

British Club Active Living Section

Lunch Presentation titled: “From Midas to Modern Money: The glittering journey of Gold”

Chairperson’s Introduction of the Speaker:

I first met today’s Speaker at our very first then Seniors Section event just over three years ago – a game of croquet on the front lawn just outside. Slightly built, with sparkling eyes and a ready smile, it didn’t take me long to realise that Barbara possessed a towering intellect — and that she also seemed to know an extraordinary number of people of distinction and influence in Bangkok, across the region and well beyond.

As for her early years, I’ve been unable to discover very much, other than the basic fact that she was born at a very young age! Education-wise, Barbara earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Hong Kong, her Master’s degree from the London School of Economics, and is an alumna of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Public Policy and Government. From there, she embarked on an international career spanning merchant banking, commercial and regulatory institutions, and numerous corporate and non-profit board roles across Europe and Asia — including her time as Managing Director of Barclays Investment Bank for Hong Kong and all of Asia.

Back in Hong Kong, she became a long-time director and trusted advisor to the Li & Fung Group and several of its subsidiaries. She has also played key roles in the establishment of the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, served on multiple international advisory councils, and was a member of the Executive Council of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, where she was Founding Chair of the Digital Economy Task Force.

In addition, Barbara remains an Adjunct Professor at the University of Hong Kong, was a Founding Director of the Asia Global Institute, and has long been deeply engaged in the digital technologies transforming how we live and work. Most recently, she has been appointed an Adjunct Professor at King Mongkut University of Technology here in Bangkok. Widely regarded as a business and thought leader, please join me in welcoming our distinguished speaker today — Barbara Meynert.