



CACCI Profile

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Vol. XXXIX, No. 4

April 2016

Preparations underway for 30th CACCI Conference as Taipei hosts Planning Committee Meeting



Members of the 2016 CACCI Planning Committee led by CACCI President **Mr. Jemal Inaishvili** met on 29 March 2016 at the Marriott Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan. Co-hosted by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC) – with the support of CTBC Bank – the meeting discussed primarily preparations for the 30th CACCI Conference scheduled to take place in November 2016 in Taipei.

A total of 44 delegates from 11 countries attended the Meeting, including representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan.

CIECA Vice Chairman **Mr. Fred P. C. Huang** welcomed the meeting participants to Taipei and thanked them for their presence in the meeting. He

recalled that ten years ago, CIECA had the privilege of hosting CACCI's 40th Anniversary in Taipei. Mr. Huang said that CIECA is honored to be chosen once again to host the 30th CACCI Conference in 2016, adding that they will try to improve on their past performance to ensure that this year's conference will be fruitful and memorable. He also thanked the CNAIC, the CTBC Bank, other CACCI members in Taiwan, and the CACCI Secretariat for providing invaluable support in their preparations to the 30th CACCI Conference.

Ambassador Feng Chi-Tai, CIECA Senior Advisor and Senior Advisor for International Affairs at CTBC Bank, joined CIECA Vice Chairman Huang in welcoming CACCI members to Taipei and expressed his appreciation to them for taking part in the preparations for the 30th CACCI

Continued on page 2

CACCI President leads visit to Sri Lanka



CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili successfully led a six-member delegation on a Presidential visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka from March 8 to March 10, 2016. The CACCI visitors were received by the officers and members of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and participated in meetings and activities arranged and organized by the Chamber.

Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CACCI schedules visit to Georgia and Turkey
- TOBB and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry sign cooperation agreement
- Networking Event of the Sri Lanka - Singapore Business Council and Singapore (Sri Lanka) Club
- HK to host 2nd ICC Asia Conference on International Arbitration
- FICCI to encourage travel start-ups, digital tourism and IT-based infrastructure development in Travel & Hospitality sector
- Regular Features

Preparations

... Continued from page 1

Conference. He said it was a great honor for CTBC Bank to provide its support to the CACCI gathering in 2016, which he pointed out also marks the 50th Anniversary of CTBC Bank. Given the significant progress achieved by CTBC Bank and by Taiwan (which served as venue for the organizational meeting of CACCI in 1966) over the course of the 50-year history of CACCI, Amb. Tseng said it was only fitting that the 2016 gathering of CACCI be held in Taipei.

CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili thanked CIECA Vice Chairman Huang for his kind words of welcome, and conveyed his gratitude to the CNAIC as well as to CTBC Bank for their very strong support of the Conference this year.

Mr. Inaishvili underscored the vital role played by the CACCI Planning Committee in the functioning of the Confederation. He cited its mandate to help implement the decisions of the CACCI Council and to undertake activities that would effectively carry out the programs of the Confederation.

Conference Dates

Mr. Wu, Li-Min, CIECA Secretary-General, informed the Planning Committee that CIECA, after consulting with the CNAIC, the CTBC Bank, the CACCI Secretariat and key CACCI officers, has agreed to propose holding the 30th CACCI Conference on November 23-25, 2016.

Conference Venue

Mr. Wu informed the Committee that CIECA, after having earlier considered and made an ocular inspection of three hotels in Taipei, has decided to recommend holding the 30th CACCI Conference at Marriott Hotel, which is newly-opened, having started its operations just four months earlier.

Theme and Topics of the Conference

The Planning Committee considered a list of possible themes and topics for the 29th CACCI Conference



(Left) CIECA Vice Chairman Mr. Fred PC Huang welcomes the meeting participants to Taipei (Right) CACCI officers deliver their introductory remarks during the Planning Committee Meeting.



(Left) CACCI Planning Committee listen to CACCI Director General Amb. Victor CY Tseng's report on the various activities undertaken by CACCI in the past months (Right) Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mrs. Oyunchimeg Magvan comments on the conference venue.



as compiled by the Secretariat. CACCI Director-General **Amb. Victor CY Tseng** noted that the list was generated from a survey conducted earlier seeking suggestions from members on issues they believed are of current concern to businessmen in the region.

After exchanging views on the members' suggestions and taking into account the additional proposals made by the members around the table, the Planning Committee decided that the theme and topics of 29th CACCI Conference should highlight the emergence of Asia as an economic powerhouse during the same 50 years of CACCI's existence, and the expectation of its continued strength moving forward.

In light of the above, the Committee agreed that the Taipei Conference should carry the theme **"The Rise of Asia: Taking a Bigger Role in the Global Economy"**.

It was also agreed that the Conference shall feature only two Plenary Sessions, focusing on the

following topics: **Plenary Session One: Gaining Traction from Regional Economic Integration, and Plenary Session Two: Promoting SME Development for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.**

Suggested Conference Speakers

The CACCI Secretariat was tasked to coordinate and follow up with CIECA, CNAIC, CTBC Bank and the other members of the Planning Committee on their suggestions for the Conference speakers. Mr. Inaishvili requested the meeting participants to submit to the Secretariat any additional suggestions they may have in this regard, adding that the invited speakers should have a good balance between foreign and local experts, and should be prominent enough to attract a large audience from CACCI members both from overseas and locally.

Suggested Conference Program

The Meeting considered the

Continued on page 3

CACCI schedules visit to Georgia and Turkey

CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili is organizing CACCI Presidential visits to Georgia and Turkey in May and would like to invite CACCI members to join him for the two-country trip. The Presidential visit to Georgia is scheduled on May 23-24 and to Turkey on May 26-27.

The Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) will be receiving the CACCI



Georgian
Chamber of
Commerce &
Industry



delegation in Tbilisi and Ankara/Istanbul, respectively. The detailed itinerary for the visits will be sent to members, along with other relevant information (e.g. hotel accommodation and costs, etc), as soon as the GCCCI and TOBB have finalized the necessary

arrangements.

