



Discover business opportunities through CACCI at the 30th Annual Conference



30th CACCI Conference

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The Rise of Asia: Taking a Bigger Role in the Global Economy

November 23-25, 2016 | Taipei, Taiwan

The forthcoming 30th CACCI Conference on November 23-25, 2016 in Taipei will include a “Discover Business Opportunities through CACCI” session where CEOs of companies and successful entrepreneurs from various CACCI member countries will be invited to share their success stories.

Among the invited speakers are: Mr. Merrill J. Fernando, Founder and Chairman, Dilmah; Mr. Petr Panov, President, Center for Investment Technology and Trade; Mr. Arthur Huang, CEO/Founder of MINIWIZ; and Mr. Spencer Ho, Co-Founder and CTO, iChef.

About the 30th CACCI Conference

Jointly-hosted by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce Taiwan (CNAIC), this year’s Conference will take on the theme “**The Rise of Asia: Taking a Bigger Role in the Global Economy.**”

Over the past 50 years, global economic realities have undergone a sea change. Economic miracles by successive Asian countries – starting with Japan and continuing with a host of others at regular intervals – have enabled Asia to re-emerge as a dominant force in the global economy, growing bigger and richer. There is a growing consensus around the world that the center of gravity of the global economy is shifting towards Asia and that this trend is most likely to continue in the decades to come. The IMF considers Asia the “world’s most dynamic region”, noting that it accounts for 40 percent of the world economy and will deliver nearly two-thirds of global growth over the next four years.

The 30th CACCI Conference this year, which also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Confederation since its founding in 1966, will address the following questions: How can Asia play a much bigger role in shaping the global economy in the 21st century than it did in the

latter half of the 20th century? What challenges would Asian countries – individually and collectively – face in playing such a role and how will they meet these challenges? How should Asia – which in the past was heavily dependent on exports for its growth – nurture its new “second engine of growth”, which is domestic demand, in order to sustain its strong performance?

To register, please contact the CACCI Secretariat at cacci@cacci.biz.

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Telecom giant Sunil Bharti Mittal named ICC Chairman



Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has been elected Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Voting by ICC's World Council took place on June 15 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Bharti Enterprises has interests in telecom, insurance, real estate, hospitality, agri and food, besides other ventures. Bharti Airtel, the group's flagship company, is world's third largest telecommunications company by customer base, offering mobile, fixed broadband and digital TV solutions to over 350 million customers across India, South Asia and Africa.

Mr Mittal, who has served on the Prime Minister of India's Council on Trade and Industry, said: "At a time when the global economy is facing unprecedented challenges I am committed to ensuring ICC plays a central role as the voice of business in shaping policies to support inclusive growth. I am honored to be ICC's 51st Chairman and look forward to working actively with ICC's global network throughout the world."

Mr Mittal added: "There is an urgent need to restore trade and investment as a driver of growth and jobs-particularly in developing economies affected by the slowdown in raw materials and agricultural commodities markets. This will be a central focus for my tenure as

Chairman of the world business organization."

The International Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization with over 6.5 million members in over 130 countries. Mr Mittal becomes the third Indian

Chairman of the world business organization in its near-100 year history.

Mr Mittal takes over the ICC Chairmanship from Terry McGraw, Chairman Emeritus of S&P Global, who becomes ICC's Honorary Chairman.

Roberto Azevedo, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) paid tribute to Mr McGraw's leadership of ICC over the

past three years saying: "Over the years, Terry has played a huge role promoting the WTO and the multilateral trade agenda as a force for good. He was instrumental in building support behind the 2013 Trade Facilitation Agreement. I thank him for what he has done for the institution and for global trade in general."

ICC has also announced that John Denton, Partner and CEO of Corrs Chambers Westgarth, has been elected to take over from Mr Mittal as the organisation's First Vice-Chair. ICC's World Council has also elected three new members to its Executive Board: Anne Veronique Schlaepfer, Partner at global law firm White & Case; Kok Seng Vong, Vice-President of the Macao Chamber of Commerce; and Philippe Varin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of AREVA.

Current Board Members Esko Aho (Nokia), Milos Barutciski (Bennett Jones) and Cherie Nursalim (GITI Group) were all elected to serve a second term. ■



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Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are pleased to announce the launching of the official website of the 30th CACCI Conference to be held in Taipei Marriott Hotel, Taiwan on November 23-25, 2016.

You may now visit www.2016cacci.biz for the latest conference information.

Please help us promote this important event to those who may be interested.
Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you in November.

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Visit the Conference website at
www.2016cacci.biz

ICC welcomes new dialogue with WTO; highlights options for multilateral trade talks

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on May 30 welcomed the conclusion of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) first ever dialogue with the business community as an important step towards strengthening the global trade agenda.

The dialogue was initiated off the back of the successful outcome of the WTO's ministerial conference in Nairobi last December, and in response to growing concern within the global business community about faltering global trade growth.

Addressing WTO members, ICC's First Vice-Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said: "To be clear: business wants predictable, modern and up-to-date multilateral trade rules, negotiated and agreed at the WTO... Trade is expected to grow by less than 3% for the fifth consecutive year in 2016. We should not accept this as the new normal and we are ready to work constructively with WTO members to restore trade as a central driver of global growth."

The first-of-its-kind event identified a broad range of possible WTO initiatives to help boost trade-led inclusive growth. These included:

SME growth

Business leaders encouraged the WTO to explore possible initiatives to make trade easier for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), going beyond trade facilitation reforms to identify where harmonized rules and end-to-end standards can help small businesses access global markets. Access to financing was also highlighted as a priority to support SME trade growth.

Investment

Many participants in the dialogue expressed an interest in a new WTO dialogue to explore the scope for global standards in the field of investment promotion, protection and facilitation.

Sectoral liberalisation

The dialogue highlighted an interest from a range of sectors in pursuing sector-specific talks as a complement to the ongoing Doha Round.

