



# CACCI Profile

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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February 2016

## CACCI Planning Committee Meeting scheduled on March 29 in Taipei



中華民國國際經濟合作協會  
Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association

The CACCI Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled on March 29, 2016 in Taipei. The meeting will be held at the CTBC Bank Headquarters (CTBC Financial Park).

To be hosted by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), the meeting will primarily discuss preparations for the 30th CACCI Conference to be held tentatively in late November 2016 in Taipei. Discussions will focus on the

exact dates, the venue, the Conference theme and topics, suggested format and program, possible line-up of speakers, and other related matters. The meeting will also serve as a venue to review the progress of activities under the CACCI Work Program for 2016.



CACCI President Jemal Inaishvili is counting on members' participation for the successful outcome of this important meeting. CACCI needs members' valuable inputs on how to make its 30th CACCI Conference next year, which coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Confederation, a meaningful and productive event. ■

## CACCI Presidential Visit to Sri Lanka set on March 8-10



CACCI President Jemal Inaishvili is inviting all members to join his Presidential Visit to Sri Lanka on March 8-10, 2016. To be hosted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), the visit coincides with the Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave being organized by the CCC at that time.

Participation in the visit will allow members to see the trade and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, gain a better understanding of the country's policies and regulations, and to network with potential business partners in the country. CACCI members joining the Conclave will

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# President Inaishvili to attend Central Asia Investment Forum on February 18



challenges and opportunities in a new commodity price environment.

The afternoon forum will focus on practicalities of doing business in the region, the opportunities for international investors in Central Asia and how to navigate the complexities of operating in the region. The forum also offers excellent opportunity to listen to senior government officials set out their plans to attract international investment, discover the role that China and Turkey are playing in the region, hear from companies that are already operating in the region and explore the key issues that are reshaping the business environment with both local and global investors.

The event will be chaired by James Kynge, Emerging Markets Editor and Associate Editor, and Jack Farchy, Moscow and Central Asia Correspondent, Financial Times.

For more information please send an email to Mariia Springis, Delegate Sales Executive of FT Live at [mariia.springis@ft.com](mailto:mariia.springis@ft.com) ■

CACCI President Jemal Inaishvili will represent CACCI in the forthcoming FT-EBRD Central Asia Investment Forum: Forging Relationships for Growth, which will take place on February 18, 2016 in Istanbul. The one-day Forum is jointly organized by Financial Times (FT) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

CACCI members and interested delegates are invited to join this exclusive event to explore the latest challenges facing industry and the best strategies covering the following discussion points: The Central Asian investment climate and opportunities for investors in Central Asia; Keynote Address: A corporate view of Central Asia; and The end of the supercycle:

## CACCI President

*... Continued from page 1*

enjoy a discounted registration fee of US\$260 (regular rate is US\$300).

Courtesy calls on government officials, local company visit, and meetings with members of CCC and other leading businessmen, will also be organized. Additional information on the visit (e.g. tentative program, hotel accommodation) will be sent as soon as these are available.

Please send a written request or get in touch with the CACCI Secretariat ([cacci@cacci.biz](mailto:cacci@cacci.biz)) should you be interested to meet with specific businessmen in Sri Lanka, visit local companies or organizations, or conduct other specific activities during the trip. ■



*CACCI President Jemal Inaishvili cordially invites all members to join him in his visit to Sri Lanka. Please contact the CACCI Secretariat for more details or to request for a confirmation form.*

## Darwin unveils Regional Chambers Forum website

The Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory has launched the official website for the Regional Australia Asian Chambers Forum to be held in Darwin, Australia on April 28-29, 2016.

To be hosted by the Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory, the Forum is expected to attract senior representatives from Chambers of Commerce within Australia and across the Asian Region, including Cambodia, China, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam, to discuss key issues facing the growth of business in our Region.

In addition, the Forum will provide a valuable platform to discuss business issues that are directly related to the Australia-Asia region. Considering the recent implementation

of key free trade agreements in the region and the anticipated growth of major and SME business enterprises, this will be an excellent opportunity to engage in discussions to resolve some of these obstacles and make doing business easier for all concerned.

Interested parties are encouraged

to visit the event website at: [www.regionalchambersforum.com.au](http://www.regionalchambersforum.com.au) for the preliminary forum program, Darwin information, accommodation availability and registration options.

For more information on the event, please contact:

Ms. Carrie Altamura, Executive Officer – Marketing and Events, Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory at [caltamura@chambernt.com.au](mailto:caltamura@chambernt.com.au) ■



[www.regionalchambersforum.com.au](http://www.regionalchambersforum.com.au)

## Indo-French business leaders engage to strengthen partnerships

India and France have shared a long and common history and friendship, which has developed into a strategic partnership and now France is the third largest investor in India, said Mr. Michel Sapin, Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, Government of France, at an interactive business session organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Embassy of France in India on January 25.

He said that to accelerate the momentum of development during the ongoing visit of the French President Mr. François Hollande many agreements have been signed between the two countries. Mr. Sapin added that French companies were known for their innovation and creativity and they looked forward to tap the Indian

domestic market.

Mr. Sapin said that the ongoing state visit will allow the two countries to further their converging interests. To discuss the economic and financial subject Mr. Sapin had met Mr. Arun Jaitley, Union Finance Minister of India. Mr. Sapin informed that he had invited Mr. Jaitley to launch an annual dialogue session on matters of common interests.

Speaking about the complementarities between the corporate worlds of the two countries, he said that the business community recognizes the importance and relevance of cooperation in various fields. Hence, the industry on both sides was looking at the unexplored opportunities to enhance the trade and investment figures. Mr. Sapin

said that France was also training the Indian workforce under the 'Skill India' programme and was contributing actively towards it.

Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, President, FICCI, said, "Over the years, French investments and business entities have not only stood the test of time, but have firmly reposed their unwavering faith in India's growth story. Today over 800 French companies are having their presence felt in India. The numbers are impressive and given the thrust by the Government of India, we are certain that the future augurs well for us to witness a quantum increase in French companies making in India."