Members are encouraged to join President Inaishvili on his trips to Georgia and Turkey, and avail the opportunity not only to establish contacts with key representatives from the private and government sectors of the two host countries, but also to learn the business conditions and opportunities available there.

Interested parties may contact the CACCI Secretariat through e-mail at cacci@cacci.biz. ■

Preparations

... Continued from page 2

Tentative Conference Program drafted by the CACCI Secretariat in consultation with CIECA, CNAIC, and CTBC Bank. After an exchange of views, the Committee endorsed the Tentative Conference Program.

Noting that the year 2016 also marks the 50th Anniversary of CACCI, the Committee suggested undertaking a number of activities to help commemorate this important milestone.

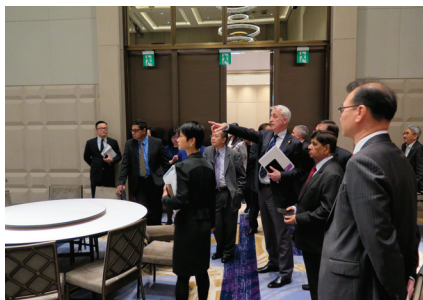
CIECA Secretary General Mr. Wu proposed the presentation of tokens of appreciation to all CACCI Presidents – both past and present – to mark and honor their important contribution towards making CACCI a strong and driving force in promoting the chamber movement and the interest of the business sector in the region, and in facilitating economic cooperation and integration.

A special publication will be issued highlighting the achievements of CACCI during the 50 years since it was formed in 1966, copies of which should be sent to all CACCI members to help raise awareness about CACCI and the commemoration of its 50 years of existence.

A CACCI 50th Anniversary pin will be made and issued to all CACCI members attending the Taipei Conference. ■



(Left) CIECA Secretary General Mr. Wu Li-Min reports on the proposed conference dates of the 30th CACCI Conference (Right) CACCI Planning Committee Meeting delegates pose for a group photo at the Marriott Garden.



CACCI delegates led by President Jemal Inaishvili participate in the ocular inspection of the Marriott Hotel Taipei, the venue of the next CACCI Conference.



(Left) Participants of the Planning Committee Meeting try the Vespa scooter game during a short tour of the new CTBC Financial Park (Right) Delegates cap off the whole day meeting with a dinner hosted by CACCI President Inaishvili.



CACCI President

... Continued from page 1

Meeting with the Chairman and the CEO of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

The CACCI visitors were received at the headquarters of the CCC by key officers led by Chairman Mr. Samantha Ranatunga, newly-elected CEO Mrs. Dhara Wijayatilake, and Senior Assistant Secretary General Ms. Lilakshini de Mel.

Both sides had an exchange of information and ideas on the current activities of CACCI and the CCC, and on how the two organizations can further strengthen their relationship for the mutual benefit of their respective members.

Colombo Tea Auction

The delegation proceeded to the Colombo Tea Auction located on Ground Floor auditorium of the CCC headquarters. The Colombo Tea Auction is known as the oldest and largest tea auction in the world. It is organized and conducted by the Colombo Tea Traders Association (CTTA) on behalf of the CCC.

Briefing on the Young Members Forum of the CCC

The delegation met with Ms. Gillian Nugaara, Assistant Secretary General and Chairperson, Young Members Forum (YMF) of the CCC.

According to Ms. Nugaara, the YMF was formed in 2014 with an objective to identify, engage and develop the next generation of Sri Lankan leaders and entrepreneurs by providing growth opportunities through various programs, workshops and seminars.

CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado also gave some background information about the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) and encouraged YMF to take an active role in CACCI by participating in the activities organized by YEGAP, including the submission of nominees for the 6th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award to be



(Left) CCC Chairman Mr. Samantha Ranatunga meets with the CACCI Presidential Delegation at the Chamber's headquarters in Colombo (Right) The Colombo Tea Auction is being held at the ground floor auditorium of the Ceylon Chamber office.



(Left) The delegation visits the Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka led by Mr. Nilupul De Silva, Director for Promotions (Right) The Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2016 formally opens with an inauguration ceremony and networking reception held at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel.



presented at the upcoming 30th CACCI Conference.

Meeting with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

The delegation was welcomed to the Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka by key BOI officers led by Mr. Nilupul De Silva, Director (Promotion) and Director-General Ms. Duminda Ariyasinghe.

Mr. De Silva introduced the BOI as the Investment Promotion Agency of the Government of Sri Lanka, serving as the central facilitation point for investors. His office provides assistance and advice throughout the investment process, from the application stage to the commercial operation.

Visit to the Colombo Stock Exchange (World Trade Centre)

After the BOI meeting, the CACCI delegation proceeded to the Colombo Stock Exchange located on the same building (World Trade Center) as the BOI. An officer from the Stock Exchange informed the CACCI visitors that the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) is a company limited by guarantee, established under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982 and is licensed by the Securities & Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC).

Inauguration Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2016

On the evening of March 8, the delegation attended the Inauguration and Strategic Networking Reception of the Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2016 held at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel.

Organized by the CCC, the Conclave aimed to provide an opportunity for Sri Lanka to showcase its economic potential to over 120 prospective investors, who attended the three-day event, which started on March 8. Foreign Investors from 27 countries took part in this event, with the largest numbers coming from Kuwait (25), South Korea (21) and China (17). The areas where investors were keen to find opportunities included Export Manufacturing Agriculture, Infrastructure Development, Export Services, local Knowledge Services, Power and Energy, Tourism and Leisure sectors.

The three-day conclave enabled over 125 overseas investors to network with nearly 130 Sri Lankan business executives, attending this event, representing top local firms. The Conclave also allowed the investors to meet up with top government officials and local business community during the B2B meetings. ■

TOBB and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry sign cooperation agreement

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chair Khalid Almoayyed signed an agreement for the development of bilateral trade and economic relations on March 1, in Ankara.

Hisarcıklioğlu said, “Our priority from Bahrain, a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member, is the reopening of the negotiations for a free trade agreement between Turkey and GCC and its finalization at the soonest possible time. Your support in this matter is very important for us. This FTA would form a free trade zone covering the area lying between eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf.”

Hisarcıklioğlu stated that Turkey, with its connection with Middle Eastern countries with its roots in history, has been “A strong proponent for peace in the Middle East and will continue to be in support of peace.”

