



CACCI Releases President's Reflection 2014-2018



CACCI recently released the President's Reflection 2014-2018 which summarizes the activities undertaken by Immediate Past President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili during his four-year term from 2014 to 2018.

Mr. Inaishvili was first elected as CACCI President during the 28th CACCI Conference held on September 17, 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, making him the 25th President since the Confederation was established in 1966. He was at the time Board Member of the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Prior to his election to the CACCI presidency, Mr. Inaishvili

served as CACCI Vice President beginning from 2006.

Two years later, during the 30th CACCI Conference held on November 23, 2016 in Taipei, Taiwan- which also marked the 50th Anniversary of the Confederation- Mr. Inaishvili was re-elected for another two-year term, from 2016 to 2018.

During the 32nd CACCI Conference held on November 23, 2018 in Istanbul, Mr. Inaishvili was presented a Distinguished Service Award by the general membership in recognition of his "outstanding accomplishments in serving the interest of the Confederation, its members, and the Asia-Pacific business community as a whole during his term as CACCI President from 2014 to 2018."

On behalf of Mr. Inaishvili, CACCI would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their cooperation and assistance they have extended to him in undertaking the projects and programs he initiated during his Presidency. Without members' help, Mr. Inaishvili would not have accomplished what he had set out to do to when he first took over the helm of CACCI in 2014.

CACCI looks forward to members' continued support of the Confederation and its activities in the years ahead under the incumbent CACCI office-bearers.

A copy of the President's Reflection can be downloaded on this link: <https://bit.ly/2IBWDPn>

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Northern Territory CCI to Hold Regional Forum

Chamber of Commerce, Northern Territory on May 2-3, 2019 will host a forum attracting senior representative's from Chambers of Commerce within Australia and across the Asian Region including; Cambodia, China, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, PNG, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam, to discuss key issues facing the growth of business in our Region.

CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi will be one of the speakers for the event. Mr. Modi will be sharing CACCI's perspectives on economic growth opportunities and challenges for the Asia Pacific region.

Topics in the preliminary program include:



- Economic Outlook for the Asia/ Australia Region over the next 10 years
- Business Opportunities and Challenges for Regional Tourism Growth
- New Infrastructure and Supply Chain Developments in our Region
- Improving Regional Connectivity - including Transport and Communication

links

- Strengthening Global Entrepreneurship across the Region
- Opportunities for strengthening regional business partnerships and networks

We invite you to join us for this international forum to discuss regional Asian and Australian business issues.

This key business event will be held in Darwin, considered Asia's Gateway with Australia.

Nepal Investment Summit on March 29-30 in Kathmandu



CACCI members are invited to Nepal Investment Summit (NIS) on March 29-30, 2019 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza in Kathmandu.

The Summit aims to promote Nepal as a promising investment destination and brings together high-level government authorities, leading business executives from across the globe, senior officials of the international financial institutions, representatives of global lending agencies, national and international experts, non-resident Nepalis and international

development partners.

The two-day event is organized by the Office of the Investment Board of the Government of Nepal, with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Confederation of Nepalese Industries, and Nepal Chamber of Commerce as co-organizers.

To be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Summit will be addressed by prominent leaders from political, business and financial sectors. It will hold plenaries and breakout thematic sessions, covering various components such as policy environment, sector-specific potential investment areas, and experience sharing of investors, among others. The Summit will also provide a platform for foreign investors to interact with the representatives of Government agencies and domestic business representatives to explore business opportunities in Nepal.

Brochure of the Summit can be downloaded from the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ybbft9k2>

Please visit www.investmentsummitnepal.com for more information.

Phnom Penh to host Cambodia International ICT & Mobile Expo 2019 in July

The Cambodia International ICT & Mobile Expo (CIIME 2019) will be held on July 11-13, 2019 at the Diamond Island Exhibition & Convention Centre in Phnom Penh. All CACCI members are invited to

this event.

Organized by Twin Goat Exhibition and Trading Co., Ltd, one of the leading exhibition organizers in Cambodia, with the support of the

Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Posts and Communications, and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, the exhibit allows participants to meet Cambodian's foremost ICT leaders and gain access to a fast

growing market in the region. The CIIME 2019 provides the opportunity to capitalize on this potential, and combines exhibit, B2B meetings, panel discussions, and conference involving both

local and international participants.

For more details on this event, visit www.twingoat.com or send an inquiry via email at info@twingoat.com

KCC Officers Visit Taipei

Officers of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) visited the CACCI Secretariat Headquarters during their February 25 business trip to Taipei. KCC Permanent Chairman Mr. Conrad Lee (former CACCI Honorary Treasurer), KCC Vice Chairman Mr. Ernest Yuen (concurrently CACCI Honorary Treasurer), and KCC Vice Chairman Mr. Wyler Wong (concurrently CACCI Vice President) discussed with the CACCI Secretariat executives on their possible participation in CACCI activities in 2019, as well as KCC programs and projects for which CACCI assistance may be requested by the Chamber this year.



Lunch with Visiting KCC Officers

CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin hosted lunch on January 25, 2019 in Taipei for visiting officers of Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) Mr. Wyler Wong, Mr. Conrad Lee and Mr. Ernest Yuen. Other guests included Mr. Chin-Che Cheng, Dean Director and Associate Professor at CTBC Business School, Mr. Kenneth Yu from CTBC Bank, and Mr. Amador Honrado from CACCI Secretariat. The KCC officers discussed with Mr. Cheng on possible student exchange program with the CTBC Business School for interested students from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Malaysia and other Asian countries.



KCC Officers Forge Links with IEAT

Secretary-General Mr. Peter Huang of the Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei (IEAT) received key officers of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) during the latter's visit to Taipei on January 25. KCC Permanent Chairman Mr. Conrad Lee, KCC Vice Chairman Mr. Ernest Yuen and KCC Vice Chairman Mr. Wyler Wong formally – accompanied by CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin - introduced KCC to IEAT and exchanged ideas on possible areas of cooperation between the two business associations. They agreed to formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during the next visit of the KCC officers to Taipei soon.



