



CACCI Profile

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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CACCI President Inaishvili attends WCF General Council Meeting in Paris

CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili attended the 1st Meeting for 2017 of the General Council of the World Chambers Federation (WCF) held on March 1, 2017 in Paris, France. As a transnational chamber, CACCI is a Permanent Member of the WCF General Council and is currently represented by President Inaishvili.

During the Paris meeting, President Inaishvili reported on the 50th Anniversary Celebration and the 30th CACCI Conference held in Taipei in November 2016; the election of new CACCI officers for 2017-2018, including the first woman Vice President of CACCI in the person of Mrs. Magvan Oyunchimeg, CEO of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the holding of the CACCI Summit Meeting to chart CACCI's roadmap for the next five years; the issuance of the CACCI Policy Statement on "Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women"; the presentation of the 1st Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneurship Award; and the ongoing survey seeking the views of CACCI members on the impact



President Inaishvili gives a briefing to WCF General Council on CACCI activities.

of Brexit and the Trump presidency (particularly his America-first policy) on their respective national economies and the economy of the Asian region as a whole.

President Inaishvili was accompanied at the meeting by CACCI Director-General Amb. Victor C. Y. Tseng and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador R. Honrado, Jr.

The WCF is a global network of 12,000 chambers that aims to help individual chambers to become more productive and strengthens links among them. The General Council is the governing body of WCF that sets the strategic direction and development of WCF's services. ■



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Strategic
Regional Partner

CACCI Conversations: Impact of Brexit and the Trump presidency on the region

The UK's decision to leave the European Union (Brexit) on June 23, 2016, and the election of Donald Trump on November 8, 2016 have brought uncertainties – in varying degrees – to the business community worldwide.

President Donald Trump withdrew from TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) on his first day in office, promised to re-negotiate trade deals such as NAFTA soon, and proposed to negotiate one-to-one trade deals with other nations.

From the other side of the

Atlantic, UK's vote against continued membership in the European Union has caused turmoil in Europe and has sent shockwaves to the rest of the world.

CACCI would like to know members' opinion on these two important international events and how they might affect their national economy as well as the economies of the Asian region as a whole. CACCI invites member chambers to provide their thoughts on the following questions:

1. What does the shift in U.S. economic and trade policy under the

Trump Administration (espousing the so-called "America First" policy) mean for your country, and for Asia as a whole?

2. What do you think are the economic consequences of Brexit for your country and for the region as a whole, and what are its geopolitical implications for Asia?

CACCI wishes to compile and summarize members' responses to the above questions into an article to be featured in the CACCI Profile. For more information, please email cacci@cacci.biz ■

CACCI president invited to the B20 Joint Taskforce Meeting in Paris

The B20 Germany has invited CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili to attend the B20 Joint Taskforce Meeting scheduled to take place on March 22, 2017 in Paris. President Inaishvili is member of the B20 Task Force on Trade and Investment.

To be held in cooperation with Business at OECD (BIAC) and the OECD, the final meeting of all B20 Task Forces and Cross-thematic Groups before the B20 Summit in May will focus on the advocacy of B20 recommendations prior to the G20 Sherpa meeting.

The agenda for the Special B20 Germany-OECD-BIAC Session aims to further strengthen the ongoing G20-B20 dialogue with input from the OECD and BIAC.

Speakers and attendees will include leaders from the B20 and BIAC



business community, selected Sherpas from G20 economies, senior OECD and G20 government officials, and the OECD leadership. This session should allow participants to engage in dialogue on the Germany G20 Presidency priorities, share the B20 Germany recommendations, and benefit from OECD knowledge and expertise on global economic governance and

challenges to build momentum for Germany G20 Hamburg Summit in July 2017.

The B20 – currently chaired by Germany – is a platform that serves as an intermediary group between G20 governments and the international business community. Its primary mission is to deal with the urgent and significant global issues by developing actionable recommendations from global business leaders to the G20 Leaders.

The seven task forces and cross-thematic groups of the German B20 Presidency focus on: (a) Energy, Climate and Resource Efficiency; (b) Digitalization; (c) Financing Growth and Infrastructure; (d) Trade and Investment; (e) Employment and Education; (f) Small and Medium Enterprises; and (g) Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-Corruption. ■

CACCI takes part in the Association Management Course conducted by PCAAE



CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. attended the Association Management Course organized by the Philippine Council of Associations and Association Executives (PCAAE) on February 16, 2017 at the A. Venue Hotel in Makati City, Philippines.

Attended by some 35 representatives of various member associations of PCAAE, the one-day course is part of the Certified Profession Association (CPAE) Program conducted by the PCAAE for its members and associates. In its invitation letter to CACCI and ABA, the PCAAE pointed out that association management is a distinct field of management because of the unique environment of associations in which their “owners” are dues-paying members.

“Association executives/managers are responsible for many tasks similar in other organizational contexts such as human resource management, financial management, meeting management, IT management, and project management. However, other aspects of management to be covered by the program which are unique to association managers include: membership recruitment, retention and engagement; membership value

proposition; development of non-dues revenue and stakeholder relationship,” the PCAAE explained in its course promotional material.

The PCAAE is a membership organization serving the interest of institutions and professionals that manage business, trade, professional, philanthropic, scientific, medical, educational, technical, social welfare, agricultural and other non-profit organization.

The main resource persons were **Mr. Octavio Peralta**, PCAAE CEO and Founder and Secretary General of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) and **Mr. Enrique Florencio**, Knowledge Resources Executive and Sustainability Officer, ADFIAP.

Course Coverage

The one-day course covered three major topics, namely: Roles and Activities of Associations, Attributes of a Successful Association, and Why Associations Fail.

Roles and Activities of Associations

The topics discussed during this session included the following: (a) Scope of Purposes; (b) Strategic

Goal; (c) Constituent Relationship; (d) Perspective on Relevance; (e) Types of Initiatives Supported; (f) Posture relative to financial opportunity; (g) Sources of funding; (h) Application of funds.

