

British Club Seniors Section

Lunch Presentation titled "From ChatGPT to the age of AI by Barbara Meynert

Chairperson's Introduction of the Speaker

I first met today's Speaker at our very first Seniors Section Event 13 months ago – Croquet on the front lawn right outside. She was one of 5 players, having joined the fledgling Seniors Section 5 days earlier and, afterwards volunteered to join the Section Committee. A slightly built lady with sparking eyes and a ready smile, it didn't take me very long to realise that Barbara possessed a towering intellect ... and that she knew an amazing number of people of distinction and influence in numerous circles here in Bangkok, throughout the Region and beyond, a number of whom are here to support her and learn from her today including husband Roberto, five previous speakers at our Events in Khun Charkhris (Gap), Khun Kiatchai, and our Section Members Greg Beatty, Bruce Darrington and Bruce Hemmingsen, plus other of Barbara's friends, ... so welcome to all of you!

I've found it impossible to find out much about Barbara's early years. Only that basically ... 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 this background Barbara commenced her international career in merchant banking, in commercial and regulatory institutions, progressively taking on numerous board directorships in the corporate and non-profit sectors in Europe and Asia. This included her time as Managing Director of Barclays Investment Bank for Hong Kong and throughout Asia.

Back in Hong Kong, she was a long-time director and eventually trusted advisor to the Li and Fung Group, a major player in the global supply chain and trading industry, and also in a number of their subsidiary companies.

She played a crucial role as a Director and Advisor in the establishment of both the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Hong Kong Securities & Futures Commission and was a Member of the Hong Kong Cyberport Advisory Panel, a member of the FinTech Advisory Council of the Astana International Financial Centre in Kazakhstan, a member of the Victor and William Fung Foundation Board and Vice-Chair of the Hong Kong-Asean Economic Cooperation Foundation.

She served on the Executive Council of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and was the Founding Chair of ESCAP's 'Digital Economy Task Force'.

Wow, It's difficult enough saying all this, never mind actually having to successfully undertake them all! But more!

In addition to all that, she was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Hong Kong.

She was a Founding Director and served on the Advisory Board of the global think tank: the Asia Global Institute, a part of Hong Kong University. She was a member of the Victor and William Fung Foundation Board and Vice-Chair of the Hong Kong-Asean Economic Cooperation Foundation. In Bangkok, where she has been resident for a number of years, she served on the Hong Kong - Thailand Business Council and

to this day remains totally committed to a number of key pursuits, which are: Founder Member of the World Business Chamber, Advisory member of the World Digital Chamber, and Advisory Board member of the Asia Global Institute at the University of Hong Kong.

Deeply involved for many years, Barbara remains actively engaged in new digital technologies that are transforming the way we live, work, and socialize, and she also remains actively engaged since the early but comparatively recent days of the current massive advances in both 'Fintech' which, together with 'Human Intelligence', has now evolved into 'Artificial Intelligence' the subject that she will present to us right now.

Barbara's presentation will be in 3 parts – so grateful if you can please wait until each part is concluded before asking questions.

So, not just a Seniors Section Member and Committee Member, and still very much viewed by peers as a business and thought leader, please welcome our distinguished Speaker today: Barbara Meynert.