



CACCI Profile

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Vol. XXXXI, No. 6

June 2017

31st CACCI Conference

Sydney, Australia
18-21 September 2017

In conjunction with
ICC WCF 10th World Chambers Congress



Confederation of Asia Pacific
Chambers of Commerce and Industry



www.cacci.biz
www.cacci.biz/conference

Special group rate for 10th WCC and 31st CACCI Conference delegates

Special group delegation offer is being extended to participants of the 10th World Chambers Congress (WCC) and 31st CACCI Conference coming from least developed countries (LDCs) and international delegates.

Continued on page 2.

CACCI Director-General attends Global Chamber Platform in Berlin

CACCI Director-General Amb. Victor C. Y. Tseng represented CACCI in the meeting of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP) held on the morning of May 2, 2017 in Berlin. This year's GCP discussed the many challenges the global economic environment is currently facing as well as the position of the GCP regarding the outcome of the B-20 Summit. **Continued on page 3.**

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| • Special group rate for 10th WCC & 31st CACCI Conference | 1 |
| • CACCI director-general attends Berlin meeting of the Global Chamber Platform | 1 |
| • CACCI director-general attends B20 Summit in Berlin | 3 |
| • Are you ready for the ASEAN Economic Community? | 4 |
| • FPCCI to host "Pakistan International Trade Fair" in October | 4 |
| • Sri Lanka's newly established Private - Public Partnership Unit launched at the Ceylon Chamber's Investment Conclave | 5 |
| • Philippines, Russia to cooperate in broadening and seeking new business relationships | 6 |
| • PCCI, Indonesian chamber to facilitate more trade & investments | 6 |
| • 2017 IWEC Awards now open for nominations | 7 |
| • Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement Ministerial Statement | 8 |
| • Secretariat meets with SME Development Council Chairman | 8 |
| • Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards honor business innovators | 9 |

Special group rate for 10th WCC and 31st CACCI Conference delegates

Continued from page 1

International delegates, including those from Australia, are entitled to one free entry for every group of ten paying participants. Attendees from LDCs on the other hand, can avail of one free entry for every five paying participants. LDC delegates also benefit from a special discount rate. Interested parties may visit the event website <https://worldchamberscongress.org> for the complete list of LDCs and group registration procedure.



About the Congress

The WCC is the premier event of its kind bringing together chamber, business and government figures alike. Now in its 10th edition, this year's WCC is organized by the Sydney Business Chamber, a division of NSW Business Chamber, with CACCI as its strategic regional partner.

The 31st CACCI Conference will be held on September 18, 2017, within the framework of the 10th WCC. The 10th WCC will run from September 19-21, 2017. It will be held in Sydney, Australia and take place in the harbor city's newest convention center, the International Convention Centre Sydney.

How to Register

To register, please visit the official Congress website at www.worldchamberscongress.org

For CACCI members, please note the following:

1. When registering for the Congress, you will need to tick the box that indicates you will attend the CACCI Conference on September 18. This section appears on the second page of the registration form.
2. The Congress itself has a three-tiered fee structure. One can choose to attend only one, two, or all three days of the Congress, and a corresponding fee applies for each. Whichever day (or days) you wish to attend in the Congress, you can still join the September 18 program of CACCI.



Updated information on the 31st CACCI Conference and the 10th World Chambers Congress will be sent to all members in due course. In the meantime, should you have questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact the CACCI Secretariat at cacci@cacci.biz

CACCI director-general attends Berlin meeting of the Global Chamber Platform

Continued from page 1



The GCP was launched in 2002 by the Eurochambres (Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry) to develop a coherent framework for Eurochambres and its relations with partner organizations around the world. CACCI joined the GCP in October 2003 during the 11th Annual Congress of Eurochambres, where Mr. K.

K. Modi, then CACCI President, was invited as one of the panelists.

The GCP usually holds its annual meeting in conjunction with the Annual Congress of Eurochambres. As GCP member, CACCI has always been invited to attend these annual meetings. For the first time, the GCP was represented at the B-20 Summit from May 2-3 in Berlin as an official networking partner.



CACCI director-general attends B20 Summit in Berlin



CACCI Director-General Amb. Victor C. Y. Tseng represented CACCI at the B20 Summit held on May 2-3, 2017 in Berlin, and had the opportunity to meet with the current B20 Chairman Dr. Jurgen Heraeus.

During the two-day high-level event - which served as the highlight of the B20 process – panelists and some 800 B20 affiliated CEOs and representatives from international organizations and politics met in Berlin to discuss the crucial findings and policy recommendations derived from the B20 process.

The B20 Summit allowed for discussions, high-level networking, and high-level business advocacy. German Chancellor and G20 Chair Angela Merkel received the B20 Summary

"Shaping an Interconnected World" containing the B20 policy recommendations on May 3 in an official handover ceremony.

Are you ready for the ASEAN Economic Community?

The ASEAN Business Awards (ABA) aims to recognize the outstanding ASEAN enterprises in the region. It disseminates information related to the ASEAN Economic Community and to bring the spotlight to the SMEs that have the potential to become global economic players in their respective industries.



