



CACCI Planning Committee to meet in Colombo on March 25



The CACCI Planning Committee will meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka on March 25. To be hosted by Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the meeting will primarily discuss preparations for the 33rd CACCI Conference to be held in September 2019 (e.g., Conference venue, theme, topics,

speakers, format, etc). Progress of activities under the CACCI Work Program for 2019 will also be reviewed.

Further details (e.g., updated Program, Annotated agenda, discussion papers, hotel accommodation, etc.) will be sent to members upon confirmation of attendance.

CACCI is counting on your valuable participation for the successful outcome of this important meeting. For more information or to request for a confirmation form, please email the Secretariat at cacci@cacci.biz

About Colombo

Situated in the western province of Sri Lanka, Colombo is the island's capital. Diverse and vibrant, the city is the administrative and economic center of the country.

Colombo is Sri Lanka's largest city, home to around a million people and is also one of the busiest ports in the South Asia. Colombo was the capital for over two hundred years until the capital was shifted to nearby Sri Jayawardenepura, but remains the hub and heart of the city.

The city offers historical monuments, colonial architecture, beaches, fine dining, vibrant night life and lots of shopping. Its architecture has been influenced by Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonization and is very visible in the buildings



surrounding the city.

The New Parliament is situated at Sri Jayawardenapura on the outskirts of Colombo, while the Old Parliament on Galle Road is now the Presidential Secretariat.

The Galle Face Green promenade is currently a 5 hectare ribbon strip of land between Galle Road and the Indian Ocean, which is now the largest open space in Colombo. There are many large hotels that border the strip and its surroundings have been earmarked for city development including many more 5 start hotels.

The city is also cluttered with temples, mosques, and churches catering to the diverse population that enrich the culture of the city. (Data from Colombo Municipal Council)

The great majority of Sri Lankan corporations have their head offices in Colombo. Some of the industries include chemicals, textiles, glass, cement, leather goods, furniture, and jewelry. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka cites that the Colombo Metropolitan area has a GDP of \$48 billion or 40% of the GDP, making it the most important aspect of the Sri Lankan economy. Data from the central bank states that the per capita income of Colombo Metro area stood at US\$8623 and purchasing power per capita of \$25,117, making it one of the most prosperous regions in South Asia.

In this Issue:

• CACCI President Starts 2019 with Visit to Taiwan	2
• Take an Active part in YEGAP	3
• Member Personalities	4
• Product & Service Councils	4
• Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region	6
• Economic Cooperation News	7
• Fairs & Exhibits in Asia-Pacific	9
• Technology	10
• Policy Updates	11

CACCI calls for suggestions on themes and topics for 33rd Conference

CACCI is seeking suggestions on economic, business or policy issues which are deemed to be currently of great concern to members and the business sector of the region as a whole, and should be discussed by members in the next Conference. Please send suggestions to cacci@cacci.biz or drop us a message on Facebook or LinkedIn.

CACCI President Starts 2019 with Visit to Taiwan

CACCI President Samir Modi started the year 2019 with a visit to the CACCI Secretariat Office in Taipei from January 14-17. Below are photos from courtesy calls and his meetings with different organizations.

Visit to the Secretariat Office

Modi took time to meet with the staff of the CACCI Secretariat during his recent visit to Taipei on January 14-16, 2019. He was briefed by the Secretariat on his tentative schedule of activities for 2019, including the proposed Presidential visits to member chambers as well as his participation in regional and international meetings. The president also discussed his plans to implement new programs aimed at further raising the profile of CACCI not only among member countries but internationally as well, and enhancing the value of the Confederation to members.



Meeting with New Affiliate Member

(Left photo) CACCI President exchanges views with the officers of Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei (IEAT) Vice Chairman Mr. James W. P. Lin (center) and Secretary-General Mr. Peter Huang (2nd from right) on areas where CACCI and IEAT can enhance their relationships, including participation in the CACCI Conferences in the activities of the various CACCI Product and Service Councils such as the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) and the CACCI Women Entrepreneurs Council (CWEC). IEAT was formally admitted as the newest CACCI Affiliate Member during the 32nd CACCI Conference held in Istanbul in November 2018.

