risk surcharges on cargo insurance have gone up considerably, and carriers have been creative (to put it diplomatically) in adding new surcharges on top of base freight rates. For a Thai exporter of, say, canned food or rubber products working on thin margins, an extra \$300-500 per container can genuinely make or break a deal. We spend a lot of time these days helping clients model the real landed cost of their exports, because the headline

freight rate is just the starting point now.

## Have you observed changes in trade flows or demand patterns?

Yes, and some of them are quite interesting. We've seen certain customers quietly diversifying away from Middle Eastern buyers, not abandoning those markets, but hedging. There's been a noticeable uptick in enquiries toward East African markets, South Asian destinations, and intra-ASEAN trade. Some European buyers have also accelerated nearshoring conversations, though the actual shift in volumes takes time. The direction of travel is clear even if the pace is gradual.

## How are logistics providers reconfiguring their networks?

We're seeing a few trends converge. Air freight has picked up for time-sensitive or high-value cargo where sea route uncertainty is simply unacceptable. On the sea side, some forwarders are routing cargo through Indian Ocean hubs or transshipping more creatively than before. Inland, there's renewed interest in the China-Laos-Thailand rail corridor, which has matured nicely and offers a genuine alternative for certain lanes.

But what I'm particularly proud to mention is that **DB Group** is one of the very few players in this market, arguably the only one with a fully operational service, offering direct rail transportation from Thailand and Vietnam, via China,

all the way to Europe. This isn't a pilot project or a promise; it's a live product that customers are actively choosing right now. We've seen a clear shift toward this option especially for high-value, sensitive commodities (think electronics, automotive components, luxury goods) where clients need something faster than sea but more cost-effective than air, and where they simply cannot afford unpredictable transit times. The rail route delivers on all three counts.

On top of that, we've also identified and structured fast corridor services by sea, premium in terms of freight cost, yes, but offering an extremely high level of reliability on transit time that the standard market right now frankly cannot guarantee. For clients who live and die by their delivery windows, that reliability is worth every extra dollar.

So, the toolkit has genuinely expanded. It's no longer just "air or sea"; it's a more nuanced conversation, and the right answer depends on the commodity, the timeline, and the client's appetite for risk.

## What role can ASEAN logistics infrastructure play in building resilience?

A central one, if the political will is there. The region has the bones of a strong logistics network, deep-water ports, improving road and rail corridors, and growing cold chain capacity. What's still missing is seamless cross-border

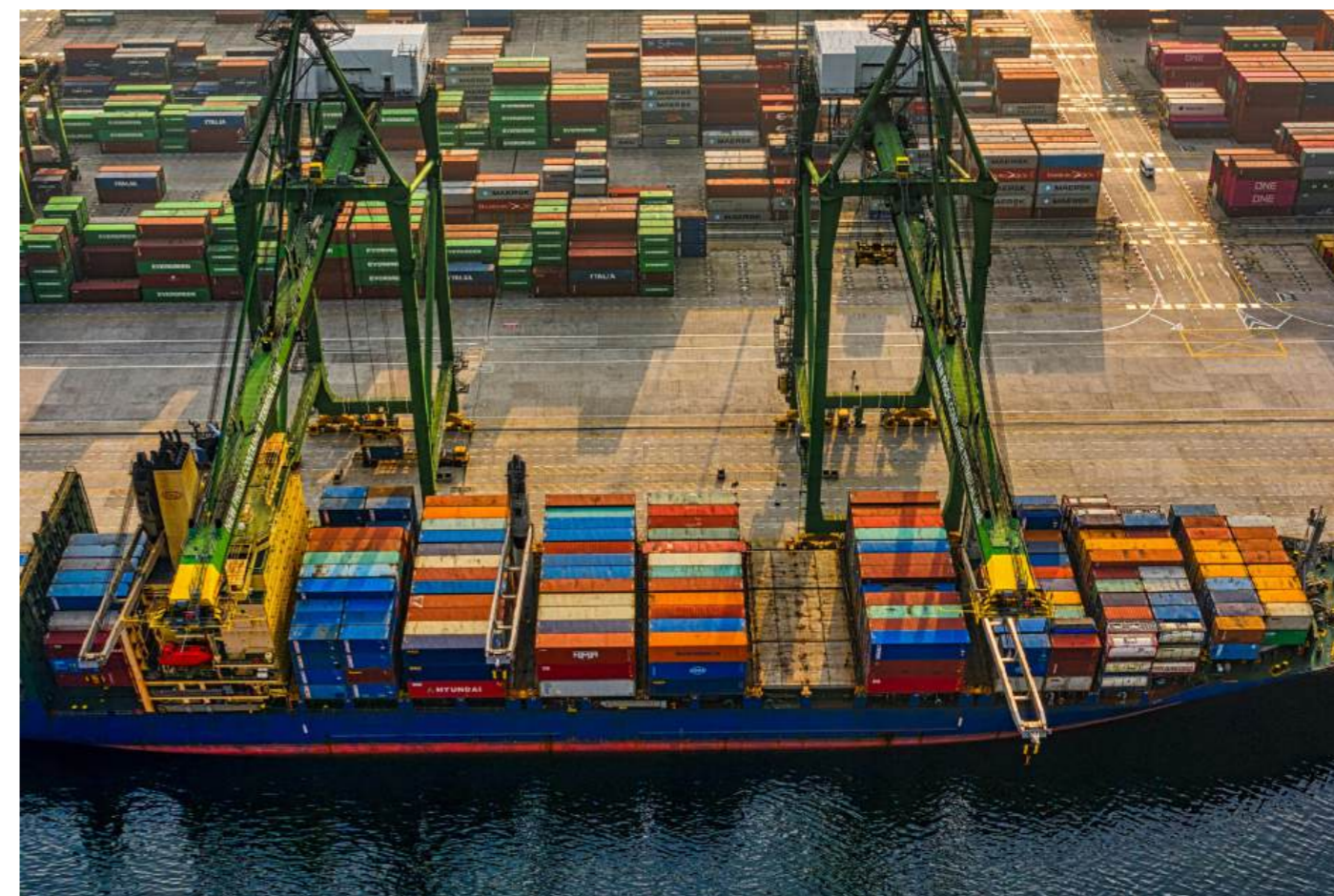
integration. Customs harmonization, digital documentation, and consistent standards across member states would make an enormous difference. When a disruption hits somewhere in the world, the regions that absorb the shock best are those with redundancy and flexibility built into their systems. ASEAN is getting there, but it needs to move faster.