Pointing out that stability and

peace are founded on trade relations, Hisarcıklioğlu said that the most prominent example of this is Europe.

Hisarcıklioğlu said, “Following WWII, steel and coal producers of Europe laid the foundations of the union in Europe. However much we want countries to become closer in the Middle East, mutually increasing our profits while bringing prosperity and peace to the region, then we must increase trade between us.”

Hisarcıklioğlu stated that the will and opportunity to increase bilateral relations with Bahrain in all fields including defense is present and that Turkish construction sector, the second largest in the world, is prepared to take on additional endeavors in Bahrain.

Stating that relations would be strengthened as a result of the signing of the business committee agreement, Hisarcıklioğlu said, “This agreement would enable third countries to take part in our cooperation. This will enable our cooperation to increase both bilaterally as well as in multiple platforms.”



Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chair Khalid El Moayed expressed his wish to see cooperation between the two countries increase. Given the fact that Bahrain requires projects aimed at improving development and infrastructure, El Moayed said that King of Bahrain and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan are very supportive of increasing the bilateral relations of both countries.

“We open our arms to you and are ready to be your second home,” said Moayed, “It is not within Bahrain’s power to decide Turkey’s membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council. The delay stems from the other countries of the GCC. It has been 10 years since the FTA. Bahrain has urged that the agreement be signed as soon as possible. Hopefully we will be able to bring you good news soon. Once obstacles are abolished, the way will be open.” *TOBB News Release* ■

Networking Event of the Sri Lanka – Singapore Business Council and Singapore (Sri Lanka) Club

A joint Networking Evening was organized by the Sri Lanka – Singapore Business Council (SLSBC) of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Singapore (Sri Lanka) Club on February 26. The event was organized with the objective of



providing an opportunity for members to interact amongst themselves, with the Singapore expatriate community in Sri Lanka and senior officials of key Government Institutions relevant to business. The organizing of this event is in keeping with an objective of the Sri Lanka - Singapore Business Council as a facilitator of business for its members.

The event which was held at the Clubhouse at Havelock City, Colombo 6 was well attended by over a 100 persons including members of the SLSBC which has now grown to 74 member companies, members of the Singapore Club and special invitees.

Representatives of Prima, Overseas Realty, Singapore Airlines, Pico – SLECC, Fujitec Lanka and other Singapore connected companies attended the event. Senior officials of the Board of Investment, the Export Development Board, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Customs as well as representatives from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), the Embassy of Japan and the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China were amongst the special invitees.

The SLSBC is pleased to call applications from interested companies to join its membership. For more details please contact the Secretariat julianne@chamber.lk ■

Chamber Personality

Ceylon Chamber appoints Mrs. Dhara Wijayatilake as CEO



The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce announced the appointment of Ms. Dhara Wijayatilake, Attorney-at-Law, as its new CEO effective March 1, 2016.

Her appointment to the 176 year old Institution comes following the resignation of Mr. Mangala P. B. Yapa, who served as the CEO of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, since November, 2014 to take up the position as the Head of the proposed Agency For Development under the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade.

Ms. Wijayatilake, who functioned as the CEO of The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka, an affiliate body of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, counts over four decades of extensive experience in several senior positions in the public sector.

An Attorney-At-Law by profession and a graduate in law LL.B (Ceylon), Mrs. Wijayatilake holds the distinction of being the first woman to be appointed as Secretary to a Cabinet Ministry in the Country with her appointment as the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice in 1994.

In the private sector she serves as a Director of Sampath Bank PLC, and a Director of the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA). She is also a member of the Public Service Commission and a member of the Law Commission of Sri Lanka. CCC News Release

CACCI Highlights



CACCI President meets with Auckland Chamber Chief Executive - CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili met with Mr. Michael Barnett, Chief Executive of the Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry during the former's visit to Auckland on March 23. Mr. Inaishvili thanked Mr. Barnett for the continued strong support that the Chamber has extended to CACCI over the past years. He expressed his hopes that the Chamber will remain actively involved in CACCI, adding that the Confederation certainly needs New Zealand's participation in the regional grouping, given the important role that the country's economy and business sector play in the development of the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Inaishvili also invited Mr. Barnett and his Chamber colleagues to participate in the 30th CACCI to be held in Taipei on November 23-25, 2016. Mr. Barnett, who is Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunities Trust, is concurrently a Director of both the Auckland Chamber and New Zealand Chambers of Commerce & Industry. The NZCCI is one of the founding members of CACCI, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.



President Inaishvili calls on CCIRF President in Moscow - CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili recently called on Mr. Sergey Katyrin, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (CCIRF) during his recent trip to Moscow. Mr. Inaishvili was invited by the CCIRF to attend its VII Congress that took place on March 1, 2016 at the World Trade Center. During their Moscow meeting, Mr. Inaishvili updated Mr. Katyrin on the ongoing and upcoming activities of CACCI, and encouraged CCIRF's participation in these activities. The meeting also saw the re-election of Mr. Katyrin as CCIRF President.

PRODUCT & SERVICE COUNCILS

Young Entrepreneurs Group Asia Pacific

Taiwanese entrepreneur selected as 'young global leader'



A Taiwanese researcher and entrepreneur credited with founding one of the most innovative companies in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been named among 121 young global leaders selected by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2016.

Yu Chih-han, chief executive officer and co-founder of the start-up Appier, was the only Taiwanese on this year's list, which was released on March 16. His company is a technology enterprise that helps clients develop strategies and commercial policies by using artificial intelligence in a cross screen era.

The 121 men and women selected as young global leaders are "scientists, government leaders, future business leaders, social activists and artists, aged under 40, who are shaking up policy, society and the world around them," the WEF said. *Focus Taiwan*

Women Entrepreneurs Group

India's woman power gathers momentum

On March 8, the social media was abuzz with photographs of Air India's all-woman crew who operated the flight from New Delhi to San Francisco. The hashtag #AISalutesWomen was trending everywhere.

The entire flight operation — from pilots Kshamta Bajpayee and Shubhangi Singh and their co-pilots to the cabin crew, check-in staff and ground handling staff — was handled by women. The country's budget airline Spice Jet too imitated the initiative and

the response was tremendous.