ABA 2017 will focus on three main categories:

- 1) The ASEAN 12 Priority Integration Sectors (fisheries, electronic, E-ASEAN/ICT, textiles, logistics, wood-based, rubber, agri-food, healthcare, tourism, automotive, and retail),
- 2) the Special Awards (Inclusive Business & Friends of ASEAN) and,
- 3) The 2017 SMEs Excellence

Award (Young Entrepreneur, Women, Women in STEM, and SMEs in the categories of Growth, Corporate Social Responsibility, Employment, and Innovation).

In 2017, The ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) in partnership with the Philippine government launched the ASEAN Inclusive Business Awards. Under the Special Awards category of the ABA, it is the first in the region to recognize innovative businesses creating social impact. A winner will be selected from each ASEAN country and will be recognized on the gala night of the ABA.

Nominations for the ABA 2017 will close on June 15, 2017. For more details, you may visit www.aba2017.com. Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact secretariat@asean-bac.org

FPCCI to host “Pakistan International Trade Fair” in October

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) is inviting CACCI members to attend the “Pakistan International Trade Fair (PITF)” to be held on October 26-29, 2017 in Karachi, Pakistan.

Organized by the FPCCI, the four-day event is expected to provide great opportunities to the world's potential companies to showcase their products and conduct B2B and B2C. The exhibition will be inaugurated by very important persons of Pakistan.



Besides, it is also a general trade fair where regional pavilions will also be established besides the international pavilion. The FPCCI will set up a separate CACCI pavilion in which brands of CACCI member countries will be

accommodated.

For more information on the Trade Fair, interested parties are encouraged to visit the event website at: <http://www.pitfexpo.com/>

Sri Lanka's newly established Private – Public Partnership Unit launched at the Ceylon Chamber's Investment Conclave

Sri Lanka launched its 'Private – Public Partnership (PPP) Unit', set up through a Cabinet decision at the 'Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2017', which took place on the 30th May to 01st June 2017, in Colombo.

The unit is mandated to source investment from both national and international private sector to drive the national economic agenda. The Conclave is the best opportunity to launch the unit as the participants at the conclave are the target audience to source investments to Sri Lanka. The new unit is coming under the Ministry of Finance and is supported and guided by the World Bank.

The launch of the PPP unit at the 'Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave' was witnessed by over 200 Investors and Business partners.

Organized by The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the "Sri Lanka Investment & Business Conclave 2017", the event aimed to attract much needed Foreign Direct Investors to Sri Lanka, Business partners for Exports and also

to promote Tourism, in a bid to help propel the nation's economic growth to greater heights.



The Conclave 2017, focused on bringing in investments into the areas of Agriculture, Apparel, Education, Export Manufacturing, Export Services, Infrastructure, Knowledge Services, Tourism and Leisure, Power & Energy, Telecommunications and Related Services, Ports Development, Distribution of Petroleum related products such as LPG & LNG and Recycling of Waste.

Philippines, Russia to cooperate in broadening and seeking new business relationships

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business organization, and the Roscongress Foundation of the Russian Federation, have signed an agreement whose main focus is to encourage cooperation on enabling effective communication between expert communities, business leaders, and political leaders in the Philippines and the Russian Federation.

The agreement was signed by PCCI president George T. Barcelon and Roscongress CEO Alexander Stuglev on May 23, 2017, in Russia.

The cooperation involves implementing efforts to broaden and strengthen existing business relations, and to seek out and develop new and long-term business partnerships.



Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Barcelon said that after almost 70 years in which Russia and the Philippines exchanged very little information, the lack of knowledge about trade and investment potential

and important economic events capable of stimulating business ties between the two countries had become a major obstacle to

business growth.

The parties hope to overcome this obstacle by developing cooperation and establishing effective communication.

Barcelon headed the private sector delegation that accompanied President Rodrigo R. Duterte in his official visit to Russia.

Stuglev said that an agreement had been reached to create joint international communication platforms, and to maintain a dialogue on cooperation in investment and finance, exports and imports, and tourism and culture.

Among those who witnessed the signing were Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez and Presidential Advisor on Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion.

The Roscongress Foundation, the largest operator of conferences and exhibitions in Russia, facilitates the development of Russia's economic potential and strengthen the country's image by organizing conventions, exhibitions, and public events. *PCCI*

PCCI, Indonesian chamber to facilitate more trade and investments

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business organization and "Voice of Philippine Business", and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (Kadin), the sole business organization of Indonesia, have signed a memorandum of understanding to promote cooperation and partnership for a dynamic development of trade and investments between the Philippines and

Indonesia.

The MOU was signed by PCCI president George T. Barcelon and Kadin chairman Rosan P. Roeslani, head of the Indonesian business delegation that attended a conference of the Asean Business Advisory Council last April 28.

Under the MOU, both chambers will work to

further enhance existing relations through cooperation in trade investment and economic development.



Both will encourage, promote and facilitate the exchange of missions, participate and organize trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences, and seminars.

They also will share market information and market intelligence, and support the maritime connectivity of Davao/General Santos and Bitung through the Roll-On-Roll-Off network and encourage companies to make use of the roro connectivity for the trade of products and commodities as well as cooperation for investments and tourism.

