



CACCI Profile

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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CACCI and TOBB Jointly Hold a Successful CACCI Planning Committee Meeting



A highly productive and successful Planning Committee Meeting was recently held jointly by the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on February 5, 2018 at the TOBB Headquarters in Istanbul.

Chaired by CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili and co-chaired by TOBB President Mr. Rifat Hisarciklioglu, the meeting was attended by 31 representatives of 9 CACCI Primary Members from 9 countries, as well as representatives from TEPAV, the think-tank of TOBB.



Discussions focused mainly on preparations for the 32nd CACCI Conference to be held in November 2018 in Istanbul, as well as on the recent and upcoming activities of CACCI in the year ahead.

Some 15 representatives from the Turkish media were also present at the Opening of the meeting. They asked questions addressed to the CACCI and TOBB Presidents, as well as to other CACCI officers including CACCI Senior Vice president Mr. Samir Modi from India.

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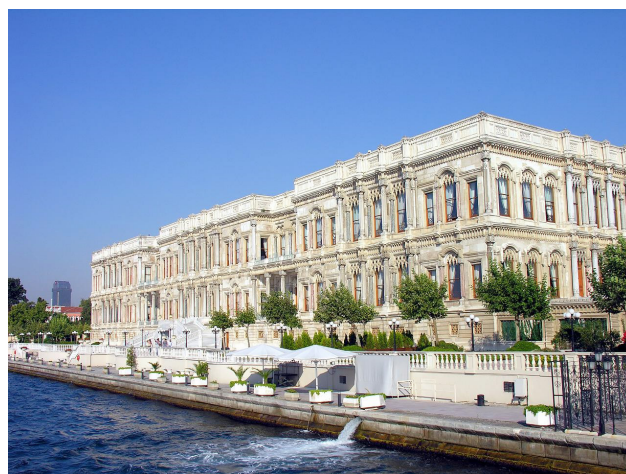
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32nd CACCI Conference to be held on November 23-24 in Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel in Istanbul

As decided by the CACCI Planning Committee during its meeting on February 5 in Istanbul, the 32nd CACCI Conference will be held on November 23-24, 2018 at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski.

To be hosted by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the two-day event aims to provide another valuable platform for CACCI members and invited experts to exchange views on measures that the business sector and governments in the region can undertake to take full advantage of the opportunities offered not just by markets in the Asia-Pacific region but by countries in other parts of the world as well.

With this year's gathering expected to bring together over 400 business leaders from at least 25 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, CACCI and TOBB hope that discussions will not only be of commercial interest to the participants, but will also be useful to the Confederation in its efforts



to help shape policies that affect the Asia-Pacific region's development.

CACCI President Invited as Panelist at the 4th ICC Asia-Pacific CEO Forum in Tokyo

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Japan invited CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili to be a Panelist in the 4th ICC Asia-Pacific CEO Forum held on March 8-9, 2018 at the Hotel New Otani in Tokyo, Japan.

Mr. Inaishvili served as Panelist during the session on "Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Through Innovation and Entrepreneurship." He was joined by Mr. Takeo Harada, CEO, Institute for International Strategy and Information Analysis, Inc, and Ms. Cherie Nursaalim, Vice President, GITI Group in the panel discussion. The session was chaired and moderated by Mr. John Danilovich, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce.

In its invitation letter to Mr. Inaishvili, ICC Japan said: "Your expertise and knowledge in the topic would add a great value to the business send of one and all, especially the budding entrepreneurs of the Asia-Pacific countries who require the guidance and path-breaking ideas to lead their way through the tough competition in the global market".

The event brought together over 100 high-level global and Asia-Pacific CEOs and leaders of international

organizations, together with Japanese business leaders and key Ministers.



Other invited speakers included Dr. Akio Mimura, Chairman of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Adviser to the Chairman of Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corporation; Mr. Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever; Mr. John Denton AO, First Vice Chair of ICC and Partner & CEO, Corrs Chambers Westgarth; Mr. Mikio Sasaki, Chair of ICC Japan and Senior Corporate Advisor and Former Chairman, Mitsubishi Corporation; and Mr. Karien Van Gennip, Vice Chair of ICC and CEO, ING France; Mr. Shujiro Urata, Professor, Waseda University and Dean, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies and Director, Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies; and Mr. Raghu Mody, Chair, Task Force ICC Asia Pacific CEO Forum and Chair, Hindustan Composites Ltd.

CACCI President Joins B20 Argentina Task Force on Trade and Investment



Mr. Jemal Inaishvili, President of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), has been accepted as member of the B20 Task Force on Trade and Investment.

The B20 – currently chaired by Argentina - 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. These issues are addressed by the various Task Forces set up for this purpose, including the Task Force on Trade and Investment.

World Bank Expects Global Economic Growth at 3.1 Percent in 2018

WASHINGTON, January 9, 2018— The World Bank forecasts global economic growth to edge up to 3.1 percent in 2018 after a much stronger-than-expected 2017, as the recovery in investment, manufacturing, and trade continues, and as commodity-exporting developing economies benefit from firming commodity prices.

However, this is largely seen as a short-term upswing. Over the longer term, slowing potential growth—a measure of how fast an economy can expand when labor and capital are fully employed—puts at risk gains in improving living standards and reducing poverty around the world, the World Bank warns in its January 2018 Global Economic Prospects.

Growth in advanced economies is expected to moderate slightly to 2.2 percent in 2018, as central banks gradually remove their post-crisis accommodation and as an upturn in investment levels off. Growth in emerging market and developing economies as a whole is projected to strengthen to 4.5 percent in 2018, as activity in commodity exporters continues to recover.

“The broad-based recovery in global growth is encouraging, but this is no time for complacency,” World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said. “This is a great opportunity to invest in human and physical capital. If policy makers around the world focus on these key investments, they can increase their countries’ productivity, boost workforce participation, and move closer to the goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.”

2018 is on track to be the first year since the financial

crisis that the global economy will be operating at or near full capacity. With slack in the economy expected to dissipate, policymakers will need to look beyond monetary and fiscal policy tools to stimulate short-term growth and consider initiatives more likely to boost long-term potential.