## What should ASEAN businesses prepare for in the rest of 2026?

My honest view: don't plan for normalization. Plan for continued volatility with occasional windows of stability. The structural forces driving disruption such as geopolitical fragmentation, climate-related port disruptions and shifting alliances are not going away. What I tell our clients is to treat supply chain resilience as a permanent line item in their budget, not a crisis response. Diversify suppliers, build relationships with multiple carriers, invest in visibility tools, and don't optimize purely for cost at the expense of flexibility. The companies that will do well are those who treated the last few years as a wake-up call rather than a temporary inconvenience.



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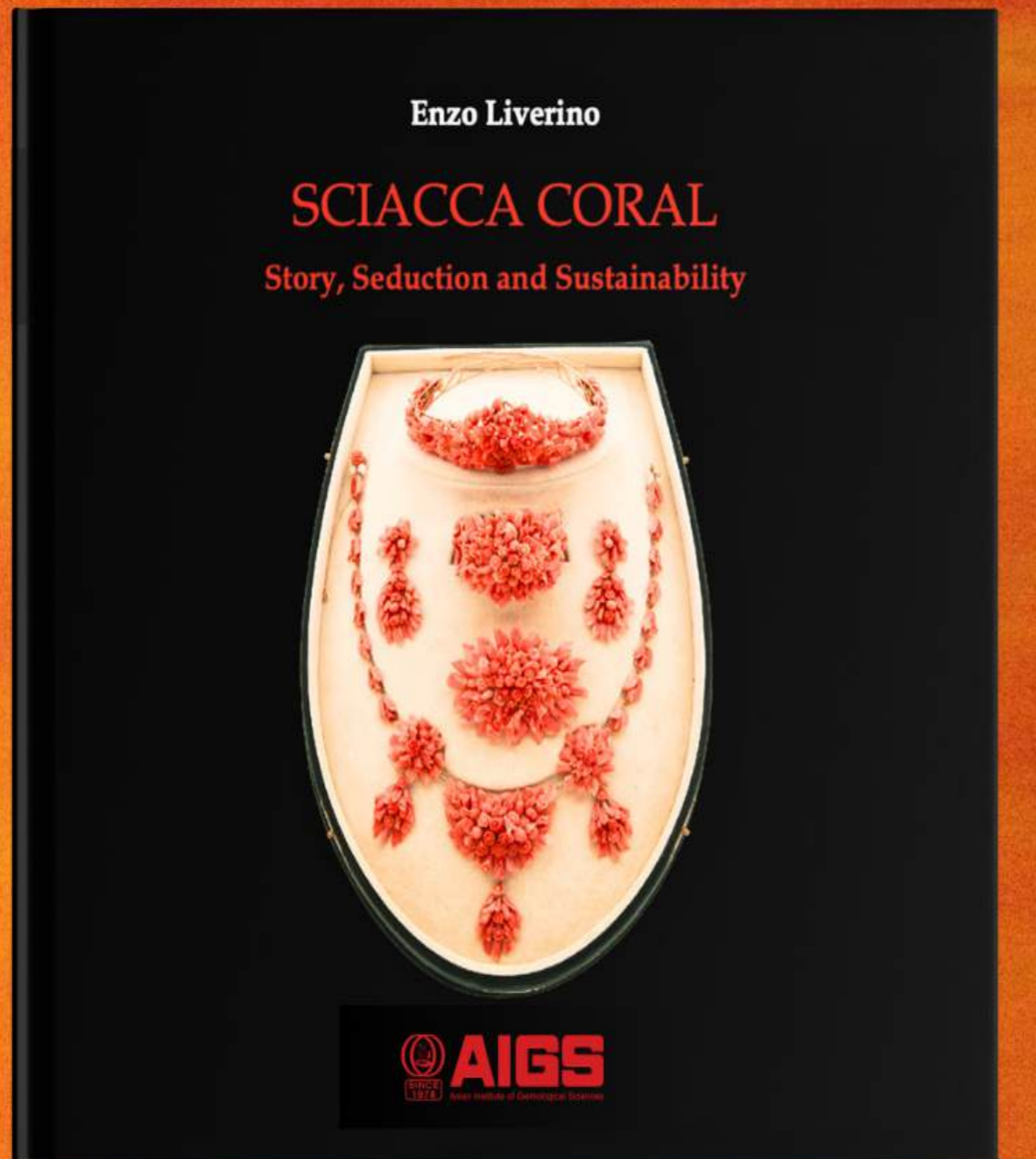
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## FEATURED ARTICLE