2017 IWECA Awards now open for nominations

The 2017 International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge Awards (IWECA Awards) is now open for nominations. CACCI primary and affiliate members are invited to encourage exemplary women entrepreneurs to join the awards by signing up at <https://iwecawards.com/iwec-awards-application/>



IWECA is a New York-based non-for-profit organization whose mission is to connect and develop a global network of successful women business owners. IWECA's reach encompasses women who are already in the global marketplace and want to expand, and those who are ripe to get into the marketplace.

IWECA's ecosystem is comprised of women-

owned companies around the globe whose combined annual revenue is over US\$25 billion dollars, and who employ over 125,000 workers worldwide. Simply put, IWECA's constituents represent some of the most influential businesswomen from the world's most important emerging and established regions.

The awardees and chamber executives are invited to participate in the annual conference to receive their award and to network and share best practices. Conferences to date have been held in Barcelona, New York City, New Delhi India, Cape Town South Africa, Lima Peru, Stockholm Sweden, Istanbul and Brussels, Belgium.

The 2017 IWECA Awards and Conference will be held at the campus headquarters of Microsoft in Redmond, Washington on November 12-14, 2017.

For more information on the IWECA Awards, interested parties may wish to visit the official website: <https://iwecawards.com/>

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement Ministerial Statement

Ha Noi, Viet Nam – Ministers and Vice Ministers from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam met on May 21 to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in the margins of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade.

The Ministers reaffirmed the balanced outcome and the strategic and economic significance of the TPP highlighting its principles and high standards as a way to promote regional economic integration, contribute positively to the economic growth prospects of its member countries, and create new opportunities for workers, families, farmers, businesses and consumers.

The Ministers agreed on the value of realizing the TPP's benefits and to that end, they agreed to launch a process to assess options to bring the comprehensive, high quality Agreement into force expeditiously, including how to facilitate membership for the original signatories.

The Ministers tasked their senior trade officials to engage to take forward the preparation of this assessment. Ministers asked for this work to be completed before they meet in the margins of the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting on 10-11 November 2017 in Da Nang, Vietnam.



The Ministers also underlined their vision for the TPP to expand to include other economies that can accept the high standards of the TPP.

These efforts would address concern about protectionism, contribute to maintaining open markets, strengthening the rules-based international trading system, increasing world trade, and raising living standards. *Beehive*

CACCI Secretariat meets with SME Development Council Chairman



Mr. George Abraham (right) recently met with CACCI Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. (left) in Singapore. They discussed preparations for the Roundtable Session to be organized by the CACCI SME Development Council (SMEDC) during the 31st CACCI Conference scheduled to take place on September 18, 2017 in Sydney, as well as Mr. Abraham's participation in the 10th World Chambers Congress to be hosted by the ICC World Chambers Federation and the Sydney

Business Chamber, with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry as Partner Organization.

Mr. Abraham and Mr. Honrado also exchanged views on other activities that the SMEDC Chairman proposes to undertake during the year, including workshops and training programs on SME promotion and development in partnership with CACCI member chambers.

Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards honor business innovators

Winners of the fourth annual Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards, the only awards program to recognize innovation in business throughout the entire Asia-Pacific region, were recently honored in Tokyo on June 2, 2017.

This year's Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards recognized organizations in 15 nations including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. More than 700 nominations about innovative achievements in the 22 countries from the Asia-Pacific region were considered by the judges.

Some 50 executives from around the world participated in the judging to determine the Gold, Silver and Bronze Stevie Awards winners. The winners were recognized for their innovation in various aspects of business achievement and work life (e.g., management, communications and public relations, marketing, publications, websites and blogs, customer service, events, Apps, human resources, technology, product design and management, among others).

One of the Silver Winners this year is Rico's Lechon, a homegrown food company from Cebu City, Philippines, which was cited for Innovation in Media Relations. As part of its application for

the Award, Mr. Jeff Oyas, the company's Marketing Manager, submitted the following essay on its media relations activities, which earned the nod of the Board of Judges:

“Twenty years ago, Mr. Enrico Dionson started Rico's Lechon in Cebu, Philippines. The micro food business meant preparing a whole roasted suckling pig, or locally known as lechon, and serve it to friends who order one or two during special occasions. Not too many knew about it then. The few who did was limited to the founder's closest circle.

“It was upon the recommendations of delighted and satisfied customers that 3MRS Corporation, the company behind Rico's Lechon, credit its popularity today, where it has also been branded as “DaBestGyud” (Indeed the Best) lechon, as it claims, and as validated by the press and food influencers.

“The media exposure was purely organic. In other words, it was an unpaid exposure and the message got across various media networks. Its first indirect endorsements came from Filipino politicians and celebrities themselves who were spotted dining in its first restaurant along F. Cabahug Street in Cebu City.



Mr. Enrico Dionson (2nd from right), Founder of Rico's Lechon, & Mr. Jeff Oyas (right), the company's Marketing Manager, receive the Stevie Award during the Tokyo awarding ceremony recently.

“One of the major national exposure of Rico’s Lechon was in a morning lifestyle talk show, Kris TV, hosted by the Philippine entertainment industry’s Queen of All Media, Kris Aquino. Internationally, the New York Times first featured it in 2014, and no less than CNN wrote about it as well.