The slowdown in potential growth is the result of years of softening productivity growth, weak investment, and the aging of the global labor force. The deceleration is widespread, affecting economies that account for more than 65 percent of global GDP. Without efforts to revitalize potential growth, the decline may extend into the next decade, and could slow average global growth by a quarter percentage point and average growth in emerging market and developing economies by half a percentage point over that period.

“An analysis of the drivers of the slowdown in potential growth underscores the point that we are not helpless in the face of it,” said World Bank Senior Director for Development Economics, Shantayanan Devarajan. “Reforms that promote quality education and health, as well as improve infrastructure services could substantially bolster potential growth, especially among emerging market and developing economies. Yet, some of these reforms will be resisted by politically powerful groups, which is why making this information about their development benefits transparent and publicly available is so important.”

Risks to the outlook remain tilted to the downside. An abrupt tightening of global financing conditions could derail the expansion. Escalating trade restrictions and rising

geopolitical tensions could dampen confidence and activity. On the other hand, stronger-than-anticipated growth could also materialize in several large economies, further extending the global upturn.

“With unemployment rates returning to pre-crisis levels and the economic picture brighter in advanced economies and the developing world alike, policymakers will need to consider new approaches to sustain the growth momentum,” said World Bank Development Economics Prospects Director Ayhan Kose. “Specifically, productivity-enhancing reforms have become urgent as the pressures on potential growth from aging populations intensify.”

In addition to exploring developments at the global and regional levels, the January 2018 Global Economic Prospects takes a close look at the outlook for potential growth in each of the six global regions; lessons from the 2014-2016 oil price collapse; and the connection between higher levels of skill and education and lower levels of inequality in emerging market and developing economies.

Regional Summaries:

East Asia and Pacific: Growth in the region is forecast to slip to 6.2 percent in 2018 from an estimated 6.4 percent in 2017. A structural slowdown in China is seen offsetting a modest cyclical pickup in the rest of the region. Risks to the outlook have become more balanced. Stronger-than-expected growth among advanced economies could lead to faster-than-anticipated growth in the region. On the downside, rising geopolitical tension, increased global protectionism, an unexpectedly abrupt tightening of global financial conditions, and steeper-than-expected slowdown in major economies, including China, pose downside risks to the regional outlook. Growth in China is forecast to moderate to 6.4 percent in 2018 from 6.8 percent in 2017. Indonesia is forecast to accelerate to 5.3 percent in 2018 from 5.1 percent in 2017.

Europe and Central Asia: Growth in the region is anticipated to ease to 2.9 percent in 2018 from an estimated 3.7 percent in 2017. Recovery is expected to continue in the east of the region, driven by commodity exporting economies, counterbalanced by a gradual slowdown in the western part as a result of moderating economic activity in the Euro Area. Increased policy uncertainty and a renewed decline in oil prices present risks of lower-than-anticipated growth. Russia is expected to expand by 1.7 percent in 2018, unchanged from its estimated growth rate in 2017. Turkey is projected to moderate to 3.5 percent this year from 6.7 percent in the year just ended.

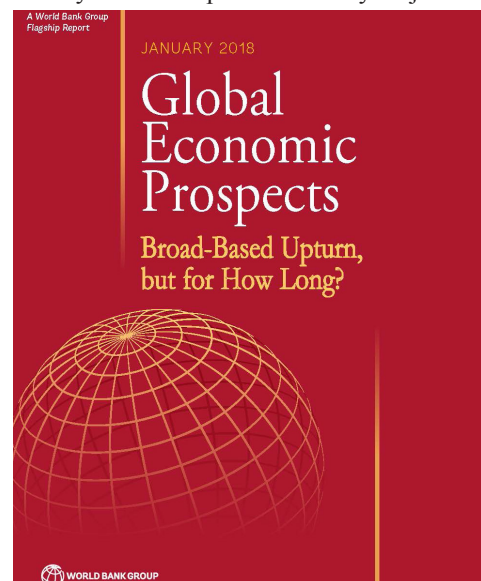
Latin America and the Caribbean: Growth in the region is projected to advance to 2 percent in 2018, from an estimated 0.9 percent in 2017. Growth momentum is expected to gather as private consumption and investment strengthen, particularly among commodity-exporting economies. Additional policy uncertainty, natural disasters, a rise in trade protectionism in the United States, or further deterioration of domestic fiscal conditions could throw growth

off course. Brazil is expected to pick up to 2 percent in 2018, from an estimated 1 percent in 2017. Mexico is anticipated to accelerate to 2.1 percent this year, from an estimated 1.9 percent last year.

Middle East and North Africa: Growth in the region is expected to jump to 3 percent in 2018 from 1.8 percent in 2017. Reforms across the region are expected to gain momentum, fiscal constraints are expected to ease as oil prices stay firm, and improved tourism is anticipated to support growth among economies that are not dependent on oil exports. Continued geopolitical conflicts and oil price weakness could set back economic growth. Growth in Saudi Arabia is forecast to accelerate to 1.2 percent in 2018 from 0.3 percent in 2017, while growth is anticipated to pick up to 4.5 percent in the Arab Republic of Egypt in FY 2018 from 4.2 percent last year.

South Asia: Growth in the region is forecast to accelerate to 6.9 percent in 2018 from an estimated 6.5 percent in 2017. Consumption is expected to stay strong, exports are anticipated to recover, and investment is on track to revive as a result of policy reforms and infrastructure upgrades. Setbacks to reform efforts, natural disasters, or an upswing in global financial volatility could slow growth. India is expected to pick up to a 7.3 percent rate in fiscal year 2018/19, which begins April 1, from 6.7 percent in FY 2017/18. Pakistan is anticipated to accelerate to 5.8 percent in FY 2018/19, which begins July 1, from 5.5 percent in FY 2017/18.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Growth in the region is anticipated to pick up to 3.2 percent in 2018 from 2.4 percent in 2017. Stronger growth will depend on a firming of commodity prices and implementation of reforms. A drop in commodity prices, steeper-than-anticipated global interest rate increases, and inadequate efforts to ameliorate debt dynamics could set back economic growth. South Africa is forecast to tick up to 1.1 percent growth in 2018 from 0.8 percent in 2017. Nigeria is anticipated to accelerate to a 2.5 percent expansion this year from 1 percent in the year just ended.