Mr. Neotia urged France to view India as the most promising business and investment destination. Time would then testify that businesses rose to the occasion to herald a new era of cooperation to take India-France relations to newer heights. *FICCI News Release* ■



## Ceylon Chamber launches 'National Agenda Committees' to spur new thinking on strategic economic issues

**T**he Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, in a pioneering move for a Sri Lankan business grouping, is launching a set of premier thought-leadership groups to represent the country's foremost insights on key strategic economic themes. The 'National Agenda Committees' - or NACs - will be a set of multi-stakeholder groups functioning under the CCC, to challenge conventional thinking, develop new insights, and put forward innovative solutions for key national economic challenges.

Speaking on behalf of the CCC, Chairman Mr. Samantha Ranatunga noted, "The Sri Lankan economy is at an important inflection point and the private sector has an important role to play in influencing the future trajectory. Some key challenges and bottlenecks need to be tackled and we need to develop cutting-edge thinking. What better way to do this than by bringing the best minds together to develop new ideas and solutions?"

The first set of five NACs are

being launched this January and they are the 'National Agenda Committee on Investment Climate', 'National Agenda Committee on Infrastructure', 'National Agenda Committee on Finance and Capital', 'National Agenda Committee on Logistics and Transport', and 'National Agenda Committee on

the Innovation Eco-system'.

Chief Economist of the CCC and curator of the NACs, Mr. Anushka Wijesinha, observed that, "The NACs will start as communities of interest, and move to become communities of purpose and communities of action. The members for each NAC are being carefully selected to represent the most relevant, current and knowledgeable individuals from business, government, academia, and civil society." CCC News Release ■



*This undated file photo shows CCC Chairman Mr. Samantha Ranatunga. Commenting on the launching of the National Agenda Committees (NACs), Mr. Ranatunga said that the concept of NACs will bring the best minds together to develop new ideas and solutions for Sri Lanka's economy.*

## Slovenia, Iran signs MOU on IT works joint venture

**A** delegation of 45 member headed by Zdravko Počivalšek, Minister of Economic Development and Igor Zorko, Vice-President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia visited the Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mines & Agriculture (ICCIMA) to find their counterparts and investment opportunities.

ICCIMA President Mohsen Jalalpour highlighted the regional and geographical position of Iran as an advantage for long time economic works and accessing the neighbouring markets.

Jalalpour mentioned the government's policies on diversifying the economy and giving more power to

private sectors in next years, and said that strengthening political ties depends on economic relations and in this regard both countries should prepare for bilateral works.

He added that the trade volume between Iran and Slovenia is not satisfying. Hence, he suggested that joint venture in the mining, agro food, energy and IT industries will help booster economic cooperation.

### Slovenia to open Embassy in Iran

For his part Zdravko Počivalšek, Minister of Economic Development of Slovenia stated that their trade exchange volume decreased from 100 million euros in 2011 to 22 million

euros in 2014 and that the country is ready to improve this number.

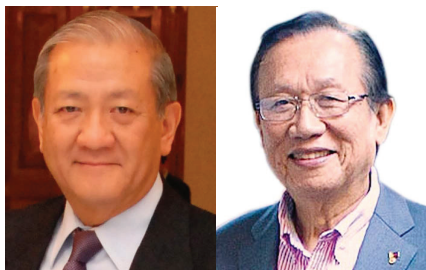
Zdravko Počivalšek said that the signed agreements between the two private sectors will serve as a basis to establish joint economic commission and added that both countries can work together to develop different sectors like transport, information technology, electronic industry, agriculture and food processing, furniture and engineering services.

The minister added that 75 percent of Slovenia's GDP is based on exports and that they are looking at Iran as high potential country in the Middle East region and opening the Embassy in Tehran will facilitate closer relationship between two countries. ■



## Chamber Personality

### PCCI elects new chairman, president



(Left) Amb. Benedicto Yujuico (Right)  
Mr. George Barcelon

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business organization, elected its board of directors for 2016-2017 during the group's annual meeting on December 4.

By unanimous vote of the newly elected board, Amb. Benedicto Yujuico

and George Barcelon were elected chairman and president, respectively.

Amb. Yujuico replaces Miguel Varela and Barcelon replaces Alfredo Yao beginning January 2016.

Barcelon, former head of the PCCI service committee, is a chemical engineer and the president of Integrated Computer systems, IT hardware and infrastructure provider; ICS ICT Logistics & Service Corp., IT systems quality service business; Paramount Vinyl Products Corp., a footwear and rubber manufacturer; edit Corp., a plastic sheeting and leatherette manufacturer; Key West Realty Corp., provider of office space for business process outsourcing centers; Interwood, Inc., warehouse and logistic provider; and Keywest Markeing, provider of wi-fi and cellphone cards.

He is trustee and member of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Business Processing Association of the Philippines, Rotary Club of Makati,

Cardinal Santos Hospital Foundation, and Greenhills West Homeowners Association.

Amb. Yujuico is the Immediate Past President of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI).

Amb. Yujuico served as the Special Envoy of the Philippine President for Trade Relations. He led official and private sector missions to several countries to facilitate trade and investment in the Philippines particularly in the areas of agriculture, alternative energy, business process outsourcing and real estate development.

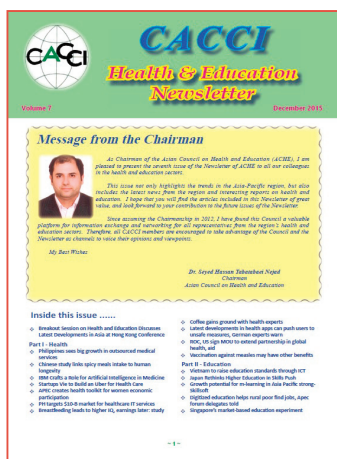
He holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Wharton Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1970. He is the Chairman for Center for Reform and Development Inc. Philippines and Chairman Emeritus of Athena e-Services Corp.

## CACCI releases latest editions of four PSCs Newsletters

Four CACCI Product and Service Councils (PSCs) namely- Asian Council on Food and Agriculture (ACFA), Asian Council on Health and Education (ACHE), Asian Council on Tourism (ACT) and CACCI Women Entrepreneurs Council (CWEC)- are releasing the latest editions of their newsletters.