Mr. Enrico Dionson in Tokyo

“However, it was only in February 2016 when the management decided to professionalize its marketing and communications strategy by adopting a major image overhaul—from being one of Cebu’s lechon makers to becoming “DaBestGyud” lechon.

“While maintaining its signature taste, the management opened a new modern-themed restaurant in Mactan Island, less than a kilometer away from the Cebu airport, to position the changes coming along. Externally, the branding came in the form of a new logo, #DaBestGyud (Really the Best) tagline, and a jingle. Rico’s Lechon also sourced professionals to manage its social media pages that has now close to a million reach.

“The branding efforts also mean fostering closer ties with members of the traditional and online media. The management from time to time organizes press conferences in their restaurants to formally meet with journalists and bloggers, as well as share company updates. To date, monitored media mileage in print, broadcast, and online comes close to 40 features.

“As a way of giving back to the media’s generosity, the management also sponsors media-hosted events, one of the most recent of

which was the Cebu Food Crawl, a four-day food tour of different restaurants and hotels organized by the Cebu Bloggers Society Inc., in August 2016. It also meets with wedding suppliers and organizers and treats them with Rico’s lechon and its other gastronomic dishes. Recommendations came after recommendations from delighted media guests and food tasters.

“For their traditional media counterparts, Rico’s Lechon also participated in the “Best of Cebu” Awards of Sun.Star Publishing Inc., the country’s largest community newspaper, where it was also hailed as Cebu’s Best Lechon.

“In less than a year since it formalized its communication plan, the company has recorded a 54 percent increase in gross sales this year. Clearly, the message that Rico’s Lechon wants to impart to the public, it being #DaBestGyud lechon, through the media, came out fruitful.

“As it looks forward to prosperous years ahead, Rico’s Lechon anticipates to share more of its gastronomic treats to the media, who will surely and happily phrase “#DaBestGyud” lechon, in their own language, to the world.”



Mr. Jeff Oyas (right) in Tokyo for the awarding ceremony

This year’s winners of the Asia-Pacific Stevie Award were celebrated and presented with their awards during the fourth annual gala banquet and awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Tokyo.

Product & Service Councils

Asian Council on Water, Energy & Environment

India beats US in latest renewable energy index

The Indian renewable energy sector has attained number two position in the world, according to EY in its latest index on “Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness.”

While China retained its top position, the US which was number two last year has slid down to number three position and Germany maintained its number four position.



Few developing Asian countries made the top 25 list of “attractive” countries. Pakistan ranks 26 out of 40 countries measured in the entire index.

“India has zoomed past the US to take the second spot on a list of the world’s most attractive renewable energy market,” tweeted Power Minister Piyush Goyal reacting to on the EY report.

EY – formerly known as Ernst & Young – is the world’s leading multinational professional services firm headquartered in London. *The Statesman*

Asian ICT Council

Philippine province gets ICT boost thru innovation training in Korea

The information and communication technology (ICT) sector of Negros Occidental is getting a boost through the ongoing 2017 Training Program on Korea’s Experience of Science and Technology Parks (STP) in Daejeon, South Korea.



Lawyer Jocelle Batapa-Sigue, executive director of Bacolod-Negros Occidental Federation for Information and Communications Technology, is one of the participants from 20 countries gathered in the event organized by the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, and Innopolis Foundation.

Batapa-Sigue said the innovation training, which runs from May 15 to 26, mainly underscores the knowledge sharing program on Korea’s 44-year experience in terms of STP.

“The course aims to share Korea’s STP development, accumulate knowledge by looking into practical examples from across the globe, and build a network of specialists in various fields,” Batapa-Sigue said. *Sunstar*

Women Entrepreneurs Group

Mastercard to train more women entrepreneurs

Mastercard, a leading global payments and technology company, has announced the fourth phase of its financial and business literacy program for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.

The program is intended to provide financial and business literacy education to 15,000 low or no-income women in Bangladesh in 2017 under the fourth phase, bringing the total figure to 150,000 since 2013, said a press release.

In line with the Mastercard’s

global focus of harnessing entrepreneurship in women and children, the new program offers training to ensure the efficient use of microfinancing loans for women entrepreneurs across the country.



Mastercard launched the first phase of its financial and business literacy programme in 2013 to mark the opening of their first office in Bangladesh. The second phase followed in 2015 and the third in 2016. *Dhaka Tribune*

Asian SME Council

SME operators exceed expectations at Incheon

One development among Incheon's duty free operators that previously was not anticipated is that the airport's new SME operators performed better than expected in 2016 and generally obtained higher revenue from their outlets than the previous concession holders; including South Korea's leading duty free operators.

"SME shops are doing well," Kim Bum Ho, Incheon International Airport Corporation (IIAC) told TRBusiness. "Their sales are above expectations compared to their bid forecasts.

"As their sales grow, more brands are being invited to the SME shops."



All operators keep merchandise sales under continual review, adjusting brands and products to meet changing market conditions.

"Some operators have changed chocolate confectionery for ginseng products," Kim noted.

"South Korean cosmetics brands are popular and their face mask products are popular." *TR Business*

Chamber Personality



Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin

Former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin has been elected as the president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry or FBCCI, the country's apex business body.