Courtesy Call on Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROC

Samir Modi on January 14 made a courtesy call on key officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of China

(Taiwan) led by Vice Minister Miguel Li-Jey Tsao (center) and Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation and Economic Affairs Ms. Phoebe Yeh ((4th from right). The two sides shared their perspectives on how CACCI, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and the Modi Group can work with the Ministry and other relevant government agencies of Taiwan in the latter's efforts to improve the economic relations of Taiwan and India and create a policy environment that will further raise the level of two-way trade and investments between the two countries.



Meeting with CNAIC Officers

CACCI President Modi on January 15 met with key officers of the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC) led by Chairman Lin Por Fong. During the meeting, Mr. Modi was given an introduction on the history and activities of CNAIC and the important role it plays in promoting the Taiwanese business community not only in the local market but internationally as well. The CNAIC members attending the meeting also informed Mr. Modi of businesses they are engaged in and of their interest to enter into the Indian market. Mr. Modi assured them of the support of CACCI and his company to facilitate their efforts in this regard. He also expressed his intention to explore business cooperation with Taiwanese companies, particularly those engaged in products needed by Indian consumers.



Trip to Kavalan Distillery

Mr Modi was accompanied by CACCI Secretariat executives to visit the Kavalan Distillery, a Taiwanese whiskey distillery owned by the King Car Group. The distillery is located at Yuanshan Township, Yilan County, one-and-a-half hour by car from Taipei. During the visit, Mr. Modi watched a video presentation on the history and activities of the King Car Group, followed by a tour of the Kavalan distillery. The distillery was named by Whisky Magazine as the World Icons of Whisky “Whisky Visitor Attraction of the Year” for 2011, and its products have won several other award.



Elite Secret Biotechnology Corp. Company Tour

CACCI President Samir Modi met with Dr. Tsai Chih-Hong (2nd from right), President of Elite Secret Biotechnology Corporation, during his recent visit to Taipei on January 14-17 to explore possible business opportunities with the Taiwan-based company. Mr. Modi was accompanied by Ms. Aneesha Duggal, Senior Manager, Godfrey Phillips (India) Ltd. ((leftmost), and CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin (rightmost). Founded in 1972, Elite International Group is makes high quality cosmetic and skin care products and has received recognitions in the fields of medicine, biotechnology, cosmetics, beauty and health care.

Take an Active Part in YEGAP



As part of CACCI's effort to further strengthen its Product and Service Councils (PSCs), the organization is now in the process of beefing up their membership by inviting more CACCI constituencies to take an active part in the PSC activities.

In this connection, CACCI is requesting member chambers to nominate representatives who may be able to make a significant contribution to the work of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP).

The PSCs – of which YEGAP is one of them - have been established with the primary aim of promoting greater business interaction among CACCI members who are in the same product or service line. Membership in the PSCs will provide

businessmen regular platform for networking, identifying and addressing issues affecting their respective sectors, finding solutions to common problems, working out specific programs to accelerate regional cooperation, particularly in the area of trade, investment, technology transfer, capital flow, and the exchange of information; and exploring opportunities for business cooperation and joint venture, and initiating and completing business deals.

CACCI is looking for YEGAP representatives from member Chambers with the following qualifications: (1) Have a strong interest and commitment to actively participate in the programs and projects of YEGAP; (2) Willing and financially capable to travel at least once a year to attend meetings of YEGAP; (3) In a position to serve as an effective liaison between the YEGAP and the young entrepreneurs group/s in his/her country; (4) Proficient in English and; (5) Eager and willing to render voluntary work for YEGAP

Please send the names and contact details of your designated representatives to YEGAP by e-mail at cacci@cacci.biz

Member Personalities

FPCCI Elects New President

Daroo Khan Achakzai has been elected President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) for the year 2019.

Mr. Achakzai holds a degree in Electronic Engineering from Dawood College of Engineering & Technologies in Karachi. He initially worked as an engineer in Pakistan Consultant International consulting Engineers/Architects/ Planners/ Designers.