CACCI Attends ASEAN-BAC Joint Business Council Meeting in Singapore as Observer

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) attended, as an Observer, the 11th Joint Consulting Meeting of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) with ASEAN +1 Business Councils and Associations held on January 17, 2018.

Held at the Supply Chain City, a 6.5-hectare logistics facility located in Jurong West, Singapore, the meeting was attended by ASEAN-BAC members, Joint Business Council Members, and representatives of the ASEAN + 1 Business Councils and Associations.

It was the second time CACCI was invited as an Observer to a Joint Consulting Meeting regularly organized by the ASEAN BAC with ASEAN Business Councils and Associations from various Dialogue Partners of ASEAN. CACCI attended the 9th Joint Consultation Meeting held in January 2017 in Manila. Representing CACCI at both meetings was Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr.

The ASEAN BAC was formed following the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 7th ASEAN Summit and launched in April 2003, with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration.



Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos Visits Slightly Re-Scheduled

The schedules of the CACCI Presidential visits to Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos have been amended at the request of one of the host chambers. The new schedule is now as follows:

Cambodia (Phnom Penh)	-	April 19-20
Vietnam (Hanoi)	-	April 22-23
Laos (Vientiane)	-	April 24-25

The host chambers for the above three visits are Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC), Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI), respectively.

The visits are intended to give the CACCI President and members of his delegation the opportunity to gather first-hand information on the business situation in the host countries; further build up the image of CACCI by making courtesy calls on high-ranking government officials to seek support for CACCI; and meet the top businessmen in the host countries, particularly those from industries or sectors that the host countries wish to promote.

The host chambers have been requested to arrange their respective programs for the visits. We will send you the proposed itinerary, along with other relevant information (e.g., hotel accommodation), as soon as CCC, VCCI, and LNCCI

have made the necessary arrangements. In the meantime, should you wish to meet with specific businessmen in any of the three host countries, visit specific local companies or organizations, or conduct specific activities during the trip, please let us know so we can convey your request to the host chambers for their consideration.

Members are encouraged to join President Inaishvili on his upcoming visits to the three countries, and avail yourself of the opportunity not only to establish contacts with key representatives from their private and government sectors, but also to learn first-hand the business conditions and opportunities they offer.



CACCI Invited to Support Project on “South/Southeast Asian Business Society Models”



The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) has been invited by Mr. Chandula Abeywickrema, Chairman of CSR Lanka and ABA Special Advisor on Financial Inclusion to support a project with the Durham University UK on “South/Southeast Asian Business Society Models” which will focus on SMEs.

To be funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) UK as part of Britain’s Official Development Assistance, the 30-day project will cover Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Myanmar. It will be conducted primarily by CSR Lanka, which is an initiative piloted and managed collectively by a group of private sector companies in Sri Lanka with the aim of providing strategic guidance and necessary resources to bridge the gap between ad hoc CSR projects and creating sustainable value. CSR Lanka was formed in May 2013 with the

encouragement from United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Mr. Abeywickrema requested CACCI to endorse the project and to facilitate – within its organizational mandate - the project in the countries covered. By endorsing the project, CACCI will be given the opportunity to participate in workshops/conferences and knowledge sharing events in the South/Southeast Asian region to be organized by the Durham University Research Office and use the research findings.

According to Mr. Abeywickrema, there will be no financial obligation on the part of CACCI, as the cost of project activities will be borne by the Durham Research Office and ESRC. Costs of the participation of a designated CACCI representative in workshops/conferences will be covered by the project.

IFFA to Hold International forum of grains, oilseeds and related products

The Iranian Federation of Food Associations (IFFA), with the support of Iran Agricultural Ministry and Iran/Tehran Chamber of Commerce, will hold “International forum of grains, oilseeds and related products” on May 7-8, 2018 in Tehran IRIB International Conference Center.

The two-day forum focuses on the market developments. It offers an excellent environment for discussions of trends in agricultural market, supports development of business strategies in a rapidly changing world, and provides great opportunities to contact producers and buyers of grains and oilseeds.

The target participants include agricultural holdings, suppliers of raw materials, heads of private sector, traders

of grains and oilseeds, representatives of governing bodies and authorities, financial institutions, potential creditors of projects, heads of domestic and foreign enterprises and suppliers of equipment and technologies, international and national experts and others. More than 700 representatives are expected to participate in the event.



For more information refer to the following link:
<http://en.iffa.ir/Post/687>

World has 258 million international migrants: UN

An estimated 258 million people have left their birth countries and are now living in other nations - an increase of 49 percent since 2000, said a UN report on international migration released on December 19. The biennial report released on International Migrants Day said the percentage of the world's people who are international migrants has increased modestly from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.4 percent in 2017.

However, the report from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs said the percentage living in high-income countries rose from 9.6 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2017. "Reliable data and evidence are critical to combat misperceptions about migration and to inform migration policies," UN Undersecretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin said.

In September 2016, all 193 UN member states, including the US under then US-president Barack Obama, adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It said no one country can manage international migration on its own. The signatory countries agreed to implement well-managed migration policies and committed on its own. The signatory countries agreed to implement well-managed

migration policies and committed to sharing more equitably the burden of hosting refugees. They also agreed to protect the human rights of migrants and to counter xenophobia and intolerance toward migrants.

Taipei Times

Photo: AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic



Chamber Personalities

Hitachi Chairman Nakanishi to head Keidanren business lobby

Keidanren Policy & Action

Keidanren has tapped Hitachi Ltd. Chairman Hiroaki Nakanishi as its next chief, the nation's

top business lobby said on January 9, 2018. The appointment was approved earlier in the day at a meeting of the body's board of councilors. Nakanishi, 71, will be formally appointed at Keidanren's general meeting on May 31, the lobby said, replacing 74-year-old Sadayuki Sakakibara, senior advisor at Toray Industries Inc.

The move marks the first time an executive from Hitachi, a major industrial machinery manufacturer, will assume Keidanren's top post. Sakakibara had said he would pick his successor from current or former vice chairs, who are from strongly performing manufacturers.

Nakanishi was seen as a prominent candidate within Keidanren given his political ties and thorough knowledge of cutting-edge technologies. Keidanren chiefs in recent years have customarily served two two-year terms.

