Dear Readers,

For some, summer vacations are approaching but the business must go on. Before you take a well-deserved break, let me share some news about companies like Solvay, DEME and Padaeng Industry. Learn more about the educational and research opportunities offered by the Vlerick Business School and Bangkok University and read the names of the young Belgian innovators distinguished by the MIT. If the language of Molière is your thing do not forget to register for the World Congress of French Teachers in Liège, but if you prefer food, just head for Tomorrowland.

Enjoy the reading,

Marc Michielsen
Ambassador
Marc Michielsen, ambassador of Belgium in Thailand, presided on the 13th of June over the “Helmet for Kids”, a helmet handover ceremony organized by Siam Solvay Foundation (SSF) in collaboration with Daung Pratheep Foundation. This corporate social responsibility initiative, now in its third year, seeks to educate youth about traffic rules and teach them traffic discipline so as to help them to curb road accidents in their communities. 570 crash helmets were handed out to kids at school. The “Helmets for Kids Year 3” was also an occasion for a puppet entertainment activity held at Wat Ta Kaun School, Maptaput district, Rayong province.

www.dpf.or.th
www.solvay.com
PDI and DOWA Invest in Integrated Industrial Waste Management in Tak

The Thai company Padaeng Industry Public Company Limited (PDI) and the Japanese DOWA Eco-System Co. Ltd. (a subsidiary of DOWA Holdings Co.Ltd.) signed on April 26 2016 a Shareholders Agreement and Share Purchase Agreement for DOWA to acquire 49% share in PDI Tak Eco Co.Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PDI. Mr. Arsa Sarasin, Chairman and Mr. Francis Vanbellen, Managing Director of PDI, joined together with Mr. Kenichi Sasaki, President of DOWA Eco System Co.Ltd for a signing ceremony. The agreement will enable PDI to invest in integrated industrial waste management in Tak Province, with an initial capital of Baht 10 million. Mr. Vanbellen: "With highly-efficient management and safety standards guaranteed by DOWA’s technology and expertise in the field, the project will be able to handle at least 50,000 ton-per-year of industrial waste generated in the Northern, Western and Central regions of Thailand. A major advantage is the project location which is included in the target locations of the five-year industrial waste management strategic plan (2015-2019) of the Ministry of Industry. Operations are expected to begin by the end of 2018, with the EHIA permit process being the critical path on the timeline.”

www.padaeng.com/en
BANGKOK UNIVERSITY BETS ON YOUNG INNOVATORS

The Bangkok University Innovative Technology Unit (BU-ITU) is a cluster of four research centers. One is devoted to Robotics (BURL), another to Optoelectronics, Communications and Control Systems (BU-CROCCS), a third one to Multimedia Intelligent Technology (BU-MIT), and the last one to Architecture (BU-RCCAB). Apart from conducting research, these centers support research-based graduate programs and offer internship opportunities to qualified Thai or international applicants. On 9 June 2016, BU-ITU organized its first mini-conference in the Diamond Building of Bangkok University. The purpose was to introduce the Innovative Technology Unit to the wider BU community and give the opportunity to the students to present in English their research work. Karel Sterckx, Director of BU-CROCCS, a Belgian researcher, invited the Embassy of Belgium to come and see for itself and meet the young Belgians presently carrying out an internship at BU-ITU.

www.bu.ac.th/eng
www.bucroccs.bu.ac.th
On the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May, the international organization ILGA published its Rainbow Europe review, an annual ranking of public laws and policies for sexual minorities in Europe. This study rates 49 European countries on a scale from 0% (blatant violations of human rights and discrimination) to 100% (compliance with human rights, complete equality). This year, Belgium is rated among the most welcoming countries for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals, reaching the 2nd best position (82.4%), preceded only by Scotland (United Kingdom) which legalized marriage for all in 2014. Belgium is a pioneer in the field of LGTB rights and definitely serves as a model in that regard.

Created in 1996 and based in Brussels, the NGO ILGA brings together 408 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations, and carries out awareness-raising work among European institutions in order to ensure the eradication of discriminations against LGBT people.

www.ilga-europe.org/resources/rainbow-europe/2015
The latest Financial Times Executive Education rankings confirms Vlerick Business School as an excellent choice for manager and entrepreneur training programs. With campuses in Brussels, Ghent and Leuven (and a branch in St Petersburg - Russia), Vlerick remains the leading management training supplier in the Benelux countries, a distinction it has held for the last five years! Vlerick has also made significant progress in the global rankings, jumping five places to 29th strengthening its position among the best schools in an extremely competitive field. Vlerick has also moved up two places in the European rankings, to 16th place. Vlerick School advanced in the rankings thanks to years of hard work to develop the types of programs that make a real difference to managers and entrepreneurs. Last year, 8,534 entrepreneurs and managers completed a program at Vlerick Business School and 3,544 participants chose one of the 81 open programs. Vlerick has also created 138 specialized programs for 4,990 participants from local and international businesses.