E-commerce

There was a strong call from business leaders for the WTO to play a central role in underpinning an open, reliable and secure global digital economy. Participants

expressed particular interest in possible "e-commerce negotiations" which could encompass a broad range of issues such as customs duties, electronic signatures, data protection and localization requirements.

Speaking on the systemic importance of an e-commerce initiative, Mr Mittal said: "The global nature of e-commerce means that the WTO has a vital role to play in the further development of rules and standards for this area. E-commerce has the potential to revolutionize global trade flows. Today, even the smallest of businesses can go global if they can access the internet."

At the conclusion of the dialogue, ICC has called on WTO members to maintain contacts with the business community in taking forward possible new trade talks and initiatives.

ICC Secretary General John Danilovich said: "We have seen a positive discussion today about how we can work together to maximize the contribution of trade and investment to achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. We hope that today's initiative can be followed up with concrete steps including further meetings of this kind. ICC stands ready to support this dialogue in any way possible." ■



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization



**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**



PCCI launches support desk for LGU investment promotion

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has launched a local government unit trade and investment promotion (LGU-TIP) desk to support and facilitate investments and trade in the countryside.

PCCI president George Barcelon said the LGU-TIP desk would be instrumental in its program to engage the LGUs in the country's efforts to promote an investment-led and poverty reducing economic growth.

Barcelon said the LGU-TIP desk is expected to build on the gains of the local governance support program for local economic development, an eight-year program implemented by

the Department of the Interior and Local Government and funded by the Canadian government.

The project involves the development of new and enhanced policies at the national and local levels, as well as a variety of local initiatives that built competitive local industries, particularly in agribusiness and tourism.

Barcelon said "the TIP desk envisions itself as a bridge between the government (national and local) and local business communities in creating and enhancing a conducive business environment for inclusive growth."

"The TIP is the apex local

economic development resource network for investment promotion addressing the interests of the local governments and business community in the Philippines in trade, investment and corporate social responsibility relations," he added.

At present, the LGU-TIP desk has produced investment guides for the tourism destination areas such as Northern Palawan, Northern Antique, Guimaras, Albay-Sorsogon, Northern Cebu, Siquijor, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental and Davao del Norte.

The desk also promotes project proposals prepared by LGUs in the areas of energy, tourism, and agriculture. *Philippine Star*

CACCI releases latest editions of 4 PSCs Newsletters

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

Highlights of the new editions include the trends, latest news and interesting feature stories on health,

education, tourism, food, agriculture and women entrepreneurship in the Asia-Pacific region.

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 PSCs chairmen are inviting all members to join the 30th CACCI Conference in Taipei on November 23-25, 2016 and take advantage of the learning opportunity that comes with the plenary and breakout sessions.

The image displays four newsletters from CACCI (Chinese American Chamber of Commerce and Industry). Each newsletter features a cover with the CACCI logo and a title. The newsletters are: 1. Health & Education Newsletter (Volume 16, June 2016), 2. Tourism Newsletter (Volume 16, June 2016), 3. Food & Agriculture Newsletter (Volume 16, June 2016), and 4. Grow Newsletter (Volume 16, June 2016). Each newsletter includes a 'Message from the Chairperson' and a list of 'Inside this issue' topics. The newsletters are designed with a clean, professional layout, using a mix of colors and fonts to highlight key information.

Australian volunteers help YBSL to expand its operations

Youth Business Sri Lanka, an arm of the Ceylon Chamber which works to develop young entrepreneurs in the country is looking to transform and grow its engagement model with the support of two Australian volunteers.

Sean Burk, from Tasmania, an experienced accountant and financial controller and Richard McKeon, a Gold Coast based management consultant with experience in International Development are currently in Sri Lanka working with the YBSL to strategize its transformation program.

Sean, the CEO and CFO of Meals on Wheels Tasmania, a non-profit meal delivery firm in Australia will use his considerable financial and management expertise to help YBSL improve its fiscal reporting system, expand its mentor development network, as well as provide overall strategic guidance.

Richard, who runs a small consulting firm in Australia helping corporations, social enterprises and charities solve their strategic and operational problems, is helping YBSL adapt to new trends in youth entrepreneurship by launching innovative new services.

The duo are part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program, an Australian government initiative.

“I’m pleased to see the Australian volunteer program in Sri Lanka making such a useful contribution to young entrepreneurs and the business community as a whole” Bryce Hutchesson, Australian High Commissioner, said.

The AVID program is delivered in Sri Lanka by an Australian specialist project management company, Scope Global, in close association with the Australian High Commission, Colombo. There are currently a further 11 Australian volunteers working in Sri Lanka under the AVID program in the fields of forest management, education and training, and private sector



Mr. Sean Burk and Mr Richard McKeon, the Australian consultants in discussion with Mr. Vartharajah Kumaraguru, Country Manager of the Ceylon Chamber led YBSL.

development.

If you need help with a new business idea, you can get in touch with YBSL at info@ybsl.lk. You can follow

YBSL on Facebook (@YouthBusiSL), Twitter (@YouthBusiSL), and on the web www.ybsl.lk. *Ceylon Chamber News Release* ■

FPCCI building to be inaugurated on August 14

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Abdul Rauf Alam said that the FPCCI’s capital office building will be formally inaugurated on August 14, the country’s Independence Day.

He said that the offices of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be shifted in the building after Eid but it will be inaugurated formally on Youm-e-

Azaadi.

Abdul Rauf Alam said this while briefing national business leaders about the building that included Chairman of UBG Iftikhar Ali Malik, CEO TDAP SM Muneer, VP FPCCI Zafar Bakhtawri, Secretary General UBG Zubair Tufail, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Tanvir Ahmed Sheikh, Khalid Jaweed, Tariq Sadiq, Noor Ahmed Khan, Khalid Chaudhry and others. He shared that the building will have conference hall and other facilities of international quality which will be used by business community and others.