Nomura Holdings Inc. Chairman Nobuyuki Koga, 67, will take the No. 2 post of board of councilors chairman, replacing Hiromichi Iwasa, chairman and CEO of Mitsui

Fudosan Co. Both Nakanishi and Koga currently serve and vice chairs.

Japan Times

Photo: www.keidanren.or.jp



Chairman Sakakibara (R) & Chairman Candidate Nakanishi (L)

Product & Service Councils

Asian Tourism Council



Made-in-Japan products a draw for foreign shoppers

Japan's inbound tourism shows no sign of slowing down, and spending by foreign visitors is also on the rise. But what exactly are they splurging on? Among the many shopping draws is surely Nestle's Kit Kat lineup. The British-born chocolate bar has become a tourist favorite thanks to a variety of only-in-Japan flavors – from mega-hit green tea to sake, strawberry cheesecake and even wasabi.

But Nestle Japan is dead serious about what some regard as wacky Kit Kat flavors. In fact, they are the company's answer to Japan's aging society and the way to survive its shrinking market, said Takuya Hiramatsu, an assistant manager at Nestle Japan's marketing and communications division. "For food makers like us, Japan's total food consumption will inevitably decline as a result of its aging population," he said, adding that "We have produced unique, premium Kit Kat flavors to deal with this problem for more than a decade."

The number of foreign visitors last year topped 26.17 million in the 11 months through November, already passing 2016's record 24.04 million, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization. Tourist spending between January and September 2017 increased to ¥3.28 trillion, up 14.7 percent from the same period the year before, according to the Japan Tourism Agency.

The agency said that of all the money spent by inbound tourists in that period, shopping accounted for the

largest share at 36.9 percent, followed by accommodation (28 percent), eating and drinking (20.1 percent), and transportation (11.2 percent).

Nestle Japan's history of offering a wide variety of flavored Kit Kats dates back to 2000, when it released strawberry as the first nonchocolate flavor. In 2002, it introduced a melon flavor exclusively in Hokkaido, a product that helped the company realize Kit Kat's untapped potential, Hiramatsu said.



Foreign tourists look at Nestle Japan's wasabi Kit Kat bars at the company's outlet in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district in late November.

Japan Times

SME Development Council



New start-up incubator launches

Taiwan incubator was established to improve the success rate of start-ups, which is currently at 1 percent, TI chief Jack Lin Ying-chieh said at a launch ceremony on December 8. Speaking at the Central Taiwan Science Park, Lin said that despite the number of Taiwanese entrepreneurs increasing every year, the survival rate of start-ups is very low.

Citing statistics from the Small and Medium Enterprise

Administration, Lin said that 99 percent of Taiwanese start-ups fail within the first five years. Common problems start-ups face are a lack of funding and support, government red tape and general skepticism, Lin said.

TI, which was established by star-up organizations and local universities, will focus on cultivating seed-stage start-ups, he said. It will invest in several emerging companies twice a year and offer them counseling and support, he added.

As the nation's first self-funded investment incubator, TI not only helps start-ups in a semi-charitable way, but also tries to make early investments, Chaoyang University of Technology (CYUT) vice president Yang Wen-goang said. The nation has other start-up incubators, for which the government provides free mentoring and workspace, in addition to investment funds.

Apart from offering consultations and advice, TI is also to provide legal, management, financial and fundraising services to help improve the start-up survival rate, CYUT Office of Industry-Academia Collaboration deputy director Liu Su-chuan said.

TI was cofounded by the Taiwan Business Incubators Alliance, Feng Chia University, CYUT and Taiwan Accelerator, which invests in emerging businesses at the seed stage.

Taipei Times

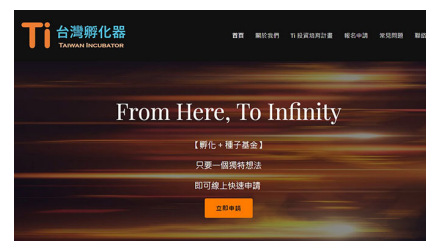


Photo: <https://e27.co/taiwan-incubator-to-invest-in-early-stage-startups-in-2018-20171217/>

Economic Cooperation News

Big data, fast trains deepen Japan-India ties

Many of the cargo containers passing through India's busiest port in Mumbai have a small piece of Japan Inc. attached: Devices from NEC Corp. that can be tracked as the containers rumble through the interior of Asia's third-largest economy.

The partnership between NEC and the port illustrates the strengthening relationship between Tokyo and New Delhi. Japan is seeking growth markets, while India craves advanced technology and foreign investment. The leaders of both countries, Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi, are also working to counter the growing regional influence of China — an important economic partner to both but also historically a rival.

"We have the two largest democratic economies in this region, we respect international rules, openness and transparency — these are basic principles that we share," said Kenko Sone, a former head of global communications for Abe who now serves as minister of economic affairs at Japan's embassy in Delhi.

With a young and growing population now at 1.3 billion people, India offers an enticing market for Japanese companies as well as affordable labor for manufacturers looking even further west, to Africa and the Middle East, for new markets. India needs an estimated \$1.5 trillion (about ¥168 trillion) in infrastructure investment in just the next 10 years to help modernize its economy and lift more of its people out of poverty.

Japan is pouring money into India. Lending for development, particularly infrastructure, has grown nearly sixfold since 2001 — totaling ¥366 billion in 2015, the most recent year for which data is available. The two nations are working together on infrastructure projects that include the \$100 billion Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and a Japanese bullet train to run between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in Modi's home state of Gujarat.

Japan Times



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wave after leaving a shinkansen bullet train during a visit to a plant owned by Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd.'s Rolling Stock Co. in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, in November last year.

Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

Hey Song to enter Southeast Asia

Beverage supplier Hey Song Corp. is planning to tap into the carbonated drink market in Southeast Asia with its high value-added products over the coming years, in line with the government's New Southbound Policy, a company executive said on December 18, 2017.

"We are upbeat that some of our key products are very likely to grab market share [in the region's soft drink market]," Hey Song chairman Chang Pin-tang told an investors' conference in Taipei, referring to the company's carbonated drinks containing vitamin C.

As part of its three-year renovation project, the company has

allocated more than NT\$2.2 billion (US\$73.32 million) to build a new aseptic processing line, which would allow it to take advantage of growing health consciousness by adding nutrients to soft drinks.

