



### CACCI President Modi Meets with FBCCI Officers on November Conference Preparations



CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi on September 6, 2019 met with key officers of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) led by Acting President and Director Md. Muntakim Ashraf to discuss preparations for the 33rd CACCI Conference to be held on November 26-27, 2019 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. Discussions focused mainly on the proposed Conference Program. Both sides shared views on how to make this year's CACCI gathering, which will be held for the first time in Bangladesh, highly interesting and

attractive to CACCI members and other participants, particularly the younger generation of businessmen. Above photos show President Modi chairing the meeting (left photo) and exchanging tokens of appreciation with the FBCCI Directors at the end of the meeting (right photo). The meeting was followed later by an ocular inspection of the hotel's meeting facilities, and a dinner hosted by FBCCI. Mr. Modi was accompanied by CACCI Deputy Director General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. and Ms. Aneesha Duggal, Assistant General Manager, Godfrey Phillips (I) Ltd.

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## President Modi Attends WCF General Council Meeting in Moscow



CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi attended the Meeting of the World Chambers Federation General Council, of which CACCI is a Permanent Member, hosted by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (CCIRF), a CACCI Primary Member, on September 10-11, 2019 in Moscow. Above photos show Mr. Modi with other WCF delegates, including CACCI Immediate Past President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili

(left top photo), with CCIRF President Mr. Sergey Katyrin (right top photo), with CCIRF Deputy Chairman Mr. Vladimir Padalko and Mr. Inaishvili (bottom left photo), with other WCF delegates (bottom, center photo), and with Mr. Boris V. Stupnitsky, President of the Union Primorsky Chamber of Commerce and Industry, winner of the CACCI Local Chamber Award in 2017 (bottom, right photo).

## CACCI Conference set on November 26-27 in Bangladesh



The 33rd CACCI Conference is set to take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh on November 26-27, 2019 with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) as the host chamber.

Holding the Conference in Bangladesh takes on added significance as it will be the first time that CACCI members will be visiting the country for the annual gathering. It will give them the opportunity not only to obtain first-hand information on the trade and investment opportunities Bangladesh has to offer, but also to network with the local business community and relevant government agencies. We are therefore grateful to FBCCI and its officers and members for confirming its willingness to host this year's Conference.

More information about the Conference (updated Program, hotel information, registration procedure, and other relevant details) will be released in due course.

In the meantime, CACCI members are encouraged to mark the dates in their calendar of events.

## CACCI President to visit the Philippines in October

Following his highly successful visits earlier this year to Wellington, New Zealand on May 7-8 and to Tokyo, Japan on July 22-23, 2019 CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi is inviting all CACCI officers and members to join him in another Presidential visit, this time to Manila, Philippines, which includes participation in the 45th Philippine Business Conference and Expo.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) is hosting the visit and has prepared a Tentative Program. The whole Program starts on October 14 and ends on October 18.

The 45th Philippine Business Conference and Expo is



the biggest annual gathering of local business and government leaders to be organized this year by PCCI on October 16-17. Members of the CACCI delegation will have the opportunity to meet and network with local chamber leaders from around the country.

Additional information on the visit (e.g. hotel accommodation, updated Tentative Program, etc.) will be sent to members as soon as these are available.

To confirm your participation or inquire about the event, send an email to the CACCI Secretariat at [cacci@cacci.biz](mailto:cacci@cacci.biz)

## Taiwan ICDF Officers Visit CACCI Secretariat



Officers of the International Cooperation and Development Fund of Taiwan (TaiwanICDF) led by Ms. Regine Liu (2nd from right); Ms. Yun-Ching Tseng (3rd from left); and Mr. Tim Tseng (rightmost), on August 22 met with CACCI Secretariat executives Mr. Ernest Lin (3rd from right); Mr. Amador Honrado (2nd from left); and Ms. Wendy Yang (leftmost). Both sides discussed possible areas of cooperation between the two organizations that would mutually benefit their respective stakeholders. Founded in 1996, TaiwanICDF assists developing countries in economic, social and human resource development and in promoting economic relationships among these countries through technical cooperation, lending and investment, international education and training, and humanitarian assistance.

## New Zealand's Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth Thanks CACCI's Submission of Statement on Rules of Origin in PTAs

Hon. Damien O'Connor, Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth of New Zealand, acknowledged with thanks the submission of CACCI of its Statement on Rules of Origin in Preferential Trade Agreements.

CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi in early August this year submitted to the Ministers responsible for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement the CACCI Statement calling on governments party to bilateral and regional PTA negotiations to instruct their negotiators to ensure that their regional and bilateral agreements harmonise Rules of

Origin by following wherever possible the provisions and procedures of the Revised Kyoto Convention (2006), and embracing the principles of harmonisation contained in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (2013).

In his acknowledgement letter to Mr. Modi, Minister O'Connor outlined the positions of the New Zealand on important RCEP-related issues, including the following:

1. Its commitment to ensuring that the procedures for making claims for preferential treatment are clear,

transparent, and predictable;

2. Its support of self-declaration as the preferred proof of origin, but that you recognize the need to reach an agreed outcome that meets the needs of all;
3. Its assurance to seek, in the Customs chapter, the use of the provisions contained in the WTO Trade Facilitation (TFA) as a baseline, seeking to have TFA+ provisions where possible;
4. Its strong support for the simplification and drive for consistency in FTAs, including in



RCEP

Minister O'Connor encouraged CACCI to participate in the public discussions being held by officials from New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and Trade on the ongoing negotiations of free trade agreements, including RCEP.