Rauf Alam said that work is on full swing as this project cannot be delayed any more. At the occasion, SM Muneer, Iftikhar Malik and others lauded the pace and quality of work and gave valuable inputs. *The News International* ■





Explore a world of flavors at the Food Week Korea 2016

Go on a food trip at the Food Week Korea 2016 to be held on November 2-5, 2016 in Seoul, South Korea.

Organized by Coex and supported by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Seoul City Office and Gangnam District Office, Food Week Korea is an international food exhibition featuring products and services from every sector of the global food industry.

The four-day event provides a premier destination for exhibitors and buyers of raw ingredients, machinery, packaging, food products, drinks, and desserts among others. Attendees can learn all about food trends for the future and expand their businesses into Asia at the scheduled Biz Matching Sessions. It is one of the most anticipated international exhibitions in Seoul, with as much as 1/4 of the total exhibitors visiting from overseas.

In its 2015 edition, out of the 909 exhibitors, there were over 153 representatives from approximately 30 different countries around the globe, featuring over 1,500 booths while welcoming approximately 79,520 visitors from the world.

For more details on the event, visit the event website <http://koreafoodweek.com/> or contact Mr. Sam Jin from Coex via phone: +82 - 02 - 6000 - 8195 or via e-mail: foodweek.info@coex.co.kr.



Indonesian government, Kadin launch SME marketplace

The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) and the Ministry of Cooperatives have launched a special marketplace for micro, small-medium enterprises and cooperatives (MSME) called ukmmarket.co.id.

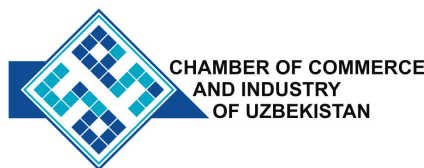
The marketplace aims to encourage MSMEs to grow and scale up their business and ultimately boost the country's economy. Data from McKinsey Global Institute shows that only 5% of SMEs have the ability to make online transactions. SMEs can contribute up to 2% of the country's economy with potential income growth of 23-80 per cent if they utilise digital technology to market their products. In addition to



Vice Chairman of Kadin SMEs, cooperatives and the Creative Economy Sandiaga Uno, the Deputy Kemenkop Yuana Sutiyowati and the Secretary Kemenkop, Agus Muharram - Photo by Kadin

providing the marketplace, both parties have also agreed to provide training on utilizing information and technology and e-commerce to the MSME players. Sandiaga Uno, head of Kadin, said the launch of ukmmarket.co.id will provide a strong foundation to the country's economy given the huge base of MSMEs in the country. *Deal Street Asia* ■

Uzbekistan to host International Fruit and Vegetable Trade Fair 2016



The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (CCIUz) is inviting all CACCI members to attend the International Fruit and Vegetable Trade Fair-2016 that will be held on July 12-14, 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The fair aims to promote local fruit and vegetable, as well

as processed products produced in Uzbekistan available for export. It also looks to establish business relations and strengthen cooperation of domestic entrepreneurs with foreign partners, assist small businesses by implementation of advanced technologies, and expand foreign trade and investment links with foreign companies.

For more information, interested parties may wish to contact Ms. Gulchehra Ismailova, Leading Specialist of Department of Export promotion of the CCIUz, via e-mail: g.ismailova@chamber.uz. ■

PRODUCT & SERVICE COUNCILS

Asian Textiles & Garments Council

Vietnam textile exports inch up 6.1%

Garment and textile industry exports in the first five months of this year rose 6.1 percent to US\$8.6 billion, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.



The rise was lower than the targeted growth of 10 percent this year. In May, the industry earned \$1.75 billion, up only 3.8 percent.

The United States was the largest export market of the industry, with \$3.4 billion, up 6 percent. The European Union, Japan and South Korea followed with \$936 million, \$845.17 million and \$677.2 million, respectively.

Industry insiders are concerned with meeting the industry's export target of \$31 billion this year due to falling export prices and difficulties in finding new export contracts, especially for shirts, pants and jackets.

Thân Đức Việt, deputy general director of the Garment No.10 Corporation, said this year's business results for local textile and garment exporters, especially among small- and medium-sized firms, were not as good as expected due to rising input costs and falling demand. *Vietnam News*

Asian ICT Council

Japan to tackle 5G research

Japanese government research to develop services using the fifth-generation (5G) communications system will start in fiscal 2017, with an aim to putting such services on the market in fiscal 2020.

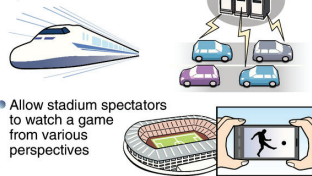
The 5G super-fast mobile network

will be two generations past the current 3.9 generation Long Term Evolution, or LTE, technology, and will offer communications speeds up to about 100 times faster. As one of its major advantages, 5G will be able to maintain transmissions even when a much larger number of people are using the Internet.

The Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry will work with private-sector companies to beef up its efforts to develop services featuring 5G technology, as it believes the types of services available will be key to promoting the network.

Envisioned services featuring 5G

- Allow users to watch high-resolution images on the Internet while riding high-speed trains
- Promote safe driving by connecting vehicles to the Internet



Advantages of 5G

- Data transmission speeds of up to 10 gigabits per second
- Up to 1 million connections per square kilometer
- Data response time shortened to 1 millisecond

The ministry will include related expenses in its budget request for fiscal 2017. It hopes to work with not only communications and electronics companies, but also automakers, image-related and other firms in developing services featuring 5G. *The Japan News*

Asian Council on Food and Agriculture

Global rice output still down due to El Nino

The prices of rice in the global market are still rising as lingering El Niño-related droughts continued to affect negatively the outlook for rice production in 2016, according to a United Nations-supervised monitoring system.

Based on the latest monthly market report of the Agricultural Market Information System (Amis), the rice production forecast for 2016 was lowered by one million tons to 494 million tons.

Still, the latest forecast is one percent higher than the previous year's estimated output of 490 million tons.

