REPORT • BUSINESS CONNECTIONS • TRAVEL

Pakistan in a New Light

TRCC at Pakistan Business Connect 2026

Representatives of the Thai-Russian Chamber of Commerce joined TPCC's business evening in Bangkok, where trade and investment shared the stage with tourism, cultural heritage and the people bringing Thailand and Pakistan closer together.

Bangkok, 11 November 2026 · Prepared by Dmitry Fedorov



Participants at Pakistan Business Connect 2026. Bangkok, 11 November 2026.
TPCC / Facebook.

On 11 November 2026, Pakistan Business Connect 2026 - TPCC Networking Night Bangkok brought diplomats, entrepreneurs and business associations together at Amari Watergate Hotel Bangkok. Hosted by the Thai-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (TPCC), led by President Abdul Ghaffar Warsi, the evening welcomed representatives of TRCC among its guests.

There were two milestones to celebrate: TPCC's 21st anniversary and 75 years of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Pakistan. According to the organisers, representatives of more than 40 leading Thai companies joined the programme, alongside government representatives, investors and leaders of foreign chambers.

Programme and participant information: TPCC

DIPLOMACY AND ANNIVERSARIES

Seventy-five years of relations, with more to discover



H.E. Ms. Saadia Altaf Qazi, Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand, addresses the gathering.
Provided to the editors.

H.E. Ms. Saadia Altaf Qazi, Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand, attended the evening. In the following speech, Mr. Songsang Pathavanich referred to her invitation to visit Pakistan and spoke warmly about his own visits to the country's north. His remarks echoed the interest in tourism recalled by an attendee.

The anniversary also has a wider cultural dimension. In a separate meeting on 5 November, reported by Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Secretary Sirilak Niyom discussed economic and cultural relations, including plans for an exhibition of Gandhara artefacts in Thailand in 2027. That initiative provides useful context for the evening's interest in heritage and travel.

For TPCC, the event was also an occasion to recognise the people sustaining these relationships. The Chamber reported that Long Achievement and Performance Awards were presented to members of its Executive Committee. President Abdul Ghaffar Warsi and his team brought together people well placed to turn mutual interest into working relationships.

Thai MFA: the separate 5 November meeting and cultural cooperation · TPCC: the Chamber’s 21st anniversary

THEMES FROM THE KEYNOTE

Chutintorn Gongsakdi: creating opportunities together



Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Trade Representative of the Government of Thailand, addresses the audience. TPCC / Facebook.

Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Trade Representative of the Government of Thailand, drew on his diplomatic experience to discuss trade in practical, human terms. Predictable conditions matter to investors, he argued, while partnerships need to give both sides room to grow.

He encouraged participants to look beyond disputes over the trade balance and consider what the two countries could create together. He identified logistics and cold-storage services in Pakistan, processing activities, stronger production links and access to Central Asian markets as areas worth exploring.

Hospitality and tourism projects in northern Pakistan also featured in his remarks, alongside the potential of the country's historic Buddhist heritage sites. Tourism thus formed a concrete part of the business discussion. Turning these ideas into practical projects, he stressed, calls for face-to-face engagement and a direct dialogue between businesses and government.

Based on the recording: 04:28-04:46; 10:30-12:30; 17:42-18:17; 19:50-22:02.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND THE BUSINESS COUNCIL

From introductions to lasting partnerships



Mrs. Vibeke Lyssand Leirvåg, Chairwoman of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT). TPCC / Facebook.

Mrs. Vibeke Lyssand Leirvåg, Chairwoman of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT), linked successful international business to respect for a partner's culture, clear rules and reliable information. She highlighted food and halal products, textiles, the digital economy, tourism and joint ventures. The value of an evening like this, she suggested, lies in the meaningful partnerships that follow the introductions.



Mr. Songsang Pathavanich, President of the Thai-Pakistani Business Council. Name as displayed on the event screen. Provided to the editors.

Mr. Songsang Pathavanich, President of the Thai-Pakistani Business Council, recalled his visits to Pakistan and encouraged greater travel from Thailand. He noted Pakistan's strengths in sporting goods, medical equipment and textiles, alongside Thailand's automotive components and food industries. Trade negotiations were discussed as an important area for further work.