The RCEP is a proposed FTA between ten member countries of the ASEAN and the six Indo-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing trade

agreements namely, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand. RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

## New Zealand Chambers of Commerce & Industry Submission on AANZFTA Upgrade



The New Zealand Chambers of Commerce & Industry (NZCCI) has written to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in Wellington to express its thoughts on the Upgrade of the ASEAN-Australian-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.

NZCCI endorsed the beginning of negotiations to upgrade AANZFTA. Since AANZFTA was implemented in 2010, NZ exporters have taken full advantage of the agreement and its trading relationship with ASEAN has grown. Using the number of certificates of origin issued by NZCCI Chambers, one can see that trade to NZ's partners in South-East Asia has grown consistently since the Agreement's implementation.

In its submission letter to MFAT, NZCCI advocated for several recommendations, namely:

1. Widen the scope of the AANZFTA Upgrade to include addressing non-tariff barriers/non-tariff measures.
2. We endorse New Zealand International Business Forum's position on the following key trading issues: Services, e-Commerce, Investment, Customs Procedures, and Government Procurement.
3. The status quo regarding certification of origin is maintained through the use of third-party certificates.
4. AANZFTA, Chapter 3, Operational Certificate Procedures

(OCP), Rule 7, Paragraph 3i be changed to read "shall be electronic".

5. In the event origin certification status quo is not continued, look at a two-pronged system where both self-certification and third-party certification is permitted.
6. Should a two-pronged origin certification system be utilized, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) negotiators look at the system implemented in Japanese trade agreements.
7. The minimum value of a shipment required for a certificate of origin be increased to US\$1,000 FOB value.
8. Exporters continue to have the option of using either the 'Change of Tariff Classification' (CTC) or 'Regional Value Content' (RVC) rules when determining origin.
9. All domestic regulations relating to AANZFTA are required to reflect a consistent interpretation of AANZFTA provisions.

NZCCI shared with MFAT its belief that "there are clear benefits in continuing to have third-party certification for origin exports and there are potential risks involved in moving to a self-certification system that have not been taken into account. These benefits and risks are clearly outlined in the NZCCI submission.

The NZCCI is the umbrella organization serving the interests of 30 chambers of commerce nationwide. These in turn represent over 20,000 businesses, across all industries and all around the country. While many of its members are small to medium enterprises, NZCCI's membership also includes some of the largest businesses in New Zealand.



**ASIA: AT THE CENTRE  
OF A NEW WORLD ORDER**  
33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference 2019

26-27 November 2019  
Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon,  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

## HKCBMIA seeks to donate hygiene products to NGOs, Hospitals from CACCI member countries



CACCI conveys the offer of the Hong Kong Children, Babies, Maternity Industries Association (HKCBMIA), an Affiliate Member of CACCI, to donate products from Carmelton Group of Companies, a Lifetime Special Member of CACCI engaged in the manufacture of hygiene products, to interested non-government organizations, government hospitals, or related government health agencies in your country. The products include sanitary pads, maternity pads, and underpads, sample photos of which are attached for your perusal.

Members are requested to identify and recommend one beneficiary organization from their respective countries.

The donor company – through the HKCBMIA - will ship one 20-footer container of the products to each of the organizations recommended by CACCI member chambers (Terms: Ex-factory, with recipient to pay shipment cost from the port of Shenzhen, China). However, the donor company will select only a total of three beneficiary organizations. Hence, the beneficiaries will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested members are requested to submit the name of their recommended beneficiary organizations (including the contact details) to [cacci@cacci.biz](mailto:cacci@cacci.biz)

The information will be forwarded to the donor company for consideration. Shipment (in bulk packing) of the donated products will be departing from China to the selected recipients by around middle of October.

For more details on HKCBMIA and Carmelton Group of Companies, please visit their websites at [www.hkcbmia.com.hk](http://www.hkcbmia.com.hk) and [www.carmelton.com](http://www.carmelton.com), respectively.

## Product & Service Councils

### Asian Council on Tourism

#### Robust Baht, Travel Trends Rattle Thai Tourism Market



A strong Thai baht and a slowdown in arrivals from China are battering the kingdom's moneymaking tourism machine even as the country hopes to welcome a record 40 million visitors by the end of the year.

Most travelers to Thailand are from China and other countries in the region, but millions also come from Europe and the US and currency conversion rates impact decisions when budgeting for trips.

"It absolutely has an effect, when compared to other Asian country currencies they would rather go to Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore or Indonesia," said Wichit Prakobgosol, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents.

Before the baht strengthened, Chinese visits were already flagging after

a boating disaster in Phuket last year killed dozens of mainland tourists.

Visits from China fell almost five percent in the first six months of the year compared to the same period in 2018, according to official statistics.

Past surges are also unlikely to repeat.

Last year total visits from all countries rose more than 7.5 percent compared to 2017. But after the first half of this year the increase was only climbing towards 1.5 percent.

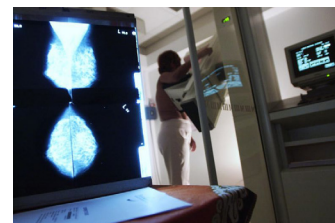
*Channel News Asia*

### Asian Council on Health and Education

#### Firms Merge to Offer Healthcare Solutions aimed at Asian Women

Two companies have merged to create Asia's first technology-based firm to offer healthcare solutions tailored to Asian women.

Singapore molecular diagnostics groups Inex Innovations Exchange and Nova Satra are behind Inex Innovate, which aims to provide faster and more accurate



diagnostic tests and precision healthcare.

This focus on Asian women is important because some global standard tests for women's health have generated less precise results because of genetic differences among various phenotypes, the combined company said on August 20.