He later on joined the family business of edible oil and commodities which he expanded by establishing a licensed clearing and forwarding house in 1997 at Quetta. The Business also involved imports & exports of all kind of commodities between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The business further expanded and now includes telecommunication sector by acquiring Telenor Pakistan.

The newly-elected FPCCI president also is also a member of the SAARC CCI 2018-19 Executive Committee.



Deadline Extended for Submission of Nominations for the 2019 World Chambers Competition



The deadline of submission of nominations for the 2019 World Chambers Competition has been extended to give all chambers the opportunity to send their innovative projects. The new deadline is on February 15, 2019.

The 2019 World Chambers Competition will be held in conjunction with the 11th World Chambers Congress scheduled to take place on June 12-14, 2019 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

If your Chamber is interested to participate, please visit the link below:

<https://applycompetition.iccwbo.org/>

Product & Service Councils

Asian Council on Health and Education

Japan to Use Larger Health Warning Labels on Packs of Cigarettes



Japan's Finance Ministry plans to expand the size of health warning labels on cigarette packs, sources with knowledge of the matter said on December 27.

It plans to implement the change before the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, the sources said. The move is designed to increase people's awareness of the health hazards related to smoking. The ministry's move also takes into

consideration visitors to Japan.

Currently, makers are obliged to display health warnings on both the front and the back of cigarette packages. The warnings must cover 30 percent or more of the surface of the cigarette pack on both sides. The ministry plans to raise the percentage to 50 percent or more, the sources said. It also plans to make the health warnings more easy to comprehend by adding extra information such as recent medical findings.

The ministry will also create a new mandatory warning for heat-not-burn tobacco products, which are becoming more popular.

Japan Times



When the worst floods in a century swept through India's southern Kerala state in August, they killed more than 480 people and left behind more than \$5 billion in damage.

But one thing survived unscathed: India's first floating solar panels, on one of the country's largest water reservoirs.

As India grapples with wilder weather, surging demand for power and a goal to nearly quintuple the use of solar energy in just four years, "we are very much excited about floating solar," said Shailesh K. Mishra, director of power systems at the government Solar Energy Corporation of India.

India is planning new large-scale installations of the technology on

Asian Council on Water, Energy and Environment

Floating Solar Panels Buoy Access to Clean Energy in Asia

Product & Service Councils

hydropower reservoirs and other water bodies in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand states, and in the Lakshadweep islands, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“The cost is coming almost to the same level as ground solar, and then it will go (forward) very fast,” he predicted.

As countries move to swiftly scale up solar power, to meet growing demand for energy and to try to curb climate change, floating solar panels - installed on reservoirs or along coastal areas - are fast gaining popularity, particularly in Asia, experts say.

Reuters

Asian SME Council

Over Half of SMEs in Singapore have Experienced a Cyber-Error or Attack Last Year: Poll



Some 56 percent of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Singapore have experienced a cyber-error or attack in the last 12 months, a survey has found, flagging a significant perception gap between cyber risk and how prepared SMEs are to handle them.

A survey conducted by Chubb of 300 SME senior business and IT leaders in August and September last year in the Republic showed that despite over half having experienced a cyber-error or attack in the past year, 63 percent of those polled believe they are less vulnerable to cyber incidents than big companies.

The findings show that the cyber incidents, which occurred over the past year, were largely due to internal factors, including system malfunction or technical fault (22 percent), human error causing business interruption or data loss (20 percent), and data loss through system malfunction or technical fault (16 percent).

“Many SMEs believe they are too small to be targeted

by cyber criminals or that internal issues will not greatly impact them,” said Andrew Taylor, cyber underwriting manager for Chubb Asia Pacific.

“They think they are too small to fail. However, our own claims data highlights numerous small business compromises that are decimating the cash flow of small businesses.”

Business Times

Asian Council on Tourism

Nepal Welcomes Record Number of Tourists in 2018



Tourist arrivals in Nepal topped one million for the first time in 2018 - boosted by increased visitors from India, China, the US, Sri Lanka and the UK.