The session speaker Mr. Octavio Peralta noted that the Association Vision is what the association aspires to be; its vision statement is where the organization will be in the distant future, the results it wants to achieve, or the measurable impact it wants to make ; and the vision keeps the association on course to fulfill its purpose.

The speaker pointed out the roles of the Association, its members, its Board, its President or Chairman, its Executive Officer, and its staff as follows:

a. Associations accomplish their goals with the help of the staff, volunteers (including the Board), and members .

b. Members elect the Board to act on their behalf.

c. The Board sets directions and makes decisions on behalf of the Association, and delegates work to volunteer committees, task forces or staff.

d. The President (or Chairman)

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CACCI takes

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ensures that the Board fulfills its responsibilities.

e. The Executive Officer (CEO, Executive Director, or Director-General) implements Board decisions and reports directly to the Board.

f. The staff do the work of the association and reports to the executive Officer

g. Whether staff or volunteer, it is important to understand specific roles to avoid confusion or conflict.

h. Each key stakeholder plays a specific role:

- Members decide who will be in the Board

- Board decides what are the right things to do

- Staff implements the Board decisions and decide how things are to be done

i. By working together, the members, Board and staff ensure that the association achieves the common purpose of its members.

Regarding membership aspects, the speaker observed that member acquisition include awareness and recruitment; successful recruitment



involves understanding target prospects – who, what, where, when and how they are reached; Successful recruitment involves creative design that drives interest and promotes receptivity to the message; and member retention includes 3 steps: engagement, renewal, and reinstatement.

Attributes of a Successful Association

This session identified some of the important characteristics of a successful association. According to the speaker, these include:

(a) Customer service culture - A “we are here to serve you” approach is built into the organizational structure and processes.

(b) Alignment of products and services with purpose - Service offerings are consistent with the organization’s purpose which remains central and unchanging even in the midst of changes in the external environment.

(c) Data-driven strategies - The organization not only gathers and analyzes information but also has effective processes for taking action based on what it has learned.

(d) Dialogue and engagement - An internal conversation continually occurs among staff, Board and members about the Association’s direction and priorities.

(e) The CEO as a broker of ideas - The CEO facilitates visionary thinking throughout the organization.

(f) Organizational adaptability - Remarkable associations learn from and respond to change; although willing to change, they also know what not to change.

(g) Alliance building - Associations that are secure and confident in their own right seek partners and projects that complement their purpose and mission.

In summary, the speaker noted that for an organization to realize success from failure, (a) know why you exist and stay true to that purpose, (b) serve and appreciate your membership, and (c) keep your eyes and ears attuned to what is around you. Remember that it is not the failure itself, but the failure to learn from it and move on, that is the biggest problem for an association. ■

KCC New Century Elite Development Program 2017 to be held on July 8-22 in HK

Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) is extending its invitation to CACCI members to nominate student participants to join the “KCC New Century Elite Development Program 2017” to be held on July 8-22, 2017 in Hong Kong.

Established in 1998, the Program is one of the key projects of KCC and it has trained more than 2,250 university elites for the past 17 terms. The 2017 Program will last for two weeks with seminars and visits to enterprises. It is divided into two training sessions: the first week training from July 9-15

will be conducted by a university in the Mainland, and the second part from July 16-21 will be held in Hong Kong.

Featuring the theme “The Influences of the Belt and Road Initiative on Economic Development of Greater China and the Promotion of Chinese Medicine,” the first week of the Program will be held in Xiamen, the birthplace of the Maritime Silk Road, by the Xiamen University.

For more information on the Program, interested parties may contact KCC Assistant Secretary Ms. Chen at chenmin@hkccc.org.hk. ■

Motivating young women towards importance of entrepreneurship

By Dr. Manju Kalra Prakash, Sr. Consultant, Ministry of Women & Child Development, India

The Indian Economy has been witnessing a drastic change since mid-1991, with new policies of economic liberalization, globalization and privatization initiated by the Indian Government. India has great entrepreneurial potential. At present, women involvement in economic activities is marked by a low work participation rate, excessive concentration in the unorganized sector and employment in less skilled jobs.

Any strategy aimed at economic development will be lop-sided without involving women who constitute half of the world population. Evidence has unequivocally established that entrepreneurial spirit is not a male prerogative. Women entrepreneurship has gained momentum in the last three decades with the increase in the number of women enterprises and their substantive contribution to economic growth. The industrial performance of Asia-Pacific region propelled by Foreign Direct Investment, technological innovations and manufactured exports has brought a wide range of economic and social opportunities to women entrepreneurs.

This skills crisis is becoming more critical because the Indian economy is shifting. Not only will the traditional skills of reading, writing, and math be needed to thrive in this economy, but also technological savvy and self-direction.

With the pace of innovation, many of the jobs our youth will hold don't even exist yet. More than ever, we need to educate students to be continual learners.

These multi-pronged challenges will require a host of different solutions that better engage young people in their education, while also building stronger connections between communities, businesses, and schools.

We believe that expanding the availability of youth Entrepreneurship



Dr. Manju Kalra Prakash

Education resources should be a critical part of this solution.

The women entrepreneurs are the potentially emerging human resource in the 21st century to overcome the economic challenges in global perspective. The Women of 21st century is no more a traditional resource confined to homes only, rather they are an educated, knowledgeable and innovative part of the overall population possessing the capacity to transform economies into thriving enterprises. Developing and developed nations have realized that developing women entrepreneurship is indispensable to flourish as economically dominant nation in the modern high-tech world. Therefore, creation of platforms and networks for entrepreneurial culture are prominent issues globally.

To quote Jawaharlal Nehru - "You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women".