A phenotype is the set of observable characteristics of an individual produced by the interaction of genetics and the environment.

Mammography, for example, can be less effective at identifying breast cancer in Asian women because of differences in breast tissue.

The merger, which creates an entity valued at US\$72 million (S\$99.8 million), is backed by institutional investors including multinational corporation Genting, government agency Enterprise Singapore and investment firm SNS Holdings.

*Straits Times*

## Product & Service Councils

### Young Entrepreneur Group of Asia Pacific

#### Filipina Tech Entrepreneur Lands in Asia 21 Young Leaders



Filipina tech entrepreneur Stephanie Sy landed in the prestigious Asia 21 Young Leaders' list this year.

Sy is the founder of Thinking Machines, a data science firm that works with various sectors and has grown "to become Manila's best data science firm and a regional contender," according to Asia Society.

Already on its 13th year, Asia Society, an educational organization, has chosen 39 individuals under the age of 40 from all over the Asia-Pacific region who possess great leadership and dedication to public service to become part of the Asia 21 Young Leaders.

Aside from Sy, Karen Tay (Singapore), Zen Cho (Malaysia), Franz Heng (Cambodia), Gita Syahrani

(Indonesia), Van Ngoc Ta (Vietnam), and May Sripatanaskul (Thailand) were included in this year's list.

Chosen leaders of the initiative will be gathering in the United States this coming November at the annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit.

Last year, Sy was also named under Forbes' "30 under 30 Asia" list.

*GMA News Online*

### Asian ICT Council

#### Malaysia Airports Collaborate with Huawei Technologies Malaysia on Airports 4.0



Malaysia Airports has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huawei Malaysia to support its digital transformation vision, as per Malaysia Airports' Airports 4.0 initiative.

Engineered by Malaysia Airports,

Airports 4.0 initiative is the company's digital transformation framework encompassing infrastructure enhancement, capacity development and digital innovation that aims to enhance terminal optimization, operational efficiency, revenue generation and regulatory compliance, ultimately leading to enhanced customer experience.

Based on the existing stage of the framework, the core focus of Airports 4.0 is enhancing connectivity and real-time information by connecting all stakeholders in one fully integrated digital ecosystem.

At the core of the MoU, is the 'Joint Innovation on Fully Connected Airport Initiative' project which aims to strengthen the accessibility and efficiency via digitalization of airports operated by Malaysia Airports. Through this collaboration, Huawei will leverage on new ICT solutions and expertise to support efforts in accelerating digital transformation of the aviation industry.

Eman Liu, president of Global Transportation Business Department at Huawei said: "The concept of a smart airport is now becoming a reality as airports around the world adopt innovative technologies enabling digital and visualized flight services, passenger services, and airport operations.

*Digital News Asia*

## Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

### Goldman Moves to Take Majority Control of China Joint Venture



Goldman Sachs has applied for majority control of its Chinese joint venture, the bank confirmed on August 20, the latest international bank to do so ahead of Chinese plans to eventually allow foreigners full control.

The bank submitted an application

with the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on August 19 to take its stake in Goldman Sachs Gao Hua Securities to 51% - the maximum permitted - from its current 33% holding.

A spokesman for the bank confirmed the filing, which was first reported by Bloomberg.

Western banks' lack of control over the JVs, along with their limited contribution to revenues, have long been a source of frustration for foreign banks in China.

Management control would allow foreign banks to offer more services through their JVs and potentially leverage their global networks to win China market share, bankers have said.

Unlike most of the other joint ventures, Goldman Sachs already has day-to-day operational control of its joint venture, which offers investment banking services such as equities and bond underwriting and deal advice.

*Reuters*

### Australia's Boral Expands in Asia, Regains Control of Local Unit

Australian building materials supplier Boral Ltd said on August 26 it has agreed to form a joint venture with Germany's Gebr Knauf KG to sell plasterboard in Asia, as part of a complex deal that also gives the Australian company back full control of a separate local unit.





Boral said it will pay \$241 million to buy a half share of the USG Boral Asia joint venture, which will encompass Knauf's Asia plasterboard business. Boral will also buy out Knauf's 50% stake in USG Boral Australia and New Zealand, returning the business to full Boral control.

The overall deal will cost Boral \$441 million.

*Reuters*

### Grab to Invest 'Several Hundred Million Dollars' in Vietnam



Singapore-based ride-hailing firm Grab is set to invest "several hundred million dollars" in Vietnam, where the company sees its next major growth market, just weeks after it unveiled a US\$2 billion (\$2.8 billion) plan in Indonesia.

The proposed investment is the

latest example of a top-notch regional brand deepening its commitment to Vietnam, one of Asia's fastest-growing economies.

It also shows the eagerness of Grab, which has raised billions of dollars from investors, to put its cash to work.

"We're very excited about Vietnam. We see very similar characteristics to Indonesia," Grab president Ming Maa said in an interview.

Grab and rival Indonesia-based Gojek are evolving from ride-hailing app operators to become one-stop shops for services as varied as payments, food delivery, logistics and hotel bookings in South-east Asia.

Grab, with its app on more than 160 million mobile devices across eight countries, has said its Indonesia investment aims to build a next-generation transport network and transform how critical services such as healthcare are delivered.

*Straits Times*

### Gogoro Launches its Electric Scooters for Businesses in South Korea

Gogoro, the Taiwanese electric vehicle and mobility platform company, announced on August 27 that it has partnered with motorcycle company TIC Corporation to bring its B2B-focused electric scooters to South Korea. Gogoro 2 Utility, a version



of the company's Smartscooters created for logistics and delivery fleets, will be available for purchase through TIC, starting in Seoul.