### ENZO LIVERINO FASCINATES US WITH SCIACCA CORAL

*Interview with Mr. Enzo Liverino is a fourth-generation master coral sculptor based in Torre del Greco, Italy, who has led his family business, Liverino 1894, since 1982.*

**What inspired you to write a book dedicated to Sciacca coral, and why is its story important?**

Sciacca coral brings together geology, history, and Mediterranean identity in a way no other material does. I have always been fascinated by its paradoxical nature: a fossil coral born from a geological event, rediscovered in the 19th century, and capable of reshaping Italian jewellery aesthetics. Telling its story means preserving cultural heritage while offering our industry a scientifically reliable reference at a time when transparency and education are essential.

**Sciacca coral is often described as “volcanic coral.” What makes it geologically and visually unique?**

The term reflects its origin. The Sciacca deposits formed after underwater volcanic activity caused the death and fossilization of ancient *Corallium rubrum* colonies. This unusual process created a material with distinctive traits:

- a color palette ranging from burnt orange to deep copper;
- natural internal veining and “burn marks” that reveal its thermal history;
- a compact, opaque structure unlike living coral.

It is a material that carries the memory of the Mediterranean seabed within its very texture.

**Your family has a long history in the Italian coral industry. How has this shaped your passion and expertise?**

I grew up in an environment where coral was not simply a commodity but a cultural language. My family’s generations of artisans, traders, and scholars taught me to approach coral with respect, scientific curiosity, and a sense of responsibility. This legacy is not a constraint; it is a lens through which I interpret the present and imagine the future of the coral world.

**Why did Sciacca coral become so valued among jewellers and collectors in the 19th century?**

Because it appeared as something entirely new. No one had ever seen coral with such colors and textures. It emerged at a time when European jewellery was seeking exotic, narrative-rich materials. Sciacca offered rarity, a compelling geological story, and a strong connection to Sicily and the Mediterranean. It quickly became a symbol of taste, curiosity, and refined collecting.

**During your research, did you encounter any historical stories that particularly fascinated you?**

I was struck by the number of period documents describing the astonishment of fishermen and merchants when they first encountered this “burnt coral.” Some believed it was cursed; others thought it was a gift from the volcano. Letters, trade records, and eyewitness accounts reveal that Sciacca was not just a commercial discovery, it was a cultural event. This chapter of Mediterranean history is still surprisingly little known.

**This book was published by AIGS in Bangkok. How did this collaboration begin, and why was AIGS the right partner?**

AIGS is one of the world’s most respected gemological institutions. Our collaboration grew naturally from a

shared vision: combining scientific rigor, transparency, and accessible education. Publishing with AIGS gives Sciacca coral an international platform and ensures the book becomes a reliable reference for students, gemologists, and jewellery professionals worldwide.

**What role do gemological institutions like AIGS play in preserving knowledge about materials such as Sciacca coral?**

Institutions like AIGS safeguard accurate knowledge and train future generations of experts. Coral, in particular, requires interdisciplinary understanding marine biology, geology, trade history and only structured, institutional education can ensure this knowledge is transmitted correctly. Their role is essential in combating misinformation and promoting responsible appreciation of organic materials.

**The coral industry has deep roots in Italian culture. How is coral craftsmanship evolving today?**

Tradition is never static. Italian coral craftsmanship is now engaging with contemporary design, sustainability, and a global audience increasingly attentive to material provenance. I see a future where the manual mastery of Torre del Greco merges with scientific research and traceability, creating a new language for coral to become more conscious, ethical, and internationally relevant.

**For collectors discovering Sciacca coral for the first time, what makes it truly special?**

Its absolute uniqueness. No other coral shares its geological origin, color spectrum, or narrative aura. It cannot be replicated or imitated. Each piece of Sciacca coral is a fragment of ancient Mediterranean history, a fossil transformed into art. For collectors, it represents authenticity, rarity, and cultural depth.

**What message do you hope readers take away from this book?**

I hope they understand that coral is not just a precious material but a living archive of natural and human history. Sciacca reminds us that beauty often emerges from dramatic natural events, that nature works on long timescales, and that our role is to protect rather than exploit. I hope the book inspires respect, curiosity, and a renewed sense of connection to Mediterranean heritage.



[www.aigsthailand.com](http://www.aigsthailand.com)

# GAMBERO ROSSO: TOP ITALIAN WINES ROADSHOW EVENT



Bangkok, 22 May 2026 – The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) proudly partnered with Gambero Rosso International for the highly anticipated return of the Top Italian Wines Roadshow in Thailand. Held at Dusit Thani Bangkok on Friday 22nd May 2026, this signature event reaffirmed Thailand’s growing prominence as a key destination for Italian wine and culinary culture.