Highlights of the latest editions include the trends, latest news and interesting feature stories on the respective sectors in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the latest issue will include summary reports on the breakout sessions of these PSCs organized during the 29th CACCI Conference held on Oct. 29-30, 2015 in Hong Kong.

The PSCs were organized to promote greater business interaction among CACCI members who are in the same product or service line. They provide the members regular fora for identifying and addressing issues affecting their respective sectors, finding solutions to common problems, and working out specific programs to accelerate regional cooperation, particularly in the area of trade, technology transfer, capital flows and the exchange of information.



## CACCI Highlights



**CACCI President meets with Sri Lankan Ministers** – CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili called on two Ministers of Sri Lanka during his recent visit to Colombo in early January this year. Left photo shows Mr. Inaishvili with Minister of Finance Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, who is a Member of Parliament for the Colombo District and was the former Cabinet Minister of Commerce Consumer Affairs from 2001 to 2004. Right photo shows Mr. Inaishvili with Minister of Ports and Shipping Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, who has been a Member of Parliament for Gampaha since August 2015 and was former international cricketer and cricket administrator.



**President Inaishvili calls on Ceylon Chamber of Commerce officers** – CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili took off some time from his recent family vacation in Sri Lanka to meet with the key officers of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) to discuss how CACCI can support the Chamber's activities. Above photo shows Mr. Inaishvili (2nd from left) with CCC Chairman Mr. Samantha Ranatunga (middle), CACCI Tourism Council Chairman Mr. Anura Lokuhetty (left), CCC Senior Assistant Secretary General Ms. Lilakshi de Mel (2nd from right), and CCC Secretary-General/CEO Mr. Mangala P. B. Yapa (right).



**CACCI President meets with Founder of Dilmah Tea** - CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili met with Mr. Merrill Fernando, Founder of Dilmah Tea, during his recent visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mr. Fernando and his family built their business around their love for tea. Today, Dilmah is reputed to be the only vertically integrated tea company with its own tea gardens and state of the art printing and packaging facilities, tea packing and investments in every segment of the industry. Selected as one of the Honourees of the 2015 Oslo Business for Peace Award, Mr. Fernando was cited not only for having successfully put Sri Lanka and its tea industry in the world market but more importantly, for sharing his company's success among his employees and other individuals and enterprises that are dependent on the industry. Mr. Inaishvili has invited Mr. Fernando to be a Speaker in the upcoming 30th CACCI Conference in November 2016 in Taipei.



## CACCI now on Facebook

CACCI has set up an official Facebook Page and can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/cacci.biz/>. This Facebook Page serves as a new platform to communicate with CACCI members. Allowing quick and easy interaction, the CACCI Page will also enable member chambers to cross-post and promote their news or activities. Members may also leave comments and suggestions on the posts, or contact CACCI directly through its messenger function. It will be updated regularly and maintained by CACCI officers. All members are invited to visit and "Like" the Page to see the latest on CACCI's activities and upcoming events.



## PRODUCT & SERVICE COUNCILS

### Asian Council on Health and Education

#### Rural teachers offer creative strategies to boost the learning of their students



Administrators and teachers from schools in remote areas shared their experiences in incorporating innovative teaching models into classrooms, in an event held by the Ministry of Education (MOE) at the Chang Yung-Fa Foundation in Taipei City, on January 24.

Ministry officials said they hoped the symposium would prompt more rural schools to adopt successful methods and spark inspiration for more innovative curriculum designs around the nation.

Sharing sessions took place in the afternoon, where four speakers took turns discussing their respective experiences, such as in experimental and mixed-age education, special fieldtrips, summer camps, creative teaching methods for English and mathematics, and after-hours coursework assistance, among others.

Education Minister Wu Se-hwa said the ministry had dubbed 2015 the “Year of Innovative Action in Education,” and actively explored different ways to guide the development of rural institutions, which often lack resources when compared to schools urban areas. *The China Post*

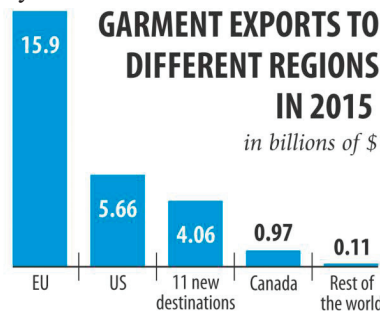
### Asian Garments and Textiles Council

#### Bangladesh's apparel exports to US remain buoyant

The US continues to be the

single largest export destination for Bangladesh's garment items, accounting for 21.28 percent of the shipments in 2015.

The shipments to the American market fetched \$5.66 billion of the sector's \$26.6 billion export earnings last year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau. Garment exports to the US rose 13 percent year-on-year in 2015.



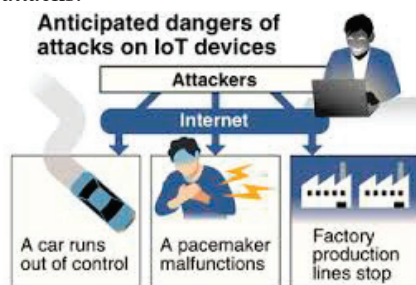
The European Union, the trade bloc of 28 nations, accounted for 59.73 percent of the shipments last year, raking in \$15.9 billion.

Country-wise in the EU, garment exports to Germany brought in \$4.36 billion, the UK \$3.32 billion, Spain \$1.73 billion, France \$1.63 billion, and Italy \$1.24 billion, among others. *The Daily Star*

### Asian ICT Council

#### Japan sets IoT guidelines to combat cyber attacks

The Japanese government will likely request manufacturers to be responsible for the security of Internet of Things (IoT) devices sold to consumers to defend against cyber-attacks.



The move comes amid a growing number of products capable

of connecting to the Internet across almost every field, including household appliances and automobiles, observers said.

The Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry and the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry will create a task force to compile draft guidelines that will cover a range of industries for measures to strengthen information security on IoT devices, sources said. The task force will include information security experts, legal experts and employees who are engaged in the development of IoT devices. *Japan News*

### Asian SME Council

#### Thailand to give 1-yr tax exemption for SMEs in special scheme



Small and medium-sized enterprises in Thailand will be exempted from income tax for one year and subject to a reduced rate of 10pc for another year if they agree to pay taxes properly in the future.

