



## OzBuild 2008 – Building Thailand’s Future with Australian Partners

Australian Ambassador to Thailand H.E. William Paterson PSM presided recently over the launch of OzBuild 2008, the first Australian building and construction seminar and showcase at The Sukhothai Hotel.

Proudly brought by the Australian Trade Commission Bangkok, in conjunction with BlueScope Lysaght, Meinhardt, HASSELL, L-TAG Technologies and Raimon Land, OzBuild 2008 was a unique one day exhibition and seminar program with a focus on green building products, technologies and sustainable design.

Like other countries, Thailand has shared the boom bust cycle in the building and construction sector. However, the construction market today is leaning more towards the “clean and green” trend and is facing several pressures, including higher costs of construction materials, stricter Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) rules and



more zealous enforcement of building laws. New sustainable solutions are, therefore, increasingly in demand by both construction developers and consumers.



Australian Embassy  
Bangkok

“Sustainable development practice, in all industries, is no longer a catch phrase or an optional thing to consider. The benefits of building green include improved risk management, higher tenant retention, lower overheads and hence higher returns, more productive and healthier environments and a better industry image,” said the Australian Ambassador.

Australia has a strong reputation for developing and implementing green principles in the building and construction sector, most recognisably achieved from the successful completion of the 2000 “Green Olympics” in Sydney. Australia’s world-leading environmental capabilities include site rehabilitation, waste minimisation and

transformation, wastewater treatment and re-use, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, transport planning and event management.

Since the 2000 “Green Olympics” in Sydney, the adoption of sustainable design principles has taken up remarkable momentum in Australian architecture. Many of the innovative design features and technologies used in the construction and operation of the Olympic facilities are equally applicable to Australian and overseas facilities, ranging from the family home to the largest public buildings.

Here in Thailand, green principles being utilised in local projects via the efforts of several Australian companies are:

- HASSELL, who has recently won both the North Kamala Beach Feasibility Master Plan and the Mai Khao Beach Feasibility Master Plan in Phuket;
- Meinhardt (Thailand) who worked on the mechanical, electrical and sanitary design services for the 10,000sqm Siam Ocean World Aquarium and is now responsible for the Civil, Structural,



Mechanical and Sanitary Engineering design of the new Pepsi Bottling Facility in Surat Thani;

- BlueScope Lysaght (Thailand) who won the contract to supply the Suvarnabhumi project with a range of building solutions;
- Australia-Loxley partnership L-TAG

Technologies which has just finalised an exclusive arrangement with an Australian knowledge base of over 3500 environmentally preferable products, materials, technologies and resources, all having certified green ratings.

A major force in the Thai premium residential property market, Raimon Land already enjoys strong relationships with many of the Australian suppliers in Thailand. With this kind of strong trade and investment relationships, Thailand has become the fifth target market for exports in Australian building materials sector, with a significant 57% growth last year.

“We hope that through this partnership today we can support their ideal of ‘developing a better environment with intelligence, innovation and integrity’ via the supply of new products and services from Australia. As the market demands sustainable solutions, build your future with Australian partners to deliver these benefits – benefits to your own bottom line but also to ensuring the long term future of the Thai building and construction sector,” added the Ambassador. ■

## Ross Cunningham - In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that AustCham Thailand advises members of the recent passing away of Ross Cunningham. Ross suffered a stroke and his situation slowly deteriorated thereafter.



Ross was always happy and welcoming to those he met whether hotel guests, business partners or friends. He had a great passion for the hotel industry, particularly in Thailand, and was widely respected in all business communities for his great professionalism.

Together with General Manager Greg Meadows, Ross built and marketed The Conrad Hotel into one of Thailand’s top hotels in only a few years.

On behalf of members, AustCham would like to extend its heartfelt condolences. ■

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