EMERGING ECONOMIC FORCE

Women owned businesses are highly increasing in the economies of almost all countries. The hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. Skill, knowledge and adaptability

in business are the main reasons for women to emerge into business ventures. „Women Entrepreneur“ is a person who accepts challenging role to meet her personal needs and become economically independent. A strong desire to do something positive is an inbuilt quality of entrepreneurial women, who is capable of contributing values in both family and social life. With the advent of media, women are aware of their own traits, rights and also the work situations. The glass ceilings are shattered and women are found indulged in every line of business from pappad to power cables. The challenges and opportunities provided to the women of digital era are growing rapidly that the job seekers are turning into job creators. They are flourishing as designers, interior decorators, exporters, publishers, garment manufacturers and still exploring new avenues of economic participation. In India, although women constitute the majority of the total population, the entrepreneurial world is still a male dominated one. Women in advanced nations are recognized and are more prominent in the business world.

The Government of India has defined women entrepreneurs - An enterprise owned and controlled by one or more women having a minimum financial holding of 51% or more, giving 51% or more employment to women.

The entry of women into business in India is traced out as an extension of their kitchen activities, mainly 3P's, Pickle, Powder and Pappad. But with the spread of education and passage of time women started shifting from 3P's to modern 3E's i.e., Energy, Electronics and Engineering.

More female entrepreneurship exists in developing countries where traditionally higher birth rates prevail. The law and customs of marriage have

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Motivating

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higher rate of influence whether a woman chooses to be an entrepreneur (Monolova, 2008). The attitudes and employment practices in low income countries generally speaking are less likely to provide child care, health care and training opportunities to women as employees. At the same time, employers are less likely to provide a comfortable workplace and a set of adequate work practices that allow a woman to both perform satisfactorily on the job and care appropriately for her children (Muhammad, 2008). As a result, women in low income countries have strong incentives to create their own work environments that are compatible with their child rearing and household responsibilities at the same time (Gem Report, 2004). This tendency is more strengthened in typically lower degree of involvement in child care by fathers in poorer countries. Consequently women look for home based business opportunities preferably (Brush, Carter and Gatewood, 2006). Issues related to woman's ability & willingness to create new businesses, concern exists about the survival & growth rates of female-owned businesses.

Out of the total 940.48 million people in India, in the 1990's female comprise of 437.10 million representing 46.5% of the total population. There are 126.48 million women work-force (representing 28.9% of the female population) but as per the 1991 census only 185,900 women accounting for only 4.5% of total self-employed persons in the country were recorded. Majority of them are engaged in the un-organized sector like agriculture, agro-based industries, handicrafts, handloom and cottage based industries. Participation of women as industrial entrepreneurs, however is comparatively a recent phenomenon commencing from 70's era onwards. There were more than 295,680 women entrepreneurs claiming 11.2 % of total 2.64 million entrepreneurs in India,



Photo from Vivek India/UNDP India-Disha

during 1995-96. This is almost double the percentage of women (5.2%) among the total population of self-employed during 1981. On this, a majority was concentrated in low-paid, low-skilled, low-technology and low productivity jobs in the rural and unorganized sector. Almost 79.4 million women workers were in the rural areas as against only 10% (86 million) in the urban areas.

Only 2.5 million women workers were in the organized sector and a small percentage of 12.4% were total employed. During the 8th, 5 year planning period the number of SSI's expected to rise from 1.7 million to 2.5 million adding 0.8 million in the 5 year period or 1.60 lakh every year. The rough estimate showed that amongst the SSI entrepreneurs approx. 9% were women entrepreneurs. Their participation, however, is increasing. Thus considering the trend women participation in another 5 years was more than 20%, raising the number of women entrepreneurs to about 500,000. Therefore one could aim at developing at least 350,000 women entrepreneurs during the 8th five year planning period through training and other developmental efforts. The present rate of 30% success in EDP training was likely to go up-to 45% with growing experience and improved techniques

of training and follow-up. Based on this assumption for getting 3.5 lakh women entrepreneurs it was necessary to train and support about 7.78 lakh entrepreneurs, during the aforesaid period. As per the 2001 census report, there are 22.73% of women workers of the total working population including formal as well as informal sector. In the era of L.P.G (Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization) the Indian women entrepreneurs are very fast entering the non-traditional sectors, which indeed is in response to their greater awareness. Work participation of Indian women is 22% as per 1991 census and triple in rural areas around 27% and in urban areas 9%, thus the role and involvement of women entrepreneurs in rural sector is tremendously enhancing, the literacy levels increased ratio is also a significant factor of this positive trend in the field of entrepreneurship.

The women entrepreneurs over the decades:

1. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE FIFTIES: Compulsive factors led to the creation of women entrepreneurs.

2. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE SIXTIES: Women began

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Chamber Personality

JCCI President Toru Ishida



Mr. Toru Ishida is currently the president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Ishida took over the position in December 2015.

He served as director and vice president of the Japan Alcohol Trading Co., Ltd. from 2013-2014. He was the director general of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau in 2005 before occupying the same position with the Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau in 2007, both under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Mr. Ishida graduated from the faculty of law at the University of Tokyo.

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to aspire but also accepted the social cultural traditions.

3. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE SEVENTIES: The women in this decade opened up new frontier. They had not only aspiration but ambition

4. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE EIGHTIES: Women were educated in highly sophisticated, technological and professional education. They became equally contributing partners.

5. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE NINETIES: This was the first time when the concept of best rather than male heir was talked about.

6. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE 21st Century: "Jill of all trade"

Some of the Successful Leading Business Women in India

1. Akhila Srinivasan, Managing Director, Shriram Investments Ltd

2. Chanda Kocchar, Executive Director, ICICI Bank

3. Ekta Kapoor, Creative Director, Balaji Telefilms

4. Jyoit Naik, President, Lijjat Papad

5. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon

6. Lalita D Gupte, Joint Managing Director, ICICI Bank

7. Naina Lal Kidwai, Deputy CEO, HSBC

8. Preetha Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals

9. Priya Paul, Chairman, Apeejay Park Hotels

Today many women entrepreneurs are diversifying into more technical businesses such as computers, software, technical equipment, etc., other than beauty products / parlour / saloon business, or boutiques, or even restaurants.