"Prospects for Bangladesh, Brazil and China deteriorate. Exporting countries to account for much of the one-percent upturn in global output," the Amis said.



On the other hand, the forecast trade volume was raised by 100,000 tons to 44.1 million tons. The new figure is still short of the estimated 44.7 million tons traded the previous year. *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Asian Council on Tourism

Shanghai Disney seen as nation's top future draw

The Shanghai Disney Resort, which officially opened on June 16, is expected to surpass the Palace Museum in Beijing as the top spot for visitors in China.

According to a report by online travel agency Ctrip, the resort is expected to receive at least 15 million visitors a year, more than 40,000 a day.

Last year, the Palace Museum saw a total of 15 million tourists.



With each visitor expected to spend an average of 2,219 yuan (\$340) on a trip to Shanghai Disney, revenue would reach 33 billion yuan a year, the report said.

It also found that tourists from Shanghai are likely to make up 40 percent of visitors. *China Daily*

ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWS

Singapore, Australia seal pact to boost fintech trade

Financial technology (fintech) firms looking to do business in Australia will find it easier, thanks to a new agreement between the countries' financial regulators.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) on June 16 signed what is called the Innovation Functions Cooperation Agreement.

This will allow fintech firms in Singapore and Australia to speed up the process of entering each other's markets, including setting up early discussions more quickly and getting advice on required licenses.

MAS chief fintech officer Sopnendu Mohanty said in a statement that the agreement would create opportunities for firms to grow and expand in both places.

"MAS is also looking forward to partner ASIC in joint innovation projects on the application of key technologies such as digital and mobile payments, blockchain and distributed ledgers, big data, and application programming interfaces," he added. *The Straits Times*

New era of Indo-Bangla trade begins

There have been criticisms that the transit fee for Indian goods through Bangladesh is too low.

Transshipment of goods inaugurated on June 16 by Bangladesh and India promises to boost both the economies by promoting trade and movement of people.

"Today is a very important day in the history of relations between the two countries," said Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony.

Both sides will reap the benefits, said Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, adding that Bangladeshi ships and trucks would be carrying goods, and

jobs would be created for local people.

On the other side in India's northeastern region, the transshipment facility would ease people's lives, Shringla said. The existing route within India is three times the Kolkata-Ashuganj-Akhaura-Tripura route. *The Daily Star*

Singapore, Sri Lanka to pursue free trade agreement

Singapore and Sri Lanka are keen to pursue a free trade agreement, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S. Iswaran said on June 1. He was speaking at the Sri Lanka-Singapore Business Forum in the Sri Lankan commercial capital of Colombo to an audience of over 140 businessmen from Singapore and Sri Lankan companies.

At a meeting before the forum, Mr Iswaran and the Sri Lankan Minister for Development Strategies and International Trade, Mr Malik Samarawickrama, had agreed that both countries would benefit from a comprehensive FTA, and directed their officials to study it.

The FTA is expected to contain commitments on trade in goods, services, investment and government procurement.

Mr Iswaran said the FTA "will enhance economic flows by lowering barriers to entry and providing greater market access" for Singapore and Sri Lankan companies. *The Straits Times*

India keen to help Brunei's agriculture, IT sectors

A large chunk of the Indian economy is made up of the agricultural and IT sectors, which it wants to share with Brunei.

India is keen to use its vast experience in agriculture and IT to help Brunei meet its goals for a diversified economy and improved food security.

During a visit to the Indian High Commission by both National and

Brunei Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI and BMCCI), Nagma Mohamed Mallick, Indian High Commissioner to Brunei, said there are more areas for potential economic cooperation that Brunei and India can work with.

"India's strengths are in agriculture and IT exports and these are two areas where both Brunei and India can work on more," she said.

Both the agricultural and IT sectors account for a large chunk of the Indian economy.

According to the Asian Development Bank, India has the highest rate of economic growth among the South Asian countries with 7.4 per cent growth forecasted for 2016 and 7.8 per cent for 2017. In 2013, India's gross domestic product was at US\$1.87 trillion according to the World Bank. *The Brunei Times*

Japan's firms investing more in ASEAN, skipping China

Japanese investment in Southeast Asia continues to grow because of the region's potential and low labor costs and amid simmering tensions that have reduced the appeal of China for some businesses.

For a third straight year, in 2015 the amount of foreign direct investment from Japan to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations exceeded such investment in China and Hong Kong, according to figures compiled by the Japan External Trade Organization.

The pace has been accelerating — the outstanding amount of Japanese investment to ASEAN nations had almost tripled from five years ago to ¥20.1 trillion at the end of last year, according to Bank of Japan data.

Japanese investment growth to China slowed after protests there intensified in 2012 following a territorial dispute over Japan-held islets in the East China Sea, prompting companies to diversify investment risks. *Japan Times*

ACCI chief James Pearson wants a stronger voice for business

James Pearson knows better than most people that speaking out on policy matters comes at a price.

"I've been through it," he told *The Australian*.

The former diplomat and Shell executive, who replaced Kate Carnell as head of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), is talking about his 1992 expulsion from Vanuatu.

He was acting High Commissioner and given 24 hours to leave the country after he relayed the then Keating government's concerns about a law allowing the South Pacific nation to revoke business licenses with no reasons and no legal appeals.

"That expulsion was a very difficult time for me and my family, as you can imagine," he recalls.

While the business and expatriate community rallied around Pearson, his wife and his young sons, "it did feel threatening when it's announced on national radio that you are persona non grata".

"Now as it turned out the 24 hours had to be extended to 48 hours because as someone pointed out to the Vanuatu government there was no flight in 24 hours back to Australia," he recalls.

Almost 25 years have passed but for Pearson, the memories come flooding back as he worries that robust commentary is being impeded in Australia because corporate leaders fear some politicians could engage in a "settling of scores" after election campaigns.

"In terms of angst about standing up for what you believe in, I think the business community should recognize it has a legitimate point of view, it has a well-informed point of view," he says.