The morning session featured three technical masterclasses, all of which were fully booked in advance. Led by Mr. Giuseppe Carrus, Editor-in-Chief of Gambero Rosso, the sessions offered expert insights into some of Italy’s most iconic wine regions and native grape varieties featured in the 2026 edition of the Gambero Rosso guide.

In the afternoon, 63 Italian wine producers participated in the walk-around tasting session, creating valuable opportunities for direct engagement with Thai importers, sommeliers, chefs, retailers, media representatives, and hospitality professionals. Certainly, the highlight of the day was the Top Italian Restaurants Awards Ceremony, held at 4:00 PM in the Napalai Ballroom, which recognised a selection of outstanding Italian establishments in Thailand. The ceremony, led by the beautiful Mrs. Cindy Bishop as Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the presence of:

- Mr. Giuseppe Carrus, Editor-in-Chief of Gambero Rosso  
 - Mr. Federico Cardini, President of the Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)

The event once again underscored Gambero Rosso’s strong commitment to promoting authentic Italian cuisine abroad while fostering new synergies between Italian producers and international markets.

As part of the Gambero Rosso International Roadshow, spanning more than 40 cities worldwide, the Bangkok edition reflected the growing bilateral interest in Italian food and wine, lifestyle, tourism, and trade.

Organised in collaboration with the Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC), the event further demonstrated the Chamber’s ongoing dedication to strengthening cultural and economic ties between Italy and Thailand through business, media, and communications initiatives.



[www.gamberorossointernational.com](http://www.gamberorossointernational.com)



# ALL YOU NEED IS PIZZA: THE NEW INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE



Bangkok, 25 May 2026 - The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) proudly hosted the first edition of a new hands-on interactive workshop concept, **All You Need Is Pizza, The Food School Bangkok**.

The initiative offered selected guests from the media and influencer sectors the opportunity to discover more about traditional Italian cuisine, with a particular focus on authentic Neapolitan-style pizza, through an exclusive masterclass led by Mr. **Paolo Vitaletti** and Chef **Ted Tanwa** (EM) from the acclaimed **Peppina Pizza**, widely recognized as one of the leading pizzerias in Thailand.

The exclusive event welcomed 30 participants from the media and influencer industries. The program began at 10:00 AM with an opening speech by Mr. **Giacomo Iobizzi**, Secretary General at the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce**, who highlighted the importance of promoting authentic Italian food and beverage culture in Thailand through educational and experiential initiatives.

Mr. **Michele Sabatino**, representative of **Oi Pomodoro** followed with some remarks regarding their initiative **E-Tomato**, a project to promote the high quality Made in EU tomatoes in Thailand. The workshop was also part of this initiative to raise awareness in the Thai market.

The event continued with an insightful presentation by Dr. **Karinvira Annopnarong**, Wellness and Preventive Medicine Physician at **Thonburi Bamrungmuang Hospital** focusing on the health benefits of the high-quality Italian tomatoes and the Mediterranean diet.

Once again, the initiative represented an important opportunity to strengthen the connection between Italy and Thailand through culture, gastronomy, and business - a core objective of the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)**.

Finally, TICC would like to express its sincere gratitude to its sponsors, without whom the event would not have been possible: **Conserve Italia (Cirio Passione Verace and Cirio Thailand)**, **San Benedetto Thailand**, **Caputo - Il Mulino di**

**Napoli, Consorzio OI Pomodoro da Industria Bacino Centro Sud Italia, Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana, and Thonburi Bamrungmuang Hospital.**



# STRENGTHENING BUSINESS CONNECTIONS: MEMBERS GATHER FOR STRATEGIC NETWORKING AND GROWTH



Bangkok, 27 May 2026 - The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) warmly welcomed the **Orientation Day** at TICC Connect for new and existing members. The event offered an engaging platform for participants to deepen connections within the Chamber's community.

The meeting began with the explanation of what TICC is and what it does, then it went through explaining the advantages for companies and members taking part of the Chamber. Participants received a complete overview of the Chamber's structure and upcoming initiatives during this year, a great opportunity to expand businesses and networks.

The session was opened and held by Ms. **Phanatchakorn Muangfak (Angela)**, Marketing & CRM Manager, who gave the possibility to participants to understand clearly the main role of the Thai Italian Chamber of Commerce in Thailand, focusing on its leading activities.

TICC extends its sincere gratitude to all members and guests who attended the event and actively contributed to its success.



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# APERITIVO & NETWORKING AT GIGI RESTAURANT



**Bangkok, 27 May 2026** - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)**, in collaboration with **Gigi Restaurant**, hosted a memorable evening of Aperitivo & Networking, delighting guests with authentic Italian specialties in a warm and beautiful venue.

The event brought together members and prospective members of the TICC community for an evening of meaningful connections, lively conversation, and the finest Italian hospitality.

The Aperitivo format created the perfect atmosphere for guests to mingle freely, fostering new relationships and strengthening existing ones within TICC's ever-growing network.