The Himalayan nation saw the number of tourists jump nearly 25 percent as it welcomed a record high of 1,173,072 visitors in 2018, the country's tourism authorities said on January 9.

Rabindra Adhikari, Nepal's tourism minister, called the new total “remarkable”.

Last year also saw a record 807 climbers reach the summit of Mount Everest, including 563 summits from Nepal.

Tourism is a major revenue earner for impoverished Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 meters.

Fears for the industry rose after a devastating earthquake in 2015 that killed nearly 9,000 people and destroyed many of the country's heritage sites.

The industry's annual revenues fell by almost a third that year, dealing a devastating blow to the economy, but the sector has since gradually recovered.

Channel News Asia

Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

Grab Moves to Offer Digital Insurance Services in Southeast Asia



Grab is Southeast Asia's top ride-hailing firm, thanks in no small part to its acquisition of Uber's local business last year, but the company also houses an ambitious fintech arm, too. That just added another vertical to its business after Grab announced it is teaming up with China's ZhongAn to introduce insurance.

Grab and ZhongAn International, the international arm of the Chinese insurance giant, said on January 16 that they will create a joint venture that will provide digital insurance services across Southeast Asia. Grab said the new business will partner with insurance companies to offer the services via its mobile app. Chubb — a company that already works with Grab to offer micro-loans to its drivers — is the first partner to commit; it'll offer insurance for Grab drivers starting in Singapore.

ZhongAn is widely lauded for being China's first digital-only insurance platform. It's backed by traditional insurance giant PingAn and Chinese internet giants Tencent and Alibaba.

Grab's move into digital insurance comes a day after Singapore Life, an online insurer in Singapore, closed the second part of a \$33 million funding round aimed at expanding its business in Southeast Asia.

This ZhongAn partnership adds another layer to Grab's services and fintech business, which already includes payments — both offline and online — and is scheduled to move into cross-border remittance and online healthcare, the latter being a deal with ZhongAn sibling PingAn Good Doctor.

Tech Crunch

South Korea's Mirae Asset, Naver to Invest in Indonesia's Bukalapak

A fund led by South Korea's

Bukalapak

Mirae Asset Daewoo and web portal Naver Corp will invest \$50 million in Indonesian e-commerce startup Bukalapak, Mirae Asset said on January 16.

The Asia Growth Fund jointly set up by Mirae Asset and Naver Corp is seeking exposure in the fast-growing online commerce industry in the Southeast Asian country.

Surging smartphone use and a rising middle-class income in Indonesia, home to 260 million people, have made its e-commerce industry a battleground for foreign investors.

Spending in the Indonesian e-commerce market is projected by consultancy McKinsey to reach as much as \$65 billion by 2022 from \$8 billion in 2017.

"Naver is very strong in technology, so there is a lot we can learn from them," Teddy Oetomo, chief strategy officer at Bukalapak, said by telephone.

Bukalapak expects to break even in three years, as it adds new product segments and expands coverage in small towns, Oetomo previously told Reuters.

The company, which counts Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC Pte and China's Ant Financial among its investors, became a unicorn - or a firm valued at \$1 billion or above without tapping the public market - after its last fundraising round in late 2017.

Reuters

ST Telemedia GDC Enters Thai Data Centre Market Through Joint Venture

ST Telemedia Global Data



Centres (STT GDC) has finalized a joint venture partnership with Ticon, marking the Singapore-based data center service provider's first foray into the data center market in Thailand.

The joint venture is part of a 49:51 agreement with STT GDC a minority stakeholder, with 49 percent while Ticon holds 51 percent.

Currently in its development phase, the data center project is located on a 75,000 square meter (15-rai) in the Ramkhamhaeng district of central Bangkok, with construction expected to commence in mid-year of 2019 and due for completion and service commencement by 2020.

"This development marks STT GDC's first foray into the Thai data center market, and will strengthen our expanding network across major data center markets around the world," said Bruno Lopez, group chief executive officer of STT GDC.