While these certainly are proud moments for India, there are many such empowerment initiatives, which aren't in the limelight.



Hindustan Petroleum (HP), for instance, launched an all-woman gas station in Lucknow on Women's Day. Shakti Fuel Retail Service Station has two fuel islands exclusively for lady customers, reported Petroworld, on its website. This gas station has a dedicated room for women with facilities, such as clean toilets, a changing room, and a small rest room. Over 30 women were employed and they carried out all the work on their own — from filling gas to checking tyre pressure. *ATimes*

Asian ICT Council

Statisticians from Asia-Pacific least developed countries trained in measuring the information economy



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

The use of information and communications technologies (ICTs), such as mobile telephony and internet services, is increasing in the Asia-Pacific region.

But many national statistical organizations lag behind and very few least developed countries (LDCs) collect data on the use of information and communications technology and e-commerce in the commercial sector.

This makes it difficult for policy makers in these countries to design and assess relevant policies.

To support national statistical systems in this task, a training course attended by 24 participants from 11

LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region was held from 14–18 March 2016 at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

The course was designed and delivered by UNCTAD in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The participating countries were: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. *UNCTAD*

Asian Tourism Council

Brunei tourism makes use of IT to keep marketing cost low

The government plans to keep the cost of tourism promotion and marketing at a minimum by making use of information technology (IT), said the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) on March 14.



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Hj Ali Hj Apong said that the budget of \$250,000 for tourism promotion in the upcoming fiscal year will be "sufficient" because the ministry plans to use IT tools such as website and mobile applications to promote and market tourism.

"Yes, it is sufficient...in terms of promoting tourism, we are not going to travel to Europe, Middle East, America or Russia...(instead), we aim to promote tourism sector by making use of IT," he told *The Brunei Times*.

The ministry will develop a system which feeds tourists with information on local attractions and places of interest upon arrival, said YB Dato Paduka Hj Ali. *Brunei Times*

ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWS

Thailand and India to strengthen bilateral ties

The new Indian Ambassador to Thailand, His Excellency Bhagwant Singh Bishno, met with Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha on March 14 at the Government House to strengthen diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Deputy Government Spokesperson Maj Gen Weerachon Sukhontapatipak revealed that Gen Prayut expressed Thailand's readiness to strengthen relations with India in every capacity.

These include technological cooperation, Islamic education for Thai students, as well as medical, beauty and wellness tourism.

The Prime Minister also praised his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for his investment schemes to stimulate economic growth, namely 'Make in India,' 'Delhi Mumbai Economic Corridor,' and 'Smart Cities.'

Gen Prayut spoke with the Indian ambassador about Special Economic Zones and described their investment benefits, in the hopes that Indian investors will be drawn to these opportunities. Both countries are also planning to promote closer military ties and anti-terrorism efforts. *National News Bureau of Thailand*

Bangladesh-India coastal shipping begins

Bangladesh's MV Horbour-1 sailed from Chittagong Port on March 17 on its maiden voyage to Krishnapatnam Port in India, as coastal shipping services between the two countries were recently launched.

The vessel will operate between the east coastal Indian ports in Kolkata, Haldia, Paradip, Vishakhapatnam, Kakinada, Krishnapatnam and Chennai, and Bangladeshi ports in Chittagong, Narayanganj, Ashuganj, Paora, Khulna, Mongla and Pangaon terminal.

The vessel is expected to reach the Indian port on March 22, return to Chittagong Port on March 28 and then

reach Pangaon terminal on March 30, port officials said.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan launched the services under the coastal shipping agreement between Bangladesh and India, at a ceremony at the New Mooring Container Terminal of Chittagong Port. *The Daily Star*

PH, Malaysia central banks ink pact

The central banks of the Philippines and Malaysia have agreed to allow up to three so-called Qualified Asean Banks (QABs) from each country to operate in the other.

In a statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. had signed a heads of agreement (HOA) with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz in Kuala Lumpur on March 14.

The BSP said the HOA between the BSP and the BNM was among the first bilateral pacts signed under the Asean Banking Integration Framework (ABIF). It said the agreement was "in line with strengthening intra-regional trade and investments" under the said framework.

"While the HOA outlines market access and operational flexibilities that may be accorded to QABs from each jurisdiction into the other, these QABs shall operate under the prevailing laws and regulations in the Philippines and Malaysia, respectively," the BSP said.

ABIF, approved by Asean member-states in 2014, allows QABs to have greater access to other Asean markets and more flexibility in their operations there, according to the Asean website. *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Indian delegation to Pakistan emphasizes trade liberalization

A delegation of Indian political and social activists have emphasized the need to promote peace and development through public diplomacy,

dialogue and mutual understanding.

"We require confidence building measures and a flexible visa policy to remove the confusion between both countries," senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Delhi Study Group president Vijay Jolly said while addressing the press at the National Press Club on March 13.

Mr Jolly was accompanied by BJP leader Vijay Mehta and former journalist Lubna Asif. He encouraged free trade and the need for economic liberalisation between India and Pakistan.

"Free trade and border openness not only provide trade opportunities between the business communities of both countries but also create competition in the market for low prices. Both countries have historical relations and similarities in culture," he said.

"Our delegation has enjoyed hospitality and love from the people. There is a need to enhance economic and trade cooperation between both nations to eradicate poverty and elevate the lifestyle of the people of both countries. We need to eradicate terrorism and extremism for peaceful co-existence," he added. *Dawn*

Japan to recruit 30,000 IT engineers from India, Vietnam

Japan might need to recruit 30,000 foreign Information Technology (IT) engineers in the next four years to work in the country especially from India and Vietnam.

Nguyễn Đoàn Hùng, chairman of the Vietnam - Japan IT Cooperation Club (VJC) made this observation at the Vietnam IT Day 2016 in Japan recently.

