

British Club Active Living Section

Lunch Presentation titled: “The King and the Consul: A British Tragedy in old Siam”

Chairperson’s Introduction of the Speaker:

Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. It is my pleasure to introduce our speaker today, Simon Landy MBE. He is a long-term resident of Thailand and a distinguished figure in both the Thai business community and the UK–Thailand trade sphere. Simon has spent more than forty years immersed in the worlds of Anglo-Thai culture and business.

After graduating from Cambridge University, Simon began his career in academia. He lectured at the National University of Singapore and later at Chulalongkorn and Thammasat Universities in Bangkok. He then moved into the business world, where he became a leading authority in property investment consultancy. In 2007, he co-founded Colliers International Thailand. As its Executive Chairman, he helped guide the firm through a period of strong growth and development.

Simon has also been prominent in the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand, serving as Chairman and later as Vice Chairman. He continues to contribute actively to both business and civic life. His work in strengthening commercial and professional ties between the UK and Thailand was recognised in the 2016 Birthday Honours, when he was awarded the MBE for services to UK–Thailand trade and investment.

More recently, he has taken on a leadership role with the British Overseas Voters Forum. He heads the University Fees Policy Group, where he champions the interests of British citizens living abroad.

Today, however, Simon joins us not as a businessman but as an author and historian. His presentation is based on his remarkable book *The King and the Consul: A British Tragedy in Old Siam*. It provides a meticulously researched account of the extraordinary events of 1856, when a fatal incident at the newly established British Consulate brought Siam and Britain dangerously close to war. Please join me in giving a very warm welcome to Simon Landy MBE.