The launch means that Gogoro is now present in six countries: its home market of Taiwan, Germany, France, Spain, Japan and now South Korea. In Europe, one of Gogoro's main partners is scooter-sharing service Coup. Its alliance with TIC Corporation in South Korea is a new step for the Gogoro because it targets business clients instead of consumers.

Launched in 2011, Gogoro has spent the past eight years focused on the development of its Smartscooters, which are now the top-selling electric scooters in Taiwan. Over the past few months, the company has begun unveiling its international expansion strategies, including the launch of a vehicle-sharing platform intended to serve as a turnkey solution for partners, and deals with manufacturers, including Yamaha, that will make scooters using Gogoro's technology, including its swappable batteries.

*TechCrunch*

## Economic Cooperation News

### Vietnam, Cambodia Look to Foster Partnership in 28 Areas



*Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh and his Cambodian counterpart Prak Sokhonn signed a cooperation agreement. — VNA/VNS Photo Trần Long*

Vietnam and Cambodia signed a cooperation agreement covering specific collaboration programs in 28 areas

following the 17th meeting of their Joint Committee on Cooperation in Economy, Culture, Science and Technology.

The meeting was held in Phnom Penh on August 21 under the co-chairmanship of Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh and his Cambodian counterpart Prak Sokhonn.

Both Minh and Prak Sokhonn agreed that the Vietnam-Cambodia relations have seen progress with encouraging results since the previous meeting of the committee in May last year.

Along with maintaining regular high-level meetings and visits as well as bilateral cooperation mechanisms, the two sides have co-organized many activities to celebrate the 40th anniversary of victory

over the genocidal regime (January 7, 1979-2019), they noted.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhom thanked the people and volunteer soldiers of Viet Nam for saving Cambodians from the genocidal regime as well as supporting the country during the present national construction and development.

The two sides agreed to create more favorable conditions for bilateral economic and trade cooperation, while continuing to reinforce the bilateral partnership in security-defence, transport infrastructure, mining-industry-energy, agro-forestry-fisheries, information and communications, healthcare, labour and social affairs, culture, sports, tourism, and environment.

*Vietnam News*

## Szijjártó Urges Stronger Economic Cooperation with India



(Left) Mr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, (Right) Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó

Hungary has an interest in deepening cooperation with India, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said on August 26, underlining the impact Asia's fast-growing economies have on the Hungarian economy.

At a joint press conference after talks with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Budapest, Szijjártó said Hungary and India were focusing their cooperation on five key areas. Taking into consideration India's strengths in various sectors and Hungary's competitive expertise, these areas include film production, digitalization, water management, solar energy and the pharmaceutical industry, he said.

Concerning water management, Szijjártó said Hungarian companies were working on wastewater treatment and water purification solutions as well as building plumbing systems in the region. He added that India's water management minister was scheduled to visit Hungary in October for further cooperation talks.

Szijjártó noted that India was the world's seventh largest economy, with GDP growth of over 7 percent in recent years. Indian companies make up the fourth largest investor group in Hungary, with 35 Indian companies employing nearly 7,000 Hungarians, he said.

Bilateral trade with India was up 16 percent in 2018, and the growth rate is likely to continue this year, he added.

Hungary and India cooperate closely within the United Nations, the minister said, adding, however, that the UN required reform and changes to make its operations "more effective, faster, and more modern". Szijjártó said the

two countries would continue their UN cooperation "in areas where they see eye to eye". He also added that the UN should take a leading role in the fight against international terrorism.

*Hungary Today*

## Turkey, Mongolia Look to Further Enhance Relations



Turkey's parliament speaker Mustafa Sentop

Turkey's parliament speaker hailed on July 29 the deep-rooted ties with Mongolia, voicing the desire to further develop the existing relations in every field. Speaking during the inter-committee meetings in Mongolia's capital of Ulaanbaatar, Mustafa Sentop termed their bilateral ties "excellent".

"We celebrate the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relations based on friendship ongoing for thousands of years," Sentop said.

"Our friendship and relations based on this common history and legacy left by our ancestors will overcome every kind of difficulty," he said later in a joint news conference with his Mongolian counterpart Gombojav Zandanshatar.

"What we need to do is to strengthen relations in every field to the highest level by benefiting from this historic background," he added.

A parliamentary assembly composed of Turkish-speaking countries and countries which have common roots is on the cards, Sentop said.

Sentop went on to say that the state-run aid group, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) -- which has realized more than 600 projects in Mongolia so far -- would continue its efforts.

*Anadolu Agency*

## PM: Malaysia Looking to Reduce Trade Imbalance with Vietnam



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad meets his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Hanoi August 27, 2019. — Reuters pic

Malaysia is looking at reducing its trade imbalance with Vietnam, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Malaysia would like to see the trade grow in size but with more imports by Malaysia from Vietnam in order to reduce the imbalance of trade between our two countries," he said at a joint press conference with Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Hanoi on August 27.

Dr Mahathir arrived in Hanoi on August 26 for a three-day official visit to the socialist republic at the invitation of his counterpart.

Dr Mahathir said during the visit, the leaders of both countries have agreed to make use of Asean's strength to grow their economies and also to tackle problems facing the region and the world.







In January-June 2019, Malaysia's trade with Asean contracted by 1.9 per cent to RM239.43 billion compared with the same period in 2018, according to data by the International Trade and Industry Ministry.

Exports to this region grew by 1.6 per cent to RM139.39 billion, driven by higher exports of electrical and electronics, iron and steel products, liquefied natural gas, petroleum condensates and other petroleum oil, as well as optical and scientific equipment.

