

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce Taipei during 2022

This report covers Swedish Chamber of Commerce Taipei's fiscal year, January 1st 2022 - December 31st 2022.

Memberships

We are very pleased to see that the number of Corporate memberships grew with 8, from 22 to 30 during 2022. Individual and Overseas support memberships remained relatively stable, while Young Professional memberships grew with 15, mostly thanks to loosened border restrictions and a long-awaited influx of Swedish students.

Events

COVID-19 variants kept SCCT on our toes also during 2022. A small surge during spring led to self-imposed semi lockdowns and restrictions on physical events. However, we saw a change in the way Taiwan government, and slowly also among general population in the way the pandemic was approached. Society opened up slightly after Taiwan realized the spring 2022 surge could be managed relatively well with social distancing, masks and increased vaccination rates.

Although SCCT received kind event planning support from pro bono resources, (praise to Agneta Olofsson!) the limited effective bandwidth of SCCT during 2022 (1.3 FTEs) when we were without a dedicated Intern meant that SCCT continued to focus on events and activities the CEO deemed we would be able to go through with. Large scale pompous events we chose to steer clear of.

Nevertheless, during 2022 SCCT hosted 27 open events (of which 19 were physical) and with a grand total of 821 attendees. In addition, SCCT hosted eight activities directed towards specific segments of SCCT's member base, such as Young Professionals, Golf lessons, dedicated member events such as the Ericsson Sweden Family Day etc.

Notable mentions were:

- Crayfish party (84 participants)
- CEO talks with Scania, Electrolux, Atlas Copco (62)
- Swedish BBQ (89)
- S:t Lucia celebrations (64)
- Soup Kitchen event (52)
- Golf Tournament (13)
- Stocks & Dinner (55)
- AGM (42)
- Swedish Smla (900 delivered)
- Student Welcome Dinner (25)

which have all become Signature Events defining SCCT's approach to *Social Business Networking*.

Collaborations

SCCT remains a member of the umbrella organization Swedish Chambers International (SCI), which represents a significant part of the Swedish business community outside of Sweden. The SCI consists of Swedish Chambers of Commerce in 40 key locations where companies with Swedish connections do business.

SCCT is also part of a very active community of 16 Swedish Chambers of Commerce across APAC, meetings between CEO's are held monthly where events, experiences and lessons learned are shared.

SCCT continued to build and broaden relations between existing corporate members, arranging business meetings where SCCT had identified opportunities for collaboration, which would benefit both corporate members.

During 2022 SCCT collaborated with NTU in their mentorship program where we hosted and mentored a foreign student over a 3-month period.

SCCT also took in an Intern from Talent Circulation Alliance (TCA), a Taiwan government program hosted by Ministry of Digital Affairs and sponsored by Audrey Tang. The intern went on to work for SCCT and a number of member companies over a 6-month period.

Finances

Main source of income during 2022 was membership fees (TWD1.368.000) which includes Gold (Atlas Copco, Ericsson, Quectel and IKEA during 2022) and Silver memberships (Höganäs, Scania, Bruks-Siwertell, Beijer Electronics and Vana Living during 2022)

Main cost elements were:
CEO salary (TWD669.500)
Office rent (TWD230.000)
IT-cost (TWD100.000)

At the end of the fiscal year, SCCT reported TWD521.241 on the bank account with Megabank and TWD96.000 in outstanding claims towards Huashan 1914 Creative Park in a down payment for Sweden Day 2020, an event which never materialized due to Covid-19. This claim has now been effectuated, money will not be recovered and this is now a sunken cost.

Sale of Swedish Semla pastries and facemasks meant approximately TWD20.000 in profit.

SCCT believes that cost should not deter anyone from signing up for an event, SCCT therefore continued to offer events either free of charge or at self-cost.

Business Climate Survey



SCCT published the annual Business Climate Survey for the 5th year running and in parallel with AmCham and ECCT, SCCT continues to be the only Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan publishing such an extensive business survey based solely on input from member companies. The 2022 edition was produced in collaboration with Business Sweden.

60 physical copies, accompanied by a letter in Mandarin detailing our findings and recommendations, were distributed to member companies, senior Taiwanese stakeholders and Taiwan Ministers. Copies were also distributed during our Joint Business Council meeting in Taiwan in November 2022.

SCCT Board

During 2022 the Board has consisted of nine Directors and three Supervisors. Changes to board constitution were made after the September 2022 Annual General Meeting where Ms. Emma Chang (Atlas Copco), Ms. Linda Wang (IKEA), Mr. Michael Werner (Eiger Law) and Mr. Hans Hallén (KTI) were elected onto the board.

Board of directors



Emily Wang
Chairperson



Emma Chang



Linda Wang



Louise Wikström



Jeanette Edman



Marcus Westdahl



Martin Söderberg



Robin Johansson



Thomas Shaw

Board of supervisors



Charles Chang



Hans Hallén



Michael Werner

During 2022 SCCT hosted seven regular board meetings.

Internship

During the first 6 months of 2022 SCCT engaged a local Intern, Ms. Ingrid Chow who worked part time for the Chamber. Strict Taiwan border controls meant that SCCT was not able to get the Swedish scholar intern Ms. Sarah Nygård across the border to Taiwan in time, and she arrived beginning of October 2022.

External communication

During 2022 SCCT sent a number of formal letters to government agencies on behalf of our members, urging Taiwanese ministers and executive legislative yuan representatives to relax border controls for Business & Internship visas and marketing the result of SCCT's annual Business Climate Survey.

SCCT also supported five specific member companies with government meetings and communication in the following areas:

- delays in project deliveries due to Covid-19
- stalled contract bid proposal process'
- product import & certification processes
- business visas

SCCT sent letters to, and later cooperated with a member of European Parliament; Mr. Charlie Weimers on his report on 'EU's relationship with Taiwan'.

Online presence

Social media is a cost-efficient medium when reaching out with both social, cultural and business messages and SCCT's social media presence grew exponentially also during 2022, with LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram being its main channels with a total of more than 4000 active followers.

In the absence of Swedish representation from Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Taiwan during parts of 2022, SCCT took initiative to fill the void to celebrate and promote 'Swedishness'.

Special thanks

A big thank you to all our active members for Your kind support and active engagement during 2022. We are especially glad to see that so many of our corporate members chose to bring their extended leadership teams to our events, helping us build a solid growing ground for a close-knit business community.

Special thanks to SCCT's volunteer contributors Ms. Agneta Olofsson, Mr. Johan Skarendal, Mr. Tsou Chih-Yu (鄒志宇) and the whole Chalmers CITO-team for their help with Crayfish and BBQ parties, Stocks & Dinner events and the bi-monthly Macroeconomic Digests.

Without You all, SCCT will continue to thrive and be even more successful.

Yours sincerely,



Fredrik Boye
CEO