Hey Song must provide this type of differentiated product to compete with well-known global brands in Southeast Asian markets, Chang said, adding that the company is targeting the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. The 92-year-old beverage maker did not disclose its investment budget or timetable for the ongoing Southeast Asia project, but said it is in talks with some Taiwanese firms that have had roots in the region for a long time.

Taipei Times

Electronics firms eye Thai Air Conditioner market

Electronics giants Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and Panasonic Corp. are ramping up sales for greater slices of the pie in the Thai air conditioner market, aiming to cash in on growing demand for energy saving products equipped with an inverter function.

The Mitsubishi unit, commanding a market share of over 30 percent in Thailand last year, will leverage reduced sales by enhancing mid-range inverter-controlled products this year, while Panasonic continues to promote high-end inverter models to boost its share to 23 percent in 2018, up 2 percentage points from the previous year, according to their local arms.

Praphon Potivorakun, deputy

Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

managing director of Mitsubishi Electric Kang Young Watana Co., said the air conditioner market “dropped by 10 percent” in 2017.

The company forecasts its total home appliance sales will fall 10 percent to over 13.5 billion baht (¥46.7 billion) in the current business year ending in March, likely dragged down by falling air conditioner sales, which account for about 60 percent of the total, due to relatively cool weather in 2017.

Japan Times

Yamato enters joint venture in Myanmar

Yamato Holdings Co. plans to provide logistics services in Myanmar through a joint venture with a local partner, aiming to capitalize on growing demand for trade and road transport from foreign companies.

Yamato Global Logistics Myanmar Co. is scheduled to begin operations in April.

Planned services include trade shipments and cross-border trucking as well as home relocation - associated with an increasing number of foreign companies, including Japanese firms, moving into the emerging country on the back of infrastructure development such as the Thilawa special economic zone.

Thilawa is the country’s first such project, jointly developed by the Japanese and Myanmar private and public sectors.

Japan Times

Hon Hai to invest NT \$10 billion in AI

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co announced Feb.2, that it might spend NT\$10 billion (US\$342 million) over the next five years on artificial intelligence (AI) talent cultivation and technology development in Taiwan, in a bid to localize the development of AI applications in its industrial Internet-focused operations.

“NT\$10 billion is the

minimum investment in Taiwan. I am willing to spend US\$10 billion here if it is what it takes to grow more AI applications in ‘smart’ manufacturing locally,” company chairman Terry Gou told a news conference at the company’s headquarters in New Taipei City’s Tucheng District.

Hundreds of the company’s employees also attended the announcement.

Gou said Hon Hai would financially support its employees to go abroad and pursue advanced studies in the field of AI.



Hon Hai Precision Co chairman Terry Gou speaks at a news conference in Taipei.

“Take your family to MIT [the Massachusetts Institute of Technology] or the University of Tokyo. We will fully support your expenses,” he said.

Hon Hai is to open its manufacturing bases around the world to Taiwanese academics, start-ups and individuals to experiment with their AI applications and jointly explore the possibility of AI uses in the industrial Internet era, Gou said.

“I am calling on talents in Taiwan: Hon Hai can be a place where you can develop AI technologies,” Gou said.

Company executive vice president Lu Fang-ming said Hon Hai has been collecting a wide range of data from its manufacturing bases around the world for more than five years, which includes data on product design, supply chains, production and logistics.

The company has used the

critical data and cloud-computing infrastructure, as well as developed AI solutions, to increase its production efficiency, with five plants that run around the clock without lights launched in China last year, Lu said.

Hon Hai plans to recruit at least 100 AI talents in Taiwan in the first phase of its project to push efforts in industrial Internet-driven technologies, Lu said.

The company is to set up industrial Internet-focused AI labs in Taipei and Kaohsiung, and then expand to Shenzhen, Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing in China, he said.

The company also plans to establish AI labs in Japan and the US, he added.

The company has more than 10 high-performance computing (HPC) facilities in several cities worldwide, including Kaohsiung, Tokyo, Osaka, Japan and Prague, as well as Wisconsin and San Diego in the US, Gou said.

The firm’s global HPC network is to be a key platform to connect and share industrial data and AI solutions, which the company would open to small and medium-sized enterprises, Gou said.

Taipei Times

Honda eyes top spot in India on ‘scooterization’ wave

Honda Motor Co. is looking to become the top seller in India - the world’s largest motorcycle market - through a massive investment in production and sales on the crest of the growing popularity of scooters.

Honda has already seen success, becoming the No.1 two-wheeler brand in 17 of 36 states and territories in the country last year. The firm calls that a “quantum leap” from 2011, when it held the top spot in just two areas. In 2010, the company agreed to end a joint-venture partnership with market leader Hero MotoCorp Ltd.

The motorcycle market comprises motorbikes, mopeds and scooters. In recent years, a surge



Minoru Kato (center), president of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India, poses with executives Yadvinder Singh Guleria (left) and Atsushi Ogata at an event launching the Grazia advanced urban scooter in Mumbai on Nov. 8. | NNA/KYODO

in scooter demand fueled by a rising number of women in the workforce has transformed the landscape. Even women in semiurban and rural areas - who are often considered socially conservative in a traditionally male-centric society - are riding scooters.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the world's biggest motorcycle maker, has prevailed in the southern and western states, both key markets for the scooter segment in the country, said President Minoru Kato.

In the 18 million-unit motorcycle market, scooter sales jumped 2.2-fold to 5.6 million units in the five years to March 2017, while motorbike sales grew 10.1 percent to 11.1 million, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

Scooters now account for 33.7 percent of the entire market with motorbikes at 62.1 percent. In the year to March 2011, the percentages stood at 19.1 percent and 75.1 percent, respectively, according to data from the industry body known as SIAM.

Japan Times

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India

India Services sector expands

The nation's services sector expanded in December 2017, reversing November 2017's decline and boosting expectations that the worst is over for the third-largest economy in Asia.

The Nikkei India Services purchasing managers' index rose to 50.9 from 48.5 in November 2017, data showed, above the 50 mark that separates growth and contraction. The manufacturing gauge had advanced to 54.7 from 52.6, pushing up the composite index to 53 from 50.3 - the highest since October 2016.