CACCI Secretariat Executive Calls on PCCI Secretary General

Mr. Crisanto Frianeza, Secretary-General of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) (right), met with CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. (left) on February 8 at the PCCI headquarters in McKinley Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Philippines. Mr. Frianeza and Mr. Honrado discussed the proposed CACCI Presidential Visit of Mr. Samir Modi to Manila in October this year, as well as the participation of PCCI in the upcoming CACCI Planning Committee Meeting to be held on March 25 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. They also talked about the attendance of Mr. Modi in the 45th Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E), the biggest annual gathering of local and foreign businessmen in the country, to be held in October 16-18.



PCCI Discusses Water Sector Reform Agenda With Water Experts

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Recognizing the challenges in the water sector and the effect these challenges have on environmental sustainability and business and economic competitiveness, the Water Committee of PCCI has been holding meetings with water experts to understand the water situation and to help in championing measures to address the issue.

At the Water Forum organized by the Committee on January 30 and in the briefing with experts – Mr. Ramon Alikpala and Mr. Chris Ilagan, past and current president of the Philippine Water Alliance, respectively - on February 11, the following concerns were raised that must be immediately addressed:

1. Increasing pressure on existing water supplies to support the growing needs of the population and economic growth. Within Southeast Asia, the country is the 2nd with the lowest per capita renewable fresh water and with an increase in the population, industrialization and climate change, depletion of water resource is a distinct possibility. Given this however, there continues to be underinvestment in water infrastructure, technology for rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment and sewerage facilities.
2. Lack of governance, institutional arrangements, and infrastructure to efficiently and sustainably manage water resources, including management and development of water basins and wastewater treatment and facilities.
3. Negative impact on the country's competitiveness – in terms of business sustainability and cost of doing business. Poor



water management in Boracay for example, contributed to the decline of tourism revenues; while in Davao, residents have raised the alarm on a water crisis due to development explosion.

PCCI recognizes that the issues on water - security, sanitation and overlapping mandates and conflicting programs of over 30 water agencies - has to be finally addressed

to ensure long-term competitiveness and it is in this regard that the PCCI Water Committee, in partnership with the Environment Committee resolved to take action on the following:

1. Champion initiatives harmonizing and streamlining the fragmented developmental and regulatory framework of the water sector:
 - a. The adoption and implementation of an EO creating a Water Czar under the Office of the Secretary to the Cabinet as interim measure and,
 - b. The enactment of a law creating a Department of Water and a separate Water Regulatory Commission as long-term measures
2. Undertake programs to make PCCI members aware of the water situation and the options available to them in terms of demand-side management
3. Develop a position on the water issue highlighting competitiveness to attract and retain foreign investments, grow existing businesses and support the growth of tourism and agriculture. Focus is on the availability of potable water, environmental sustainability, efficiency in managing

resources and cost-competitiveness

The joint committee will be holding a forum on the proposed policy measures creating a Water Czar, Department of Water and Water Regulatory Commission and conduct seminars on technologies available to industries to manage their use of water.

PCCI's Water Committee is under the directorship of

PCCI chairman, Mr. George Barcelon. Chairing the Committee is Dr. Felix Velasquez, with Mr. Jose Antonio Soler as co-chair. Former PCCI Vice President for Energy and Water Mr. Jose Alejandro is the Adviser of the Committee.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee meanwhile is led by Mr. Jose P. Leviste, Director.

CACCI Lifetime Member joins Vibrant Gujarat Summit



CACCI Lifetime Member and Director of Lub-rref Bangladesh Limited, Mr. Salauddin Yousuf, joined the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held on January 18-20, 2019 in Gujarat, India.

Attended this year by over 35,000 participants, the Vibrant Gujarat Summit was conceptualized in 2003 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi, to re-establish Gujarat as a preferred investment destination within India. Today, the Summit has evolved into a platform for brainstorming on agendas of global socio-economic development, in addition to being a facilitator for knowledge sharing and forging effective partnerships.

The event was attended by leaders of Uzbekistan, Rwanda, Denmark, Czech Republic and Malta, along with top executives from companies such as the Tata Group, Reliance Industries, Adani Group, Aditya Birla Group, Russian Oil and Gas Explorer Rosneft, and Suzuki Motor Corporation among others.

Product & Service Councils

Young Entrepreneurs Group Asia Pacific

Asia-Pac Takes Lead in List of Richest Young Entrepreneurs



A shift is underway among the world's richest young entrepreneurs.

Six of the world's 10 wealthiest self-made billionaires aged 40 and under are from the Asia-Pacific region, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Four are Chinese and two are Australian. Just three are from the US, which used to dominate the list.

When the Bloomberg Billionaires Index began in 2012 with a list of the world's 40 richest people, three were self-made and under the age of 40: Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page and Facebook Inc's Mark Zuckerberg. Mr Brin and Mr Page are too old now, but Mr Zuckerberg tops the list of the world's richest self-made youngsters with a US\$65.5 billion fortune.

Joining him are Shanghai resident and e-commerce entrepreneur Colin Huang (US\$13.7 billion), who rose to second from third in 2018, as well as Facebook co-founders Dustin Moskovitz (US\$11.8 billion) and Eduardo Saverin, a Brazilian living in Singapore (US\$9 billion).

This diversification of the world's youngest billionaires is a leading indicator of the shift in global wealth towards Asia. Of the 500 people on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index today, 41 are from China compared with 31 at the end of 2016.

Bloomberg

Asian SME Council

Korean Wave Effect: K-Beauty Accounts for \$4.8 billion of Nation's SME Exports in 2018

The cosmetics category grew a sharp 27.7% to \$4.8 billion in 2018 among Korea's start-ups and SMEs, cementing its position as the third-largest export category. According to a report from Korea's Ministry of SMEs and Start-ups (MSS), the cosmetics category benefited from the growing popularity of Korean beauty products in the United States, China and Russia.

The amount of exports by Korean small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) hit a record of US\$ 114.6 billion in 2018, up 7% from a year before.

The increase of consumer goods such as cosmetics allowed SME exports to exceed US\$ 100 billion in value for the second consecutive year. The report added

Product & Service Councils

that the number of exporters grew by 2.4% to 94,589.