*Malay Mail*



# Fairs & Exhibits in Asia-Pacific

DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY	DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY
2-4 Oct. 	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Factory Facilities &amp; Equipment Expo Osaka</b> (Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8506, Email: factex-kansai@reedexpo.co.jp, <a href="http://www.reedexpo.co.jp">URL</a> )	Osaka Japan	16-18 Oct. 	<b>Energy Taiwan – Taiwan International Photovoltaic</b> (TAITRA, SEMI, Email: energy@taitra.org.tw, URL: <a href="https://www.energytaiwan.com.tw/">https://www.energytaiwan.com.tw/</a> )	Taipei Taiwan
2-4 Oct. 	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial AI/IoT Expo Osaka</b> (Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8506, Email: aiotech-kansai@reedexpo.co.jp, <a href="http://www.reedexpo.co.jp">URL</a> )	Osaka Japan	17-19 Oct. 	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Solar Bangladesh 2019 International Expo</b> (Conference & Exhibition Management Services Ltd., Tel: 1-646-416-7902, Email: contact@cems-solarexpo.com, <a href="http://www.cems-solarexpo.com">URL</a> )	Dhaka Bangladesh
3-5 Oct. 	<b>Bangladesh Water Expo</b> (Water Today Pvt. Ltd., Tel: 91-44-4291-6900, Email: info@watertoday.org, URL: <a href="http://bangladeshwaterexpo.biz/">http://bangladeshwaterexpo.biz/</a> )	Dhaka Bangladesh	17-21 Oct. 	<b>Style Bangkok October 2019</b> (Department of International Trade Promotion, Ministry of Commerce. Office of Lifestyle Trade Promotion, Tel: 66-2507-8361-4, Email: lifestyleunit@ditp.go.th, <a href="http://www.ditp.go.th">URL</a> )	Bangkok Thailand
3-5 Oct. 	<b>ASEANBIKE</b> (N.C.C. Exhibition Organizer Co., Ltd & Messe Friedrichshafen, Tel: 66-2-203-4206, Email: neo@nccexhibition.com, <a href="http://www.nccexhibition.com">URL</a> )	Northa Buri Thailand	17-27 Oct. 	<b>IAE 2019</b> (Jeollanam-do International Agriculture Exhibition, Tel: 82-61-339-9216, URL: <a href="http://www.iae.or.kr/eng/">http://www.iae.or.kr/eng/</a> )	Naju-si Korea
3-6 Oct. 	<b>Vietnamplas 2019</b> (Chan Chao International Co., Ltd., Tel: 886-2-2659-6000, Email: exfdp@chanchao.com.tw, <a href="http://www.chanchao.com.tw">URL</a> )	HoChiMinh City/Vietnam	22-24 Oct. 	<b>Industrial Transformation ASIA PACIFIC - ITAP</b> (SingEx Exhibitions Pte Ltd., Tel: 65-6403-2100, <a href="http://www.singex.com.sg">Inquiry Form</a> , <a href="http://www.singex.com.sg">URL</a> )	Singapore Singapore
4-7 Oct. 	<b>Fine Art Asia 2019</b> (Art & Antique International Fair Ltd., Tel: 852-3107-0681, Email: info@fineartasia.com, <a href="http://www.fineartasia.com">URL</a> )	Hong Kong China	22-23 Oct. 	<b>TECHSPO Dubai 2019</b> (TECHSPO, LLC., <a href="http://www.techspodubai.ae/">Inquiry Form</a> , URL: <a href="http://www.techspodubai.ae/">https://techspodubai.ae/</a> )	Dubai U.A.E.
6-10 Oct. 	<b>GITEX 2019 – 39<sup>th</sup> GITEX Technology Week</b> (Dubai Trade Center L.L.C., Email: gitexsales@dwtc.com, URL: <a href="https://www.gitex.com/">https://www.gitex.com/</a> )	Dubai U.A.E.	23-25 Oct. 	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Medical Devices &amp; Hospital Equipment Expo Tokyo</b> (Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8586, Email: hos@reedexpo.co.jp, <a href="http://www.reedexpo.co.jp">URL</a> )	Chiba Japan
8-9 Oct. 	<b>Tech in Asia Indonesia</b> (Tech in Asia, Email: success@techinasia.com, <a href="http://www.techinasia.com">Inquiry Form</a> , URL: <a href="https://conference.techinasia.com/">https://conference.techinasia.com/</a> )	Jakarta Indonesia	23-26 Oct. 	<b>CeMAT Asia 2019</b> (Deutsche Messe AG/Hannover Milano Fairs Shanghai Ltd., Tel: 49-511-89-32113, Email: Carsten.fricke@messe.de, <a href="http://www.messe.de">URL</a> )	Shanghai China
9-11 Oct. 	<b>MTA Myanmar 2019</b> (UBM Myanmar, Tel: 95-1378-975, Email: Thiri.Zin@ubm.com, URL: <a href="https://www.mtamyanmar.com/">https://www.mtamyanmar.com/</a> )	Yangon Myanmar	24-27 Oct. 	<b>Tourism EXPO Japan 2019</b> (JTJA/JATA/JNTO, Tel: 81-3-5510-2004, Email: event@t-expo.jp, <a href="http://www.t-expo.jp">URL</a> )	Osaka Japan
9-11 Oct. 	<b>IoT Japan 2019</b> (Nikkei Business Publications, Inc., Tel: 81-3-6811-8083, Email: itevents@nikkeibp.co.jp, <a href="http://www.nikkeibp.co.jp">Inquiry</a> , <a href="http://www.nikkeibp.co.jp">URL</a> )	Tokyo Japan	25-27 Oct. 	<b>WTE 2019 – World Travel Expo</b> (AD Asia Conventions & Exhibitions International Corp., <a href="http://www.adasiaconventions.com">Inquiry Form</a> , URL: <a href="http://worldtravelexpo.com.ph/">http://worldtravelexpo.com.ph/</a> )	Manila Philippines
10-12 Oct. 	<b>Aluexpo 2019</b> (Hannover Messe Ankiros Fuarchilik A.S., Tel: 90-312-436-6792, Email: info@ankiros.com, <a href="http://www.ankiros.com">URL</a> )	Istanbul Turkey	30 Oct.   2 Nov. 	<b>Eco Expo Asia</b> (HKTDC/Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd., Tel: 852-2238-9929, China Email: ecoexpo@hongkong.messefrankfurt.com, <a href="http://www.hongkong.messefrankfurt.com">URL</a> )	Hong Kong China
15-17 Oct. 	<b>Lab Asia</b> (ECMI ITE Asia Sdn Bhd., Tel: 603-5022-1966, Email: enquiry@ecmi.com.my, URL: <a href="https://www.lab-asia.com/">https://www.lab-asia.com/</a> )	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia	31 Oct.   3 Nov. 	<b>Elder Care Asia 2019</b> (Intercon Taiwan, Tel: 886-2-2723-2213, Email: overseas@eldercareasia.com, URL: <a href="https://www.eldercareasia.com/">https://www.eldercareasia.com/</a> )	Kaohsiung Taiwan
16-20 Oct. 	<b>IHGF Delhi Fair Autumn 2019</b> (Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, Tel: 91-1126-1352-56, Email: software@epch.com, <a href="http://www.epch.com">URL</a> )	Greater Noida/India			