Mohiuddin is a successful businessman, entrepreneur and social activist in Dhaka. He is currently the Managing Director of the Onus Group. He has successfully diversified his business in various sectors like RMG, real estate, shipping, dredging, auto bricks, etc.

He is an executive committee member of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) and is also a member of the France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He is involved in various social organizations such as the Society for Anti Addiction Movement (SAAM), Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited and serves as a member of the board of trustee at BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT).

Investment & Joint Ventures

Unilever and EAC announce Joint Venture in Myanmar

As part of its long-term commitment to South East Asia and Myanmar, Unilever on May 4 announced a joint venture with Europe & Asia Commercial Company (EAC) Ltd to build on its current operations in the country.



Unilever Myanmar and Europe & Asia Commercial Company (EAC) Ltd will combine their respective Personal Care & Home Care businesses, forming Unilever EAC Myanmar Company Limited. The joint entity, with annual sales in excess of €100 Million, will manufacture, market and distribute Home & Personal Care products in Myanmar.

The companies will mutually benefit from a complementary portfolio, greater rural penetration and economies of scale. The joint venture will also create growth opportunities for Myanmar and its people through R&D, manufacturing investment, market development and nurturing local talent, according to Unilever.

“We are excited about the synergies that both businesses can leverage. Unilever’s global expertise in R&D, supply chain and marketing, combined with our local manufacturing and distribution capabilities, makes this partnership attractive for us and strengthens our

contribution to Myanmar,” said U Sein Myint, Chairman of EAC. *Finchannel*

AirAsia to launch joint venture in China

Asian budget airline AirAsia has signed an agreement to launch a low-cost carrier service in China, as part of a joint venture between AirAsia, Everbright Group and Henan Government Working Group.

The service will have a base in the central eastern city of Zhengzhou, with AirAsia also agreeing to invest in aviation infrastructure at the airport, including a dedicated LCC terminal and an aviation academy to train pilots, crew and engineers.



Chief executive Tony Fernandes said in a statement: “This Chinese venture represents the final piece of the AirAsia puzzle”, completing the “loop” of services it already provides. AirAsia currently has operations in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and India.

The company has built up the airline in just 16 years to become Asia’s largest budget airline. The potential for the company in the Chinese market is huge, with it set to overtake the US to become the world’s biggest aviation market within the next decade. *The Investment Observer*

Alibaba.com partners with J&T to aid SMEs

ALIBABA.com, a leading business to business (B2B) e-commerce player announces its partnership with Indonesian logistics company J&T by launching J&T Alibaba.



Set-up in 2016 and officially launched on May 9, 2017, J&T Alibaba is not a logistics partner to Alibaba.com in Indonesia, but exists to support economic growth by connecting Indonesian SMEs and entrepreneurs to the global market through e-commerce.

“Alibaba.com and J&T have the same vision to boost Indonesian SME growth in the international market with the help of technology. Alibaba.com is now in 190 countries and we saw that J&T Express has a wide network across Indonesia. This is why we have chosen to partner them.

“J&T Alibaba can help local suppliers to reach the global market and it will also help buyers to find products from other countries,” said Alibaba Group general manager of overseas B2B Jack Zhang.

According to the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SMEs only contribute 15.8% to Indonesia’s total exports. They only contributed 0.8% to the global supply chain in 2015. *Digital News Asia*

Astro partners Turner Asia Pacific to form strategic joint venture

Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd has partnered Turner Asia Pacific to form a strategic joint venture (JV) in Warner TV and co-production, distribution of Asian content for global reach.

This is alongside the distribution of Astro content and carriage of the channel on Astro and Tribe.



In a statement released April 27, Astro chief operating officer Henry Tan (pic) said the company’s focus is to deepen its involvement in content creation and ownership, particularly in Asian intellectual properties (IPs), which would be pivotal in a market that values strong differentiation.

“We believe these IPs anchor our value proposition and are ultimately what customers want and are willing to pay for.

“We are enhancing the exportability of signature IPs, and actively seeking distribution in multiple markets through partnerships, as well as our own platforms, such as Astro in Malaysia and Tribe in the region,” he added. *The Star*

