



His Excellency Pisan Manawapat, Royal Thai Ambassador to the United States, speaks at International Trade Council

The Partnership held its quarterly International Trade Council on August 17 in the Partnership board room. Bob Pertierra, Partnership Senior Vice President and Chief Economic Development Officer, delivered opening remarks focused on Houston as an international hub for business, including the region's role as a strategic gateway to the Americas for many Asian nations.

Ambassador Pisan discussed Thailand's key attributes including its reliability, business friendliness, and progressive political reforms. He also noted that doing business with Thailand opens the door to trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and some of the association's major trading partners including China, India and Japan.

In addition to the energy industry, Ambassador Pisan noted that Houston's medical and research expertise provides an excellent synergy with Thailand. He also referenced Houston's logistical connectivity including the Port of Houston, as an advantage of doing business with the region. Charles Foster, Honorary Consul General of Thailand in Houston, also addressed the audience. "Thailand is the United States' oldest ally in southeast Asia," he noted.

Trade between Houston and Thailand has more than quadrupled since 2004, and experienced a rise of 12.4 percent in 2014. Thailand currently ranks eighth among Houston's Asian trading partners.