Taipei Times

graying and shrinking country.

The government aims to increase the annual number of international visitors to 40 million by 2020, and 60 million by 2030. To reach the targets, it claims, the nation needs extra funds to upgrade tourism facilities. Although the amount may not be substantial on an individual level, some officials in the travel industry have voiced concerns over the levy's possible impact on their business, saying it could put off inbound visitors - especially those who fly on budget carriers.

Japan Times

METI to facilitate ownership successions at small businesses

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry plans to reinforce prefecture-based networks of experts to support management successions at small companies as more and more owners retire due to age-related reasons, sources said.

The ministry will designate "succession coordinators" for the prefectural networks and "bloc coordinators" for regions in each prefecture, the sources said on January 27, 2018.

It will also draw up bloc-based lists of people who can aid in successions, with their areas of expertise specified, while designating regions that demand intensive support, the sources said.

Business succession networks, in which town, municipal and prefectural governments work hand in hand with regional financial institutions, chambers of commerce, certified tax accountants and other entities, have been formed in 19 of the nation's 47 prefectures.

The networks have begun visiting small-business owners when they turn 60 years old to ask them whether they have successors and what their management challenges might be.

For business succession support measures, the ministry has set aside about ¥7 billion in the fiscal 2017 draft supplementary budget and the blueprint for the fiscal 2018 initial budget.

It estimates that the number of small-business owners over 70 will rise to some 2.45 million in 2025. About half of them are expected to lack successors if no support measures are provided.

Among small-business owners, the largest age group was

Japan

Japan's new departure tax to yield ¥billion per year

From January 2019, Japan is set to impose a ¥1,000 tax on everyone departing the country, to secure funding for tourism infrastructure and promotion amid record-breaking arrivals of international travelers. The inbound tourism industry is one of the few growth sectors in the rapidly

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formed by 66-year-olds in 2015, compared with 47-year-olds in 1995.

The lack of successors is becoming more acute in rural areas of Japan, where business owners 60 or older account for 66.7 percent of the total in Akita Prefecture, for example.

Amid labor crunch, foreign worker population hits record 1.28 million

The population of foreign workers set a record of about 1.28 million in late October as rapidly graying Japan continued to rely on foreign trainees and students to make up for its labor shortage, according to the labor ministry.

The total of 1,278,670 is 18 percent higher than last year and the highest since comparable data became available in 2008, the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry said on January 26, 2018.

Chinese led the way with 372,263 workers, up 8 percent on year, followed by the Vietnamese, whose numbers soared 40 percent to 240,259, accounting for 35 percent of the increase.

Filipinos came in third at 146,798, up 15.1 percent, followed by Brazilians at 117,299, up 10.0 percent, and Nepalese at 69,111, up 31.0 percent.

By prefecture, the number of foreign workers was the highest in Tokyo, at 394,834, up 18.5 percent. Aichi ranked second, with 129,155 workers, up 16.6 percent, followed by Osaka, with 72,226, up 22.4 percent, Kanagawa, with 69,400, up 15.4 percent, and Saitama, with 55,534 up 36.2 percent.

The combined figure in the five prefectures accounted for more than 50 percent of the total.

By residential status, permanent residents and spouses of Japanese climbed 11 percent to reach 459,132, while students with part-time

jobs rose 24 percent to 259,604 from a year ago. The number of technical interns meanwhile grew 22 percent to 257,788.

Due to the tight labor market, Japan's recovering economy and shrinking population, many of the technical interns and students are being hired to perform unskilled labor for low wages to fill serious manpower shortages.

In fact, sectors suffering labor shortages saw high growth, including 34.2 percent in the construction sector, 24.7 percent in the medical and welfare sector and 19.3 percent in the wholesale and retail sector.

The number of companies with foreign workers increased 12.6 percent to a record 194,595.

While the government has opened its doors to professionals specializing in information technology and other specific fields, it does not officially welcome unskilled laborers to avoid public debates on immigration, which has long been a sensitive issue.

Foreign specialists comprise a small portion of the incoming workers, and many are hired by small firms with fewer than 30 employees, according to the ministry.

As many foreigners seeking to gain skills or education are treated as laborers, the situation has raised concerns about corporate exploitation and the abuse of student visas for working purposes.

Japan relies heavily on foreign labor, and experts and scholars have been urging more public debate on immigration policy as Japan's society continues to gray and shrink.

Japan Times

January current account surplus sees sixfold rise

The current account surplus grew to ¥607.4 billion (\$5.7 billion) in January, its highest for the month since 2011, thanks to strong exports in Asia,

government data showed March 8, 2018.

The surplus rose year on year for the first time in three months, marking a more than six-fold rise from the same month last year. It was also the 43rd consecutive month in surplus, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

The data showed a goods trade deficit of ¥666.6 billion, showing red for the first time in eight months. But the deficit was smaller than in January 2017, thanks to strong car demand in China, the ministry said.

Higher crude oil prices pushed up imports, which rose 8.1 percent from a year ago to ¥6.89 trillion, while exports grew 12.7 percent to ¥6.22 trillion.

The surplus in the primary income account, which reflects how much Japan earns from foreign investment, came to ¥1.55 trillion, the largest for the month since 1985, the ministry said.

Japan Times

Malaysia

Malaysia hits exporters with anti-dumping tariffs

Malaysia has levied anti-dumping tariffs on steel exporters from Taiwan, China, South Korea and Thailand after finding that they sold their products at unfairly low prices in the Malaysian market.

Malaysia's Ministry of International Trade and Industry on February 8, 2018 said that it would impose anti-dumping tariffs of up to 111.61 percent on cold-rolled stainless steel exporters from Taiwan and the other three countries, effective for five years, following an investigation into their pricing practices.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department would enforce the collection of anti-dumping duties until

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Feb. 7, 2023, the ministry said.

Exporters from Taiwan face anti-dumping tariffs of up to 14.02 percent, it added.

Taiwan-based Tang Eng Iron Works Co faces a tariff of 7.78 percent and walsin Lihwa Corp a 2.79 percent tariff, while Chia Far Industrial Factory Co and Yieh United Steel Corp do not have to pay the duties, it said.

The four Taiwanese cold-rolled stainless steel exporters would have to pay the highest 14.02 percent tariff, the ministry said.