The factors that influence becoming entrepreneurs are – Economic independence, self-identify, self-confidence, self-motivation, achievement of excellence, developing risk taking ability and equal status in society.

To conclude age is not a limit nor an exception to realize your true potential or the way you want to live your life. There are entrepreneurs who realize that they do not fit the cubicle job system at a later stage in their life and thus reverted to starting their businesses and then there are some who realized that the only way for them is to start their own business and be their own boss. ■

Ceylon Chamber releases note on how government can help SL businesses adjust to trade liberalisation

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) on February 17 released a document containing recommendations on helping Sri Lanka's industries prepare for trade liberalization. The policy brief titled, 'Building Resilience, Supporting Growth: Preparing the Domestic Private Sector for Trade Liberalization', provides insights on how to consider the types of firms, as well as types of impacts, in a wide-ranging liberalization effort, and puts forward

11 specific suggestions on support measures.

Speaking on the release of this document, the Chief Economist of the CCC Anushka Wijesinha noted, "At a meeting last year, the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade met representatives of the private sector and indicated the Government's plans to embark on an ambitious trade liberalization effort. Chambers were invited to suggest measures that can be put in place to

help domestic businesses adjust to meet the challenges and opportunities of this process.

While specific proposals on support measures can only be developed once the specific scope of the liberalization exercise was made clear, the CCC formulated a note containing the overarching framework the government should consider, and submitted initial recommendations on what support measures can be deployed". ■

PRODUCT & SERVICE COUNCILS

Asian Council on Contracting and Construction

Timber revolutionizes high-rise construction



Timber construction could revolutionize skyscraper typology, says Dr Philip Oldfield, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales.

Dr Oldfield will be appearing at the inaugural Australian Smart Skyscrapers Summit in Melbourne to discuss opportunities for rethinking Australian tall building design inspired by climate, culture and context. His presentation will explore opportunities for reinvention in tall towers, looking at how they can play a more generous role in future cities as well as accommodate innovative new functions and provide places of community and recreation in the sky. Dr Oldfield will also feature on a panel discussion regarding Regulations Impacting Height Limits for High Rise Buildings.

While there are many new developments and innovations in the high-rise construction arena, Dr Oldfield is most intrigued by the timber as a building material.

“For me the most exciting development is the growth of timber as a potential structural material in tall buildings.” *Eco-Business*

Asian Council on Food and Agriculture

PwC launches food safety assurance for exporters to Asia

Accounting giant PwC has launched a new food safety assurance capability for the agribusiness industry to advise Australian firms on the standards expected from food products

targeting the nation’s biggest export markets in Asia.



PwC has established a new specialist food and agribusiness advisory team led by three new partners, Greg Quinn, Ben Crow and Tim Lee.

The new food safety business is a full ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) service provider that will specialise in advisory services related to compliance with ISO standards, and training for compliance officers in large businesses.

The business will be led by Peter Chandler who has more than 30 years’ experience in the food safety industry. *The Australian*

Asian Tourism Council

World tourism industry aiming to woo more Asian tourists



Tourism professionals across the world are turning to Asian countries for more contributions to an industry overshadowed by a growing threat of terrorism, a prominent industry insider said on February 16.

“The global tourism industry has now been discussing the ways to attract these tourists to their respective countries,” said Bulut Bageci, president of the Executive Board of the World Tourism Forum, as a global meeting initiated by his forum kicked off in Istanbul.

He said that the tourism industry had recently shifted its focus to the Asia-Pacific region, in particular

countries like China and Japan.

China has been the largest source of outbound tourists for four years in a row, contributing an average of more than 13 percent to global tourism revenues, official figures show.

Over 600 million Chinese tourists will travel abroad in the next five years, according to data from China National Tourism Administration. *Xinhua*

Asian Textile and Garments Council

Taiwan textile firms heed ‘Make-in-USA’ call



Echoing President Donald Trump’s call to ‘Make in USA’, various Taiwanese textile and apparel producers are planning to set up production facilities or warehouses in the US. This decision by these Taiwanese companies is a major shift from the trend of producing textiles and apparels in Asia, since all these companies have large production bases in Asia.

A Taiwanese daily reported that Makalot Industrial Co, a big apparel manufacturer is planning to set up a plant in the US, for which it is conducting feasibility studies. The company is also mulling investing in facilities in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Everest Textile, a subsidiary of the Far Eastern Group has acquired an existing plant in North Carolina, and is refurbishing the production lines, which would produce functional fabrics as well as garments.

The biggest Taiwanese nylon chips and yarn producer, Li Peng Enterprise is planning to open a warehouse in the US, where it will store its products produced in Taiwan and other Southeast Asian countries. The warehouse will mainly cater to the US market. *Fibre2Fashion News*

ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWS

Taiwan confident of stronger ties with Philippines

Taiwan is optimistic that its bilateral relationship with the Philippines will remain strong as economic links continue to grow, Taiwan's representative to the Philippines Gary Song-huann Lin said on February 19.

Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$9.7 billion (NT\$300 billion) in 2015 to US\$10.8 billion last year, Lin said, noting that Taiwanese exports to the Philippines increased 15 percent year-on-year.

Furthermore, cooperation between both sides in such areas as technology, agriculture, and fishery also grew, Lin continued.

"Our relationship with the Philippines will be even stronger this year," he said, citing a number of new projects between the two countries in the pipeline for the coming year.

According to Lin, the Philippines is one of the fastest growing economies in ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), and it is also Taiwan's sixth largest trading partner. *Focus Taiwan*

Mongolia, Russia vow to boost bilateral ties

Mongolian Foreign Minister Ts. Munkh-Orgil and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signed a cooperation agreement in Moscow, reports news.mn.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated: "We value that bilateral relations between Mongolia and Russia are built upon long-standing economic, humanitarian and historical ties, and our common position on regional and global issues as good neighbours."