An enchanting evening at **Gigi Ristorante**, where the elegant setting and curated menu set the stage for genuine connections to flourish. The gathering showcased the excellence and diversity of our member companies, reflecting the spirit of collaboration that continues to define the relationship between Thai and Italian businesses across a wide range of industries.

The event also served as a timely reminder of the importance of bilateral trade between Thailand and Italy – a partnership that plays a vital role in supporting economic growth, driving innovation, and unlocking new opportunities for both nations. Moments like these embody what TICC stands for: building bridges, nurturing community, and celebrating the enduring bond between Thailand and Italy.

TICC expresses its sincere appreciation to the generous sponsors: **Italasia**, whose support made this wonderful evening possible.



[www.gigibangkok.com](http://www.gigibangkok.com)



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# THE FASCINATING STORY OF GREENLAND RUBIES

**Bangkok, 28 May 2026** - The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC)** successfully hosted the latest appointment in its 2026 Series of Gemology and Jewelry Industry Seminars with the event titled: **“Greenland Rubies: The Oldest Rubies in the World and Their Relevancy Even After Closure of the Mine”**

The seminar took place at TICC Connect, on the 16th floor of Vanit Place Building 2 in Bangkok, welcoming professionals, gemstone enthusiasts, jewelry industry operators, and members of the international business community.

The event achieved a full house with all seats fully booked and over 40 participants attending, confirming the strong interest from the gem and jewelry community in the international gemstone industry.

The session explored the fascinating story of Greenland Rubies - from their geological formation in one of the harshest environments on Earth to the strategic and commercial implications following the closure of the mine. Participants gained valuable insight into mine-to-market strategies, ethical sourcing narratives, Arctic mining challenges, and the future commercial potential of the remaining finite inventory.

A special highlight of the seminar was the live observation of selected ruby specimens, including rare unheated samples, allowing attendees to engage directly with the material characteristics and origin features of these remarkable gemstones.

The event featured an engaging presentation by guest speaker Mr. **Carl Leenaerts**, moderated by Mr. **Michele Tomea**, followed by an interactive Q&A session and networking reception accompanied by an Italian aperitivo.

The **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce** would like to sincerely thank all participants, guests, and partners who contributed to the success of the event. We would like to thank **Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences (AIGS)**, **Greenland Ruby**, **IC Intertrade Co., Ltd.**, and **Officina Del Prosciutto Thailand**, **Pizza Massilia**, We look forward to welcoming you to the next seminar in the 2026 series.

For more information about upcoming events and membership opportunities, please contact the **Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce**.



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# ILLUMINATING FAITH, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: THE SUSTAINABLE LIGHT OF THE “SAENGTHAM THUATHAI PROJECT”



Across Thailand, temples, schools, and community centers serve as the spiritual and social heart of local communities. They are places of learning, faith, and connection that continue to support people across generations. Yet rising energy costs are increasingly placing pressure on these institutions, affecting their ability to operate and grow sustainably.

Recognising this challenge, **B.Grimm Power** has combined its clean energy expertise with its vision of “**Empowering the World Compassionately**” through the “**Saengtham Thuathai Project.**” Established in honour of **His Majesty King Rama X on the auspicious occasion of his 72nd birthday**, the initiative aims to improve quality of life while strengthening long-term sustainability within Thai communities.

The project installs high-efficiency on-grid solar systems at temples, schools, healthcare centers, and community facilities across the country. Beyond reducing electricity costs, the initiative seeks to create opportunities for communities to redirect resources toward education, public services, and local development. It also encourages environmental awareness among younger generations through practical exposure to renewable energy and sustainable practices.

Every installation is carefully designed to suit local conditions and long-term needs. **B.Grimm’s** engineering teams work closely with each site to ensure reliable operation and maximum efficiency. Among the supported locations are two Chakrapan Pensiri Plant Development Centers under Chaipattana Foundation in Chiang Rai and Saraburi, which

play an important role in providing plant seeds and agricultural support to local communities affected by natural disasters such as floods. To date, the project has reached 10 locations across provinces including Phetchabun, Nonthaburi, Lopburi, Pathum Thani, Rayong, and Chonburi.

The impact has been both measurable and meaningful. Several participating sites have reduced electricity expenses by nearly 70%, enabling more resources to be directed toward community welfare and public services. The Pak Khlong Mom Chaem Health Center recorded **69%** savings, while the Chon Daen District Multipurpose Building reduced costs by **57%**.

Beyond economic benefits, the project contributes to greater clean energy adoption and environmental awareness within local communities. It also reflects **B.Grimm Power’s** belief that business should grow alongside society and help create long-term value for future generations. This commitment was recognised through the Future Trends Awards in the “**Leading of Social Product**” category.

More than an energy initiative, the “**Saengtham Thuathai Project**” represents a shared effort to empower communities through compassion, knowledge, and sustainable opportunity—helping illuminate a stronger future for Thailand, one community at a time.