Sources: recordings and TPCC’s report. Names and roles were checked against the event-screen captions.

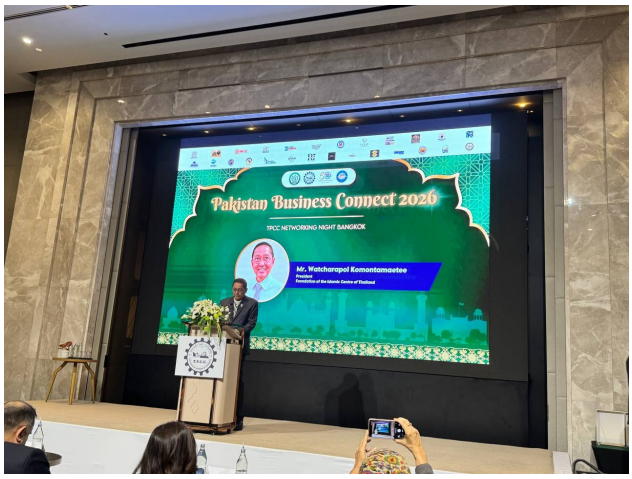
VOICES FROM THAI SOCIETY

Thai voices and connections across generations



Mr. Sawap Phaopratan, Vice President of the Central Islamic Council of Thailand.
TPCC / Facebook.

Thai speakers included Mr. Sawap Phaopratan, Vice President of the Central Islamic Council of Thailand, and Mr. Watcharapol Komontamatee, President of the Foundation of the Islamic Centre of Thailand.



Mr. Watcharapol Komontamatee, President of the Foundation of the Islamic Centre of Thailand.
Provided to the editors.

Across the recorded Thai-language contributions, speakers discussed involving younger generations in the Chamber, business contacts across Thailand's provinces and assistance after natural disasters. Accounts of trading with and visiting Pakistan brought up practical issues such as tariffs, transport costs and finding direct suppliers, as well as opportunities for tourism.

The two Thai-language recordings are summarised collectively. Their individual attribution to these two speakers remains unconfirmed; no direct quotations are used.

ENTREPRENEURS AND PRACTICAL PROJECTS

From smart farming to hospitality



Mr. Viboon Supakarapongkul, Director of Foreign Investment at Charoen Pokphand Foods.
Provided to the editors.

Mr. Viboon Supakarapongkul, Director of Foreign Investment at Charoen Pokphand Foods, also participated in the programme.



Mr. Yousaf Rizvi, representing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Muay Thai Federation.
Provided to the editors.

Mr. Yousaf Rizvi, representing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Muay Thai Federation, drew on his experience in education, aviation, tourism and sport. He invited entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan and explore investment and joint ventures in hospitality.

Smart farming and food production

A further contribution, delivered on behalf of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, explored smart farming: using data, precision irrigation and technology to make better use of resources. Agritech, cold-chain logistics, food processing and packaging were identified as potential investment areas. The speaker is not identified in the available recording.

The agritech recording identifies the speaker as representing the Thai Chamber of Commerce but does not state a name. Attribution of that recording to Mr. Viboon Supakarapongkul is unconfirmed.