"The aspiration of the leaders of the two countries to achieve maximum effectiveness of the strategic partnership potential have been reflected in the 2009 Declaration. Based on this Declaration, the Medium-Term Programme, incorporating the major

objectives on developing cooperation in politics, trade-economy, investment, culture, education and global affairs, was signed in 2016 in Ulaanbaatar. The successful implementation of the programme gives an impetus to bilateral ties at all levels," Minister Lavrov said.

The Foreign Ministers also discussed the much needed strengthening of economic ties through broader cooperation in transport, agriculture and energy, expansion of trade and ties between the border regions of Mongolia and Russia. *Akipress.com*

Thailand offers \$51m highway upgrade to Myanmar, as trade mission boosts bilateral ties

Myanmar has approved a proposal for Thailand to pay for a US\$51 million upgrade to a section of the main highway linking the two countries, the Bangkok Post reported on February 4.

The proposal involves a 68-kilometre section of road between Thaton in Mon State and Eindu in Kayin State, Thai Transport Minister Mr Arkhom Termpittayapaisith was quoted as saying after returning from a visit to Myanmar.

The Thai cabinet had on January 31 endorsed a plan to spend 1.8 billion baht (about K70 billion) to help Myanmar upgrade the stretch of road, on the proposed East-West Economic Corridor transport route, the newspaper said.

Arkhom said Myanmar also wanted Thailand's assistance to upgrade more roads on the EWEC, an ambitious project to link Vietnam with India via Myanmar, Thailand and Laos. *Frontier Myanmar*

Pakistan, Iran agree to deepen trade and economic ties

Adviser to the Prime Minister (PM) on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on

January 26 said that Pakistan valued its relations with Iran.

According to a Foreign Office (FO) press release, Pakistan and the brotherly Muslim country shared fruitful cooperation in diverse areas of common interest.

He was talking to Iran Committee for Foreign Policy and National Security of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Chairman Allaudin Boroujerdi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost along with the accompanying delegation also attended the meeting.

The two sides discussed matters of mutual cooperation and agreed to further deepen bilateral ties with focus on trade and economic cooperation, besides discussing various regional and international issues. *Daily Times*

Qatar, Turkey bilateral ties based on shared vision

Qatar and Turkey enjoy relations that are based on shared visions on Arab, regional and international issues.

This has made a positive impact on the volume of trade exchange and fruitful economic co-operation between the two countries.

The two-way trade between Doha and Ankara achieved an unprecedented success in 2016, with trade volume reaching over \$1.3bn, indicating keenness of both countries to promote bilateral relations and mutual co-ordination.

Turkey has become one of the main attractive markets for Qatari investors. Qatari investments have exceeded \$1bn, supported by the increasing number of Qatari tourists to Turkey which reached about 35,000 visitors in 2016. In addition, Turkey represents an important economic destination for Qatar for enjoying promising investment opportunities in all fields, including energy, transport, tourism, banking, and real estate. *Gulf Times*

INVESTMENT & JOINT VENTURES IN THE REGION

- Singapore's Temasek makes a direct investment in China's Mobike** - Mobike Technology Co Ltd (Mobike), the world's largest smart bike-sharing company, has received a new strategic investment from Singapore's sovereign wealth fund Temasek. The current investment is led by Hillhouse Capital, a global investment management firm based in Asia. It is also Temasek's first direct investment in Mobike. In 2016, Temasek's subsidiary Vertex Ventures led Mobike's Series B+ round. The investment is also timely, as Mobike is planning to launch its services in Singapore sometime this year. Prior to this announcement, Mobike has raised two rounds of funding this year. In early January, it raised US\$215 million in a Series D round led by strategic investors Chinese Internet giant Tencent Group and private equity firm Warburg Pincus. The company declined to reveal how much Temasek has invested into Mobike in this latest funding round. However, it did reveal that its total funds raised so far this year is over US\$300 million. This means, the latest funding round, along with the strategic investment by Foxconn, collectively amounted to over US\$85 million. *Digital News Asia*



- Tata Motors and Microsoft India form strategic tech partnership** - In a bid to offer an enhanced driving experience to Indian motorists, software firm Microsoft India and Tata Motors Ltd have joined forces in specialized technology collaboration. The companies say they want to create "a highly personalized, smart and safer driving experience across the digital life of a vehicle owner". The fruits of the two-companies vision will be showcased at the Geneva International Motor show on March 7, where their first vehicle for enhanced driving will be unveiled. "Using internet of things, artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies, we will provide vehicle owners in India and across the world a safe, productive and fun driving experience," Anant Maheshwari, President at Microsoft India, said in a press statement. The two companies hope the collaboration will create new revenue opportunities as motorists increasingly look for value-added services. "With the aim to develop innovative and technologically leading products that excite customers, we at Tata Motors, understand the need for a connected ecosystem that can integrate into the digital lives of customers," Guenter Butschek, CEO & MD, Tata Motors also said in a press statement. *Tech Wire Asia*



- Dyson opens new Singapore tech center with focus on R&D in AI and software** - Dyson is expanding its footprint in Singapore, with a new Technology Centre opened on February 13 by the maker of vacuums and other smart home electronics. The UK company will be investing \$561 million as part of its commitment to the new facility, which hosts working labs where research and development teams can pool their cumulative hardware and software know-how to help advance the company's growing ambitions. If you're only passingly familiar with Dyson's work, you might be wondering what a company that makes vacuums needs with a half-million dollar tech facility with a focus the company says is on "artificial intelligence, machine learning and software development. But Dyson has always emphasized its tech edge in the domestic cleaning hardware market, and it's only doing more to push that advantage lately, including more work in robotics, computer visions systems and machine learning with products like its Dyson 360 Eye robot vacuum. As you can see from the photos of the facility, the company also put a lot of engineering work into one of its most recent products, the Supersonic hair dryer. There has also been some speculation that Dyson could extend some of its expertise around electric motors and battery tech into the automotive space, though the company isn't saying much one way or another about those reports just yet. *Tech Crunch*