"With our 'think global, act local' mantra, we believe that Ticon, with their rich legacy and successful operating history in the country, will be valuable partners in our new venture.

"We are confident that with our expertise in designing, building and operating data centers to the highest global standards in key markets such as Singapore, China, India and the UK, as well as the local expertise of Ticon in understanding the needs of the Thai market and navigating its regulatory environment, we will be able to meet the demands of our customers in Thailand, support their digital growth and help them realize the Thailand 4.0 vision."

Channel News Asia

Index-Asia, UpSmart Team Up to Aid SMEs

Hong Kong-based finance advisory company Index-Asia has partnered with local financial consultancy firm UpSmart Strategy Consulting to help Philippine startups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and family businesses strengthen their capital-raising strategies.

In a statement on January 14, the two companies said their partnership aimed to "create a growth strategy and structure

their transactions and deals to facilitate a successful capital-raising.”

They are also keen on providing accounting services and financial analyses of their clients’ operations, they added.

“Investors, on the other hand, will have access to investments that are professionally managed, while getting the necessary support in target identification, due diligence services and post-investment financial monitoring,” both firms said.

UpSmart Head of Consulting



Practice Filbert Richerd Ng Tsai explained that Western firms attracted global investments because they were more established in terms of the financial, operational and legal aspects of the

business.

“With this partnership between UpSmart and Index-Asia, we look forward to bringing an end-to-end solution to the challenging capital-raising situation of the Filipino middle-market,” he said.

Index-Asia’s Kieran Martin agreed, saying that based on his experience, SMEs in Southeast Asia generally do not implement proper structure for capital-raising.

Manila Times

Economic Cooperation News

Momentum of Malaysia’s Relationship with Singapore ‘Very Positive’: Economic Minister Azmin Ali

The momentum of Malaysia’s relationship with Singapore is very positive, said Malaysian Minister for Economic Affairs Mohamed Azmin Ali on January 16, after meeting Singapore ministers to discuss bilateral issues over the weekend.

Mr Azmin’s comment also follows Singapore’s decision to postpone joint ministerial committee talks on Iskandar after Johor Chief Minister Osman Sopian made an “unauthorised visit” to Malaysian vessel Pedoman, which was in Singapore waters.

Speaking to Channel NewsAsia, Mr Azmin said: “I must say the meeting was very productive, very good and the momentum of our relationship is very positive.”

Mr Azmin noted that there were “issues that we have to deal with”, but he did not want “a particular statement by any side” to derail the main objective of both governments.

“We want to ensure that Singapore and Malaysia will continue to enjoy (a) very close working relationship because we want to ensure that this is the right time for us to enhance our cooperation especially in this particular region,” he added.

Channel News Asia

A New Era Dawns for Pakistan-Turkey Relations

Two strong leaders met to reaffirm the century-old friendship between their brotherly nations in Ankara on January 4.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan is a brave, honest and visionary leader who has deep feelings about the oppression of the global Muslim community, or ummah. In his maiden speech after winning the general election in July 2018, he said he wanted to promote peace and stability, especially in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Kashmir.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the strongman leader of a proud nation. The Ottoman Empire (1299-1922), which spread over parts of Asia, Africa and Europe, was the greatest in Muslim history. Khan visited Turkey on the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on 3-5 January. He laid a wreath at Anitkabir, the mausoleum of the Turkish Republic’s founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, as part of an official state visit to Ankara on January 4.

As Khan left, he signed the guest book, writing: “It is a matter of great honor for me to be present here to pay homage to one of the greatest statesmen and visionary leaders of the 20th century – Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Leading the Turkish nation at one of the most challenging times, he changed the course of Turkish and indeed the world’s history, becoming an inspiration for all those resisting the tide of colonialism across the world. He was an epitome of courage, strength, resilience, forbearance, and wisdom.”

Asia Times

Duterte Vows Stronger PH-Sri Lanka Ties

President Rodrigo Duterte on January 16 vowed to strengthen ties between the Philippines and Sri Lanka as the island nation’s leader Maithripala Sirisena made a historic visit to the country. Sirisena was on a five-day state visit to the Philippines, the first ever to be made by a sitting Sri Lankan leader.