"And it should never be scared of taking part in debate, public policy debate, no matter how robust it becomes, because those voices that are against the interests of business will



James Pearson says Australians cannot afford to become complacent. Picture: Ray Strange

not silence themselves. So why should business?"

Pearson was actively involved in student politics while an undergraduate at the University of Western Australia and says it taught him about the value of the political process and about "the power of collective action".

"There is power in collective action and the more business voices that are added to the debate, the harder it is for that implicit threat of retribution to be taken seriously," he says of the current election campaign.

While plenty of politicians got their start in student unions, Pearson only contemplated going down that path from time to time.

Besides, he considers the job he has now to be "intensely" political, except that "I don't have the indignity of having to put myself up for election every three years".

Pearson was appointed in April after the departure of former Liberal politician Kate Carnell.

He says his vision for the job is to allow the chamber to "become a movement" and use that to secure "long-term bipartisan backing for business in Australia".

"The Australian chamber network represents around 300,000 enterprises employing around four million workers," he says.

"Now the Australian trade union

movement represents a little over one in 10 Australians working in the private sector. But who has the strongest voice? Shouldn't we have a stronger, more influential voice?"

Pearson's other frustration is that Australia's competitiveness has slipped in rankings such as the World Economics Forum's index.

He moved to Australia with his "£10 Pom" parents as a child and believes the migrant experience means "you do try hard, you want to make it a winner". His frustration is also shaped by what he learned from Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade postings to Nigeria at a time when it was considered "the giant of Africa" and later to Beijing as China's economic reforms gathered pace in the mid-1990s.

He realized when working and living overseas "that there are lots and lots of other countries and lots and lots of people living in them who are increasingly at least as well educated as we are, increasingly enjoy at least as good infrastructure as we do and in many cases are much more highly motivated to succeed than many Australians are".

"That's not meant as a criticism of Australians. It's not some sly remark about young people. It's more about expectations and what we've become used to. We cannot be complacent."

The Australian

■

INVESTMENT & JOINT VENTURES IN THE REGION

- ▲ **King Power secures 39% stake in Asia Aviation in US\$223m deal** - Duty-free operator King Power Group has taken a 39-per-cent controlling stake in Asia Aviation (AAV), the operator of Thailand's largest budget airline Thai AirAsia, from the carrier's chief executive Tassapon Bijleveld and two of his



family members in a deal worth more than 7.9 billion baht (US\$223.71 million). AAV reported to the Stock Exchange of Thailand on June 12 that its board of directors had given its approval for Tassapon and his family to sell 1.8915 billion shares for 4.20 baht each to Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, founder and CEO of King Power Duty Free, and four of his family members. AAV's share price closed at 6 baht yesterday, up 10 satang or 1.69 percent. After the transaction was completed through big lot of purchases via the SET, Tassapon reduced his shareholding in AAV from 13 percent to 5 percent. He reduced his two family members' shares from a combined 31 percent stake to zero, while Vichai has 14 percent and his four relatives take up the balance of 25.82 percent. Vichai will have to proceed with a mandatory tender offer to acquire all remaining securities of AAV from its other shareholders in accordance with stock-market regulations. *The Nation*

- ▲ **Malaysian firm plans to set up motorcycle factory in Sri Lanka** - DNC Asiatic Holdings Sdn Bhd, which has



DEMAK

invested some 10 million ringgit

(US\$2.45 million) to develop the market for its Malaysian-made Demak motorcycles in Sri Lanka, has plans to set up manufacturing facilities there. According to executive director Hu Ying, the company would consider setting up a manufacturing plant in Sri Lanka once the Demak brand is firmly established with sizeable market share and annual sales of at least between 25,000-30,000 units in that country. Wholly-owned subsidiary Demak Manufacturing Lanka (Pvt) Ltd has acquired a 10-acre land, located about 20km from the international airport in Colombo, for the proposed plant project. Hu said the company's Sri Lanka operations currently assembled Demak bikes from knocked-down components manufactured by DNC Asiatic's main factory in Selangor. The company also owns a manufacturing plant in Kuching, and the two plants have a total production capacity of 120,000 units per annum. *The Star*

- ▲ **Nokia signs €1.36b cloud, network technology deal with China Mobile** - Nokia has signed a 1.36-billion-euro (\$1.53 billion) frame agreement with China Mobile to create a "cloud network" for the Chinese operator, the Finnish telecom equipment giant said on June 12. The deal would entail "seamless connectivity that will more efficiently meet the ever-growing data demands of its subscriber base,"



Nokia said in a statement. Nokia is to deliver a new type of base station which allows the use of multiple radio technologies simultaneously and is scalable to support all connection speeds from the oldest to the upcoming, ultra-fast 5G networks and connected objects. China Mobile is the world's largest mobile operator and one of three public operators in the Chinese market. Nokia, the world's former number one in handsets, now concentrates on network equipment. The deal was signed in Beijing at the Sino-German Economic Forum by Li Huidi, China Mobile's Vice President, and Hans-Juergen Bill, head of Nokia Networks in Germany, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel and China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang present. *The Economic Times*

- ▲ **London Stock Exchange Group to set up business arm in Sri Lanka** - Sri Lanka continues to push for more Foreign Direct Investments from around the globe. The Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka has signed an agreement with the London Stock Exchange Group, to set up their global business services arm in Colombo. The agreement was signed by Chairman of BOI Sri Lanka, Upul Jayasuriya and LSEG Group Head of Shared Services, Martin Ryan. Jayasuriya said that the project was very significant since it reflected the growing attractiveness of Sri Lanka as a destination for Foreign Direct Investments in the high technology sector. "It also proves that we have the capacity to attract investments by leading companies in the world, particularly from the United Kingdom." The new facility would directly employ 400 personnel in high technology jobs. It will provide technology services which are central to the group's global network. LSEG would invest and recruit in Sri Lanka, which will further boost the country's IT Sector. The facility will be located in the "Tripoli Market" district of Colombo, he added. *The Island*