Due to the “Korean Wave effect” total exports of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and fashion apparel increased 6.9%. Aside from major countries like China, exports of these goods increased significantly to emerging countries.

According to MSS, the export volume of cosmetics has risen sharply since 2010. It estimates that exports grew 1.3 times since last year, inching closer to overtaking automotive parts, the second-largest SME export category.

Cosmetics Design Asia

Asian Council on Water, Energy and Environment

NUS Launches Building with Net-Zero Energy Consumption



The National University of Singapore (NUS) on January 30 unveiled a new building at the School of Design and Environment that has net-zero energy consumption.

This means the building consumes only as much energy as it produces on site, such as by harnessing solar energy. Named SDE4, it is said to be the first net-zero energy building in Singapore that was built from scratch.

The six-storey building features several sustainable designs such as solar roof installations, a hybrid cooling system and a large overhanging roof.

The 1,225 solar panels installed on the roof can supply more than 500 megawatt hours of energy per year. This can power up to 1,500 three-room flats for more than a month.

On days when there is insufficient sunlight, the building will draw energy from the university’s power grid, said NUS in a media release.

Asian ICT Council

Global ICT Spending to Hit \$3.76b in 2019: Gartner



Worldwide ICT spending is projected to total \$3.76 trillion in 2019, an increase of 3.2% from 2018, according to

the latest forecast by Gartner.

These numbers are updated from the previous forecast in the last quarter of 2018.

“Despite uncertainty fueled by recession rumors, Brexit, and trade wars and tariffs, the likely scenario for IT spending in 2019 is growth,” said John-David Lovelock, research vice president at Gartner.

“However, there are a lot of dynamic changes happening in regards to which segments will be driving growth in the future. Spending is moving from saturated segments such as mobile phones, PCs and on-premises data center infrastructure to cloud services and IoT devices.”

Lovelock noted that IoT devices, in particular, are starting to pick up the slack from traditional devices.

“IT is no longer just a platform that enables organizations to run their business on. It is becoming the engine that moves the business,” Lovelock added. “As digital business and digital business ecosystems move forward, IT will be the thing that binds the business together.”

With the shift to cloud, a key driver of IT spending, enterprise software will continue to exhibit strong growth, with worldwide software spending projected to grow 8.5% in 2019. It will grow another 8.2% in 2020 to total \$466 billion.

Telecom Asia

Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

Allianz and FPT Embark on Digital Joint Venture in Vietnam



Allianz, a global insurer, has announced its intention to enter the general insurance sector in Vietnam through a digital joint venture (JV), forged in partnership with FPT Group as part of the insurer’s ambitions to expand its presence in SE Asia.

Vietnam-headquartered FPT Group will bring its technological and IT expertise to the JV as Allianz seeks to develop its digital insurance products in the nascent South-East Asian market.

In a memorandum of understanding, the two sides pledge to establish a new general insurance company, locally based in Vietnam.

Vietnam is one of Asia’s fastest-growing economies, with high levels of online and mobile use across the country. FPT has more than 10 years’ experience working in the insurance sector.

Sergio Balbinot, member of board management at Allianz SE, said: “We are delighted to embark on the next stage of

Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

our partnership with FPT Group at an exciting time for the development of the Vietnamese economy.”

“Allianz is well-placed to support the protection needs of local consumers by delivering innovative digital insurance solutions for a demographic ready to adopt them.”

InternationalInvestment.net

7-Eleven Looking to Enter India, Likely to Join Hands with Future Group



7-Eleven, the world's largest convenience store chain, is in advanced talks with India's Future Group to enter one of the fastest-growing retail markets. If the plan goes ahead, the Kishore Biyani-owned retail company will open and operate small format 7-Eleven stores in India as a master franchisee, said two people aware of the development.

A deal may be announced as early as March, they said. “While the stores will have products across categories, foods will have a greater focus,” one of the persons said.

Seven & i Group, which owns 7-Eleven among other retail formats, posted annual revenue of \$100 billion through nearly 66,000 stores globally.

The Japanese-owned, US-headquartered 7-Eleven generates nearly a third of its sales in the Asian country. The Future Group's latest move will be pitched against round-the clock convenience store chain Twenty Four Seven, promoted by Modi Enterprises and In & Out, which is run by state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd.

“Future Group has a number of neighbourhood stores through their own format launches and through acquisitions.

Some of them could surely be repurposed to 7-Eleven convenience stores, while there could be other franchisees appointed for specific sites or territories,” said Devangshu Dutta, chief executive at consultancy firm Third Eyesight. “However, becoming a franchisee entails costs and restrictions.

The question is whether there is enough margin available in the business to allow for so many tiers of stakeholders.”

Economic Times India

New Radisson Blu opens in Istanbul



Radisson Hospitality AB, part of Radisson Hotel Group, has opened the Radisson Blu Hotel, Vadistanbul in Istanbul. The project is a joint venture of Artas Insaat, Evyap and Invest Insaat.

The Radisson has 193 rooms and suites, an all-day-dining restaurant and the Vadi Bistro. Meeting facilities include a 1,000-square-meter ballroom and more than 300 square meters of meeting rooms and boardroom space. The property can handle conventions of up to 900.

The hotel is located near the key business district of Maslak, opposite the Turk Telecom Arena, one of Istanbul's major sports stadiums. The hotel also is close to the Trans European Motorway, the highway that connects Europe to Asia, as well as a connection to Seyrantepe metro station via monorail. The hotel is 20 kilometers away from Ataturk International Airport and 30 kilometers from Istanbul's new airport.

The Vadistanbul project includes a specially developed monorail system with

a direct connection to the metro system. The Radisson Blu property is situated on the boulevard of Vadistanbul that will also be home to a shopping mall, 270 retail outlets and offices for 20,000 people.

HotelManagement.Net

Toyota and Panasonic Charge Together Into Electric Car Batteries



Toyota and Panasonic have announced a joint venture to design and build batteries for electric vehicles, or EVs.

Toyota will own 51% of the venture while Panasonic will hold the other 49%. The two companies will combine their existing equipment, personnel, and other assets for the joint venture, which is expected to employ 3,500 workers and start by 2020.