Exporters from China face anti-dumping tariffs ranging between 2.68 and 23.95 percent, companies from South Korea face duties of up to 7.27 percent and Thai exporters face tariffs of between 22.86 and 111.61 percent.

Data compiled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs showed that Taiwan was the largest cold-rolled stainless steel supplier to Malaysia in the first nine months of last year, accounting for 47 percent of the nation's total imports of the product. *Taipei Times*

Taiwan

Government launches new 'job-seeker visa'

Two government measures introduced to attract skilled foreign workers took effect February 8, 2018.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs began issuing as part of an initiative to attract skilled professionals, while the National Immigration Agency rolled out its online platform for foreign professionals applying for employment in Taiwan.

Interested foreigners who meet the government's qualifications can apply for the job-seeker visa, which is valid for three months and can be extended to six months, Bureau of Consular Affairs Director-General Chen Chun-shen said, adding that an

annual quota for such visas had been set at 2,000.

The legislature in October last year passed the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, a bill drafted by the National Development Council.

The act relaxed immigration regulations for white-collar foreign workers, stipulating more favorable policies regarding visas, residency permits, insurance, taxes and retirement plans.

However, it imposed limits on the number of foreign professionals permitted in the nation to reduce its effect on employment opportunities for Taiwanese.

The government is to review the policy's effects so it can adjust the visa quota in accordance with the nation's needs.

The foreign ministry and the Ministry of the Interior jointly formulated the provisions, Chen added.

To qualify, applicants must either have work experience and an average income of more than NT\$47,971 per month in the six months preceding the date of their application or have graduated in the past year from a university on the Ministry of Education's global top 500 institutions list.

The foreign ministry and other appropriate authorities can also choose to qualify an individual for the visa.

Job-seeker visa holders are allowed re-entry to the nation, the bureau said.

The list of required documents and the application process are available on the bureau's Web site, it said.

Taipei Times

Most Sectors plan to raise wages in 2018, survey says

Nearly 80 percent of employers in Taiwan plan to raise wages in 2018 amid continued

optimism that the local economy is on the road to recovery, according to a survey released on December 18, 2017 by an online job bank yes123.

In addition, the average wage hike employers have agreed to for 2018 is to hit 4.7 percent, the survey showed. The planned wage hike is greater than the average of 3.9 percent this year, the job bank said.

Many employers expressed optimism about the local economy after the government and several leading think tanks forecast that the nation's GDP would grow more than 2 percent, it said. The Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics in November 2017, forecast that the GDP would grow 2.58 percent in 2017 and 2.29 percent in 2018.

The survey found that 52.4 percent of the respondents agreed their operations for 2018 would be better than 2017, with 42.7 percent of them saying that their operations in 2018 would stay unchanged from 2017. A total of 79.3 percent of the respondents said they are planning to increase wages in 2018, and among those planning wage hikes, 61 percent said the hikes would depend on employee performance, while 18.3 percent said that all their employees would get raises, irrespective of performance.

The information technology sector showed the greatest willingness to raise wages, with 91.4 percent of employers in the sector planning to raise salaries, ahead of the financial/insurance/accounting sector (90.9 percent), the healthcare/biotech sector (88.9 percent), the transportation/logistics/warehousing sector (84 percent) and the manufacturing sector (80.5 percent), the survey found.

In addition to wage hikes, many employers are willing to boost welfare to their employees, with 40.1 percent of the employers polled saying that they are planning to raise travel subsidies, 25.9 percent saying they would allow employees to have flexible

Policy Updates

work schedules, 23.8 percent saying they would offer free snacks and 22.2 percent saying they would provide transportation subsidies.

The survey collected 984 valid questionnaires and has a margin of error of 3.12 percentage points.
Taipei Times

Companies planning to hire more workers: poll

More than a quarter of Taiwanese companies plan to hire more workers in the first quarter of 2018 amid an improving economy and a seasonal sales uptick, human resources advisory firm ManpowerGroup said December 12, 2017. About 28 percent of companies polled plan to add employees, 6 percent intend to cut back and 65 percent are maintaining current staff levels, a ManpowerGroup survey of 1,018 firms showed.

The findings represent a net job gain of 22 percent, or 25 percent after seasonal adjustments, better than three months earlier or the same time last year. "That makes Taiwanese employers the most optimistic in the region and globally, consistent with an improving world economy, the rapid migration to automation among firms and the arrival of the holiday season," ManpowerGroup Taiwan operations director Joan Yeh said.

The financial and real-estate sectors showed the strongest demand for extra personnel, with a net gain of 31 percent, an increase of 6 percentage points quarter-on-quarter, the report said. While sluggish transactions continue to weigh on the real-estate industry, the financial and service industries are seeking to catch up with

latest financial technology trends and tap business opportunities to support the government's New Southbound Policy, Yeh said.

People with artificial intelligence know-how or international work experience are in great demand, she said. The net job gains rose to 30 percent for the manufacturing sector, an increase of 2 percentage points in the fourth quarter in 2017, as technology and non-technology firms introduce automation to boost productivity, the report found.

The job market outlook is weakest for the civil engineering industry, with a net gain of 13 percent, the report said.
Taipei Times

Ports operator unveils incentives for cargo shippers

Taiwan International Ports Corp (TIPC) February 26, 2018, introduced a series of incentives to help cargo shippers solidify their operation bases in Taiwan on.

Data from the state-run seaport company showed that total cargo volume handled in all international seaports across the nation was 14.91 million twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) last year, edging up 0.3 percent from 2016.

Although various industry analyses have indicated that a gradual turnaround in the freight-shipping market is expected this year, the emergence of three new ocean carrier alliances - Ocean Alliance, The alliance and 2M Alliance - began to affect the operation of the nation's seaports in the second half of last year, TIPC president Kuo Tien-kuei said.

Whether Kaohsiung Port or

other ports in the nation could continue to grow this year in terms of cargo volume remains a challenge, especially as Chinese ports have initiated a price war to attract major ocean carrier, Kuo said.

Taipei Times

USA

U.S. seeks talks with five of TPP 11 including Japan

U.S. President Donald Trump is willing to start market liberalization talks with Japan and four other Trans-Pacific Partnership members that don't already have free trade deals with the United States, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said February 28, 2018.