Fairs & Exhibits in Asia Pacific

| Date 2017 | Name of fair (Further Information) | Venue | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 4-7 July | Vietnam Int'l Machine Tools Expo (SG Exbn Services, Tel: 65-6233-6638, Email: mta@sesallworld.com URL: mtavietnam.com) | HCMC Vietnam |  | Good Food & Wine Show (Talk2 Media and Events URL: www.goodfoodshow.com.au/) | Perth Australia |
| 5-7 July | Myanmar Lab Expo 2017 (VEAS Co., Ltd., Tel: 84-8-3848-8561, Email: info@veas.com.vn URL: pharmed- myanmar.com) | Yangon Myanmar |  | Agri Intex 2017 (CODISSIA, Tel: 91-422-2222396, Email: agriintex@codissia.com, URL: www.Aagriintex.codissia.com) | Coimbatore India |
| 5-6 July | Kyushu Agro-Innovation (Japan Management Assoc, Tel: 81-3-3434- 1988, Email: ai-e@jma.or.jp, URL: www.jma.or.jp/ai/) | Fukuoka Japan |  | Int'l Exbn on Beauty, Cosmetics, Spa Business (IECMI ITE, Email: enquiry@ecmi.com.my, URL: www.cosmobeauteasia.com) | Kuala Lumpur Malaysia |
| 5-8 July | Garment Textile Expo 2017 (BITEC, Tel: 66-2686-7299, Fax: 66-2686-7288, Email: gft@reedtradex.co.th, URL: www.gftexpo.com) | Bangkok Thailand |  | Int'l Exbn on Electrical Tech & Equipment (CIS Vietnam, Tel: 84-4- 39844104, Email: ete@cisvn.com, URL: www.vietnam-ete.com) | HCMC Vietnam |
| 5-7 July | Interpol World 2017 (Interpol/MP Intl. Tel: 65-6389-6613 Email: layeng.see@interpol-world.com, URL: www.interpol-world.com) | Singapore |  | Hong Kong Book Fair (HK Trade Devlp't Council, Tel: 852-1830-668, Email: exhibitions@hktdc.org, URL: www.hkbookfair.hktdc.com) | Hong Kong China |
| 7-9 July | Lanka Water Expo (Water Today Pvt. Ltd., Tel: 91-44-4291-6900, Email: info@watertoday.org URL: www.lankawaterexpo.com) | Colombo Sri Lanka |  | Golf Facility Show (GFS Show Management, Tel: 81-3-6273-0403, Email: info@sports-st.com, URL: www.golf- show.jp) | Tokyo Japan |
| 8-9 July | HK Intl Education Expo (Neway Intl Trade Fairs Ltd., Tel: 852-2561-5566, Email: info@newayfairs.com, URL: www.newayfairs.com) | Hong Kong China |  | Office Expo Asia (Bizlink Exbn Services, Tel: 65-6848-5938, Email: visit@bizlink.com.sg, URL: www.officexpoasia.com) | Singapore |
| 8-9 July | INNOPROM (FORMIKA expo, Tel: 7- 495-660-7589, Email: info@innoprom.com, URL: www.innoprom.com/en/) | Ekaterinburg Russia |  | Agritech Vietnam 2017 (Dong Nam, Email: info@dongnam.com.vn, URL: www.vietnamfarmexpo.com) | HCMC Vietnam |
| 11-13 July | Oil and Gas Asia Exbn (Malaysian Exbn Services, Email: enquiry@mesallworld.com URL: www.oilandgas-asia.com) | Kuala Lumpur Malaysia |  | Tourism Technology Asia (GLOBE Intl, Tel: 65-6702-3005 Email: enquiries@tourismtechnologyasia.com, URL: www.tourismtechnologyasia.com) | Singapore |
| 12-14 July | Indo Renergy 2017 Expo (PT Napindo Media Ashatama Email: samuel.napindo@gmail.com, URL: www.indorenergy.com) | Jakarta Indonesia |  | Systems Expo 2017 (Globe Intl Events Consultancy Tel. 65-6320-9650, Email: sales@giec.biz, URL: www.systems-expo.com) | Singapore |
| 12-14 July | Int'l Modern Hospital Show (Japan Hospital Assoc Tel: 81-3-3403-8615, Email: hsg@noma.or.jp, URL: http://noma-hs.jp/hs/2017/) | Tokyo Japan |  | Intl Machine Tools Exhibition (Qingdao Jinnoc Intl Expo Tel: 86-532- 55552901, Email: jcz@china- jinnuo.com, URL: www.jch-mj.com) | Qingdao China |
| 12-14 July | Singapore Gifts Show (TTG Events, Tel: 65-6395-7573 Email: ong.shuwei@ttgasia.com URL: www.singaporegiftsshow.com) | Singapore |  | World Food Expo (PEPTARSUS Corp., Tel: 63917-844- 1217, Email: joel.pascual@peptarsus.com, URL: www.wofex.com) | Manila Philippines |
| 13-16 July | Retail, Food Hospitality Service 2017 (Diversified Communications Thailand Co., Ltd, Tel: 66-2861-4013, Email: pipat.kavin@gmail.com, URL: www.thailandhoreca.com/2017/) | Bangkok Thailand |  | Logistics Service Exhbn (Reed Tradex, Tel: 66-2686-7299, Fax: 66- 2686-7288 Email: info@tilog-logistix.com, URL: www.tilog-logistix.com) | Bangkok Thailand |

Policy Updates

A compilation of rules, laws & policies on trade & investments in CACCI member countries

Australia

\$56 billion in infrastructure investment planned

Australia is planning US\$56 billion in infrastructure spending, on projects including a new airport for Sydney and a 1,000-mile high-speed rail corridor, as the government seeks to extend the world's longest continuous growth streak and return to a budget surplus.

The decade spending plan--unveiled in the annual budget on May 9--comes as concerns mount over the health of an economy that has navigated 25 years without a recession.

In recent years, resources investment has declined sharply, an uncertain job market has made consumers leery about spending, and tougher lending rules have choked off a housing-construction boom. The three global credit-rating firms have for months warned Australia's AAA rating could be lost if national finances worsen.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is following the playbook of other large developed countries, hoping to avert an economic downturn and rekindle

support for his unpopular conservative government.
Market Watch

Hong Kong

Economic growth at five-year high

Hong Kong's economy enjoyed a strong start to 2017, with official data confirming the earlier survey signs of faster growth.