Panasonic is already a major supplier of batteries to the EV industry and the exclusive battery cell provider to Tesla.

The two companies already have a joint venture, Prime Earth EV Energy, which provides batteries for gasoline hybrid cars. Toyota's increased focus on batteries is a contrast to other automobile manufacturers that have moved away from the business because of high development costs.

One of the areas of focus will be solid-state batteries. Although not commercially available yet, the technology is expected to result in smaller, lighter, and safer batteries that also hold more power per size than the lithium-ion batteries used today.

Toyota has been trying to develop solid-state battery technology for years. In 2017, the company had said it expected to put the batteries into use by the early 2020s.

Fortune

Economic Cooperation News

Cheaper Goods in Store as Japan-EU Free Trade Pact Enters into Force Amid U.S.-China Tariff War

Japan's economic partnership agreement with the European Union entered into force on February 1, creating a free trade area that covers about a third of the world's economy.

The pact will eliminate tariffs on most reciprocal trade, encourage business investment and ensure the protection of intellectual property rights, as Japan and the European Union hope to provide a strong counter to creeping protectionism amid a U.S.-China tariff war.

Under the pact, which was signed in July and ratified in December after five years of negotiations, consumers will gain access to cheaper imported food items, while the elimination of duties on industrial products will help curb costs for exporters.

In all, Japan will scrap tariffs on around 94 percent of agricultural and industrial products and the European Union will end duties on around 99 percent of imports.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pinned his hopes on the pact, along with an 11-member trans-Pacific free trade agreement that took effect in December, as a growth driver for the world's third-largest economy.

Japan Times

Saudi-Pakistan Refinery Project Fuels New Era of Cooperation



The Gwadar development in southwest Pakistan will form part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project. (Reuters)

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been bound by special ties for decades, but the historic visit of the Kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the

country is set to take relations between the two nations to new heights.

The Saudi Vision 2030 reform plan has proved a source of inspiration for Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's economic outlook for "the new Pakistan."

The level of cooperation now taking place is evidenced by the Saudi-Pakistani endorsement of a memorandum of understanding for Pakistan to join with Saudi Aramco to build a giant oil refinery and petrochemical complex at the Balochistani deep-sea port of Gwadar.

The estimated \$10 billion deal will include agreements aimed at smoothing commercial trade between the two countries and enhancing business collaboration.

Once established, the Gwadar development in southwest Pakistan will form part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project (a collection of infrastructure schemes throughout Pakistan). Located at the mouth of the Arabian Gulf outside the Strait of Hormuz, it will command a strategic position on key shipping routes for the global supply of oil and refined products.

Arab News

Australian Companies Interested in Doing Business in Serbia



Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic (right) with Belgrade Australian Ambassador to Serbia Ruth Stewart (left)

Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic received on February 11 in Belgrade Australian Ambassador to Serbia Ruth Stewart.

According to the Serbian government, they discussed "further enhancement of bilateral cooperation between the two countries."

Brnabic expressed her hope that the positive trend of cooperation between Serbia and Australia will continue in the

future, adding that Serbia's interest is to intensify cooperation in the fields of energy, economy and information technologies.

The interlocutors agreed on the significance of the implementation of the Jadar project, which is being carried out by the Anglo-Australian multinational Rio Tinto.

Stewart pointed to the growing interest of other Australian firms in doing business in Serbia.

The prime minister pointed out that European integration is a strategic priority for Serbia, assessing that further reforms will provide even more favourable conditions for the improvement of economic cooperation between Australia and Serbia.

B92 News

Phil. President Duterte Wants to Meet Shinzo Abe Anew on Philippines-Japan Ties



President Rodrigo Duterte (left) shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right) during their meeting in Davao City. Toshifumi Kitamura/AP/File

President Duterte wants to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe again to discuss further deepening of ties between the Philippines and Japan, Malacanang said on February 11.

At his hour-long meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono in Davao City held in early February, Duterte stressed the need for strengthening the two countries' strategic partnership, especially in addressing transnational crimes and other threats.

"The President further expressed his desire to meet PM (Prime Minister) Abe again to discuss developments in bilateral ties and assess ways of moving forward together on shared concerns," presidential

Economic Cooperation News

spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

Kono told Duterte Japan is committed to further deepen and expand cooperation with the Philippines. He also condemned the bombings in Jolo and reiterated Japan's readiness to cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

"Foreign Minister Kono likewise conveyed Prime Minister Abe's grave concern over the twin explosions in Jolo, Sulu and expressed Japan's condemnation of the terrorism and violent extremism and their commitment to assist the Philippines in combating the scourge of terrorism," Panelo said.

Philippine Star

Korea, India Agree to Strengthen Defense Cooperation, Economic Ties

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed on February 22 to strengthen military ties and defense industry cooperation between the two countries.

During their summit in Seoul, the leaders also agreed to complete the two nations' negotiations to upgrade their bilateral free trade pact at an early date, according to the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae.

Modi arrived in Seoul on February 21 for a two-day state visit.

His trip reciprocated Moon's state visit to India last year.

After a one-on-one meeting and an expanded session involving their aides, the two leaders agreed to bolster

bilateral military ties and defense industry cooperation and to better cope with the so-called fourth industrial revolution, Cheong Wa Dae said.

Moon and Modi also agreed to speed up negotiations to enhance the countries' free trade agreement, known as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which took effect in January 2010. Seven rounds of talks have been held to push for further market liberalization.

The leaders vowed efforts to closely cooperate to achieve their shared goal of raising two-way trade volume to \$50 billion by 2030.

To this end, the nations agreed to complete the CEPA-related negotiations at an early date and seek to improve trade-related systems for easier market access.

Yonhap News Agency

Vietnam-Australia Relations Now at Best Level Ever: PM Phuc

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc received Australian Senate President Scott Ryan in Hanoi on January 21, saying that Vietnam-Australia relations are now at the best level ever.

Welcoming his guest's official visit to Vietnam, PM Phuc expressed his belief that the trip will help consolidate the two countries' strategic partnership as well as connections between the two parliaments.