- Japanese firm JERA invests \$200 mn in ReNew Power** - Making entry into the Indian market, Japanese energy major JERA has picked up 10 percent stake for USD 200 million in ReNew Power Ventures. A joint venture between two of Japan's largest utilities, Tokyo Electric Power Co, Inc and Chubu Electric Power Co, Inc, JERA operates 6 GW of energy assets globally across North America, the Middle East and SE Asia. The investment in ReNew Power, marks its first entry into India's energy sector. The latest investment round now values ReNew Power at USD 2 billion, ReNew Power Ventures Pvt Ltd said in a statement. JERA's capabilities expand across in the entire energy supply chain, from LNG and other fuel resource projects and procurement to power generation, the statement said. President of JERA Yuji Kakimi said: "As a ReNew Power shareholder, we will seek to contribute to the company by making available technical, operational, project development, and management experience gained through our global power businesses." *Times of India*



FAIRS & EXHIBITS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

DATES 2017	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	VENUE		
3-5 Apr.	Asia Health Exbn 2017 (Informa Life Sciences Exbns, Tel: 97-1-4407-2461, Email: kamille.marchant@informa.com, URL: www.asiahealthexhibition.com)	Singapore		
4-7 Apr.	Int'l Exbn of Building and Finishing Materials (ITE LLC, Tel: 44-207-596-5000, Email: bi@ite-exhibitions.com, URL: www.worldbuild-moscow.ru/en-GB)	Moscow Russia		
4-7 Apr.	Manufacturing Technology Asia (S'pore Exbn Services Pte Ltd, Tel: 65-6233-6638, Email: mta@sesallworld.com, URL: www.mta-asia.com)	Singapore		
5-7 Apr.	AGRI WORLD Osaka 2017 (Reed Exbns Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8511, Email: agritechjapan-k@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: www.agritechjapan.jp/kansai)	Osaka Japan		
5-7 Apr.	TEXTILE Tokyo (Reed Exbns Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8508, Email: fw@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: www.textile-expo.jp/spring)	Tokyo Japan		
5-7 Apr.	Green Energy Expo (Green Energy Expo Korea Office, Tel: 82-53-601-5373, Email: energy@exco.co.kr, URL: www.energyexpo.co.kr)	Dague Korea		
5-8 Apr.	Vietnam Textile & Garment Industry Expo (CP Exbn, Tel: 852-2511-7427, Email: jason@cpexh.com, URL: www.vfabric.com/sgtextile)	HCMC Vietnam		
12-14 Apr.	Technotex 2017 (FICCI, Tel: 91-11-2348-7581, Fax: 91-11-2335-9734, Email: manoj.mehta@ficci.com, URL: www.technotexindia.in/#popup1)	Mumbai India		
11-13 Apr.	SE-Asian Healthcare (ABC Exbns Malaysia, Tel: 60-3-7954-6588, Fax: 60-3-7954-2352, Email: sales@abcex.com, URL: www.abcex.com)	K.L. Malaysia		
13-16 Apr.	HK Electronics Fair (HKTDC, Tel: 852-1830-668, Fax: 852-2824-0026, Email: exhibitions@hktdc.org, URL: www.hktdc.com/fair/hkelectronics/fairse-en/)	Hong Kong		
18-21 Apr.	LIFTEXPO (Saya Namaye Parsian, Tel: 98-31-3663-3939, Fax: 98-31-3662-9095, Email: sayaco94@gmail.com, URL: liftex.ir/liftex/English)	Tehran Iran		
18-21 Apr.	Int'l Pharmaceutical Exbn (Kyungyon Exbn Corp., Tel: 82-2-785-4771, Email: gskim@kyungyon.co.kr, URL: www.koreapharm.org)	Goyang Korea		
19-21 Apr.	Int'l Textile & Garment Machinery & Accessories Exbn (Peraga Expo, Tel: 62-21-649-3717, Email: info@peragaexpo.com, URL: indointertex.com)	Jakarta Indonesia		
19-21 Apr.	HealthCare IT 2017 (UBM Japan Co. Ltd., Tel: 81-3-5296-1020, Email: info@healthcarejapan.com, URL: www.healthcarejapan.com)	Tokyo Japan		
19-22 Apr.	Taipei Int'l Automobile Electronics Show (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200 Ext. 2626, Email: ampa@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.taipeiampa.com.tw)	Taipei Taiwan		
20-22 Apr.	India STEEL 2017 (FICCI, Tel: 91-11-2370-5468, Fax: 91-11-2335-9734, Email: kamal.bhardwaj@ficci.com, URL: www.indiasteelexpo.in)	Mumbai India		
20-23 Apr.	Taiwan Int'l Electric Vehicle Show (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200 Ext. 2657, Email: evtaiwan@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.evtaiwan.com.tw)	Taipei Taiwan		
21-24 Apr.	Malaysia Int'l Jewellery Festival 2017 (MIJ Exbn Sdn Bhd, Tel: 60-3-2171-2564, Email: info@mij.com.my, URL: www.mij.com.my/2017-1)	K.L. Malaysia		
25-26 Apr.	ChemProTech India 2017 (Mack Brooks Group, Tel: 44-1727-814-400, Email: martin.clarke@mackbrooks.co.uk, URL: www.chemprotechindia.com)	Mumbai India		
25-27 Apr.	ExpoElectronica 2017 (Primexpo, Tel: 7-812-380-6003, Email: electron@primexpo.ru, URL: www.expoelectronica.ru)	Moscow Russia		
25-27 Apr.	Tashkent Int'l Healthcare Exbn (ITE Uzbekistan, Tel: 998-71-113-0180, Fax: 998-71-237-2272, Email: tihe@ite-uzbekistan.uz, URL: www.tihe.uz)	Tashkent Uzbekistan		
25-28 Apr.	Int'l Exbn on Systems for Transport and Logistics (Expocentre, Tel: 7-499-795-3947, Email: centr@expocentr.ru, URL: www.stl-expo.ru/en)	Moscow Russia		
25-28 Apr.	Contech Vietnam (Hanoi Advertising & Int'l Fair JSC (Tel: 84-4-6275-2588, Fax: 84-4-6275-2686, Email: tthai@hadifa.com, URL: contechvietnam.com)	Hanoi Vietnam		
26-28 Apr.	TransCaspian 2017 (Iteca Caspian LLC, Tel: 994-12-404-1037, Fax: 994-12-404-1001, Email: transport@iteca.az, URL: www.transcaspian.az)	Baku Azerbaijan		
26-29 Apr.	Taipei Int'l Gift & Stationery Show (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200 Ext. 2618, Email: giftionery@taitra.org.tw, URL: www.giftionery.net)	Taipei Taiwan		
26-30 Apr.	19th Jakarta International Handicraft Trade Fair – INACRAFT 2017 (ASEPHI, Tel: 62-21-725-2032, URL: inacraft.co.id)	Jakarta Indonesia		
28 Apr. -7 May	The Int'l Food Expo UTAGE 2017 (The Executive Committee, Tel: 81-6-7668-0377, Fax: 81-6-7668-0510, URL: www.shokuhaku.gr.jp)	Osaka Japan		