The Cabinet approved the incentives on December 28 as part of a tax amnesty to encourage more SMEs, which total more than 2.7m or 96pc of Thai enterprises, to enter the tax system.

The finance ministry said SMEs that joined the program would also not be investigated for back taxes.

An SME is defined as a business that reports sales and other revenues of 500m baht or less per year. At present, the corporate income tax rate is 20pc.

The tax-deduction measure is aimed at SMEs with registered capital of no more than 5m baht and annual revenues of 30m baht or less. *The Nation*



## ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWS

### **Sino-Saudi trade ties expected to expand**

China and Saudi Arabia may develop closer economic cooperation and stronger trade ties this year, as their products are complementary and they have reached a consensus on the Belt and Road Initiative, according to Chinese exporters and commerce officials.

The initiative includes the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, covers about 4.4 billion people in more than 60 countries and regions.

Zhi Luxun, deputy director-general of the Commerce Ministry's Department of Foreign Trade, said oil trade lies at the heart of their business ties. But Saudi Arabia's surging demand for upgrading its infrastructure - such as oil refineries, roads, airports, and oil tanker and container ports - is also providing opportunities for Chinese project contractors and manufacturers.

China exports mainly construction machinery, manufacturing equipment, steel, electronics, textiles, garments and household appliances to Saudi Arabia. Chinese-made passenger vehicles and trucks have also become popular in the region. *China Daily*

### **Joint Thai-Vietnamese business council urged**

Thailand has encouraged Vietnam to collaborate on a joint business council to help drive two-way trade to US\$20 billion (Bt722 billion) by 2020, nearly double its current value.

After meeting with Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Tat Thanh, Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said bilateral trade could double within five years under closer cooperation between the two nations' public and private sectors.

Establishment of a Thai-Vietnamese business council should help increase cooperation between the two countries' private sectors,

in conjunction with the existing Joint Trade Committee, which is a government-to-government mechanism to discuss and solve trade and economic issues.

The target is to drive two-way trade to \$20 billion by 2020. In 2014, trade between Thailand and Vietnam was valued at \$11.82 billion, up 13.1 percent from the previous year. *The Nation*

### **India eyes stronger trade ties with ASEAN states**

India is looking to boost connectivity and economic integration with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, the country's trade minister said on January 13.

Speaking at the 3rd India-CLMV Business Conclave in Chennai, Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that there was immense potential to boost India's trade with the so-called CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam), which had increased from \$1.1 billion in 2004 to \$11.9 billion in 2014 according to government estimates. She cited a study conducted by the Ministry of External Affairs which suggested that there was a potential of about \$100 billion of additional exports to CLMV countries.

"The trade links and ties between India and the CLMV countries can be much better and the two governing principles - connectivity and economic integration with regional value chains - are crucial," she said. *The Diplomat*

### **Iran, China vow to tighten relations**

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on January 23 he hopes to open a "new chapter" in relations with Iran after the lifting of international sanctions under a historic nuclear deal, as he paid the first visit by a Chinese leader to the Islamic Republic in 14 years.

"In cooperation with the Iranian side and by benefiting from the current favorable conditions, China is ready to upgrade the level of bilateral relations and cooperation so that a new chapter will start in bilateral relations," Xi said after meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, according to Iranian state TV.

Trade between the two countries stood at some \$52 billion in 2014, but that figure dropped last year due to plunging oil prices. China is Iran's biggest trade partner, and continued purchasing oil from Iran after nuclear-related sanctions were tightened in 2012, despite U.S. pressure. "China has always stood by the side of the Iranian nation during hard days," Rouhani said, in comments posted on his official website.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Jinping that Iran will continue its policy of bolstering ties with the "East." He praised China's "independent" stance in global issues, saying it helps deepen strategic ties with Tehran. *Daily Sabah*

### **Taiwan the fourth largest investor in Vietnam in 2015: Vietnamese gov't**

Companies from Taiwan invested US\$1.39 billion in Vietnam last year, making Taiwan the fourth largest source of foreign investment in the country, according to statistics released by Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Investment from Taiwan last year trailed only investment from South Korea (US\$6.72 billion), Malaysia (US\$2.47 billion) and Japan (US\$1.84 billion).

The statistics also showed that foreign direct investment in Vietnam was around US\$22.76 billion last year, up 12.5 percent from the previous year.

Vietnam's processing and manufacturing sectors attracted US\$15.23 billion in total foreign investment last year, or 66.9 percent of the country's total. *The China Post*

## PCCI, Czechs move to promote bilateral trade

The Philippines can introduce garments, jewelries, fruits such as mangoes and bananas, information technology products electronics and automotive parts to the markets in Czech Republic as well as promote the Philippines as a tourism destination for Czechs escaping the severe winter, according to President George T. Barcelon of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

This was discussed by President Barcelon with Czech Deputy Minister Martin Tlapa of Foreign Affairs for Economic Relations during a briefing held on January 12, 2016 on business opportunities for the Philippines and the Czech Republic.

Minister Tlapa headed an economic delegation interested in expanding bilateral trade and investments between the two countries. The PCCI organized a business forum attended by 65 Filipino businessmen at the PCCI head office in Taguig City, Philippines.

Barcelon proposed that PCCI and its Czech chamber-counterpart form business councils as a vehicle to promote and sustain promotional activities in trade, tourism, services, manufacturing and investments.

According to the PCCI president, the 2015 decision of the European Union to allow airlines from the Philippines to resume flights to Europe offer Czech tourists reasonable costs of travel to and from the Philippines.

Within the Philippines, the tourists can also enjoy flying to many vacation spots on low-cost carriers, he said.

In welcoming the proposal for counterpart business councils, Minister Tlapa acknowledged the potential for increasing economic activities. This was supported by Czech Ambassador Jaroslav Olsa, Jr., who accompanied the man delegation.