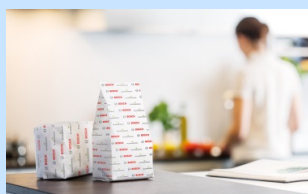


FAIRS & EXHIBITS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

DATES 2016	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	VENUE		
3-6 Aug. 	Manufacturing Surabaya 2016 (PT Pamerindo Indonesia, Tel: 62-21-2525-320, Email: maysia@pamerindo.com, URL: manufacturingsurabaya.com/)	Surabaya Indonesia	18-20 Aug. 	Vietbeauty (JBM Asia, Tel: 84-8-5401-2718, Fax: 84-8-5401-2717, Email: vietbeauty@ubm.com, URL: www.vietbeautyshow.com/) HCMC Vietnam
5-8 Aug. 	Malaysia Int'l Jewellery Fair (Elite Expo Sdn Bhd, Tel: 603-5891-1157, Email: exhibition@elite.com.my, URL: elite.com.my/mijf/)	K.L. Malaysia	18-21 Aug. 	Int'l Furniture & Interior Fair (Korea Federation of Furniture Industry Co-operatives, Email: jeong5946@empal.com, URL: www.kofurn.or.kr/pc.html) Goyang Korea
8-9 Aug. 	Agri Cambodia 2016 (Veas Co., Ltd., Tel: 84-8-3842-7755, Fax: 84-8-3948-1188, Email: rosie.tran@veas.com.vn, URL: agriculture-exhibition.com/)	Phnom Penh Cambodia	22-24 Aug. 	Food Ingredients and Health Ingredients India (UBM Live, Email: georgina.smith@ubm.com, URL: www.figlobal.com/india/) New Delhi India
10-12 Aug. 	TECHINDIA 2016 (Int'l Trade and Exhibitions India Pvt Ltd., Tel: 91-11-4082-8282, Email: gagan.sahnil@itei.in, URL: www.techindiaexpo.com/Home)	New Delhi India	24-26 Aug. 	IT Convergence Expo Korea 2016 (EXCO, Tel: 82-53-601-5384, Fax: 82-53-601-5372, Email: itce@exco.co.kr, URL: www.itce.kr/eng/itce.asp) Daegu Korea
11-13 Aug. 	Vietnam Medi-Pharm Expo 2016 (VINEXAD, Tel: 84-4-3825-5546, Email: medipharmexpo@vinexad.com.vn, URL: hcm.medipharmexpo.com/en)	HCMC Vietnam	25-28 Aug. 	Int'l Exbn of Automotive Industry (Crocus Expo, Tel: 7-495-727-2631, Email: shkambarniy@crocus-off.ru, URL: eng.interauto-expo.ru/interauto/) Moscow Russia
11-15 Aug. 	Food Expo 2016 (HKTDCC, Tel: 852-2240-4907, Fax: 852-2824-0026, Email: exhibitions@hktdc.org, URL: www.hktdc.com/fair/hkfoodexpo-en/)	Hong Kong	26-28 Aug. 	AgriTech India 2016 (Media Today group, Tel: 91-11-4140-7851 / 6565-6554, Email: agritechindia@gmail.com, URL: www.agritechindia.com/) Bangalore India
12-14 Aug. 	Lanka Energy '16 (AMB Tarsus Events Group Sdn Bhd., Tel: 603-2692-6888, Email: ian@ambtarsus.com / syed@ambtarsus.com, URL: lankaenergy.org/)	Colombo Sri Lanka	26-29 Aug. 	Int'l Machinery Industry Fair (Chan Chao Int'l Co., Ltd., Tel: 886-2-2659-6000, Email: akai@chanchao.com.tw, URL: www.camboexpo.com/CIMIF/) Phnom Penh Cambodia
12-16 Aug. 	Taipei Int'l Plastics and Rubber Industry Show (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200, Email: plas@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.taipeiplas.com.tw/)	Taipei Taiwan	27-29 Aug. 	Int'l Jewellery Fair (Expertise Events Pty Ltd., Tel: 61-2-9452-7575, Email: jewelleryfair@expertiseevents.com.au, URL: jewelleryfair.com.au/Sydney/) Sydney Australia
17-19 Aug. 	Int'l Seafood and Technology Expo (Exhibition Technologies, Inc, Tel: 81-3-5775-2855, URL: www.exhibitiontech.com/seafood/e_index.html)	Tokyo Japan	27-29 Aug. 	Textile Asia International Exbn (Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan Pvt Ltd., Tel: 92-21-111-222-444, Email: info@ecgateway.net, URL: textileasia.com.pk/) Lahore Pakistan
18-20 Aug. 	Aqua World India 2016 (Inter Ads-Brooks Exbons India Pvt. Ltd., Email: ckarora@interadsexhibitions.com, URL: www.aquaworldindia.in/#)	New Delhi India	27-31 Aug. 	Vietbuild 2016 (Vietbuild Construction Int'l Exbn Org. Corp., Tel: 84-8-3997-4999, Email: pkdvietbuild@gmail.com, URL: vietbuildafc.com/en/) HCMC Vietnam
18-20 Aug. 	Myanmar FoodBev Expo (ICVeX Co. Ltd., Tel: 662-713-3033, Fax: 662-713-3034, Email: info@icvex.com, URL: www.myanmarfoodbev.com/)	Yangon Myanmar	30 Aug. -1 Sept. 	Food & Restaurant Business Week 2016 (TRADESHOW ORANIZERS Inc., Email: gaisyokubusiness@trso.co.jp, URL: gaishokubizweek.jp/) Tokyo Japan
18-20 Aug. 	IFTECH Pakistan (Pegasus Consultancy, Tel: 92-21-111-734-266, Email: info@foodtech.com.pk, URL: www.foodtechpakistan.com/)	Lahore Pakistan	31 Aug. -2 Sept. 	ENTECH2016 (BEXCO, Tel: 82-51-740-7482/3, Email: entechbusan@gmail.com / entech@bexco.co.kr, URL: www.entechkorea.net/english/) Busan Korea
18-20 Aug. 	Manufacturing Technology World (Global-Link MP Events Int'l Inc., Email: info@globalinkmp.com, URL: www.globalinkmp.com/mtw/)	Manila Philippines	31 Aug. -2 Sept. 	Medical Fair Asia (Messe Duesseldorf Asia Pte Ltd., Tel: 65-6332-9620, Email: medicalfair-asia@mda.com.sg, URL: www.medicalfair-asia.com/) Singapore
			31 Aug. -3 Sept. 	Int'l Mold & Die Industry Fair (Chan Chao Int'l Co., Ltd., Tel: 886-2-2659-6000, Email: mindy@chanchao.com.tw, URL: www.odm-dmi.com/en/index.asp) Taipei Taiwan