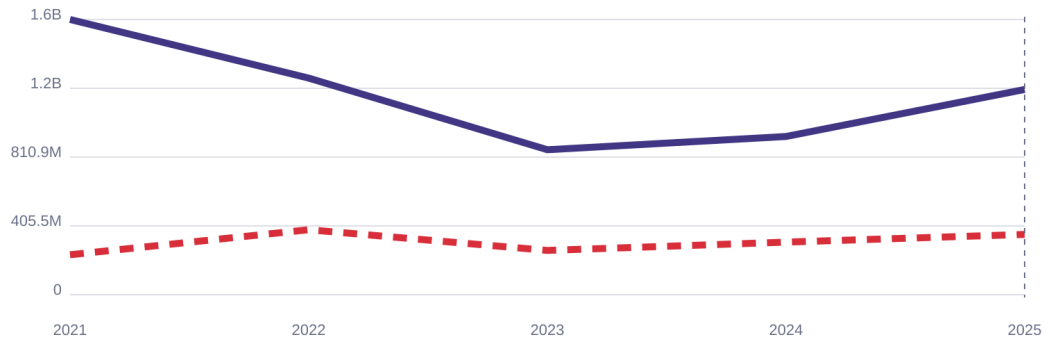
STATISTICS FROM THE TRCC WEBSITE

Thailand-Pakistan trade: the trend

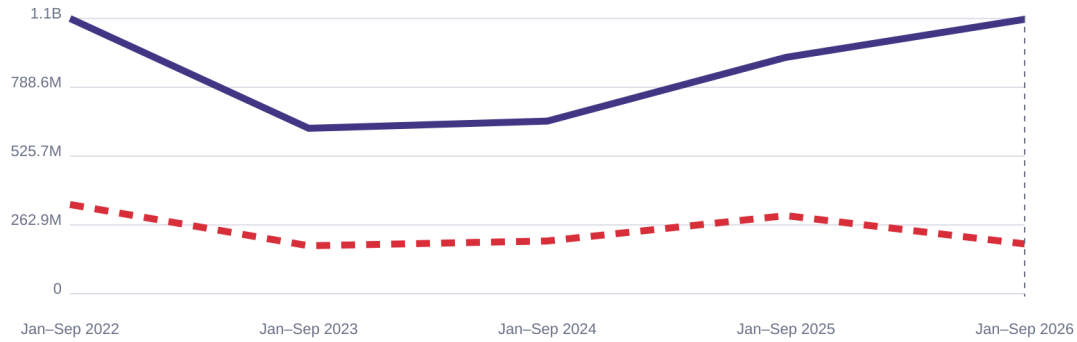
2025: US$1.565 billion, up 26.0%
January-September 2026: US$1.239 billion, up 3.1%

Flows are reported from Thailand's perspective. Purple: exports to Pakistan; dashed red: imports from Pakistan. M = million; B = billion USD.

Full calendar years: 2021-2025



January-September of each year: 2022-2026



Flow, US$ million	2025 full year	Jan-Sep 2026	vs Jan-Sep 2025
Thai exports	1,209.60	1,048.43	+16.1%
Thai imports	355.36	190.29	-36.2%
MOC trade total	1,564.96	1,238.72	+3.1%

Charts reproduced from TRCC Trade Statistics. Data: MOC; comparable changes calculated by TRCC. Checked 13 November 2026. Full years · January-September.

COMMODITY COMPOSITION

What the two countries buy from each other

The five largest groups in each direction. January-September 2026; HS 2022. Values in millions of US dollars.

Thailand’s exports to Pakistan

HS	Commodity group	US$ million	Share
87	Motor vehicles and parts	249.08	23.8%
40	Rubber and articles thereof	116.91	11.2%
39	Plastics and articles thereof	90.00	8.6%
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	79.89	7.6%
55	Man-made staple fibres	75.85	7.2%

Thailand’s imports from Pakistan

HS	Commodity group	US$ million	Share
03	Fish and other aquatic animals	79.87	42.0%
61	Knitted or crocheted clothing	35.07	18.4%
27	Mineral fuels and oils	22.12	11.6%
72	Iron and steel	10.38	5.5%
63	Other made-up textiles; worn clothing	6.88	3.6%

Shares refer to all commodity groups in the same direction, not only the top five. Labels are shortened for readability. MOC exports include re-exports.

MOC control / TRCC sum of all HS2 groups: exports US$1,048,430,249.97 / US$1,048,430,249.97; imports US$190,294,138.15 / US$190,294,138.15. Both pairs agree. View TRCC commodity data.

The composition helps explain the interest in automotive components, processing and cold-chain logistics. Tourism and digital services were discussed separately: this merchandise dataset does not measure them.

PAKISTAN IN PHOTOGRAPHS

A Pakistan worth seeing for yourself

The discussions also raised a more personal question: how well do we know the country we hope to do business with? A tourism film shown during the evening offered a fresh perspective on Pakistan, with mountain landscapes, remarkable roads and places that invite a closer look.



K2 in summer: a high-altitude Karakoram landscape, August 2006.
Svy123 / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY 3.0.