He said the Vietnamese Government will work closely with its Australian counterpart to realise the joint statement on the establishment of the



Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc (right) receives Australian Senate President Scott Ryan in Hà Nội on January 21, 2019. — VNA/VNS Photo Thống Nhất

strategic partnership.

The two sides will effectively maintain existing cooperation mechanisms and promote the implementation of new ones within the framework of the strategic partnership, including meetings between their foreign ministers, defence ministers, and ministers in charge of economic affairs.

Regarding measures to bring bilateral trade and investment on par with the strategic partnership, he said the countries should reduce and remove trade barriers, especially to agricultural and aquatic products like fresh fruit and shrimp, while facilitating activities of each other's businesses.

Vietnam and Australia should also enhance cooperation in education-training, culture, tourism, sports and people-to-people exchange, creating solid foundation for expanding ties across the board at both central and local levels.

Vietnam News Agency

CACCI Planning Committee Meeting, March 25, 2019



Colombo, Sri Lanka

For more information please contact:
cacci@cacci.biz



Fairs & Exhibits in Asia-Pacific

DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY	DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY
1-3 April	13th China International Exhibition on Nuclear Power Industry 2019 (Coastal International Exhibition Co., Ltd., Tel: 86852-2827-6766, Email: general@coastal.com.hk, URL: http://www.coastal.com.hk/)	Beijing China	17-19 April	BIO KOREA 2019 (Bio Korea Organizing Committee, Tel: 82-1661-0810, Email: biokorea@biokorea.org, URL: http://www.biokorea.org/)	Seoul Korea
					
2-4 April	16th Health Asia 2019 International Exhibition & Conferences (Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd., Tel: 92-21-111-222-444, Email: info@health-asia.com, URL)	Lahore Pakistan	17-19 April	16th China International Baking Exhibition 2019 (CNFA/CABI/Beijing JingMao International Exhibition Co., Ltd., Tel: 86-10-8441-4052, Email: fengfeng99@vip.163.com, URL)	Beijing China
					
3-5 April	Green Energy Expo (Green Energy Expo Korea Office, Tel: 82-53-601-5371, Email: renew@exco.co.kr, URL: http://www.energyexpo.co.kr/)	Dague Korea	18-20 April	Aquatherm St. Petersburg 2019 (Reed St. Exhibitions, Tel: 7-495-937-6861, Email: elena.zelenina@reedexpo.ru, URL: https://www.aquatherm-spb.com/en/Home/)	Petersburg / Russia
					
3-5 April	Viba Show 2019 (EXPORUM Inc., Tel: 82-2-6000-6685, Email: info@vibashow.com.vn, URL: http://www.vibashow.com.vn/)	HoChiMinh City / Vietnam	18-20 April	Barrier Free 2019 (Osaka Prefecture Council of Social Welfare, Television Osaka Inc., TVO EXPRO Ltd., Tel: 81-6-6944-9913, Email: bmkinfo2019@tvoo.co.jp, URL)	Osaka Japan
					
4-6 April	INDOBEAUTY EXPO 2019 (KRISTA EXHIBITIONS, Tel: 62-21-6345861, Email: info@kristamedia.com, URL: https://indobeautyexpo.com/exhibiting/)	Jakarta Indonesia	18-21 April	Global Sources Mobile Electronics Show (Global Sources, Tel: 65-6547-2800, Email: service@globalsources.com, URL)	Hong Kong China
					
9-10 April	World Optical Fair 2019 (Tokyo Optical Wholesalers Association, Email: office@meganeorosi.com, URL: http://www.meganeorosi.com/)	Tokyo Japan	24-26 April	Space & Astronomical Optics EXPO 2019 (NPO Japan Photonics Council / The OPTRONICS Co., Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3269-3550, Email: event@optronics.co.jp, URL)	Yokohama (Kanagawa) Japan
					
9-11 April	Sea Asia 2019 (Seatrade Singapore, Tel: 65-6592-0888, Email: sales-seatrade@ubm.com, URL: https://www.sea-asia.com/)	Singapore Singapore	24-26 April	FHV 2019 (UBM – SES VIETNAM EXHIBITION SERVICES COMPANY LTD., Tel: 84-28-3622-2588, Email: fhv@ubm.com, URL: http://www.foodnhotelvietnam.com/home/)	HoChiMinh City/Vietnam
					
10-12 April	Eurasia Rail (ITE Turkey, Tel: 90-212-291-8310, Email: info@ite-turkey.com, URL: https://www.eurasiarail.eu/Home)	Izmir Turkey	25-27 April	HDE 2019 (UBM Sinoexpo International Exhibition Co., Ltd., Tel: 86-21-3339-2095, Email: helenfan@ubmsinoexpo.com, URL)	Shanghai China
					
10-13 April	The 29 VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (VINEXAD, Tel: 84-91-2585-882, Email: julie.vinexad@gmail.com, URL: http://vietnamexpo.com.vn/)	Hanoi Vietnam	25-28 April	Food Truck Expo 2019 (N.C.C. Exhibition Organizer Co., Ltd., Tel: 66-2-203-4206, Email: neo@nccexhibition.com, URL)	Nontha Buri Thailand
					
11-14 April	Caucasus Build 2019 (ExpoGeorgia, Tel: 995-32-234-1100, Email: expo@expogeorgia.ge, URL: http://buildexpo.ge/)	Tbilisi Georgia	25-28 April	Erbil Oil & Gas International Exhibition (PYRAMIDS INTERNATIONAL, Tel: 90-216-575-2828, Email: info@pyramidsfair.com, URL: http://erbiloilgas.com/)	Erbil Iraq
					
15-17 April	ExpoElectronica 2019 (ITE Group, Tel: 7-499-750-0828, Email: electron@ite-russia.ru, URL: http://www.expoelectronica.ru/en-GB/)	Moscow Russia	29-1 April - May	Airport Show 2019 (Reed Exhibition, Tel: 971-2-4917615, Email: info@theairportshow.com, URL: https://www.theairportshow.com/)	Dubai U.A.E.
					