The event was co-organized by the Vietnam Software and IT Service Association (Vinasa), VJC and Japan Information Technology Service Industry Association (JISA) with the theme of "Vietnam - Japan IT Cooperation heading to TPP" in the end of February. *Vietnam News*

HK to host 2nd ICC Asia Conference on International Arbitration

The 2nd ICC Asia Conference on International Arbitration, taking place on June 28-30, 2016 in Hong Kong, will offer a line-up of around 40 renowned speakers, relevant news, topical discussions and an excellent opportunity to network and keep up-to-date with the latest regional developments in international arbitration.

The three-day event will include:

June 28, 2016: ICC Institute advanced level training on “the conduct of the proceedings and case management - the arbitrator’s perspective”. This

training will focus in depth on how the arbitrator should establish his authority over the parties throughout the proceedings, including hearings, and deal with his fellow-arbitrators.

June 29, 2016: Conference sessions including topics such as:

- International arbitration in

Greater China: recent developments

- Investor-State arbitration under the ICC Rules

- Intellectual Property Disputes

June 30, 2016: Workshop on “decisions as to costs in international arbitration”. This workshop will focus on the ICC Commission’s new report on the topic.

For information on the program, speakers and on-line registration, please visit: www.iccwbo.org/ICCASIA/ ■



FICCI to encourage travel start-ups, digital tourism and IT-based infrastructure development in Travel & Hospitality sector

The world is moving towards a new business ecosystem enabled by technology. In keeping with the emerging scenario, the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FICCI) conceived India’s first dedicated event on travel and hospitality technology, ‘Travel and Hospitality Tech Conclave’ to leverage technology to give a fillip to the sector, said Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Immediate Past President FICCI.

Addressing the two-day conclave on March 18, Dr. Suri said the government had already initiated ‘Digital India’ and ‘Startup India’. FICCI, on its part would like to encourage travel start-ups, digital tourism and IT-based infrastructure development for the travel and hospitality sector.



She added that the launch of e-visa for 150 countries and focus on infrastructure development are a few among various initiatives by the government in this area.

Dr. Suri said that in future everything will get automated but the challenge was the cost of implementation of technology, especially for the small scale travel companies and hoteliers. Hence, there was a need to look for economical and innovative solutions.

On the occasion, Dr. Suri along with the other dignitaries released FICCI-RezNext knowledge paper a brief summary on travel and hospitality technology Landscape of India.

In his brief presentation on the paper, Zubin Bilimoria, Director, Global Sales, RezNext Global Solutions, said that this report on the technology landscape for travel and hospitality provides a quick look at the current pace of technology automation, consumer trends, impact of mobile technology and trends with online hotel distribution.

Bilimoria said that the rampant internet penetration has transformed the way the travel trade and hotels operate.

The mobile boom in bookings is not just restricted to the elite in metros.

Dr. A. Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI, said that FICCI recognizes the critical role that technology plays in the field of travel and hospitality. Therefore, it has initiated this conclave, which would augment service of the tourism and hospitality sector with technology as an enabler.

He added that the conclave brought together global leaders, upstart innovators from the field of travel, hospitality, technology and marketing, to secure new business opportunities, increase brand awareness and to network with the key industry stakeholders.

In his vote of thanks Rahul Chakravarty Director and Head-Tourism, FICCI, said that the ‘Travel and Hospitality Tech Conclave’ was conceived as FICCI understands the importance and relevance of technology in the tourism and hospitality. He added that for the pursuit of excellence in travel and tourism industry with the help of technology, FICCI intends to make the conclave an annual event.

FICCI News Release ■

INVESTMENT & JOINT VENTURES IN THE REGION

▲ French luxury brand Longchamp eyes Asia market -

Luxury brand Longchamp's history is steeped in French heritage, but few know about the brand's affinity with the Asian arm of its business. "A sizeable 25 percent of our business comes from Asia and 50 percent of our customer base is Asian," said chief executive officer Jean Cassegrain, 51, in an exclusive interview with The Straits Times while he was in Singapore on a market visit recently. Describing the Southeast Asian consumer as a "mature luxury shopper", he said the brand was looking to increase penetration into the region to cater to its loyal customer base. "Customers here are well educated on luxury, perhaps more so than in [mainland] China and Taiwan, where luxury consumers are more in discovery mode. It just shows the enormous opportunity Southeast Asia still holds for us to grow our business. We are far from reaching our potential in Asia." Indeed, Longchamp's Asian connection goes back a long way - it opened its first flagship store in 1979 in Hong Kong instead of Paris, as one would expect. *The Nation*



▲ Dyson cleans up in Asia - A growing taste for high-end vacuum cleaners and air purifiers among consumers in Asian countries helped Dyson to a one-quarter rise in turnover to £1.7bn last year. For the first time, the Asia



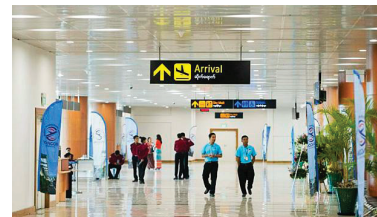
Pacific region was the biggest source of profit for the UK brand of household appliances, with revenue there 70 percent higher

compared to 2014. Sales more than tripled in China, where Dyson began trading three years ago, while in Japan, its second-largest market globally, customers ramped up purchases by almost half. There were also increases in South Korea, Taiwan and Australia. Coupled with growth in Europe and the Americas, this led Dyson's earnings to jump by nearly a fifth to £488m before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization. "What is driving that growth [is] our expanding slate of technologies, from intelligent vacuum cleaners to air purifiers to lights," said Max Conze, chief executive. *Financial Times*

▲ Myanmar-Japan joint venture eyes airline license -

Myanmar's already cluttered airline industry could be about to welcome another carrier into its ranks. Japan's ANA Holdings and Shwe Than Lwin-owned Golden Sky World have formed a joint venture and applied to set up

an international airline, according to a Transport Ministry official. The joint venture submitted a "late application" to the outgoing government, which is awaiting approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), a director at the ministry's Department of Civil Aviation told the Myanmar Times. The airline is "tentatively" named Asian Blue, and will only serve international routes, added the director, whose name was not identified by the Myanmar Times. He did not say when the application had



been made. ANA Holding's equity participation in its new joint venture will be limited to 49%, the director said. Airline industry sources said that the joint venture had already received approval from the ministry. The department director would not comment on the ministry's approval process, and said the decision now lay with the MIC. *Bangkok Post*

