

British Club Active Living Section

Lunch Presentation titled “From Thailand’s Kra Canal to Land Bridge: A 350 year journey of Vision and Ambition” by William Mellor

Chairperson’s Introduction of the Speaker

Good Evening everyone! Firstly, I would like to welcome our guests. We’re delighted to again have with us members of Golden Years Bangkok, headed by their leader Ishya and founder Bev.

And a very special welcome to the dozen guests who, on hearing about the speaker and tonight’s topic, quickly asked to attend. Some are here out of curiosity to listen to what our Speaker has to say, as are others to also support a friend. *Clearly, when it comes to this massive global project, its little known history, the Thai politics involved over many years, and the recent controversy around the Land Bridge, Bill draws a crowd before he’s even said a word!* Now to our speaker...It’s a real pleasure to introduce William — or Bill — Mellor. He is a distinguished journalist with more than 40 years of experience across the Asia-Pacific region. As a senior writer and editor for Bloomberg News, *Time* magazine, and the international business magazine *Asia Inc*, Bill has interviewed royalty, presidents, prime ministers, tycoons, through to people living with realities ‘day to day on the ground’. His reporting has earned him multiple awards, including a United Nations media citation and the Citibank Pan Asia Journalism Prize.

But beyond the headlines, one subject has fascinated Bill for over three decades — the Kra Canal. And more recently, its proposed successor, the Land Bridge. He has written extensively on both. He has explored the politics, the economics, and the environmental impact. He’s visited the region. He’s spoken to planners, critics, and locals in communities on all sides. Bill brings more than facts and figures. He brings memory, insight, and a healthy scepticism of official promises. He helps us understand not just what’s happening now — but how we got here, and why it still matters.

So please join me in warmly welcoming Bill Mellor.