Minister Tlapa said Czech companies are interested in supplying



*The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business organization, and the business community of the Czech Republic, discuss measures to intensify bilateral trade and investments between the Philippines and the Czech Republic.*

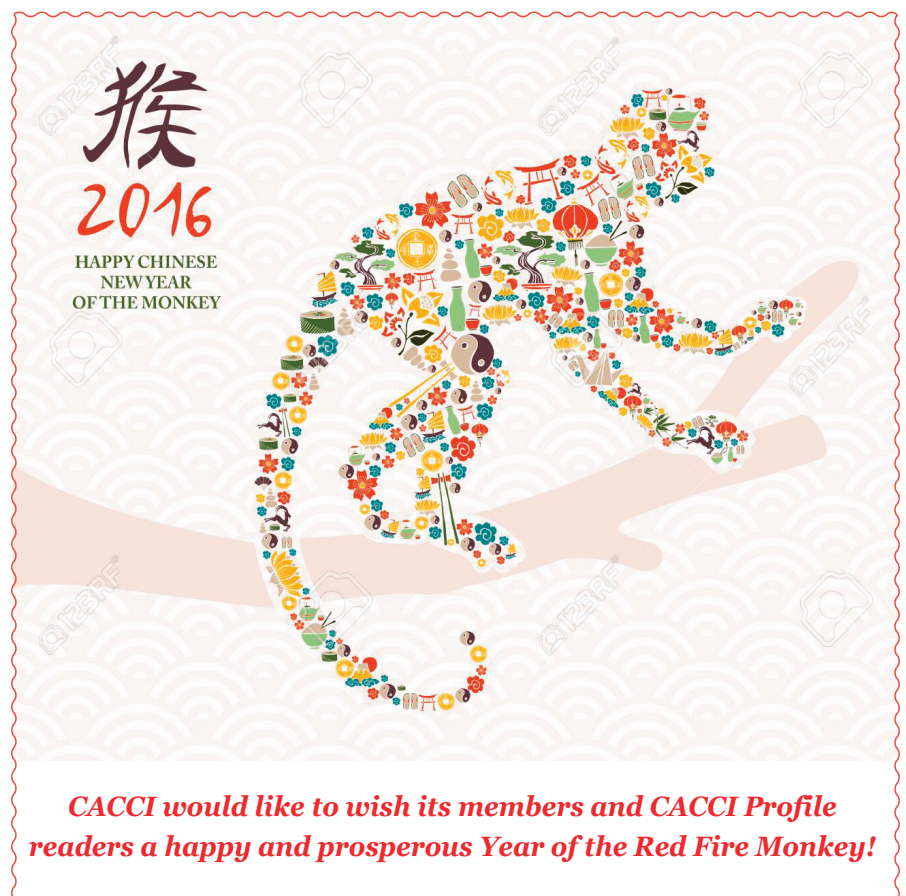
management services for airports and equipment involved in mass transportation, particularly in railways and aviation.

Czech companies manufacture equipment and parts for several aircraft manufacturers (including Airbus) and also manufacture small planes.

Executive Director Carmelo L. Arcilla of the Civil Aeronautics Board said during the business forum that the

liberalization of the aviation industry has enticed unlimited players and enhanced the tourism industry.

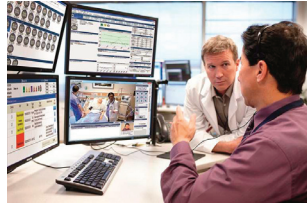
COO Donald G. Dee said that the Philippines may have demand for small planes, especially now that there were secondary airports constructed nationwide where short-haul aircraft like the Airbus planes can land foreign tourists on chartered flights from South Korea, Taiwan, and China. ■



## INVESTMENT & JOINT VENTURES IN THE REGION

### ▲ Philips, EDB arm to invest in digital health firms

- Dutch electronics giant Philips will be investing in digital health start-ups with EDBI, the venture unit of the Economic Development Board of Singapore. They inked a memorandum of agreement on Jan 13. It is the first of many alliances with large corporations to support open innovation, said the EDBI. Apart from investment, the partners will use their extensive business networks in the region to help the start-ups break into the Asian market. The partnership will focus on start-ups that have proven products and solutions in areas such as telehealth, telemonitoring and others in healthcare-based big data and analytics. Interested companies can contact the EDBI or Philips, with the first group of start-ups to be announced in the next few months. The amount the two organisations will invest was not disclosed. EDBI chief executive Chu Swee Yeok said in a statement that the partnership will strengthen Singapore's position as one of the leading digital health hubs in Asia. Business opportunities in this sector will also emerge when the digital health companies base their Asian operations here, said Ms Chu. *The Straits Times*



### ▲ Qualcomm sets up joint venture in China for server chips



- Qualcomm is setting up a server chipset design and sales unit with a provincial government in China, a move that could help boost the company's bid to diversify from mobile chips into the server chips market. The chip maker will own

45 percent in the joint venture, Guizhou Huaxintong Semiconductor Technology, that will be 55 percent owned by the Guizhou provincial government's investment arm. The initial registered capital of the joint venture will be about US\$280 million. Qualcomm revealed plans in October last year to enter the server CPU market that Intel dominates, with a customer processor chip built using the ARM architecture. It said in November that it would co-develop the technology with local Chinese companies. Like many other U.S. tech companies, Qualcomm appears to want to take advantage of partnerships with local companies for easier access to the Chinese market. Hewlett-Packard sold a majority stake in its server, technology services and storage business in China to a Tsinghua Holdings subsidiary to boost sales of HP's enterprise products in the country, while Intel said in 2014 it was planning to invest in local chip companies for the design of mobile phone chips. *MIS Asia*

### ▲ Far EasTone-China Network Systems deal is approved by regulators

- The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) said on December 30 that it has issued a greenlight on a deal that Taiwan-based telecom operator Far EasTone Telecommunications Co. has clinched in preparation for acquiring a stake in Taiwanese cable TV operator China Network Systems Co. (CNS). The FTC said that after reviewing the deal, the commission raised no concerns that the deal will have an adverse impact on market

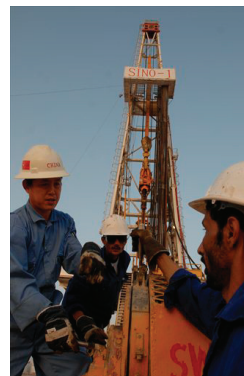


competition, but the approval has been issued conditionally to maintain competition in the future.