▲ Hertz expands Asian footprint with Thrifty's Thai entry -

The Hertz Corporation's HTZ unit, Thrifty Car Rental took another step toward international expansion with its foray into Thailand. The car rental brand opened two noteworthy locations - Bangkok downtown at Sathorn Road and Pattaya Downtown at North Pattaya Road. Thrifty's extension to Thailand follows Hertz's extended collaboration with its longstanding franchise partner, Paragon Car Rental Co., Ltd. Paragon Car Rental started operating Hertz in Thailand nearly 13 years ago, and the aforementioned expansion is likely to strengthen the partnership between the two companies. Additionally, Thrifty is set to operate at seven new airport locations



in 2016, thereby strengthening its network further. These locations include global airports at Donmuang (Bangkok), Suvarnabhumi (Bangkok), Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Chiang Rai, Phuket and Samui. The company's Thai locations are systematically placed at appropriate urban areas, which can cater to both local and international travelers. These branches not only bring Thrifty's car rental services closer to value-oriented customers, but also provide the benefits of choosing from a diverse fleet, competitive rates and modern options. The brand's fleet in Thailand includes vehicles ranging from compact to full-size cars as well as vans. *Nasdaq*

FAIRS & EXHIBITS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

DATES 2016	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	VENUE			
3-5 May 	HK Int'l Medical Devices and Supplies Fair (HKTDCC, Tel: 852-1830-668, Email: exhibitions@hktdcc.org, URL: www.hktdcc.com/fair/hkmedicalfair-en/)	Hong Kong	17-21 May 	Istanbul Int'l HOMETEXTILES Exbn. (Istanbul Trade Fairs Inc., Tel: 90-212-465-7474, Email: ozge.karayel@cnr.net, URL: cnrevteks.com/Default.aspx?In=2)	Istanbul Turkey
5-7 May 	Meditex Bangladesh 2016 Int'l Expo (CEMS Global – Tel: 1-646-416-7902, Email: cems@cemsonline.com, URL: cems-meditex.com/)	Dhaka Bangladesh	18-20 May 	Educational IT Solutions Expo (Reed Exbns Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8519, Email: edix-eng@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: www.edix-expo.jp/en/Home/)	Tokyo Japan
5-7 May 	ECOTECH Vietnam 2016 (VINEXAD) , Tel: 84-4-3825-5546 ext. 430, Email: yenpth@vinexad.com.vn, URL: www.ecotechvietnam.com/)	HCMC Vietnam	18-20 May 	Int'l Food Ingredients & Additives Exbn. (EJK Japan, Ltd., Tel: 81-3-6459-0444, Email: ifia-info@ejk-japan.co.jp, URL: www.ifi-japan.com)	Tokyo Japan
5-8 May 	Taipei Manufacturing Technology Show (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200, Email: mt@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.mtduo.com.tw/en_US/index.html)	Taipei Taiwan	18-20 May 	Int'l Uzbekistan Oil and Gas Exbn. (ITE Group Plc, Tel: 44-20-7596-5000, Fax: 44-20-7596-5111, Email: enquiry@ite-exhibitions.com, URL: oilgas.uz/)	Tashkent Uzbekistan
10-12 May 	Ozwater'16 (Australian Water Assn., Tel: 61-2-9436-0055, Fax: 61-2-9436-0155, Email: ozwater@awa.asn.au, URL: www.ozwater.org/)	Melbourne Australia	18-20 May 	ENTECH Hanoi 2016 (Global Expo & Event JSC, Tel: 84-4-3755-3414, Email: quangvinh@globalexpo.com.vn, URL: entechhanoi.com.vn/en/)	Hanoi Vietnam
10-12 May 	Plastic, Packaging & Print Asia Int'l Exbn (Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan Pvt Ltd, Tel: 92-21-3453-6321, Email: info@plastpackasia.com.pk, URL: plastpackasia.com.pk/)	Karachi Pakistan	19-21 May 	Azerbaijan Int'l Food Industry Exbn. (Iteca Caspian LLC, Tel: 994-12-404-1000, Email: food@iteca.az, URL: www.worldfood.az/2016/)	Baku Azerbaijan
10-13 May 	Int'l Food Industry Exbn. (Kotra, Tel: 82-2-3460-7266, Fax: 82-2-3460-7918, Email: info@seoulfood.or.kr, URL: seoulfood.or.kr/eng/main.asp)	Seoul Korea	19-21 May 	Int'l Exbn for the Energy Industry (Pegasus Consultancy, Tel: 92-21-111-734-266, Email: info@pogee.com.pk, URL: www.pogee-pakistan.com/)	Lahore Pakistan
10-14 May 	TURKEYBUILD Istanbul 2016 (ITE Group Plc, Tel: 6016-967-2075, Email: colin.ho@ite-ap.com, URL: www.yapifuari.com.tr/eng/)	Istanbul Turkey	25-29 May 	Indonesia Building Technology Expo (ITE Group Plc, Tel: 44-2-7596-5170, Email: indobuildtech@ite-exhibitions.com, URL: www.indobuildtech.com/)	Jakarta Indonesia
11-13 May 	TRANSCASPIAN 2016 (Iteca Caspian LLC, Tel: 994-12-404-1037, Fax: 994-12-404-1001, Email: transport@iteca.az, URL: www.transcaspian.az/2016/)	Baku Azerbaijan	25-29 May 	International Jewellery Exbn. (Restec Exbn. Co., Ltd., Tel: 7-812-303-9860, Fax: 7-812-303-9869, Email: overseas@restec.ru, URL: eng.rjexpert.ru/)	Moscow Russia
11-13 May 	Smart Cities India 2016 (Exbns India Group, Tel: 91-11-4279-5000, Email: praveens@eigroup.in, URL: www.smartcitiesindia.com/)	New Delhi India	31 May - 2 Jun 	SIAL ASEAN Inspire Food Business (COMEXPO SIUM, Tel: 33-1-7677-1333, Email: info@sialasean.com, URL: www.sial-network.com/)	Manila Philippines
11-13 May 	Japan IT Week (Reed Exbns. Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8519, Email: itweek-spring@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: www.japan-it.jp/en/)	Tokyo Japan	31 May - 3 Jun 	Int'l Exbn. on Environmental Tech & Green Energy (KEPA, Tel: 82-2-3407-1543, Email: Victoria@epa.or.kr, URL: www.envex.or.kr/)	Seoul Korea
12-14 May 	Int'l Invention & Innovation Exbn (C.I.S Network Sdn Bhd, Tel: 603-7982-4668, Fax: 603-7982-1648, Email: info@itex.com.my, URL: itex.com.my/)	K.L. Malaysia	31 May - 3 Jun 	EnterpriseIT2016 Exbn (S'pore Exbn Services, Tel: 65-6233-6638, Email: enterpriseit@sesallworld.com, URL: www.goto-enterpriseit.com/)	Singapore
12-14 May 			31 May - 4 Jun 	Asian Int'l Trade & Tourism Expo (Conference & Exbn Management Services, Email: contact@asiantradeexpo.org, URL: asiantradeexpo.org/)	Dhaka Bangladesh
14-15 May 	HK Int'l Education Expo (Neway Int'l Trade Fairs Ltd., Tel: 852-2561-5566, Email: info@newayfairs.com, URL: www.newayfairs.com/)	Hong Kong	31 May - 4 Jun 	COMPUTEX Taipei (TAITRA, Contact: Shawn Lee, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200 Ext. 2637, Email: shawn@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.computextaipei.com.tw/)	Taipei Taiwan