16-17 April	Chemspec India 2019 (Mack Brooks Exhibitions, Tel: 44-1727-814-400, Email: martin.clark@mackbrooks.co.uk, URL: https://chemspecindia.com/)	Mumbai India			
					

Google is Building a Solar Power Project Above Fishing Ponds in Taiwan, its First in Asia



Google unveiled an ambitious plan eight years ago to build a wind energy project in the Atlantic Ocean running all the way from New York to Virginia. That massive “underwater spine” has been slow to progress, but Google is moving ahead with its first water-based renewable energy project — it is just a little smaller in scale: Solar panels atop a series of fishing ponds in Taiwan. The deal marks Google’s entry into the Asian renewable energy market.

Google, a subsidiary of Alphabet, recently became the first company to make a purchase under the 2017 Taiwan Electricity Act, which allows non-utility companies to purchase renewable energy. For the 10-megawatt solar array in Tainan City, Taiwan, Google will install poles, with solar panels at the top of them, above fishing ponds.

The idea of building solar projects sited on water — known as floating photovoltaics, or “flotovoltaics” — is becoming more popular.

Last year China built the world’s largest floating solar farm on a lake that used to be a coal mine, one of several flooded mine sites in China used for solar projects. It includes 166,000 solar panels and has a capacity of 40 megawatts, which can power 15,000 homes. The World Economic Forum reported that China is expected to add 40 percent of the world’s new solar panels by 2020. Japan is the world leader in floating photovoltaic installations, with more than 60 projects built since its first in 2007.

CNBC

This ‘Predator’ Drone Spots Farm Pests

What can a drone do in farming



with its flying capacity and camera? In the hands of 22-year old Devansh Acharya and Shrey Dalwadi, students at Charotar University of Science and Technology (CHARUSAT) in India, it can pick up pest spread, measure water precipitation, assess growth and above all, it can fly on a pre-decided path without a pilot!

The two students from Patan and Vadodara, respectively, under the banner of Peregrines Innovations- inspired by one of the most feared birds of prey - has equipped the drone with NIR (Near Infrared) sensors and multi-spectral cameras that can capture high-quality data from farms in real-time that can help in decision-making. “The idea started taking shape when during our games near farms, we saw farmers at close quarters and also interacted with them to understand their issues. We decided to harness technology such as machine learning and imaging and developed the camera. We also developed the software from scratch,” said Devansh.

Explaining the process, the team members said that once a farm is selected, the drone is programmed for seven scans- contour map, orthomosaic, elevation, digital terrain, 3D model, vegetation and geometric map. The camera’s imaging captures multiple data at one go that can provide crop health report, pinpointing location of pest infestation and water retention in different parts of the farm. “We have developed an algorithm which is capable of identifying anomalies from imaging- pinpointing location of disease from roots to leaf with a accuracy of 97%, which is higher than a number of similar technologies employed in developed countries,” said Shrey.

Times of India

At Alibaba’s Futuristic Hotel, Robots Deliver Towels and Mix Cocktails



A staff member demonstrates checking in with a podium at Alibaba Group’s futuristic FlyZoo hotel in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China, on Jan 22, 2019. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gliding silently through Alibaba Group Holding’s futuristic FlyZoo hotel, black disc-shaped robots about a metre in height deliver food and drop off fresh towels.

The robots are part of a suite of high-tech tools that Alibaba says drastically cuts the hotel’s cost of human labour and eliminates the need for guests to interact with other people.

Formally opened to the public in January, the 290-room FlyZoo is an incubator for technology Alibaba wants to sell to the hotel industry in the future and an opportunity to showcase its prowess in artificial intelligence.

It is also an experiment that tests consumer comfort levels with unmanned commerce in China - a country where intrusive data-sharing technology is readily tolerated and often met with enthusiasm.

“It’s all about the efficiency of the service and the consistency of service because the robots are not disturbed by human moods. Sometimes, we say we are not in the mood, but the system and the robot will always be in the mood,” said Mr Andy Wang, chief executive officer of Alibaba Future Hotel Management, the unit that oversees the hotel project.

Inside the hotel, softly lit white paneled walls bring to mind the interiors of Hollywood spaceships. Guests check in at podiums that scan their faces as well as passports or other ID. Visitors with a Chinese national ID can scan their faces using their smartphones to check in ahead of time.

Straits Times

Policy Updates

Australia

Weakening Economy Could Lead to a Rate Cut This Year

The Reserve Bank of Australia admits the economy may be weaker than expected, which may lead to a rate cut.

The central bank on February 4 kept the rate at a record low of 1.5 per cent for 30 consecutive months in the wake of the banking royal commission's damning report into the finance sector and accelerating house price declines in Sydney and Melbourne.

For months on end, governor Philip Lowe had maintained a lift in the cash rate was the most likely move, but he told the National Press Club in Sydney on February 6 the RBA might need to change this outlook.

"Looking forward, there are scenarios where the next move in the cash rate is up and other scenarios where it is down," Dr Lowe said.

"Over the past year, the next-move-is-up scenarios were more likely than the next-move-is-down scenarios.

"Today, the probabilities appear to be more evenly balanced."

The RBA boss said his decision would be largely dictated by the unemployment rate, which is currently at 5 per cent.

The cash rate reflects what the central bank charges commercial banks on overnight loans and influences all other interest rates.

News.Com Australia

Hong Kong

China Unveils Plans to Develop Hong Kong, Macao Bay Area

China's Cabinet on February 18 issued guidelines for developing a "Greater Bay Area" around the Pearl River Delta, in a bid to spur growth in Guangdong province and the cities of Hong Kong and Macao.

The area is home to some 68 million people and has a combined gross

domestic product of about \$1.5 trillion (166 trillion yen), roughly equivalent to that of Australia or South Korea.

The development plans will "further enhance and support a leading role of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in national economic development and opening up," the State Council, or Cabinet, said in the guidelines.

The overall plan, which includes long-term goals through 2035, is to turn the Greater Bay Area into a global technology innovation center and build advanced manufacturing and modern services industries, the Cabinet said.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam welcomed the plan.

"It can help identify new areas of growth for Hong Kong and foster the diversified development of its economy and industries," the Hong Kong government said.