TECHNOLOGY

Ulma Packaging launches new vertical sealing equipment for fresh produce



Leading packaging machinery and complete automated lines supplier, ULMA Packaging Ltd, has announced a significant investment in exciting, new ultrasonic vertical sealing equipment which can help boost productivity and reduce waste in the fresh produce sector.

The international firm, part of a multi-faceted co-operative which is totally committed to the Global Packaging Machinery marketplace, is targeting the fresh produce sector with the innovative VTI 600 and VTC 800 ultrasonic Vertical Form Fill Seal (VFFS) machines, developed to provide customers with continuous packing at high production speeds.

In the UK, over 2 million tons of fresh produce are lost or wasted each year in the supply chain alone (Source WRAP). Some of this waste can be incurred at the packaging stage due to protruding leaves or stalks compromising the seal integrity during packing.

ULMA's VTI 600 and VTC 800 packaging technology is ideal for handling fresh produce such as kale leaf, cabbage leaf, Brussels sprouts, potatoes, carrots, florets and salads -

VFFS ultrasonic sealing equipment helps in the fight against food waste by detecting protruding items and moving them out of the way before sealing the bag. *Packaging Europe*

New farming technology could cut nitrates by 20%



Pawel Nykel only needs to control the speed of the tractor, the GPS does the steering. *Photo by Rob Currie*

Advanced farming equipment designed to reduce the amount of fertiliser used in growing potatoes was put into action for the first time in Jersey.

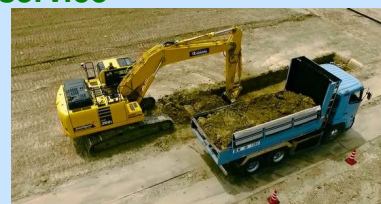
The trials were conducted in two fields at Le Catillon in Grouville by The Jersey Royal Company as part of a farmers-led initiative to improve water quality by reducing the risk of agricultural pollution.

At present nitrogen and potash, also known as nitrates, are applied across an entire field, from hedge to hedge, and ploughed in before potatoes are planted.

This runs the risk of chemicals leaching into the water table and streams that feed Jersey Water's reservoirs. Last year high levels of agricultural chemicals and nitrates were found in water sources around the Island forcing the closure of the worst-hit reservoir, Val de la Mare, for five months.

Since then, farmers, Jersey Water and the Environment Department have formed the Cleaner Water Working Group to come up with solutions. *Jersey Evening Post*

Komatsu adding artificial intelligence to construction advisory service



Komatsu is adopting artificial intelligence technologies for a service that can help construction supervisors and workers do their jobs more efficiently and rapidly.

The Japanese maker of construction machinery plans to add the AI-based service to the menu of its Smart Construction service sometime later this year.

Launched in February 2015, the advisory service uses drones and other equipment to conduct surveys and generate 3D data for uploading to construction machinery for semi-automatic operation.

With the incorporation of AI technologies, Komatsu will be able to offer a wider range of services that bring a degree of automation, not just to machinery but also to the scheme of execution.

The Japanese construction sector faces an aging and diminishing pool of skilled workers, and Komatsu sees AI as a way to replicate their knowledge and improve productivity at the building site. *Nikkei Asian Review*

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POLICY UPDATES

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

Hong Kong

Hong Kong ends business registration fee waiver

Hong Kong's Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has confirmed that business registration fees for business registration certificates will become payable again from April 1.

The fee for a one-year BRC normally totals HKD2,250 (USD290), made up of a HKD2,000 fee and a HKD250 annual levy for the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund.

Hong Kong decided to waive the HKD2,000 over the past year, while the levy remained payable.

It is anticipated that there will be an upsurge in demand for new business registration services in March 2017.

The IRD stressed that, under the one-stop company and business registration service, companies are required to lodge only one single application for company and business registration with the Companies Registry. An applicant for company incorporation is deemed to have applied for business registration simultaneously, and is no longer required to apply to the Business Registration Office for registration. *Tax News*

India

India's economy shrugs off cash crisis to post 7% growth

The country's gross domestic product grew by 7% in the quarter ended December, according to figures released by the government on Feb. 28. That's slower than the 7.4% expansion posted in the previous quarter, but a much better result than most analysts had forecast.

Economists had expected a sharp slowdown to result from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's abrupt decision to ban on all 500 and 1000 rupee notes -- the two largest denominations -- in early November. The shock move immediately took 86% of the country's cash out circulation, hitting key sectors

of the economy.

The GDP results mean that India has retained its title as the world's fastest growing major economy. Its rival China posted growth of only 6.8% over the same quarter. *CNN Money*

Indonesia

Indonesian President urges Australian businesses to invest outside traditional locations

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has heard first-hand the challenges Australian businesses face in investing in his country.