For this report, we have assembled a separate gallery of spring blossom and autumn colour in Hunza, winter in the Naran Valley, a summer view of K2, the turquoise waters of Attabad Lake, the Karakoram Highway and a road viaduct leading into a tunnel. These are archival illustrations of Pakistan, separate from the event photographs and the film screened that evening.

Archival illustrations. Authors, source pages and licences are linked below each image. Only size and format were changed; metadata was removed.

THE SEASONS

Hunza and Naran: a changing palette



Spring blossom beside the Karakoram Highway in Hunza.
Totallytrashed / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 4.0.



Autumn in Hunza: golden trees along a mountain road.
Khaqan ibrahim chopa / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 4.0.



Winter in the Naran Valley.
Zimam goraya / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 4.0.

ROADS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS

The Karakoram Highway and Attabad viaduct



A road viaduct and tunnel on the Karakoram Highway beside Attabad Lake.
Shahbaz Aslam / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 4.0.



The Karakoram Highway follows a river through the mountains.
Zakir Ali Khan / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 4.0.

Mountain roads form part of both the landscape and the region’s transport links. These photographs show a highway, a road viaduct and a tunnel.

NATURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

From lakes to ancient monasteries



The turquoise waters of Attabad Lake, surrounded by rock.
Rizwan439 / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 4.0.



Takht-i-Bahi: a Buddhist monastic complex and part of Gandhara's heritage.
Muhammad Zahir / Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 3.0.

Takht-i-Bahi, the Buddhist monastic complex on UNESCO's World Heritage List, adds another dimension to the journey. For a Thai audience, an encounter with Gandhara's heritage can offer a further reason to explore Pakistan in person.

UNESCO: Takht-i-Bahi and neighbouring Sahr-i-Bahlol

PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS

TRCC continues the business conversation



Welcoming guests to Pakistan Business Connect 2026.
TPCC / Facebook.



Guests gather for a photograph at the TPCC backdrop.
TPCC / Facebook.

TRCC continues to build relationships with chambers of commerce and local business organisations. Pakistan Business Connect offered an opportunity to hear other business communities' priorities, exchange perspectives and identify subjects for further discussion.

According to TPCC, the programme closed with Pakistani and Thai cultural performances. The evening brought business discussions together with an interest in the people, landscapes and heritage of Pakistan.

THE PROGRAMME

The official TPCC poster



Official poster: Pakistan Business Connect 2026 - TPCC Networking Night Bangkok, 11 November, 18:00-21:00. TPCC, official poster.

SOURCES AND EDITORIAL NOTES

References for the report

1. TPCC: Pakistan Business Connect 2026
Date, venue, participants, more than 40 Thai companies, anniversary, awards and cultural programme.

2. Thai-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce
Event organiser; President Abdul Ghaffar Warsi.

3. Thai MFA: meeting with Pakistan’s Ambassador
Report dated 6 November about the separate 5 November 2026 meeting, 75 years of relations and the proposed Gandhara exhibition.

4. TRCC Trade Statistics: full year 2025
Published MOC figures and the annual chart.

5. TRCC Trade Statistics: January-September 2026
Comparable periods, commodity groups and control totals.

6. Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation
Official Pakistan tourism resource.

7. Tourism Department Gilgit-Baltistan
Official regional tourism information.

8. UNESCO: Takht-i-Bahi
World Heritage property information.

How the recordings were used

The speeches are paraphrased from seven supplied audio files. Automatic transcripts and a Russian thematic summary are retained separately. Unclear passages have not been reconstructed by guesswork.

A full text or video of the Ambassador’s 11 November speech was not found on the official sources checked as of 13 November 2026. The tourism invitation is paraphrased from an attendee’s recollection and an explicit reference in the following speech; no verbatim quotation is attributed to her. No separate recording of the TPCC President’s speech was identified in the supplied files.

Event photographs: TPCC / Facebook and material provided to the editors; individual photographers are unconfirmed. Archival Pakistan views: Wikimedia Commons, with authors, source pages and licences in the clickable captions. Prepared by Dmitry Fedorov for TRCC.