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Dr. **Sumet Tantivejkul**, Secretary-General of the **Chaipattana Foundation**, **Khunying Dhipavadee Meksawan**, Advisor of **B.Grimm**, **Nopadej Karnsuta**, President of **B.Grimm Power**, and **Kasana Kaewwijit**, Renewable Energy Business Director of **Repeco Nex**

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FEATURED ARTICLE

## THAILAND'S FLOURISHING COSMETICS INDUSTRY: IMPORT DUTY LANDSCAPE



In recent years, Thailand has emerged as the most consequential entry point for beauty brands seeking a foothold in Southeast Asia. As the region's largest cosmetics market and the world's 12th largest exporter of skincare products, the country's commercial appeal is undeniable. Yet, the regulatory and fiscal framework governing cosmetics imports presents a layered set of challenges that companies must navigate before goods can reach retail.

### The cost of entry

Customs duties on cosmetics imported into Thailand from non-ASEAN markets (i.e. Europe, the United States, Japan, and South Korea) can range from 5 to over 30 percent, depending on product classification. These duties are imposed in addition to the standard 7 percent VAT, and, in select categories, excise taxes. For premium skincare and prestige fragrance brands accustomed to European or North American cost structures, the overall fiscal burden may significantly reduce profit margins and create challenges in maintaining competitive retail pricing strategies. Most importantly, registration with the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a pre-import requirement. Products imported without valid FDA approval may be seized at the border and could yield both financial as well as reputational consequences for foreign companies. Unlike intra-ASEAN trade, where preferential tariff arrangements may significantly reduce import costs and improve commercial competitiveness, imports from non-ASEAN markets are subject to the full customs tariff schedule. Further, the list of substances that are restricted or prohibited in cosmetic formulations by Thai authorities could differ from that of other markets, creating further import impediments.

### Regulatory requirements

Any business intending to import cosmetics for sale in Thailand must obtain cosmetic notification from FDA prior to import. Applications must be submitted via the FDA's e-submission system or at the One Stop Service Center for Health, together with information on the business operator (e.g. name and address), as well as information on the product (e.g. product name, product category, ingredients, conditions of use). In addition, importers are required to submit cosmetic product details to FDA via their e-submission system or at their One Stop Service Center for Health to obtain the necessary import approval for each consignment, as well as file declarations with the Thai Customs Department upon import.

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# MICAM 2026 BETWEEN TRENDS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES



As the global footwear industry prepares for Autumn/Winter 2026, the conversation is expanding far beyond seasonal aesthetics. While consumers continue to gravitate toward products that balance comfort, nostalgia, and elevated craftsmanship, manufacturers and brands are simultaneously rethinking how those products are designed, produced, and delivered to market. From heritage-inspired silhouettes and tactile materials to modular production systems powered by automation and AI, the next phase of the industry is being shaped by a dual transformation: one creative, the other operational. Together, these shifts reveal a market increasingly defined by adaptability — where commercial success depends not only on anticipating style trends, but also on building supply chains agile enough to respond to rapidly evolving consumer demand.

## Trending women shoes A/W 2026

According to trends presented by MICAM Milano, the women's footwear market for Autumn/Winter 2026 is being shaped by a blend of heritage styling, comfort-driven design, and fashion-forward reinterpretations of classic silhouettes. Drawing on consumer search data and AI-supported visual analysis, the latest Buyer's Guide identifies the styles expected to define retail demand next season. Among flat shoes, pointed ballerinas are emerging as a key category, reflecting demand for minimalist yet refined silhouettes. Vintage-inspired Baby T-Strap models are also gaining traction, while the "sneakerina" — a crossover between a sneaker and a ballet flat — is resonating with younger consumers seeking versatility and comfort. Loafers remain commercially strong, refreshed through tactile materials such as shearling finishes and decorative tassels. Boot trends point to a continued appetite for relaxed and heritage-inspired aesthetics. Boho ankle boots and equestrian-influenced knee-highs align with the broader revival of artisanal and countryside references in fashion, while suede biker boots and oversized, Moon Boot-inspired styles highlight the market's focus on statement winter footwear. In the mid-heel segment, classic silhouettes continue to evolve through contemporary detailing. Slingbacks are being updated with lace-up constructions and sharper profiles, while retro loafers with block heels and tassels

reinforce the popularity of academic and vintage influences. Crystal embellishments, bold colour accents, and pointed mule shapes suggest that maximalist elements are returning in more selective, wearable ways. High heels are moving toward softer, more feminine proportions. Rounded-toe Mary Janes, T-Strap pumps, and peep-toe designs signal a revival of nostalgic glamour, while ruched suede finishes emphasise tactility and comfort. In heeled boots, slouchy constructions, lace-up details, and wide-leg kitten-heel silhouettes reflect a growing interest in darker romanticism and historical-inspired styling.

## Footwear trending for men

Menswear footwear for Autumn/Winter 2026 is moving toward a more grounded and purposeful aesthetic, as the industry shifts away from excess and embraces authenticity, longevity, and craftsmanship. According to trend insights presented by MICAM Milano, the upcoming season reflects a broader "return to order" in men's fashion, where classic design codes are being reinterpreted through contemporary materials, technical innovation, and a renewed focus on practicality. Loafers and formal lace-ups remain key categories for the season, though they are evolving through chunkier proportions, softened constructions, and hybrid details that bridge formal and casual dressing. Outdoor influences continue to shape the market, with hiking-inspired soles, technical materials, and weather-resistant finishes appearing across both luxury and mainstream collections. This blending of elegance and performance reflects the broader convergence between tailoring, activewear, and utility fashion currently influencing menswear globally.