Mr Widodo met Australian business chief executives — from the pharmaceutical, mining, tourist and service industries — in Sydney on February 25 to learn about the investment barriers.

He urged them to consider investments outside traditional locations such as Bali. Head of Indonesia's Investment Coordinating Board Thomas Lembong said red tape needed to be removed in both countries and expressed confidence a trade deal could be finalised this year.

"We are confident that we will be able to complete the comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Australia this year," he said. *ABC News*

Japan

Japan eyes int'l hubs for large cruise ships

Japan's tourism ministry will develop six domestic ports, including Yokohama, as "international cruise hubs" in a bid to respond to the rapid increase in foreign tourists arriving by cruise ship.

The Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry aims to work with cruise ship operating companies to make the ports easy to stop at. However, this will involve fiscal outlays, so particular effort must be made to ensure the plan's effectiveness.

Besides Yokohama Port, the

envisioned international cruise hubs are Shimizu in Shizuoka city; Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture; Yatsushiro in Kumamoto Prefecture; and Motobu and Hirara, both in Okinawa Prefecture. Operating companies will be allowed preferential use of the ports, but they will also be asked to construct passenger terminal complexes where immigration procedures will be conducted for passengers. *The Japan News*

Korea

South Korea's Feb exports post best growth in 5 years as global demand improves

South Korean exports grew at their fastest pace in five years in February in a further sign that global demand is strengthening, even as trade-reliant economies brace for a possible rise in US protectionism.

Both exports and imports grew more than expected, and at the strongest pace since February 2012, data showed on March 1.

The trade ministry said exports to China, South Korea's biggest customer, rose for a fourth straight month while semiconductor exports posted their best monthly performance on record, riding on months-long rally in electronics.

February exports jumped 20.2 percent compared with a year earlier to US\$43.19 billion, while imports soared 23.3 percent to US\$35.97 billion. *Business Times*

Malaysia

Malaysia's GDP seen advancing 4.4%, economy bottomed out last year

The Malaysian economy is expected to grow by as much as 4.4% this year, a slight improvement from 2016's 4.2%, anchored by the ongoing implementation of infrastructure projects in the country, said economists.

Socio-Economic Research Centre executive director Lee Heng Guie said Malaysia's economic had already

POLICY UPDATES

“bottomed out” in 2016.

“This year’s growth outlook shows a cautiously positive trend of 4.3% for this year,” he said in his presentation during Rehda Institute’s economic and business outlook conference 2017 on February 28.

“The ongoing implementation of public transportation-related infrastructure projects and continued investments in the manufacturing and services sector will help promote private investments,” he said. *The Star*

Philippines

NEDA rolls out new Phl Development Plan

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has come up with a new medium-term economic blueprint for the country, targeting an upper-middle class economy status with a per capita income of \$5,000 by 2022.

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 is the first six-year plan to be anchored on a national long-term vision – the Ambisyon Natin 2040. It also takes off from the Duterte administration’s 10-point socioeconomic agenda.

The new PDP contains seven main parts, which include an overview of the economy, development challenges that lie ahead, and development strategies.

As identified in the 2017-2022 PDP, the Philippine economy is expected to grow seven to eight percent in the medium term to a more inclusive pace. *Philippine Star*

Singapore

Singapore plans Southeast Asia’s first carbon tax from 2019

Singapore plans to implement Southeast Asia’s first carbon tax starting in 2019, a move that would raise energy costs in the island nation and require more than 30 big polluters such as power plants to pay the levy.

The proposal would charge between S\$10 (\$7) and S\$20 a ton on emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases, Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat said in a speech outlining the government’s 2017 budget. The tax is equivalent to a \$3.50-to-\$7-a-barrel increase in the cost of oil for combustion. It would raise electricity costs by 2 percent to 4 percent, according to a government report released after Heng’s speech.

“The most economically efficient and fair way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to set a carbon tax, so that emitters will take the necessary actions,” Heng said. “Singapore is vulnerable to rises in sea level due to climate change. Together with the international community, we have to play our part to protect our living environment.”

The revenue from the tax would help fund industry measures to reduce emissions, Heng said. *Bloomberg*

Taiwan

New government tax bill raise income tax deductions to benefit 5.39M workers

Taiwan’s Finance Minister Sheu Yu-Jer announced the government is evaluating a proposal to raise special deduction for individual taxpayers, which would lower their income tax as early as next May.

The ministry plans to raise deductions for salary or wages from NT\$128,000 (US\$4,156.92), and is considering whether to add capital gains from stocks in the draft income reform bill to be submitted to the Cabinet in May.

If the bill is passed, an estimated 5.39 million taxpayer, including investors and company employees, will see their taxes reduced by 2018.

Sheu said the actual income tax deduction will depend on the country’s financial situation, if the new bill substantially increases the country’s

overall tax revenue, the greater the income tax cut will be. *Taiwan News*

Thailand

Thailand to stop sugar subsidy by year-end

The government will stop subsidizing sugar production and drop domestic control of consumer prices for sugar by the end of the year, a Ministry of Agriculture official said on February 21.

Brazil challenged Thailand at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in March last year, arguing that Thailand’s subsidies for sugar producers have dragged down global prices.

“Our new policy will be to let the price of sugar match that of the global markets whereas before it was under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture,” Buntin Kotesiri, administrative director at the Sugar and Cane Producing Board, told Reuters.

“We expect these changes to come into effect at the end of the year during harvesting season.” Bangkok Post

Vietnam

Vietnam’s small businesses outperform regional counterparts

Vietnam’s small businesses are among the fastest growing and most confident in the region, according to new survey data released on March 2.

The survey, released by global accounting firm CPA Australia, shows that 89 percent of small businesses reported growth during the last 12 months and 94 percent expect to grow in the next 12 months.

The results also show that 86 percent of small businesses expect the local Vietnamese economy to grow in the next 12 months.

These very optimistic figures rank Vietnam second of the eight markets surveyed, behind only Indonesia and ahead of Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia. *Vietnam Net*