The economics ministry reported that gross domestic product rose 0.7% in the first three months of the year, taking the annual growth rate up to 4.3%, its fastest since the second quarter of 2011. This time last year, the pace of growth had waned to just 1.0%, Seeking Alpha reported.

Improvement in the economy had been flagged in advance by the Nikkei PMI, the latest reading of which also bodes well for strong growth to be sustained into the second quarter.

Headline PMI correlates closely with annual growth of GDP, exhibiting an 83% fit historically when advanced two months against GDP, therefore acting as a reliable early indicator of official data.
Financial Tribune

India

Lofty export target in trade policy to be reviewed

India is set to prune its ambitious export target of \$900 billion as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government works on reviewing the foreign trade policy amid continued global weakness and uncertainty.

The reassessment comes as India slogs it out in negotiations for a regional trade deal that would account for almost 30 percent of global GDP and over a quarter of world exports, involving with China, the 10 ASEAN nations, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan, known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The government unveiled its first foreign trade policy for 2015-2020 in April, setting a merchandise and services export target of \$900 billion by 2020, almost double the \$465.9 billion achieved in 2013-14. However, with the fragile global economic recovery and increasing protectionist economic policies, India is re-assessing the exports situation.
Bloomberg

Japan

Asian Development Bank to promote universal health care in Asia-Pacific

In response to rapidly aging populations in Asia and the Pacific, the government and the Asian Development Bank have agreed to cooperate on strengthening efforts to boost universal health coverage in the regions based on Japan's health system.

The Manila-based financial institution and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a governmental entity that carries out Japan's official development assistance, signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in areas such as health policy formulation and medical workforce development. The two institutions will also co-finance the building of basic health- and welfare-related infrastructure.

The signing took place at the international bank's annual meeting, which kicked off May 4 at the Pacifico Yokohama convention center in Yokohama. *Japan Times*

South Korea

2017 Export outlook raised as economy speeds up

South Korea raised its export outlook for the year after first quarter economic growth accelerated at a sharper pace, with policymakers saying

there was no need for extra stimulus even as the economy faces a host of political and economic challenges.

The firm start to the year on strong exports and capital investment is a relief for policymakers after months of political crisis and as the country prepares to elect a new president in May amid rising tensions with neighbours North Korea and China.

With overall growth rebounding, drawing up a supplementary budget to boost the economy won't be necessary for now, Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho told reporters, although the final decision may be up to the nation's next leader.

Growth in the second quarter won't slow sharply, Yoo added, but uncertainties will continue to persist. *Reuters*

New Zealand

Wellington unveils tougher rules for skilled immigrants

New Zealand on April 20 announced that it is introducing tougher requirements for skilled overseas workers as it tries to control immigration numbers that have reached an all-time high.

The changes came a day after Australia said it would scrap a temporary visa for skilled overseas workers and after US President Donald Trump

signed an order he said should help American workers whose jobs are threatened by skilled immigrants.

New Zealand Minister of Immigration Michael Woodhouse said in a speech that the New Zealand government was unapologetic that industries relying on overseas workers are finding it harder to recruit people from abroad.

"We are absolutely committed to the principle of Kiwis first," he said, using an informal term for New Zealanders.

Associated Press

Philippines

Developing halal to boost PH economy

With the Halal industry in the global market already nearing to \$3 trillion, development of the industry in Philippines can help improve the country's economy, an official of the International Halal Accreditation Forum (Ihaf).

On May 4, the Universal Islamic Center Foundation (UICF) organized the Philippine Halal Trade and Tourism Conference at Seda Abreeza Hotel. Present during event was Ihaf secretary general Mohammed Badri who is based at United Arab Emirates.

Badri said the Halal industry, if further developed in the Philippines, will help a lot in the economy of the country

and to the Muslims who are residing here.

He added it is a part of Ihaf's mandate to help countries whose government is not Muslim.

The secretary general said with this advocacy, they want to make the Philippine Government realize that putting up Halal products and services is not a difficult thing nor is it a religious matter. *Sun Star*

Singapore

S\$1bn innovation fund created to spur growth

Singapore is creating a S\$1 billion (US\$718 million) fund to help innovative companies develop their businesses and expand overseas, part of the city-state's drive to boost economic growth.

The Makara Innovation Fund — a collaboration between the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and local private equity firm Makara Capital Partners Pte Ltd — is to invest S\$30 to S\$150 million each in 10 to 15 companies with globally competitive technologies over the next eight years, IPOS said in a briefing on April 26.

The measures are part of a strategy outlined in February by the Committee on the Future Economy, a government-led panel that seeks to chart Singapore's growth path over the coming

years.

The committee recommended that IPOS take a stronger role in driving innovation.

Bloomberg

Taiwan

LIFT program unveiled

The Ministry of Science and Technology on April 18 announced a new program — Leaders in Future Trends (LIFT) — to attract overseas Taiwanese technology talent to return home.

When Minister of Science and Technology Chen Liang-gee took the helm at the ministry in February, he launched a program to send doctorate graduates specializing in technology-related fields to Silicon Valley in California for short-term training at high-tech corporations or start-ups.