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## Productivity taking new shapes with new technologies and AI

At the same time, the industry's attention is increasingly shifting beyond aesthetics toward the future of production itself. A parallel conversation emerging across the fashion and manufacturing sectors centres on modular manufacturing — an approach that prioritises flexibility, scalability, and faster adaptation to market demand. Industry analysts note that modular systems allow factories to reconfigure production more efficiently through interchangeable "plug-and-play" units, reducing downtime and improving responsiveness to shifting consumer trends. This manufacturing model is closely tied to the rise of Industry 4.0 technologies, including AI-driven automation, predictive maintenance, and connected production systems. According to research from the World Economic Forum, modular microfactories can significantly reduce energy consumption, material waste, and operational costs compared with traditional large-scale facilities, while also enabling greater product customization. The transition toward modular production reflects wider changes in the fashion supply chain. As brands face increasing pressure to shorten lead times, reduce overproduction, and respond more dynamically to consumer preferences, flexible manufacturing systems are becoming strategically important. Analysts from PwC suggest that nearly half of industrial and energy executives expect their operations to become fully modular by 2030, highlighting how rapidly the concept is moving into mainstream industrial planning. Automation specialists also argue that modularity allows manufacturers to create highly adaptable production ecosystems built around standardized, interoperable components rather than rigid assembly lines. This approach supports quicker updates, easier maintenance, and more localized production models — all of which are increasingly relevant for fashion companies navigating volatile demand cycles and sustainability targets. Taken together, the footwear trends forecast for A/W 2026 and the rise of modular manufacturing point toward an industry balancing creativity with operational agility. Consumers are gravitating toward products that combine familiarity, comfort, and emotional appeal, while manufacturers and retailers are investing in systems capable of delivering those products with greater speed, flexibility, and efficiency. The result is a fashion market where innovation is no longer limited to design alone, but extends across the entire production and supply-chain ecosystem.

## About last edition

The latest edition of once again confirmed its position as one of the footwear industry's leading global business

platforms, bringing together buyers, manufacturers, and fashion professionals from around the world. The February 2025 edition attracted more than 40,400 trade visitors from 127 countries, with international attendees accounting for approximately 45% of total participation. The event hosted 1,758 brands across the four co-located fairs, nearly half of which came from international markets, reinforcing Milan's role as a strategic hub for the global fashion and accessories sector. Organisers highlighted particularly strong attendance from buyers representing key markets including Japan, China, France, Spain, Germany, Greece, and Turkey, underlining the continued international relevance of the exhibition despite ongoing economic and geopolitical uncertainty. Beyond the commercial results, the fair demonstrated how the footwear industry is evolving through a combination of craftsmanship, innovation, and data-driven trend forecasting. Sustainability, advanced manufacturing techniques, AI-supported consumer analysis, and new material research emerged as recurring themes throughout the exhibition, reflecting the sector's growing focus on balancing creativity with operational resilience.

**Next edition:** 13-15 September 2026

**Venue:** Fieramilano (Rho), Italy

**About Micam:** <https://micam.it/en/>

Discover more of our Hosted Buyer Program with Micam 2026 on TICC's website.



## WHY ATIGA IS BECOMING A GAME CHANGER FOR REGIONAL MANUFACTURING IN THAILAND



Thailand has long marketed itself as the natural manufacturing gateway to Southeast Asia. That pitch normally focuses on the Board of Investment, on industrial estates and on the Eastern Economic Corridor.

But for the past decade and a half, the most significant commercial lever available to anyone moving goods across ASEAN borders has been a different instrument altogether: the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, universally known as **ATIGA**. The agreement has been in force since 2010, and in 2025 it was modernised through a second protocol that introduced fully digital certificates of origin, streamlined customs procedures and new disciplines on non-tariff barriers. Its practical importance is difficult to overstate.

Last year, Thai exporters alone claimed preferential rates on more than USD 31 billion worth of shipments under the agreement, making it by far the country's most heavily used

trade arrangement. For anyone building a business in Thailand that touches a regional supply chain, **ATIGA** is no longer a nice-to-have; it determines whether the numbers work at all.

The headline that catches attention is the tariff schedule. The six founding ASEAN members, including Thailand, have eliminated import duties on 99.65 percent of their tariff lines for goods originating within the bloc. A company that sources electronic components from Malaysia, chemical inputs from Singapore or automotive parts from Indonesia can bring those goods across the Thai border at a zero rate, provided it holds a valid Form D certificate of origin. A firm that imports the same items from outside ASEAN, by contrast, faces Thailand's most-favoured-nation rates, which average 11.46 percent and can climb far higher for specific product categories. On a medium-sized manufacturing operation handling USD 5 million in imported inputs, the difference between zero and 11 percent represents more than

half a million dollars a year in irreducible cost. That margin alone often decides which jurisdiction wins the next factory.

