



Bangkok's **Swedish** Women's Network

When Agneta Bekassy de Bekas moved to Bangkok two years ago without a work permit she wanted to do something. She joined the Swedish social network for women, SWEA, and has now been the voluntary President for almost a year.

By Rikke Bjerger Johansen

When Swedish women arrive to Bangkok they still have a Swedish network far away from home. In charge of this network is the dynamic woman, Agneta Bekassy de Bekas.

She grew up in the outskirts of Stockholm, worked as a model on the catwalks and moved to Switzerland when she was 21 years old.

As a Swedish woman in a foreign country she started up the Swedish social network SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association) in Switzerland in 1986, which reached 400 members during her time.

But strong links to Thailand made

her move to Bangkok two years ago with her husband and daughter. One year after moving she became President of SWEA in Bangkok with 59 members – and she loves it even though the voluntary job for the non-profit organisation takes up a lot of her time these days.

"We are in the middle of planning our biggest party of the year, the Swedish Christmas party which will take place on the 29th November in the Century Park Hotel in Bangkok. Last year we were 80 people, members with families and sponsors. Again, there will be a buffet with Swedish Christmas food, entertainment and of course a Christmas tree and a lucky draw with prizes," Agneta promises.

She is also planning next year's