In late July, Far EasTone announced that it had signed an agreement with Morgan Stanley Private Equity Asia (MSPE Asia) to buy bonds to be issued by MSPE Asia unit North Haven Private Equity Asia IV LP (NHPEA). HNPEA, which is also owned by several Taiwanese individual and institutional investors, will in turn buy a 60 percent stake in CNS from South Korean private equity firm MBK Partners LP. Through the bond purchase, Far EasTone said it will set up a strategic alliance with MSPE Asia. The bond purchase is expected to cost Far EasTone up to NT\$17.12 billion, and the debt will carry a maturity of seven years. *The China Post*

### ▲ Sinopec, Saudi Aramco sign strategic agreement

- China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, Asia's largest refiner, signed a strategic agreement on January 20 with the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, also known as Saudi Aramco, to further explore business opportunities in the Middle East country's oil and gas industry. The agreement was signed during President Xi Jinping's three-nation tour



of the Middle East, as the world's second-largest economy seeks closer political and economic ties with the region. The deal came after construction began on the second phase of a major Red Sea oil refinery, a joint venture between China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, or Sinopec, and Saudi Aramco with the first phase becoming fully operational in April, Sinopec said in a statement. The venture, Yanbu Aramco Sinopec Refining Co, estimated to cost nearly \$10 billion, covers an area of about 5.2 million square meters. It will process 400,000 barrels of heavy crude oil per day. Aramco will hold a 62.5 percent stake in the plant, and Sinopec will own the remainder. *China Daily*



# FAIRS & EXHIBITS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

DATES 2016	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	VENUE		
1-5 Mar. 	<b>Malaysian Int'l Furniture Fair</b> (United Business Media M Sdn Bhd, Tel: 60-3-2176-8788, Email: info@miff.com.my, URL: 2016.miff.com.my/)	K.L. Malaysia	10-13 Mar. 	<b>Taiwan Int'l Boat Show</b> (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200, Email: boatshow@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.boatshow.tw/en_US/index.html) Kaohsiung Taiwan
2-4 Mar. 	<b>UzBuild 2016</b> (ITE Uzbekistan, Tel: 998-71-113-0180, Email: uzbuild@ite-uzbekistan.uz, URL: www.uzbuild.uz/)	Tashkent Uzbekistan	10-13 Mar. 	<b>3T 2016</b> (Yagmur Fuarcilik, Tel: 90-212-272-4560, Fax: 90-212-272-4559, Email: info@yagmurfuarcilik.com, URL: www.3tfuari.com/) Istanbul Turkey
2-5 Mar. 	<b>Taipei Int'l Sporting Goods Show</b> (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200, Email: taispo@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.taispo.com.tw/en_US/index.html)	Taipei Taiwan	11-13 Mar. 	<b>Powertech Bangladesh</b> (Exponet Exbn Pvt Ltd., Tel: 88-2-832-1726, Fax: 88-2-834-8871, Email: rashed@exponetbd.com, URL: www.powerbdexpo.com/) Dhaka Bangladesh
3-4 Mar. 	<b>India IT Show</b> (ESC, Tel: 91-33-6450-0194, Fax: 91-33-2223-0758, Email: saumen@intellisysin.com, URL: www.indiasoft.org/)	Mumbai India	11-13 Mar. 	<b>Phils. Int'l Furniture Show</b> (Global-Link Exbns. Specialist Inc., Tel: 632-750-8588, Fax: 632-750-887-1305, Email: info@gesi.com.ph, URL: www.pifs.ph/) Manila Philippines
3-6 Mar. 	<b>Japan Int'l Boat Show</b> (Japan Marine Industry Assn., Tel: 81-3-5542-1205, Email: boatshow@marine-jbia.or.jp, URL: www.marine-jbia.or.jp/boatshow2016/)	Yokohama Japan	11-14 Mar. 	<b>Indonesia Int'l Furniture Expo</b> (Dyandra UBM Int'l, Tel: 62-21-2930-5959, Fax: 62-21-2930-5960, Email: info@ifexindonesia.com, URL: www.ifexindonesia.com/) Jakarta Indonesia
3-7 Mar. 	<b>HK Int'l Jewellery Show</b> (HKTDC, Tel: 852-1830-668, Fax: 852-2824-0026, Email: hktcdc@hktcdc.org, URL: www.hktcdc.com/fair/hkjewellery-en/)	Hong Kong	11-21 Mar. 	<b>Taiwan Int'l Orchid Show</b> (Tainan City Government, Contact: Ms. Lin, Tel: 886-6-683-0164, Email: yenling@mail.tainan.gov.tw, URL: www.tios.com.tw) Tainan Taiwan
4-6 Mar. 	<b>Pakistan Auto Show</b> (PAAPAM, Tel: 92-42-3749-8474, Fax: 92-42-3749-8476, Email: headoffice@paapam.com, URL: pakistanautoshow.com/)	Lahore Pakistan	15-17 Mar. 	<b>Expo Electronica 2016</b> (Primexpo, Tel: 7-812-380-6000, Email: electron@primexpo.ru, URL: www.expoelectronica.ru/) Moscow Russia
6-8 Mar. 	<b>NZ Gift &amp; Homeward Fairs</b> (XPO Exbns. Ltd., Tel: 64-9-976-8300, Email: info@giftfairs.co.nz, URL: www.giftfairs.co.nz/index.php)	Auckland New Zealand	16-18 Mar. 	<b>AgroWorld Uzbekistan</b> (ITE Uzbekistan, Tel: 998-71-113-0180, Fax: 998-71-252-5164, Email: agro@ite-uzbekistan.uz, URL: www.agroworld.uz/) Tashkent Uzbekistan
8-11 Mar. 	<b>Foodex Japan</b> (Secretariat, Tel: 81-3-3434-3453, Fax: 81-3-3434-8076, Email: foodex@jma.or.jp, URL: www.jma.or.jp/foodex/)	Chiba Japan	17-20 Mar. 	<b>Korea Int'l Medical &amp; Hospital Equipment Show</b> (Korea E & Ex Inc., Tel: 82-2-551-0102, Email: kimes@kimes.kr, URL: www.kimes.kr/) Seoul Korea
8-11 Mar. 	<b>VIFA-EXPO 2016</b> (HAWA Corp., Tel: 84-8-3526-4714, Fax: 84-8-3526-4718, Email: info@hawacorp.com.vn, URL: www.vifafair.com/)	HCMC Vietnam	23-26 Mar. 	<b>Int'l Travel &amp; Tourism Exbn.</b> (ITE LLC Moscow, Tel: 44-207-596-5000, Email: tm@ite-exhibitions.com, URL: www.mitt.ru/en-GB) Moscow Russia
9-11 Mar. 	<b>Automation World 2016</b> (Coex Co., Ltd., Tel: 82-2-6000-1393, Email: gemma0707@coex.co.kr, URL: automationworldkorea.com)	Seoul Korea	24-27 Mar. 	<b>expoMED Eurasia 2016</b> (Reed Tuyap Exbns Inc., Tel: 90-212-867-1100, Email: expomed@reedtuyap.com.tr, URL: www.tuyap.com.tr/404) Istanbul Turkey
10-13 Mar. 	<b>Int'l Furniture Fair Singapore</b> (Int'l Furniture Fair S'pore Pte Ltd., Tel: 65-6569-6988, Email: visitor@iffs.com.sg, URL: www.iffs.com.sg/)	Singapore	29-31 Mar. 	<b>Mining Vietnam 2016</b> (Allworld Exbns, Vietnam, Tel: 84-8-3930-7618, Email: miningvietnam@vietallworld.com, URL: miningvietnam.com/vn/trang-chu/) Hanoi Vietnam
10-13 Mar. 	<b>Taipei Int'l Bakery Show 2016</b> (Chan Chao Int'l Co., Ltd., Tel: 886-2-2659-6000, Email: bakeryshow@chanchao.com.tw, URL: www.tibs.org.tw)	Taipei Taiwan	30 Mar. - 2 Apr. 	<b>Int'l Halal Showcase</b> (Malaysia External Trade Development Corp., Tel: 603-6203-4433, Email: enquiry@halal.org.my, URL: www.mihis.com.my/) K.L. Malaysia