The tax benefits compound when **ATIGA** is stacked on top of the Board of Investment's incentive framework. A manufacturing business that imports raw materials and components duty-free under **ATIGA**, processes them in Thailand and then exports the finished goods can also qualify for a BOI promotion. The BOI promotion brings its own suite of benefits: exemption or reduction of import duties on machinery, exemption of import duties on raw and essential materials used in manufacturing for export, and corporate income tax holidays that can reach eight years for priority activities. The effect is cumulative. The company pays no tariff on the way in, no tariff on capital equipment, and often no corporate income tax during the early years of operation. The result is an effective tax burden that is close to zero for a significant period, a position that is difficult to replicate outside a free-trade zone and that puts the business at an immediate cost advantage over competitors who manufacture inside a tariff wall.

**ATIGA**'s operational advantages may matter even more than the tax arithmetic. The second protocol, which entered into force in 2025, gave full legal recognition to electronic certificates of origin. Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade now operates an e-Form D system that allows exporters to apply for and receive certificates electronically, with the documents transmitted automatically through the Thailand National Single Window to the ASEAN Single Window and onward to the customs authority of the destination country. The process eliminates physical documentation, reduces clearance times and removes a common source of friction at the border. A shipment of transmission belts moving from a supplier in Singapore to a factory in Rayong can now clear customs with the same predictability that a domestic delivery enjoys inside a single country. That predictability is what allows a manufacturer to run lean inventory, to commit to tight delivery windows for customers in Europe or North America, and to treat the entire ASEAN region as one integrated production floor rather than ten separate markets.

The operational logic also drives business structure decisions. **ATIGA** does not, on its own, override Thailand's Foreign Business Act. But the structure that maximises **ATIGA**'s benefits happens to align with the structure that avoids the Foreign Business Act's restrictions. A company that manufactures for export falls outside the restricted lists of the Act, which means 100 percent foreign ownership is permitted as of right. The cleanest path for a foreign investor is therefore to import raw materials and components at zero tariff under **ATIGA**, perform a qualifying manufacturing process in Thailand, and export the finished product. Full ownership stays intact, no Foreign Business Licence is required and the cost base is optimised from day one. An export-only trading model works on the same principle: source goods across ASEAN, consolidate them in Thailand and re-export directly to third markets.

The alternative, pure import for domestic distribution, is legally more complex because it can trigger the Foreign Business Act's List 3 and may require either a Foreign Business Licence or substantial registered capital. Most successful importers have therefore learned to structure their operations around a value-add step, a manufacturing process or a repackaging activity that converts a domestic sale into an export transaction. The result is not just tax efficient, but it is also the simplest route to full ownership and operational control.

The specific sectors where **ATIGA** delivers the greatest leverage are precisely those where Thailand already operates at scale. Electronic components and integrated circuits move freely from Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam. Mineral

fuels, petroleum products and chemical inputs flow from Malaysia and Indonesia. Plastics, rubber and palm oil cross borders with minimal friction. Automotive components and industrial machinery travel from multiple ASEAN origins into Thailand's vehicle assembly lines. These inputs feed directly into Thailand's two primary export engines, automotive manufacturing and electronics, and the businesses that operate at that intersection enjoy what amounts to a double structural advantage: cheap **ATIGA** inputs on one side and full BOI incentives on the output side. Thailand's own exports back into ASEAN, vehicles, air conditioning units, rubber goods, processed agricultural products and electronics, are the mirror image of the same supply chains. A company that positions itself as both an importer and a manufacturer can slot into those flows and, where it qualifies, access additional incentives tied to special economic zones.

The risks of getting the structuring wrong deserves attention. **ATIGA** preferences are not automatic; they require proof that the goods satisfy the agreement's rules of origin. The traditional test required that at least 40 percent of the product's regional value content originate within ASEAN, although the upgraded agreement now also accepts the Change in Tariff Classification standard, which can be easier to satisfy for certain manufacturing processes. The rules permit cumulation, meaning that value added in multiple ASEAN states can be aggregated to reach the threshold, a provision that encourages regional supply chains rather than mere trans-shipment. But a company that fails to maintain proper documentation, or that misclassifies a product, will find its preferential claim denied, its goods assessed at full MFN rates and, in serious cases, its compliance record flagged for audit. The fact that Thailand's customs department and the Department of Foreign Trade now share data with the immigration bureau and the Department of Special Investigation means that customs irregularities can trigger consequences well beyond a duty demand.

Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade reported that FTA utilisation in the first half of 2025 reached 79.64 percent of eligible trade, up more than 10 percentage points year on year, with **ATIGA** accounting for the largest share at USD 15.73 billion. The utilisation rate is rising because businesses have understood that the agreement is no longer a paper treaty but a working commercial tool, reinforced by electronic systems that make compliance faster and cheaper than it was even three years ago. The ASEAN Single Window continues to expand, the upgraded **ATIGA** has added chapters on supply chain governance and sustainability, and the internal market that the agreement creates now encompasses more than 600 million consumers. For a foreign investor deciding where to place a manufacturing operation or a regional trading hub, **ATIGA** changes the mathematics of location. It transforms Thailand from a single country market into a zero-tariff production base serving the entire Southeast Asian region, with a cost structure that few other ASEAN countries can match and a regulatory framework that becomes more accommodating the more genuinely regional the business is. The structure works, but only for those who build it correctly from the beginning.

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