TECHNOLOGY

NCKU, Delta join forces on 'smart fish farming'

Smart technology is being brought to the fish farming industry, with National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) and major power management supplier Delta Electronics Inc. announcing on March 17 their plans to jointly establish a research and development center for fish farming.



One of their first projects is to cultivate a type of shrimp, said a university official.

The Research Center for Smart Fish Farming will be located at NCKU's Annan Campus in Tainan City, announced the university's President Jenny Su and Delta founder Bruce Cheng.

Cheng expressed hopes that the industry-academia cooperative project will bring forth new technology beneficial to the industry in general, as well as provide cost-effective solutions to issues regarding food safety and the environment.

Cheng stressed that with climate change and a growing frequency of natural disasters, many fish farms lack an understanding of their surroundings and continue to emit toxic water, damaging the environment.

The Delta executive said they would utilize the combined knowledge of their technological

understanding of the Internet of Things and the research done by the NCKU biology department's research teams to solve problems.

The firm said it would provide its various resources, from renewable energy, auto monitoring systems, work place safety, biological disease control, image sensor systems, data storage systems and computer algorithms. *The China Post*

Robots and other technologies revolutionize hotels



The physical and digital world are overlapping wherever we look, and hotels, too, are following the trend in a bid to offer their guests the best services possible. But amid all the technological buzz, some neglect the personal, human touch that is so vital to the hospitality industry.

Without a doubt, mobile technology can enhance the efficiency of hotel services. Early March, Marriott International announced that it would become the first global hospitality company to offer Apple Pay check-in and out. The introduction this summer in the United States will include The Ritz-Carlton, Renaissance and Marriott brands. When guests check in, they can swipe their iPhone or Apple watch near a reader at the front desk to have their payment information captured. The process takes less than a minute, multiple

times faster than the traditional check-in, which takes at least five minutes.

"Approximately 75 percent of our guests travel with one or more mobile devices, and the rate is even higher among the 26- to 35-year-olds — a group that will make up a much larger proportion of our guests over the next three years," said George Corbin, senior vice president of Marriott Digital. *Shanghai Daily*

Japanese scientists discover a PET-eating bacteria



According to the journal Science, a Japanese research team from Kyoto Institute of Technology and Keio University has discovered a species of bacterium that can break down and metabolize PET plastic. Reads the discovery abstract, "By screening natural microbial communities exposed to PET in the environment, we isolated a novel bacterium, Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6, that is able to use PET as its major energy and carbon source."

"When grown on PET, this strain produces two enzymes capable of hydrolyzing PET and the reaction intermediate, mono(2-hydroxyethyl) terephthalic acid. Both enzymes are required to enzymatically convert PET efficiently into its two environmentally benign monomers, terephthalic acid and ethylene glycol." *PackWorld*

Published monthly by the Secretariat, Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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POLICY UPDATES

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

Bangladesh

Bangladesh's cotton imports from India rise 36%

Cotton imports from India increased 36 percent year-on-year to 2.99 million bales in 2015, according to data from Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

India became the largest cotton supplier to Bangladesh's spinners and weavers thanks to the rise in imports, the industry insiders said. One bale weighs 480 pounds or 218 kilograms.

In 2015, Bangladesh imported 6.1 million bales of cotton, 49 percent of which came from India. In 2014, cotton import from India grew by 27 percent year-on-year to 2.2 million bales, which was 37 percent of that year's total cotton import of 5.91 million bales.

Cotton imports from India started climbing in 2011. Bangladesh imported total 4.37 million bales of cotton that year, of which 1.66 million bales came from India, registering a 48 percent year-on-year growth. *The Daily Star*

Brunei

Brunei eyes private investments in primary industries

The government is turning to private investments into Brunei's primary industries to boost productivity and drive economic growth in the upcoming fiscal year, said the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism on March 14.

Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Hj Ali Hj Apong said the ministry will not rely on government spending to achieve their target in increasing production in the industries of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.

"We will mainly be offering private companies, government-linked companies (GLCs) and foreign investors to invest in these industries," he said, speaking at the ongoing 12th Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting.

He said the government is currently reviewing a proposal made by

an international party that wishes to invest \$30 million into an offshore aquaculture project. *Brunei Times*

Hong Kong

Hong Kong slashes taxes on personal income, businesses

Workers in Hong Kong will receive a 75-percent cut on personal income tax, Financial Secretary John Tsang announced on February 24.

In his ninth budget speech, Tsang said the income tax cut would be capped at HK\$20,000 (US\$2,570). About 1.9 million taxpayers will benefit from the tax cut, reported the South China Morning Post. The measure is set to cost the southern Chinese city's government HK\$17 billion.

Business tax and registration fees would also be slashed to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), said Tsang. In addition, license fees for travel agents, hotels, restaurants and hawkers will be waived, as those sectors have been hit hard by a slump in tourism, Tsang added.