The new program, which is to be officially launched next month, is to give 100 Republic of China passport holders under 45 years old with a doctorate from an overseas university a chance to return to Taiwan on a professional exchange that comes with a government grant of NT\$1.5 million (US\$49,000) for up to one year.

"A large proportion of these people want to return to Taiwan," Chen said, citing a survey of overseas professionals showing that approximately 60 percent would like to work in their

home nation, but some worry about uncertainties in the work environment. *Taipei Times*

Thailand

Lackluster growth holds key interest rate

Thailand's central bank held its key interest rate near a record low to support economic growth that's lagging peers in Southeast Asia.

The one-day bond repurchase rate was left at 1.5 percent, with monetary policy committee members voting unanimously in favor, the Bank of Thailand said in Bangkok on May 24. All 23 economists surveyed by Bloomberg predicted the decision.

Three years after the military seized power, Thailand's economic expansion is trailing others in Southeast Asia, with the World Bank forecasting it will post the weakest growth among eight developing nations in the region. The central bank has kept rates steady since 2015, refraining from easing policy despite muted inflation pressures and calls by the International Monetary Fund to spur flagging consumption and investment. Economists predict the benchmark rate will be unchanged until the third quarter of 2018.

Bloomberg

Vietnam

Green economy promotes growth

When Bạc Liêu Province withdrew last year a thermal power plant proposal submitted to the Prime Minister, the move was seen as a positive sign, showing greater awareness and willingness to promote green

growth.

Provincial authorities said they would replace the power plant with a hi-tech agricultural zone for breeding shrimp. They said a clean environment was needed to promote intensive shrimp farming, which is an economic mainstay.

Building a thermal power plant would make it difficult

to keep the environment clean, Chairman of Mekong Delta province told the Đất Việt online newspaper.

Dr Trần Du Lịch, member of National Advisory Council on Financial and Monetary Policy, said that several other provinces and cities including Bình Định have rejected projects that could severely pollute the environment. *Vietnam News*

Technology

New nano-material to help curb pollution from vehicles

In a development especially relevant to India and Bangladesh, an international team of researchers has designed a nanomaterial that can be used to make "markedly more effective" catalytic converters for vehicles that could reduce car exhaust pollution.



Researchers at the University of Wollongong (UOW), in Australia, working with colleagues in Japan, Turkey, Bangladesh and at the Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation (ANSTO) have created a material that improves catalytic converter efficiency by "three to four

times".

Catalytic converters reduce the pollution from vehicle exhaust by converting toxic gases and pollutants to less toxic pollutants. Among the pollutants, sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides (NOX), badly impact photosynthesis of plants, damage immune system and generate reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the cells of affected organisms.

In a paper published in Nature Communications, the research team described how they created porous rhodium on a nanoscale. Rhodium is a chemical element commonly used in catalytic converters to reduce nitrogen oxides in exhaust gases. Making it porous increases its surface area, thereby making it more effective. *News18*

Rocket launch a huge step for New Zealand's space industry

Minister for Economic Development Simon Bridges has congratulated the team at Rocket Lab on the successful launch of their first test

rocket on the Mahia Peninsula.

“Today’s successful launch is a major milestone in the development of New Zealand’s space industry,” says Mr Bridges.



“It is the first visible sign of a space industry in New Zealand and is an achievement Rocket Lab, and all New Zealanders can be proud of.”

New Zealand is now one of 11 countries currently able to launch satellites into space from their own territory and the first to launch from a fully private orbital launch range.

“The potential benefits for our economy are very significant. These include opportunities to grow in areas related to the space industry such as research, materials development and testing, and to attract other space related companies to set up in New Zealand, and even space tourism,” Mr Bridges says. *Beehive*

The future of farming: Japan goes vertical and moves indoors

Indoor agriculture is on the rise all over the world – particularly in Asia, where concerns over food safety and pesticide use in recent

years have fuelled a boom in so-called plant factories. Spread, Japan’s largest vertical farm, produces more than 20,000 heads of lettuce a day in its 3000-square-metre facility outside of Kyoto.

The vegetables are cultivated hydroponically – without soil, in beds of constantly circulating nutrient solution – under LED lights in a sterile, climate-controlled environment. Later this year, the company plans to open a second facility that will use robot technology to automate tasks such as harvesting and boost total production to a whopping 50,000 heads per day.

Electronics giant Fujitsu is among a number of Japanese technology firms to embrace horticulture, converting factories that had formerly been used to manufacture semiconductors into tightly sealed indoor plantations manned by engineers in white cleanroom suits.



Fujitsu’s cloud-based software allows workers to easily monitor sensors that track the growth of the plants. Nutrient and light levels can be adjusted to develop varieties of lettuce with, for example, low potassium content for people with kidney disease. *South China Morning Post*

Published monthly by the Secretariat, Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Victor C. Y. Tseng, Director General; Amador R. Honrado, Jr., Editor
Jacqueline Uy, Associate Editor; Wendy Yang & Mig Moreno, Contributing Editors
7F-2, No. 760, Sec. 4 Bade Road, Taipei 10567, Taiwan; Tel: (886 2) 2760-1139; Fax: (886 2) 2760-7569
Email: cacci@cacci.org.tw; Website: www.cacci.biz