www.vlerick.com/en/
The 17th Congress of the International Federation of French Teachers (Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de français) will take place in Liège (Belgium) from the 14th to the 21st of July. Created in 1969, the International Federation of French Teachers regroups 180 French teachers associations from 140 countries and counts more than 80,000 members. Organized by professors Jean-Marie Klinkenberg and Jean-Marc Defays, this meeting will gather more than 1500 persons and will be inaugurated with a conference given by Pierre Mertens, the famous Belgian writer. Between 14 and 21 July, 22 conferences, 24 round-tables and 70 workshops will take place in the picturesque city of Liège. The objective of the congress is to focus on innovative teaching methods and put them to the test with experienced teachers from all over the world. The impact of the use of digital tools in classrooms and the present status of the French language around the world are examples of topics which will be discussed during the congress.

www.liege2016.fipf.org/cms
MIT Recognises Eight Belgian Entrepreneurs

Every year the MIT Technology Review, the media wing of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), crowns the world's most talented entrepreneurs and innovators younger than the age of 35. Past award winners include Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook), Sergey Brin (Google) and Daniel Ek (Spotify). The Belgian version of this prize has just been held for the second time and distinguished eight innovative entrepreneurs. Two of these innovators were given a special mention. The jury named Xavier Damman “Innovator of the Year 2016” for his creation of Open Collective, a platform making crowdfunding accessible to all. In turn, Steven Vercammen was crowned as “Social Innovator”, for his Evapp, an application for heart attack emergencies in order to alert medical volunteers in the neighborhood and get first aid from them or to call the emergency services. Other award winners were Alisson Derenne (pharmaceuticals), Charles Fraccia (biomedical software and hardware), Geert Houben (care platform Cubigo), Geert Slachmuylders (turbines generating electricity with water), Jill Vanparys (science-based video games) and Guillaume Wegria (bio stimulator for plants).

www.innovatorsunder35.com/innovators-under-35-belgium
BELGAINS DISCOVER A NEW TYPE OF CELL DIVISION

Scientists at KULeuven University (Belgium), in cooperation with the University of Ghent (Belgium), have discovered a new type of cell division which has never been described before. This new cell division explains genetic differences within one embryo. The researchers came to this discovery by analyzing cow embryos. This has implications for humans as the researchers developed a new method in order to determine whether a chromosome originates from the mother or the father. For the very first time, this technique makes it possible to detect not only anomalies in the number of chromosomes, but also the origin of these anomalies.

www.genome.cshlp.org/content/early/2016/04/08/gr.200527.115.abstract
DEME Participates in the Construction of the World’s Longest Immersed Tunnel and the Largest Container Terminal

The Fermen Links Contractors joint venture, with Belgian companies DEME and CFE as partners, signed contracts with the Danish government in order to build the world’s largest immersed construction. This 18 km long road and rail tunnel connecting Denmark and Germany under the Baltic Sea, which will open in 2028, will comprise four motorway sections and two railtracks, and will consist of 89 precast tunnel elements. The total value of the contract amounts to 3.4 billion euros, 700 million of which will go to Belgian companies. Planned since 1995, the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link project connecting Denmark’s Lolland Falster region with Germany’s Schleswig Holstein region will shorten the journey to 10 minutes by car and 7 minutes by train.

DEME is a division of CFE, a Belgian industrial group, and is specialized in dredging and marine engineering activities. Their partners in the Femern Links Contractors joint venture are Vinci (France) and Bam (the Netherlands).

www.en.cfe.be
www.deme-group.com
The influential website “Opinionated About Dining” (AOD) named chef Kobe Desramaults’ restaurant “In de Wulf” the third best restaurant in Europe. Numbers 1 and 2 are the French restaurant “L'Arpège” and the Spanish “Azurmendi”. “In de Wulf” is not the only Belgian restaurant appraised for its top quality: 20 Belgian restaurants are mentioned in the ranking list. Two years ago “In De Wulf” was number one on OAD's top 100, last year it reached fourth place. Desramaults is closing his restaurant in December though and is collecting inspiration from various corners of the world. AOD describes Desramaults as "one of the brightest stars in the culinary world, determined to show that the flavours and aromas of his home country are as interesting as those from other regions of the continent". Besides Kobe Desramaults and his “In de Wulf”, are also among the list “L'air du temps” (in Liernu), “Hertog Jan” (in Zedelgem), “Hof van Cleve” (in Kruishoutem), “Bon-Bon” (in Brussels) and “The Jane” (in Antwerp).

www.indewulf.be
Gault Millau declared the Belgian music festival Tomorrowland as one of the 'Culinary Innovators of the Year'. The festival impressed the jury with its offer of the best chocolate and special beers, the presence of Belgian and international top chefs and the many culinary stands. This year the awards for the 'culinary innovators of the year' were awarded for the first time by the renowned restaurant guide Gault Millau. The initiative of the prestigious restaurant guide offers nutritionists the chance to reflect on the future of gastronomy together. In total 8 winners were selected in 8 different categories and Tomorrowland won the ‘Events’ award.

“This year again there will be around 120 culinary stands. This also includes several restaurants, with a total of 2,000 dishes. Sergio Herman has worked for us several times already, as well as other top chefs. We strive to offer mostly healthy food, not the classic fatty snack, and recipes from all over the world to reflect the diversity of the public, from Mexican tacos to Indian curries”, says Debby Wilmsen, spokesperson for Tomorrowland.

Tomorrowland is one the largest music festivals in the world, which this year takes place from 22 to 24 July 2016 in Boom, Belgium. The first edition of the festival took place in 2005 and the festival attracts each year more than 180,000 visitors from all over the world.

www.tomorrowland.com/home