## Huawei Steps Up its AI Game with the Ascend 910 AI Processor Launch



At a lake on Huawei's Bantian Base in Shenzhen, China, one may be able to find black swans gracefully skimming across the serene surface.

Not quite something you find on the headquarters of one of the world's largest technology companies, but there is symbolic meaning behind the black swan. As a Huawei representative tells us, the black swan signifies "unpredictability" – they serve as a reminder that the unexpected happens, and the company needs to prepare for it.

The waters of the company are certainly tumultuous now, as Huawei continues to face pressure from the US government. It is on a blacklist which restricts American companies from doing business with it, key of them being companies like Google and Qualcomm, which Huawei relies on for key technology.

Yet the company put on a brave face, appearing unfazed as it launched the Ascend 910, an AI processor they are claiming to be the most powerful. With this, Huawei is pitting itself against major American giants like Qualcomm and NVIDIA – at the same time, defying the continued US pressure by showing that they can still develop core technology.

*Digital News Asia*

## Indian Agri-Tech Start-Ups to Bolster Digital Agri Transformation

India currently hosts more than 450 start-ups in the agri-tech segment, and the sector has received more than US \$248 million of funding in the first six months of this year, according to a recent report.



The report, released by NASSCOM (the National Association of Software and Services Companies), was titled 'Agritech in India Emerging Trends in 2019' and said that growing at 25% year-on-year, India currently hosts more than 450 start-ups in the agri-tech sector.

Over the past few years, the agri-tech sector in India has witnessed some of the global and sector-focused funds directly investing in agri-tech start-ups. As of June 2019, the sector received funding that was a massive growth of 300% as compared to the previous year, it said.

The report said there has been a 1.7-times increase in average farmer income in the last decade, enabling farmers to try new tech solutions.

More than 50% of agri-tech start-ups offer supply chain solutions like market linkage, better access to inputs, etc.

The NASSCOM President said that India's agriculture sector is advancing steadily towards its digital transformation and the start-up ecosystem is playing a critical role here, bringing innovation to much-needed areas.

She added that the adoption of technology in agriculture has always needed a structured institutional focus and technology firms are trying to break into the agricultural landscape using newer business models.

The findings of the report are a testimony to the potential of the agri-tech industry and the opportunities that India presents in the agriculture and farming landscape.

*Open Gov Asia*

## Bosch to Exhibit New Packaging Systems

Bosch Packaging Technology will showcase its latest packaging system



solutions for bars, biscuits and bakery at two global packaging trade shows in September. At PackExpo in Las Vegas, USA, Bosch will showcase a high-speed integrated system solution with features that take efficiency to the next level. At FachPack in Nuremberg, Germany, customers will experience a scalable mid-range system from Bosch, which is said to be ideal for fast-growing companies to expand their capacities.

"We have decades of experience in engineering packaging systems. We carefully analyze the requirements of our customers to ensure that they get a system tailored to their needs," says Martin Tanner, director of product management at Bosch Packaging Technology. "No matter if manufacturers need an entry-level system, a flexible high-speed solution or anything in between, we are able to provide the ideal solution."

At Pack Expo in Las Vegas, Bosch will showcase one version of its highly efficient seamless bar packaging systems. The said exhibit consists of a high performance, indirect distribution station, a cardboard inlay feeding unit, a high-speed Sigpack HRM flow wrapping machine and a flexible Sigpack TTM1 top load cartoner. "This system is one example of our seamless systems portfolio that provide manufacturers with highest levels of efficiency, productivity and flexibility," Tanner explains.

*Packaging South Asia*

### Hong Kong

#### Hong Kong Protests are Decimating its Economy

Thousands of people took to the streets of Hong Kong on August 23 evening to form a human chain as a means of peaceful protest amid the recent chaotic outbreaks of violence that have occurred as Hong Kongers push back against what they say is overreach from Beijing Opens a New Window.