TECHNOLOGY

Bosch unveils 'first sealed paper packaging' for dry food

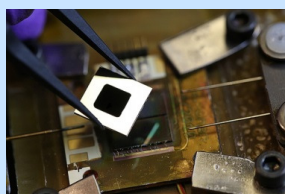


Bosch Packaging Technology and Swedish paper specialist BillerudKorsnas recently unveiled what they are calling “the world’s first sealed paper packaging”, which, instead of using polymer film, draws on a new solution to enable production of dust-tight packaging for dry products such as sugar, grains, flour or powders.

The new packaging option uses sustainable mono-material paper and contains no additional polymer fractions, the two firms said. As a result, retailers and consumers profit from clean shelves, high product protection and improved product quality.

BillerudKorsnas contributed to the optimization of the mechanical properties of the paper, while Bosch Packaging Technology brought its expertise as a provider of packaging technology. The paper packaging is produced on the first vertical form, fill and seal machine (VFFS) to feature the so-called ZAP-Module, which facilitates coating with the sealing agent on a minimal surface area, preserving the paper’s mono-material character. The solution is based on the proven PME machine concept from Bosch. The new solution combines this technology with the AxelloZAP paper from BillerudKorsnas. *FoodBev.com*

New solar absorber could improve efficiency of solar thermal technology



A team of researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology has discovered a low-cost way to significantly increase the amount of solar energy that can be converted into heat, via a device called a solar absorber.

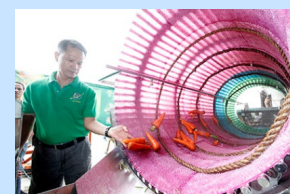
This advance should help make sustainable technologies that rely on solar heat more efficient and affordable.

“Our research team has developed a simple and cost-effective fabrication technique to create solar absorbers that can harness a greater share of the solar spectrum, thus increasing their efficiencies, while also maintaining low emission levels,” says TieJun Zhang, assistant professor of mechanical and materials engineering at the Masdar Institute, a graduate-level engineering university in the United Arab Emirates.

Zhang co-authored the paper that describes this research in the journal *Advanced Optical Materials*. The work contributes to a larger Masdar Institute-MIT research project, which is aimed at developing a solar-powered combined electrical power plant and cooling system.

The MIT and Masdar Institute Cooperative Program helped launch the Masdar Institute in 2007. *MIT News*

Mechanized carrot washer for Benguet farmers unveiled



A carrot washer, designed for Benguet farmers in northern Philippines, was launched during the Highland Vegetable Investment Forum cum Trade Fair at the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center on May 16 and 17.

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) in cooperation with Bureau of Agricultural Research created the prototype that will aid local farmers in washing and cleaning carrots and other root crops.

Engineer Donald Mateo of PhilMech, designer of the machine, said the washer has a power requirement of 4.5 kilowatts during washing, brushing, and drying stages. The machine is made of stainless steel with a speed of 20 rounds per minute and consumes 3KW.

He said tests conducted on the mechanized carrot washer showed an output of one ton per hour of carrots and three tons per hour of potatoes. The machine is comprised of a loading conveyor, tumbler assembly, unloading conveyor, and a drying chamber.

“It is capable of washing any size whether with or without stem of different root crops like carrots, potatoes, and radishes,” Mateo said. *Baguio Midland Courier*

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POLICY UPDATES

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

Australia

Australia to increase tax for foreign home buyers

Sydney is imposing new taxes on foreigners buying homes, as concerns grow that a flood of mostly Chinese investors is crowding out locals and killing the “Great Australian Dream” of owning property.

Ownership rates across the country are among the highest in developed nations, with having your own house long viewed as a key aspect of Australian identity.

However, as prices rise to record levels — Sydney is ranked second only to Hong Kong as major cities with the world’s least affordable housing — new potential homeowners have been increasingly forced out of the market with foreigners blamed as a key factor.

“The governments want to respond to a perception about housing affordability and the impact of foreign investment on that,” KPMG Australia’s indirect tax specialist Michelle Bennett told reporters. *Agence France Presse*

India

Delhi fuels key aviation sector

India is predicted to become the third-largest aviation market by 2022 and the largest by 2030.

In India, the world’s fastest-growing aviation market, taking a flight is actually not all that common. There are just over 80 million fliers in a country of 1.25 billion. A majority still prefer travelling by train, the cheapest form of long- distance travel.

So, the revamped aviation policy, finalized after a decade, is important for a sector that is growing fast. But the industry remains a tough space for carriers because of the high costs of operations and the price-wary consumer. The sector saw the collapse of Kingfisher Airlines in 2012.

The policy tries to strike a balance between protecting passengers by keeping airfares low and cutting down

on certain regulations to improve ease of doing business. *The Straits Times*

Indonesia

Indonesia’s retail attractiveness rank jumps significantly

Indonesia has significantly improved its position in the Global Retail Development Index by leaping from 12th position in 2015 to a new high fifth position. China and India are still the countries with the most attractive retail business taking first and second, followed by Malaysia and Kazakhstan.

The consulting firm AT Kearney created the index in 2001 to measure the attractiveness of the retail sector in developing countries. It includes three main criteria namely population, country risk, and time pressure.