Trump has "indicated a willingness to engage with the other TPP countries - either individually or collectively - on terms that will lead to significantly improved market outcomes," the USTR's annual report said.

"In 2018, the Trump administration will continue efforts to build stronger, better and fairer trading relationships with these countries," the report said in reference to Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, New Zealand and Brunei.

The report, however, did not refer to Trump's suggestion in recent weeks that Washington may rejoin what is now the 11-member TPP if it were a much better deal for the country. Trump pulled the United States out of the pact soon after his inauguration in January 2017.

Japan Times

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Fairs & Exhibits in Asia-Pacific

DATES 2018	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY	DATES 2018	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY
1-4 April 	AMR-2018 (TRADERS-LINK, Ltd., Tel: 86-10-8471-0628, Email: sophiawang@traderslink.com.cn, URL: /www.auto-maintenance.com.cn/)	Beijing China	18-19 April 	Health Food Expo 2018 (Health Business Magazine Co., Ltd., Tel : 81-3-3839-0751, Inquiry : www.healthfoodexpo.jp/contact)	Tokyo Japan
4-6 April 	2nd AI Expo (Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8507, Email: ai-expo@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: www.ai-expo.jp)	Tokyo Japan	18-20 April 	HVACR Vietnam 2018 (Informa Exhibitions, Tel: 65-6411-7797, Email: kimchi.nguyen@informa.com, URL: https://www.hvacrseries.com/en/home.html)	Hanoi Vietnam
4-6 April 	International Green Energy Expo (Exco, Tel: 82-53-601-5371, Fax: 82-53-601-5059, URL: http://www.energyexpo.co.kr/eng/)	Daguel Korea	18-21 April 	Global Sources Mobile Electronics (Global Sources, Tel: 85-2-8199-7308, Email: visit@globalsources.com, URL: Here)	Hong Kong China
4-6 April 	Lab Indonesia2018 (EXMI ITE Asia Sdn Bhd, Tel: 603-5022-1999, Fax: 603-5022-1900, Email: wycheong@dcmi.com.my, URL: www.lab-indo.com)	Jakarta Indonesia	19-21 April 	Livestock Asia Expo & Forum 2018 (United Business Media (M) Sdn Bhd, Tel: 603-2176-8788, Email: rita.lau@ubm.com, URL: www.livestockasia.com)	Kuala Lumpur/ Malaysia
5-7 April 	Silk Suzhou 2018 (Suzhou Qianteng Silk Exhibition, Tel: 86-512-6777-8222, Email: stellayan@silksuzhou.com, URL: www.silksuzhou.com)	Suzhou China	23-28 April 	COMEX 2018 (OITE, Tel: 968-2465-6000, Fax: 968-2465-6060, Email: enquiry@comex.om URL: comex.om)	Muscat Oman
5-8 April 	Coffee Expo Seoul 2018 (Coex Co., Ltd, Korea Coffee Association, Tel: 82-2-6000-8126, Email: coffee.info@coex.co.kr, URL: http://coffeeexposeoul.com/jp/)	Seoul Korea	24-27 April 	Hospitality Technology 2018 (Singapore Exhibition Services Ptd. Ltd., Tel: 65-6233-6638, Email: enquiry@foodnhotelasia.com, URL: Here)	Singapore
10-12 April 	Food Technology Asia (Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd., Tel: 92-21-3453-6321, Email: info@foodtechnologyasia.com, URL: foodtechnologyasia.com)	Karachi Pakistan	24-26 April 	SarawakIF 2018 (AALL Corporation Pte. Ltd., Tel: 65-6405-0110, Email: info@industrialroadshow.com, URL: warawakif.com)	Sarawak Malaysia
11-13 April 	Wine & Gourmet Japan 2018 (Koelnmesse Co., Ltd., Tel: 81-3-5793-7770, Fax: 81-3-5793-7771, Email: kmjpn@koelnmesse.jp, URL: www.koelnmesse.jp/wgj/)	Tokyo Japan	25-26 April 	Chemspec India 2018 (Mack Brooks Exhibitions, Tel: 44-1727-814-400, Email: martin.clark@mackbrooks.co.uk, URL: chemspecindia.com)	Mumbai India
11-14 April 	Vietnam Expo 2018 (VINEXAD, Tel: 84-9125-85882, Fax: 84-24-3936-3085, Email: thuytt@vinexad.com.vn, URL: www.vietnamexpo.com.vn)	Hanoi Vietnam	25-28 April 	Japan Int'l Welding Show (Japan Welding Engineering Society/Sanpo Publications Inc., Tel: 81-3-3258-6411, Email: weldingshow@sanpo-pub.co.jp, URL: weldingshow.jp)	Tokyo Japan
12-15 April 	IBATECH (Messe Stuttgart Ares Fuarcilik Ltd. Sti.,Tel: 90-212-284-11-10, Email: info@messe-stuttgart.com.tr, URL: www.ibatech.com.tr)	Istanbul Turkey	25-29 April 	Eurasia Airshow (Medyacity, Tel: 90-3122-202324, Email: merve.bilgin@medyacity.com.tr, URL: www.eurasiaairshow.com/en_US/)	Antalya Turkey
13-15 April 	ITEM 2018 (Jpan Radiology Congress (JRC), Tel: 81-3-3518-6111, Fax: 81-3-3518-6139, Email: item@office.email.ne.jp, URL: www.j-rc.org)	Yokohama (Kanagawa) Japan	26-29 April 	2018 The Life Style Show (Shanghai UBM Sinoexpo Int'l Exhibition Co., Ltd., Tel: 86-21-3339-2016, Email: lifestyleshow@ubmsinoexpo.com, URL: www.wxpolifstyle.com/en)	Shanghai China
17-20 April 	Korea Lab 2018 (Kyungyon Exhibition Corp., Tel: 81-2-785-7441, Fax : 82-2-785-6117, Email: gskim@kyungyon.co.kr, URL: www.korealab.org/eng)	Goyang Korea	27-30 April 	CCPF (Sinaean International Expo (Yiwu) Corporation Limited, Tel: 86-579-8541-5700, Email: service@sinaexpo.com, URL: en.ssosfair.com)	Yiwu China