The protests, which have extended into their 11th week, aren't just shutting down businesses and key stretches of Hong Kong's streets, they're also choking off the lifeblood of its tourism industry: visits from the mainland. China accounts for 76 percent of Hong Kong's tourists, according to the government Opens a New Window.

"Tourist arrivals for the first ten days of August are down more than 30% YoY while hotel occupancy in some cases has declined to 40% against a more normal 70-80% at this time of the year," wrote Hong Kong-based Christopher Wood, global head of equity strategy at Jefferies, in a note to clients.

"Members of the Hong Kong Retail Management Association have experienced single to double digit declines in YoY sales since the protests began in June, while the latest official data shows that retail sales declined by 6.7% YoY in June," he added.

*Fox Business*

### India

#### India's New Steps to Spur Economic Growth seen Falling Short

India's steps to boost financial market sentiment and support businesses could fall short of shoring up growth in Asia's third-largest economy.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a number of measures on August 23 to help re-ignite an economy that's slowed sharply on the back of weak consumption and a deteriorating

global environment. However, she didn't outline any major fiscal support -- as businesses had been calling for -- focusing instead on steps to spur foreign funds and lending.

Economists, finance leaders, industry executives and local media raised questions about the effectiveness of the measures, which included scrapping a tax on foreign funds, allowing concessions on vehicle purchases and hastening infusion of an already announced 700 billion rupees (\$9.8 billion) of capital in state-run banks.

"These are short-term palliatives," said Priyanka Kishore, head of India and Southeast Asia economics at Oxford Economics in Singapore. "What India needs is structural reforms to take growth to above 7%."

Consumers have cut spending in India as they turn more pessimistic about jobs amid a slowdown in growth to a five-year low. Data due this week is likely to show the economy expanded 5.7% in the quarter ended June, below the 5.8% pace seen in the previous three months.

*Economic Times*

### Indonesia

#### Jokowi picks new Indonesian capital

Indonesia plans to move its capital to Borneo from Jakarta, a crowded, polluted city on the north coast of Java that is slowly sinking, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said on August 26.

It is urgent to begin relocation plans, although a physical relocation of the capital would not begin until 2024, Widodo said.

The new administrative headquarters are to be built in East Kalimantan, Widodo said, adding that the relocation, about 1,400km from Jakarta, would help spread economic activity beyond Java, Indonesia's most populous island.

"It is a strategic location at the center of Indonesia, close to growing urban area," Widodo told a news conference at the Jakarta state palace.

Widodo said that moving the

capital would cost 466 trillion rupiah (US\$32.97 billion), of which the state would fund 19 percent, with the rest from public-private partnerships and private investment.

The price tag includes new government offices and homes for about 1.5 million civil servants.

East Kalimantan is located on the Indonesian side of Borneo, a region known for rainforests, coal mines and home to just more than 16 million people.

*Reuters*

### Japan

#### Japan Revokes S. Korea's Trusted Trade Status, Further Escalating Row



*Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko (Kyodo)*

Japan revoked South Korea's status as a trusted trade partner on August 28, a move that is certain to add fuel to the diplomatic row between the neighboring countries.

South Korea was taken off a list of countries that enjoy minimum trade restrictions on goods such as electronic components that can be diverted for military use. The measure, approved by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cabinet earlier in the month, took effect at midnight.

Countries other than the 26 remaining on the "white list" must receive case-by-case approval from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry before such goods can be exported.

On August 27, trade minister Hiroshige Seko vowed to go through with the move despite criticism that it was intended to strike a blow on the South Korean economy.

"This is a domestic decision



aimed at implementing the appropriate export controls. It's not meant to impact relations between Japan and South Korea," he told a press conference.

South Korean President Moon Jae In had warned that the move would have repercussions. Last week, the presidential Blue House announced the termination of a military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan that helps the U.S. allies counter missile threats from North Korea. The

*Mainichi*

## Malaysia

### Malaysia Launches Car Project to Spur High-Tech Growth

Malaysia launched a new mass market car project on August 9, as it looks to boost development and adoption of high technology in a renewed industrial push by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Southeast Asia's third-largest economy is spurring industry to embrace technology so as to increase productivity and counter growing external risks from an escalating trade war between the United States and China.

The new project, spearheaded by Malaysian firm DreamEDGE, will be developed with technical assistance from Japan's Daihatsu Motor Corp, said Darell Leiking, Malaysia's trade and industry minister.

"It's privately funded, with no government funding at all," Darell told a news conference. "We will support anything that is Malaysian made...as long as no government money is expended or used."

Daihatsu, a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp, owns a stake in Perodua, Malaysia's second homegrown automaker and its best-selling brand.

The domestic car industry has long been a sore point for Malaysians, who saw billions of ringgit in taxpayers' funds spent to bail out Mahathir's pet project, Proton, before it was bought by Chinese automaker Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co Ltd in 2017.

*Taipei Times*

## New Zealand

### New Zealand Cuts Rates to Record Low

New Zealand's central bank on August 7 slashed interest rates to a record low of 1 percent, warning that the economy faced rising headwinds.

It did not rule out a further reduction later this year, saying that stimulus was necessary to meet employment and inflation targets.

The surprise cut in the official cash rate to 1 percent, from a previous low of 1.5 percent set in May, had an immediate impact on the housing market, with mortgage rates falling while the New Zealand dollar dropped to US\$0.6435.

Many analysts had tipped a 25 basis-point cut.

Employment was close to its maximum sustainable level, inflation was below the 2 percent midpoint of the target range and "growth headwinds are rising," the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) said.