The area, which covers nine cities in Guangdong, such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai, as well as Hong Kong and Macao, will also promote "coordinated development and create a model for high quality development," China's Cabinet said.

The Asahi Shimbun

India

Single Rate, Fewer Exemptions in GST key to Boosting India's Tax-to-GDP Ratio

India may be eyeing further reforms to lift the tax-to-GDP ratio after putting in place the goods and services tax (GST), one of the country's biggest policy changes ever.

The tax-GDP ratio is expected to cross 12% in FY19, a new high in over a decade, but lower than emerging market peers. This means expanding a tax base that's been eroded by large exemptions and carveouts. A simpler, non-adversarial tax regime can help in this regard.

"From all accounts, there is likely to be increasing pressure on government expenditure from 2019 onwards as competitive politics will compel enhanced spending on various social and agrarian

sector areas," said Sudhir Kapadia, national tax leader, EY India. "This would mean renewed efforts of broadening the tax base and enhancing revenues."

GST created a seamless national market and ensured that consumers pay the same tax for goods and services. The GST Council has been making changes since the July 2017 rollout but deeper surgery may be needed.

Economic Times India

Indonesia

Restrictions Curb Digital Economy Growth: Experts



E-commerce platforms have grown significantly in Indonesia in the past few years. (Shutterstock/File)

Indonesia's digital economy has soared over the past five years, but the government's restrictions on investment and innovation could stifle growth, experts have warned.

The country's digital economy is projected to triple to US\$100 billion by 2025; however, Indonesia remains the fourth most restrictive country for digital trade out of 64 countries surveyed by the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE).

Indonesia's level of restrictiveness is topped only by China, Russia and India according to the ECIPE Digital Restrictiveness Index.

"This biggest [factor that creates] economic impact is productivity, so the economies that stand to receive the biggest boost from relaxing regulations are these most restrictive countries," said ECIPE director Hosuk Lee-Makiyama in a discussion in Jakarta recently.

In its 2018 report, the ECIPE

Policy Updates

highlighted two policies that curb the growth potential of Indonesia's digital economy: the restriction on foreign ownership in e-commerce businesses – which contribute 45 percent of the digital economy – and the requirement for companies to build data centers in Indonesia.

The Jakarta Post

Japan

BOJ Urged to Boost Fiscal Spending to Reignite the Economy

Japan must ramp up fiscal spending with debt bank-rolled by the central bank, the Bank of Japan's former deputy governor Kikuo Iwata said, a controversial proposal that highlights the BOJ's challenge as it tries to reignite an economy after years of sub-par growth.

Mr Iwata, an architect of the BOJ's massive bond-buying programme dubbed "quantitative and qualitative easing" (QQE), warned that inflation will miss the central bank's 2 per cent target without stronger measures to boost consumption.

He said there are few tools left to ease monetary policy further as cutting already ultra-low interest rates could push some financial institutions into bankruptcy.

That means Japan must lean on fiscal policy by ditching this year's scheduled sales tax hike and committing to boost government spending permanently with money printed by the BOJ, he said.

Business Times Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysian Palm Oil Price Gains on Stronger Related Oils, Weaker Output

Malaysian palm oil futures edged higher during February 18 trade, charting a second session of gains in three days, bolstered by strength in related edible oils and expected weaker output.

The benchmark palm oil contract for May delivery on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange rose 0.6 percent to 2,286 ringgit (\$559.88) a tonne by the



close.

Trading volumes stood at 26,316 lots of 25 tonnes each at the end of the trading day.

"Palm's gain is due to supportive external markets, while production figures are also negative," said a Kuala Lumpur-based trader, referring to declining output indicated by data from a millers association.

Output in Malaysia, the world's second-largest producer and exporter, fell 3.9 percent to 1.74 million tonnes last month, data from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board showed.

The Star

Mongolia

Mongolia Posts 6.9 Percent Economic Growth in 2018



Mongolia's economy grew 6.9 percent in 2018, beating expectations and accelerating from a 5.3 percent pace the previous year, the statistics office said on February 15.

An increase in foreign trade revenues, particularly from resources such as coal and copper helped drive the expansion, which was higher than an Asia Development Bank forecast of 6.3 percent.

"Increased mineral export revenues due to the higher commodity prices, and improved domestic demand, helped Mongolia's economy perform better than expected," said Lakshmi Boojoo, director of the Economic Policy

and Competitiveness Research Center in Mongolia, an independent think tank.

Coal and copper generate almost 70 percent of Mongolia's total export revenues. Most of its mining output is sold to neighboring China.

Mongolia's total trade turnover rose 22.3 percent last year to hit \$12.9 billion, with exports at \$7 billion and imports \$5.9 billion.

The 2017 growth rate was revised up from the previous 5.1 percent.

Reuters

New Zealand

New Zealand: The Government's Ban on Oil and Gas Exploration could Cost up to \$30b by 2050, NZIER say



New figures show the New Zealand Government's decision to ban oil and gas exploration could cost the economy up to \$30 billion by 2050.

An oil lobby groups says this means the policy needed to be reassessed, but the Government has questioned the validity of the figures.

The data comes from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) and paints a grim picture of the Government's decision.

As well as costing the economy \$28 billion over the next 30 years, NZIER said the policy's overall contribution to the global reductions of emissions was undetectable.

"The New Zealand Government's decision to ban new oil and gas exploration permits will see a series of strongly negative impacts ripple through the economy," the NZIER report said.

The \$28 billion figure was the midpoint estimate between \$15 billion and \$38 billion.

Policy Updates

New Zealand Herald

Singapore

Philippines

Business as Usual for Rice Industry after Duterte Signs Rice Tariffication Law



CARRY ON. Rice industry stakeholders will continue to operate as usual as they attempt to secure more safeguards through the IRR. Photo by Mau Victa/Rappler

The country's rice industry will not come to a halt so quickly after President Rodrigo Duterte signed Republic Act No. 11203 or the rice tariffication law on February 14.

In a phone interview, Confederation of Grains Retailers Association of the Philippines Incorporated spokesperson Orly Manuntag said they will continue to operate despite the looming fear that businesses may fold up if there would be no locally sourced palay or unhusked rice.