Tsang estimated that the city's economy would grow between 1 and 2 percent in 2016. Hong Kong's economic growth came in at 2.3 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2015, according to data released by the government. *Channel News Asia*

India

Indian Parliament approves important real estate bill, to aid homemakers

A new Real Estate Bill approved by the Lower House of Indian Parliament will allow home-owners to take errand builders to task.

Indian Parliament on March 15 approved the long awaited Real Estate Bill that seeks to protect the interests of buyers and deals firmly with unscrupulous builders who resort to delay and deceit to make a fast buck at the expense of gullible clients. The vetting of the bill is significant in the context of the real estate boom in India with soaring property prices, glut of

buyers from home and abroad- and consequently the gradual paucity of prime land.

The Real Estate Regulation and Development Bill, seeking to reform and revamp the housing sector, is all set to go to the statute book with the Lower House of Parliament passing the measure, approved by the Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Council of States). The Bill will soon go to the President for his assent, a constitutional condition for a legislation to become an Act.

The Bill is expected to bring the real estate sector into strong regulatory framework by setting up a real estate regulator. *The Statesman*

Japan

Finance Minister says no need for fresh economic stimulus

Finance Minister Taro Aso said on March 22 that the Japanese economy's fundamentals were firm and there was no need to adopt fresh fiscal spending to stimulate it.

"At the moment we are not considering the need to take further fiscal spending steps. We need to continue to coordinate with the international community," Mr Aso told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

He made the remark when asked about growing calls in some quarters for Japan to take a leadership role as G-7 chair in coordinating fiscal steps to boost domestic demand. *Reuters*

Korea

South Korea finance minister vows stepped up efforts to sign new FTAs

South Korea's top financial official vowed an all-out effort on March 14 to sign new free trade agreements (FTAs) to help expand the country's exports.

Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho said the new free trade pacts will include a bilateral FTA with Israel.

"The government will actively seek to sign new FTAs, such as a Korea-Israel FTA, and closely review

POLICY UPDATES

the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement to help maximize the benefits the country can enjoy,” he said.

South Korea has yet to announce its official participation in the recently signed TPP, but has repeatedly said it may consider doing so.

Yoo’s remarks came as the country’s exports remain weak. South Korea’s exports dropped for 14 straight months since the start of last year, tumbling 12.2 percent on-year in February alone. *Yonhap News*

Philippines

Philippines aims to become biggest IT-BPM market

The Philippines is confident of becoming the world’s biggest market for information technology-business process management (IT-BPM) on the back of continued government support and more quality talents in the local labor force.

“We are pretty much top two, top three in the IT-BPM servicing market in the world, hence why we have always been known as the destination of choice for IT-BPM services,” IT and Business Process Association Philippines (IBPAP) chairman Danilo Sebastian Reyes told The STAR in an interview.

With new government leaders coming in this year along with the increasing number of university-produced talents, Reyes said there is an opportunity for the Philippines to dethrone India as the IT-BPM servicing leader in the world. *Philippine Star*

Singapore

Singapore economy to expand 1.9% in 2016: MAS Survey

The Singapore economy is set to grow slower than previously projected in December, the survey of professional forecasters published by Monetary Authority of Singapore revealed on March 16.

The city-state economy is forecast to grow 1.9 percent this year compared

to the prior projection of 2.2 percent.

For the first quarter, the respondents expect GDP to grow 1.6 percent.

Economists forecast consumer prices to fall 0.2 percent in 2016 instead of a 0.5 percent rise projected in the prior survey period. The outlook for core inflation was lowered to 0.8 percent from 1 percent.

For 2017, GDP growth is set to reach 2.5 percent, while CPI All-Items and MAS core inflation are projected to come in at 1.0 percent and 1.5 percent respectively, the survey showed. *RTT News*

Taiwan

Taiwan govt launches liquefaction-risk inquiry system

The Executive Yuan released the long-awaited inquiry system for soil liquefaction zones in eight regions nationwide on March 14, providing residents with the means to check the status of the areas where they reside.

The system, led and set up by the Ministry of Economic Affairs’ (MOEA) Central Geological Survey (CGS), can be accessed via the Economics Ministry’s website and provides two versions for Internet users — one for members of the public and one for professionals.

Resembling online map services, users can insert their residential address into the system and find out whether they are residing in soil liquefaction-risk areas.

For professionals looking to use the database for construction or related use, another version should be used, Cabinet spokesman Sun Lih-chyun said. *The China Post*

Thailand

Thailand’s sugar producers must diversify to ensure profitability

The world’s largest sugar-cane producer, Kaset Thai International Sugar Corporation (KTIS), says Thai

sugar companies must diversify into by-products to sustain profitability.

KTIS owns Kaset Thai Sugar Factory, Thai Identity Sugar Factory and Ruamphol Sugar Factory. Kaset Thai Sugar Factory is the world’s largest, with a capacity of 55,000 tons of sugar-cane per day. Combined with Thai Identity’s 18,000 tons and Ruamphol’s 15,000 tons, KTIS has a total capacity of 88,000 tons of sugar cane per day.

Even though KTIS is a large company, it cannot avoid the effects from the decline in the sugar price, said chief financial officer Sirivuthi Siamphakdee.

Parphan Siriviriyakul, chief executive officer of KTIS Group, added that by-products of sugar cane would help the company manage costs, so the company must think about how use its raw materials to strengthen its existing businesses. *The Nation*

Vietnam

Vietnam’s green cities project gets US\$224 million boost

Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng has approved the funding of nearly US\$224 million for Secondary Cities Development Project (Green Cities).

The money will be borrowed from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The project will be carried out over five years in the three secondary cities, including Hà Giang in the northern province of Hà Giang, Vĩnh Yên in the northern province of Vĩnh Phúc and Huế in the central province of Thừa Thiên - Huế.

Focusing on urban services, flood protection, urban sewerage, and urban solid waste management, the project aims to improve and expand traffic systems and infrastructure, promote socio-economic development and tourism and increase people’s incomes.

It will also help cut pollution by improving drainage systems, waste treatment and environment sanitation. *Vietnam News*