# TECHNOLOGY

## New farming standards introduced to tackle drought in Thailand

Provincial authorities on January 20 prepared a diversified system featuring less-water dependent crops to be presented as an option for drought-hit farmers.



In Nakhon-Sawan, which is badly hit by drought every year despite having many rivers passing through it, the "Bung Platu Model" learning center for agricultural product promotion in Banphot Phisai district, would be highlighted to the premier as a means to tackle drought.

The center, set up in collaboration with locals to experiment on less-water-dependent crops, found that the most effective and value-for-money choice was green beans. This has led to many villagers opting for green beans instead of rice.

Almost 90,000 rai in the district is devoted to green beans, which is mainly watered by morning dew and can be harvested in 80 days. Green beans can be sold for 6,000-7,000 baht (US\$165-193) per ton- about the same price of unhusked rice. Each day, many farmers came to learn farming tricks from the different demonstration vegetable patches such as aubergine and other vegetables.

*The Nation*

## Interactive 3D tools assist packaging development

3D technology provider ConceptSauce leverages cloud-based interactive applications for virtual shopping, 3D animations, concept visualisation and, most importantly for this audience, real-time online tools for package development and consumer research for retail markets. Abs Chamali, CEO of ConceptSauce, responds to questions.



*What is your technology and what does it do?*

Chamali: ConceptSauce's technology offering is a cloud-based platform for 3D graphics creation. Our solutions do not require any plugins (such as Flash) to run, allowing them to be used across multiple platforms. The technology enables rapid testing and visualization of concepts in a 3D shopping environment, and allows clients to add videos and create concept Heatmaps as part of the 3D shopping journey.

*How can it help in packaging and packaging development?*

Chamali: Our solutions allow clients to visualize packaging design concepts in a store environment. The process of uploading concepts to the 3D store environment is very quick and intuitive, making it ideal for use in iterative design development. It is also possible to insert the store

scenarios into online survey platforms, for use in consumer research, with very rapid results. *Packaging Digest*

## 'Serious games' keep the elderly fit, active

So-called serious games are being developed by a research team with the aim of helping the elderly enjoy physiotherapy and avoid nursing care services.



A team led by Hiroyuki Matsuguma, associate professor at Kyushu University's Graduate School of Design, has already commercialized one game, which involves getting gentle exercise by standing up, and is now working on bringing other games into practical use by asking the elderly to test them.

In December 2015, an event called "locomo fitness circle" was held at the university's Ohashi Campus in Minami Ward, Fukuoka. A number of senior citizens gathered in a circle to play "Locomo de Balamingo," a game developed to prevent locomotive syndrome (locomo), or weakened mobility.

A sensor captures movements of their arms and legs, and players can earn points by collecting heart symbols on the screen as they move through caves or the sky. *Japan News*

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# POLICY UPDATES

(A compilation of rules, laws and policies on trade and investments in CACCI member countries)

## Australia

*Australia not ditching commodities: FinMin*

Despite the sharp plunge in commodity prices around the world, Australia's finance minister told CNBC that the economy was not ready to give up on a key pillar of the country's economic model – resources – altogether.

“The Australian economy is clearly an economy in transition from resource investment-driven growth to broader drivers of growth,” Mathias Cormann told CNBC on January 30.

“(But) we're not diversifying away from resources. Part of the reason the economy continues to grow strongly is that our export volumes in terms of resources have actually increased very strongly and that is on the back of significant resource investment in recent years,” he said.

Despite the sharp plunge in global commodity prices on the back of slowing demand from China, Australia's economy grew more than expected in the third quarter as a sharp increase in mining activity boosted net exports, data released in December showed. *CNBC*

## Bangladesh

*Bangladesh to start full-fledged e-purchase by December*

The government is working to roll out a full-fledged e-procurement system by December 2016, which is four years ahead of schedule.

The latest move was inspired by the success of a pilot project, which took off in 2011 with just four ministries. It is running without any glitch.

As of January 23, 42,332 tenders were floated and 25,130 were awarded through the e-procurement system.

The government is determined to fully implement e-procurement by December 16 this year, said Md Shahid Ullah Khandaker, secretary of the

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division.