"Even if they won't stop operating, they will be pushed to do so. Surely, a lot will be a deficit," Manuntag said in a mix of Filipino and English.

"For now, [things may look good because] other countries have a good harvest, so they can sell their rice for cheap."

Rice industry stakeholders were given the chance to appeal a week before the bill was set to lapse into law. This was despite the fact that Duterte had already set his mind on fully lifting quantitative restrictions on rice imports in 2018, after the National Food Authority (NFA) had experienced a drop in buffer stocks, leading to higher prices of rice in the market.

Rappler

SMEs Must Plug into Digital Economy to Spur Singapore's Economy: S. Iswaran



Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran - PHOTO: ST FILE

It is "critical" for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to plug into the digital economy, as it would make a noticeable impact on Singapore's growth, Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran said on February 17.

Speaking about the Government's ongoing efforts to support businesses in the digital space, Mr Iswaran, who is also the Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, said: "This is not just the larger enterprises but also for the smaller and medium-sized enterprises. That's critical because they really move the needle for us in terms of the economy, if they plug into the digital economy."

Other government figures have previously urged businesses to take advantage of digital technology to raise productivity levels.

SMEs are a key driver of Singapore's economy. According to the Department of Statistics, SMEs contribute to 65 per cent of Singapore's employment, while in 2017, SMEs added a nominal value of \$196.8 billion, or 49 per cent, to the economy.

SMEs are defined by the Department of Statistics as enterprises with operating receipts of not more than \$100 million or employment of not more than 200 workers.

Straits Times

Taiwan

Ministry Shares Strategy to Boost Economic Growth

The Ministry of Economic Affairs on January 23 outlined its plans to boost exports, investments, infrastructure and consumption to weather the slower growth expected this year due to ongoing trade tensions and other unfavorable macroeconomic factors.

Regarding investments, Minister of Economic Affairs Shen Jong-chin told a news conference in Taipei that the government is ready to welcome four Taiwanese businesses that are returning home: Quanta Computer Inc, the main assembler of Apple Inc MacBooks and the Apple Watch; Ching Feng Home Fashions Co Ltd, a home decor manufacturer; network equipment maker Accton Technology Corp; and another company that declined to be named due to business concerns.

"The [unnamed] company is in the traditional sector and is the second-largest supplier in its industry, Shen said.

The four companies are expected to bring in investments totaling NT\$18.7 billion (US\$605 million) and create about 3,000 jobs, while the ministry is helping 40 other companies with their return to Taiwan, Shen said.

As for exports, Shen said that the ministry would continue to expand the government's New Southbound Policy and "five plus two" industrial innovation program to prevent a decline in outbound trade this year.

Taipei Times

Thailand

4.1% GDP Gain in 2018

The economy grew at the fastest pace in six years in 2018, with the fourth-quarter performance beating expectations on higher domestic demand and growing tourism arrivals.

The state planning agency, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), reported on February 18 that GDP rose 3.7% in the last quarter of 2018, up from a revised

Policy Updates



Headline inflation averaged 1.1% and the current account recorded a surplus of 7.4% of GDP.

Bangkok Post

Vietnam

Vietnam Seeks AI Training and Investment

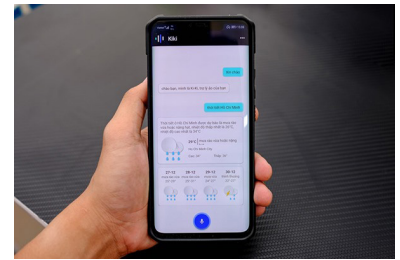
Vietnam, like many other countries, is in a bid to spur economic innovation with Artificial Intelligence (AI), but experts say the country is starting from at a low point and needs to make a huge effort to catch up with the global trend.

Such efforts would include focusing investment on training skilled workers and building an open-source database.

Bui Hai Hung, a researcher from Google DeepMind (USA), said the AI advances of the past decade could create comprehensive changes in global industries and services, from healthcare to energy.

He believes the AI laboratories established so far in Vietnam, such as those started by FPT and Zalo, are a good start.

However, training in the field of AI remains limited due to a lack of funding, so State and business investment is sorely



Ki-Ki, the first Vietnam-made chatbot, was presented at Zalo AI Summit 2018 — Photo enternews.vn

3.2% in the third quarter.

After seasonal adjustment, the economy grew by 0.8% quarter-on-quarter from the third quarter.

Thosaporn Sirisamphand, the NESDC's secretary-general, said the expansion in the fourth quarter was supported by private consumption and private investment, gains in the export of goods and services, the acceleration of wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants and the transport and communication sectors.

However, government consumption softened while the agriculture and construction sectors slowed down, he said.

The economy expanded 4.1% for the full year, compared with a revised 4% for 2017, the quickest expansion in six years. Export value grew by 7.7%, while private consumption and total investment grew by 4.6% and 3.8%, respectively.

needed.

“Although Vietnam has paid great attention to AI applications, it still lacks a staff capable of accessing AI research at a global level,” Hung said.

Herve Vu Roussel, head of data engineering at Sentifi, acknowledged the problem.

“A lack of engineers having profound knowledge on machine learning, or data scientists, is one of the challenges for AI development in Vietnam”, Herve said.

According to a report by Nexus FrontierTech, rubikAI and G&H, most AI companies in Vietnam are in the first stage of development and have fewer than 10 AI engineers. AI courses are offered at only six universities in the country.

Vietnam News

About CACCI

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) is a regional grouping of apex national chambers of commerce and industry, business associations and business enterprises in Asia and the Western Pacific.

It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) serving as a forum for promoting the vital role of businessmen in the region, increasing regional business interaction, and enhancing regional economic growth. Since its establishment in 1966, CACCI has

grown into a network of national chambers of commerce with a total now of 29 Primary Members from 27 countries in the region. It cuts across national boundaries to link businessmen and promote economic growth throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

As an NGO, CACCI is granted consultative status, Roster category, under the United Nations. It is a member of the Conference on NGOs (CoNGO), an association of NGOs with UN consultative status.

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