At Kearney partner Hana Ben-Shabat said Indonesia’s recent policies of loosening barriers in the retail sector including e-commerce and foreign investment were regarded as positive to investors amid the negative growth average of 2.3 percent in the last three years.

“Local and international retailers are speeding up expansion plans,” she said on June 6 in Jakarta, citing Indomaret, which planned to open 1,600 stores after the 1,560 new stores last year and United Arab Emirates’ Lulu that would invest US\$500 million over the next five years. *The Jakarta Post*

Malaysia

Auto players cry foul over ‘painful’ diesel plan in Malaysia

Some automotive players are crying foul over the upgrading of the B7 (petroleum diesel blend consisting of 7% palm methyl ester) to the B10 (10% palm methyl ester) biodiesel blend to be used for the transportation sector progressively effective in the month of June.

Industry sources said diesel-powered vehicles are not ready for this regulatory move and that the B7

blend is still preferred, given the many unknown factors with the B10 adoption so far.

It is learnt that most auto players are shocked by the announcement and the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA) is compiling more feedback from its members.

The sources further said the MAA had recently voiced this issue out to the Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI). *The Star*

Myanmar

Myanmar introduces law to streamline tax exemptions for investors

In a bid to ensure equitable development, the Myanmar Investment Bill will enable investors to enjoy tax exemptions from three to seven years for designated regions and sectors.

The Bill, to be passed this year, is a combination of the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Citizens Investment Law. In addition, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) will be reformed.

The MIC can scrutinize and allow tax exemption or relief to investors in order to support equitable development.

Aung Naing Oo, secretary of the MIC and director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, said: “Now we are planning to attract a massive inflow of investment. The Bill includes that provision. Investors in less-developed regions shall enjoy tax reductions rather than those in more developed regions. They can get tax relief based on the region and sector. The MIC will fix the rates after seeking the approval from the government and the enactment of the law.” *The Nation*

Philippines

World Bank cautions Philippines vs scrapping contractual work practice

More quality jobs should be created to lift additional Filipinos out of poverty, the World Bank said on June 17, while cautioning against ending

POLICY UPDATES

contractualization amid growing calls to abolish the practice.

World Bank Philippines country director Mara Warwick, citing the multilateral lender's latest "Labour Market Review: Employment and Poverty in the Philippines" report, said that "contrary to some perceptions, economic growth in the last 10 years has created enough jobs to absorb the growing labour force."

Warwick, however, pointed out, that "many workers [in the Philippines] remain underemployed." Latest government data showed that the underemployment rate remained high, at 18.4 percent in April, up from 17.8 percent a year ago as well as higher than the target of 17 percent for this year.

The number of underemployed reached about 7.3 million in April, mainly coming from the agriculture and services sectors, the National Economic and Development Authority has said. *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Singapore

Singapore tops financial literacy index in Asia-Pacific

Singapore has come out tops in the Asia-Pacific region in an annual index of financial literacy, led by a big jump in the grasp of investments.

This is the first time Singapore has ranked first in the Mastercard financial literacy index.

For the 2015 index, the Republic beat 16 other markets including Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan - and achieved a huge leap from its sixth-place ranking in 2014.

The index measures respondents' knowledge of basic money management, financial planning and investment matters. *The Straits Times*

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka cabinet approves reintroduction of capital gains tax

The cabinet committee on economic management has agreed to

reintroduce the capital gains tax (CGT) to rectify the increase in the inequality of income distribution, a cabinet proposal said.

"The cabinet also approved to draft a new capital gains tax regime," it said.

During the last few decades there has been a massive increase in the private capital in the country.

The increase in prices of land attributable to the large infrastructure development carries out through government funds have enabled the land owners to make significant capital gains free of taxation.

The proposal said this situation resulted in the increase in the inequality of income distribution. *Lanka Business Online*

Taiwan

Taiwan relaxes visa requirements for Asean states

Taiwan on June 15 announced a series of changes and plans to simplify visa applications for visitors from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), aiming to boost the number of travellers from the area by at least 20 percent this year.

By September 1, travellers from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar will have been given visa privileges that others from their fellow Asean member states -- Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand -- as well as India now enjoy, the Taiwan government said.

Taiwan is working to reduce the visa obstacles for all 10 Asean member states, strengthening its relationships with these countries in line with the government's "New Southward Policy," said Hsieh Wei-chun, director general of the Tourism Bureau. *The Nation*

Thailand

Thailand sees 13% rise in foreign tourists

Foreign-tourist arrivals in the first half of 2016 are projected to number 16.67 million, a 13 percent

increase over the same six months of 2015. Revenue from these visits is estimated at Bt824 billion, up by 17 percent, said Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

"In the first half of 2016, Thailand is projected to record Bt1.24 trillion in tourism receipts, covering both international and domestic tourism," he said.

"Domestic travel is projected at more than 75 million trips, up 4 percent over the first half of 2015, generating an estimated Bt416 billion in tourism receipts, or 6 percent growth."

Both the first and second quarters of 2016 recorded strong increases. In the first quarter, international visits were up 15 percent and tourism receipts were up 19 percent. The second quarter is projected to have recorded 9 percent growth in international visitors and 14 percent growth in tourism receipts. *The Nation*

Vietnam

Vietnam oil refinery to calculate own oil price

Vietnam's Finance Ministry has submitted a proposal to the government to allow Dung Quat Oil Refinery to contribute only 10 percent to the state budget from petroleum and to calculate its own selling prices.

Currently, Dung Quat Refinery contributes 20 percent in import taxes to the government.

The information was released by the minister, Dinh Tien Dung, in responding to questions from central Quang Ngai Provincial National Assembly deputies on financial mechanisms for the Binh Son Refining and Petrochemical Co Ltd (BSR), which operates the Dung Quat Refinery.

If the proposal is approved, the refinery could recover from its current financial difficulties caused by falling consumption and decreased turnover. *The Nation*