

## Pioneering initiative on paternity leave in the private sector in Thailand

The Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden in Thailand and the Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce are proud and honoured to present a unique and pioneering initiative in Thai business life. 12 Swedish affiliated companies are now pledging to offer male employees one month of paid paternity leave.

This is a significant step in achieving more gender equal workplaces.

- “AstraZeneca Thailand is proud to join Team Sweden’s paternity pledge. The policy will support 30 days of paternity leave to be taken within the first year of parenthood, and we hope that this gives all family members the best start to parenting” says James Teague, Country President, AstraZeneca (Thailand) Ltd.

- “We need to support both men and women to achieve gender equality. We support female’s equal participation in the workforce and male’s participation in family and caring responsibilities at home” says Christian Dassonville, Country Human Resource Manager at IKEA Thailand.

In Sweden parents are granted 480 days of paid parental leave and couples are encouraged to share the days. Equal parental leave means that women in Sweden do not have to choose between a career and a family. Sweden has one of the highest female employment rates in the world at 80.3%. This is to be compared with the global average of a mere 49%. Research shows that equality in the world of work makes perfect economic sense and makes our societies more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable.

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The ongoing photo exhibition at Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre “Parenting – an Equal Opportunity” provides a very fitting scene for the public launch of this initiative.

Bangkok Art & Culture Centre, Opening hours: 10.00 – 19.00 Tuesday to Sunday. Ongoing until 12 June 2022.

For more information, please contact: [chotikorn.jeanguenin@gov.se](mailto:chotikorn.jeanguenin@gov.se) and mobile 081-9393403.