"In the absence of additional monetary stimulus, employment and inflation would likely ease relative to our targets," the bank said in a statement.

The bigger-than-expected cut "does not rule out any further action" later in the year, RBNZ Governor Adrian Orr said.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that the decision brought the country's official cash rate in line with Australia, adding that it was positive news for homeowners.

"We are in an environment where unemployment is low, we see wages are increasing and this cut will ultimately mean New Zealanders should face lower interest rates," she said.

*Agence France Presse*

## Philippines

### Philippines Plans Tax Perks to get Businesses to move out of Manila

Businesses located in some of

Manila's offices, hotels and casinos could lose their investment incentives over the next five years as the Philippines looks to overhaul its corporate taxation.

Under a new bill, the government wants to phase out its current set of tax perks, among South-east Asia's most generous, and businesses will have to reapply for incentives that will be granted to priority industries outside the capital, Finance Undersecretary Karl Kendrick Chua said in an interview.

The Philippines has more than 500 special economic zones - far too many and most of them unnecessary, according to Mr Chua, who is taking the lead in pushing the bill in Congress. The bulk of the economic zones are in Manila, whose economy is already three times the size of the country's regional average. "In other countries, economic zones are enclosed areas where qualified firms are grouped together. Here, even buildings, hospitals, hotels, casinos and integrated resorts can be economic zones, and none of them are in poor areas," he said on August 16.

Investments are better lured outside the capital to bring development to provinces, Mr Chua said. The government is proposing an additional two years of incentives for companies that relocate outside Manila, agribusinesses in rural areas and firms that set up in post-conflict and post-disaster zones.

*Business Times*

## Singapore

### Singapore Services Sector Revenue Grows at Slower 2.8% pace in Q2

Growth in revenue for Singapore's services sector cooled further in the second quarter of this year, according to data released by the Department of Statistics on August 27.

Overall business receipts for the sector rose 2.8 per cent in Q2 compared to a year ago, down from 3.6 per cent growth in the first quarter of this year and 4.1 per cent growth in Q4 of 2018.

All the services industries registered higher revenues in the April to June period, with the transport and storage

industry posting a 5.6 per cent year-on-year increase in takings, due to higher demand for water and air transport services.

The health and social services industry saw revenue growth of 4.2 per cent, on the back of higher business receipts from hospitals.

On a quarter-on-quarter, non-seasonally adjusted basis, business receipts dipped 0.1 per cent in the second quarter, as compared to a 0.4 per cent decline in the previous quarter, with performance mixed across the services industries.

The education as well as recreation and personal services industries reported a 10.6 per cent and 8.3 per cent decrease in revenue from the previous quarter respectively.

*Straits Times*

### Taiwan

#### Taiwan tops list of 89 countries for healthcare quality

Taiwan's healthcare system has been ranked the best out of 89 countries surveyed, according to the Health Care Index compiled by CEOWORLD Magazine, an online business magazine and news site.

The index measures the overall quality of healthcare systems, including healthcare infrastructure, competencies of healthcare professionals, cost and availability of quality medicine, the magazine said.

It also takes into consideration other factors, including environmental factors, access to clean water, sanitation, government willingness to impose penalties on risks such as tobacco use and obesity, it said.

Of the 89 countries surveyed,

Taiwan's healthcare system scored 78.72 out of 100, the index shows.

However, the index provided no information on how each category was weighted.

Three other Asian nations, South Korea (second), Japan (third) and Thailand (sixth) were also in the top 10.

National Health Insurance Administration Director-General Lee Po-chang on August 8 said that Taiwan outranked South Korea because only 50 percent of South Korean doctors are part of its healthcare system, while 93 percent of doctors in Taiwan have joined, providing high-quality medical services.

### Thailand

#### Thailand plans \$10 billion Stimulus to Support Economy

Thailand is planning a stimulus package worth \$10 billion that will include support for farmers and tourism, its finance minister said on August 16, in a move to shore up a flagging economy.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy expanded 2.8% in the first quarter, the weakest annual pace in more than four years, as exports - a key growth driver - have declined amid rising trade tensions and a strong baht THB=TH.

The government is targeting gross domestic product (GDP) growth of at least 3% this year and 3.5% next year, Kobsak Pootrakool, secretary of the economic cabinet, told reporters after the meeting to discuss the stimulus measures.

Following discussions between economic and finance officials, the package was worth 316 billion baht (\$10.23 billion), Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana told reporters.

The stimulus package will help "cope with a global slowdown and enable the Thai economy to grow as targeted," Uttama said.

### Vietnam

#### Seafood Exports Pick Up but Challenges Continue

While seafood exports increased slightly in July, Vietnam continues to face challenges, experts told a conference held by the Vietnam Association for Seafood Exporters and Producers in HCM City on August 28.

Exports in the first seven months were worth US\$4.7 billion, down 0.2 per cent from a year earlier, but 9 per cent up month-on-month in July.

While exports of tuna and crustaceans such as crab and sentinel crab remained strong, rising by 20.3 per cent and 22.7 per cent year-on-year, main export items such as shrimp and shark catfish, which account for 60 per cent of total exports, were down from last year.

Shrimp, which accounts for nearly 38 per cent of exports, recovered in July after a weak performance since the beginning of the year.

Exports to Japan increased by 11.3 per cent year-on-year, and other markets apart from the EU and Korea too saw increases.

Shipments to China were up dramatically in July.

Truong Dinh Hoe, general secretary of VASEP, said while one of Vietnam's strengths is aquaculture, it still has to import large volumes of raw seafood for processing and exporting, leading to higher prices and lower competitiveness.

*Vietnam News*