At present, the e-procurement system is running in 110 organizations under 30 ministries for projects under Tk 50 crore each. *The Daily Star*

## Japan

*Abe to call for training of 250,000 care workers*

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in his annual policy speech will call for training 250,000 workers in nursing care-related fields to reach the government's goal of reducing to zero the number of people who leave their jobs to provide nursing care for family members, it was learned January 19.

The program is intended to be one of the pillars of his idea to create a society with all 100 million-plus people dynamically engaged.

Abe also plans to highlight the importance of relations with South Korea in the speech, in the context of the deal reached late last year over the so-called comfort women issue. Abe will name South Korea as “our most important neighboring country, with which we share strategic interests.”

The government has set a goal of expanding nursing care to serve an additional 500,000 people by the early 2020s, in part by increasing the number of special nursing homes for the elderly. *The Japan News*

## Korea

*South Korea to spend \$66 bn fund in supporting new industries*

The South Korean government said on January 18 that it would inject 80 trillion won (US\$66 billion) of public funds this year to nurture new growth engines, including smart cars, surgical robots and software content, in the latest attempt to realize its creative economy drive.

In a joint policy report to President Park Geun-hye, relevant ministries said they would build Asian versions of California's Silicon Valley at Sangam,

in Seoul, and Pangyo, in Gyeonggi Province, to embrace more innovative entrepreneurs not only from Korea, but also from overseas. The government also plans to turn 17 Creative Economy Innovation Centers into regional hubs to strengthen partnerships between start-ups and large businesses, and to revitalize the local economy.

The massive investment in creative economy signals a major shift in the government's support priorities as it had focused on developing heavy industries as the nation's key growth engines in the past. Such policy decisions were made to better cope with structural changes in the nation's economy from manufacturing to information and communications technology and software industries, officials said. *The Nation*

## Nepal

*Inflation at 40-month high of 11.6%*

Inflation has jumped to a 40-month high of 11.6 percent, thanks to the prolonged Tarai region unrest which led to disruptions in transport system through southern parts of the country, according to the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB).

The last time inflation had soared to this high was in mid-August 2012 when it reached 11.9 percent. In mid-September the same year, inflation was recorded at 11.2 percent before it started to decline.

Prices of pulses, legumes, ghee and oil among other food products and clothes and footwear among non-food products have skyrocketed.

“There have been two spikes in prices: 48.9 percent in pulses and legumes subgroup and of 42.3 percent in ghee (clarified butter) and oil subgroup,” the central bank said in its latest report on country's macro economy. *Kathmandu Post*

## Philippines

*Philippine aero industry set to take off*

The Philippine aerospace industry is seen to post revenues of up to \$1.5



# POLICY UPDATES

billion in the next 10 years.

From only \$5.9 million in 2008, the sector's revenues surged to \$226 million in 2014.

As of the third quarter of last year, revenues from exports of aerospace products already reached \$309 million.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said Philippine key industry players composed of aviation parts and components manufacturers, maintenance, repair and overhaul providers, airlines, and aviation training organizations, would join the Singapore Airshow in February.

The Singapore Airshow is a premier event for the aerospace manufacturing and support industries within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The local industries' participation in the event is organized by the Board of Investments, the industry development and investments promotion arm of the DTI, in coordination with the Foreign Trade Service Corps and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. *Philippine Star*

## Singapore

*Singapore's small businesses 'strong and adaptable': CPA Australia*

Small businesses in Singapore are optimistic about growth in the next 12 months, even if they are apprehensive about the economy, a survey has found.

The findings from CPA Australia's annual Asia-Pacific Small Business Survey, which is based on responses from about 3,000 small business operators in Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, were released on January 22.

The professional accounting body's chief executive Alex Malley said 59 percent of respondents from Singapore reported their businesses grew over the last 12 months, up 8 percent from the same survey in 2014.

Furthermore, 57 percent of Singapore's small businesses expected their own outlets to grow in the next 12 months, despite a 13 percent fall in economic confidence from the previous year. *Channel News Asia*

## Taiwan

*Property market sees price drops for upscale areas*

Recent developments in the property market in the Greater Taipei area are bucking the trend, with upscale areas showing much sharper decreases in pricing than suburban ones, according to real estate agents.

In Taipei, property prices in upscale areas in the city center such as Xinyi and Daan districts registered an average fall of 6.8 percent in the third quarter of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, according to data from Yung Ching Realty. At the same time, suburban areas dropped only 2.1 percent.

In New Taipei City, property prices in downtown districts fell 5.1 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2015, compared to an only 1.8 percent decline for suburban areas, Yung Ching data showed.

Taiwan's property market has usually seen prices for upscale downtown areas rise faster during boom times and drop more slowly during downturns compared to suburban areas.

*The China Post*

## Thailand

*Thailand plans 35 bil. baht boost to rural economy*

Thailand will consider a stimulus program worth up to 35 billion baht (\$972.49 million) to boost the rural economy, a deputy prime minister said on January 25, as the ruling junta tries to revive flagging growth.

The army seized power in May 2014 to end months of political unrest but has been unable to move Southeast

Asia's economy forward as pivotal exports and domestic demand remain sluggish.

The latest stimulus follows a raft of already approved economic measures, including some 136 billion baht of spending approved in September to inject cash into rural areas.

"We will propose a program to develop and strengthen the grassroots economy," Deputy Prime Ministry Somkid Jatusripitak, in charge of economic matters, told a seminar.

"Each village will receive up to 500,000 baht, to around 70,000 villages, or worth about 35 billion baht."

The rural economy has been hit hard by drought and low farm prices, exacerbated by the junta's withdrawal of the generous subsidies of the government it toppled. *Reuters*

## Vietnam

*Vietnam continues to remove tax barriers*

The market for Vietnamese enterprises to trade goods, attract investment and participate more deeply in the regional production and supply chains, was opened up with the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on the last day of 2015.

The formation of the AEC meant a series of tariff and non-tariff barriers were removed. Following the achievements of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), in the AEC environment, taxation commitments are a priority to facilitate trade liberalisation and the free flow of goods, investment and labour within the region.

Head of the Ministry of Finance's Tax Policy Department Pham Dinh Thi said that the AEC will bring about both opportunities and challenges for Vietnam as it has to totally cut import taxes imposed on goods bought from ASEAN countries to zero by 2018. *Vietnam Net*