Duterte said the Philippines and Sri Lanka’s status as both developing maritime nations makes it important for the two countries to enhance relations.

“We face common challenges, we have shared interests, and we are united by our desire to provide greater peace, progress and prosperity for our peoples,” Duterte said in a joint press statement in Malacanang.

“These realities and aspirations behoove upon us to work together even more closely to provide renewed impetus and clearer direction for a greatly expanded partnership.”

To end his statement, Duterte said: “The Philippines’ destiny is in Asia. Sri Lanka’s destiny is also in Asia. Asia’s destiny lies among Asians.”

Sirisena, for his part, thanked Duterte for sealing five agreements with his country, among them pacts on agriculture and education cooperation and military exchanges.

“We have agreed on several concrete initiatives to deepen our relations. Along with President Duterte, I and my

Economic Cooperation News

Government will ensure that these initiatives will be implemented in order to harness the maximum [benefit for] people of both countries,” Sirisena said.

Sirisena also invited Duterte to make a state visit to Sri Lanka, saying this would “provide an opportunity to evaluate the progress of the initiatives which we have discussed during my visit.”

ABS-CBN

Indonesian FM Highlights Bilateral Relations with Vietnam in 2018

As Indonesia’s only strategic partner within the ASEAN bloc, Vietnam will always be an important partner to the nation, stated Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L.P Marsudi in an annual press statement in Jakarta on January 9.

The statement highlighted the country foreign policy achievements over the last four years, as well as diplomatic orientations for 2019.

It stressed that 2018 was a special year for bilateral relations between Indonesia and Vietnam.

While recalling important events for Vietnam-Indonesia relations in 2018, Marsudi underscored Indonesian President Joko Widodo’s state visit to Hanoi on September 11-12 where he attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) on ASEAN. The visit coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Indonesia-Vietnam Strategic Partnership. In a bilateral meeting in the Presidential Palace, President Widodo and Vietnamese State President Tran Dai Quang witnessed the signing of the Indonesia-Vietnam Strategic Partnership Action Plan for 2019-2023.

In line with Indonesia’s foreign policy priorities, the Indonesian FM expressed that her nation is looking forward to cooperating with Vietnam in accelerating the completion of negotiations over the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), protecting Indonesian citizens living in Vietnam, boosting economic cooperation, and maintaining regional security and stability.

The two sides are jointly implementing one of the concrete efforts to achieve a bilateral trade target of 10 billion USD in 2020, the statement said.

Vietnamplus

Kazakh FM Supports Stronger Regional Relationship with India at India-Central Asia-Afghanistan Dialogue

Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Beibut Atankulov stressed the need to establish a closer relationship between India and Central Asia during the Jan. 13 India-Central Asia-Afghanistan Dialogue in Samarkand. The event included the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the host nation, Uzbekistan.

Atankulov urged the implementation of joint projects with India in medicine, pharmaceuticals, new technologies and finance through the International Technopark of IT startups Astana Hub and the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC).

He also suggested creating a consortium with all Central Asian countries to connect the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran and Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran rail routes with the port of Chabahar to transport cargo along the Central Asia-India route.

The foreign ministers also discussed economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation among Central Asian nations, including trade, business association contacts, transit and transport and communication capacity. They also discussed establishing joint initiatives to create international and regional transport corridors and to attract Indian investments and technologies to Central Asian economies.

The ministers approved a joint statement noting positive relations between India and Central Asia as well as affirming the desire for regional cooperation to ensure security, stability and sustainable development in the region.

The proposal to hold the first ministerial meeting in the framework of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was preceded by a series of meetings at the expert level held since 2012. The initiative to hold such meetings was proposed by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) together with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

Astana Times

CACCI Planning Committee Meeting, March 25, 2019



Colombo, Sri Lanka

For more information please contact:
cacci@cacci.biz



Fairs & Exhibits in Asia-Pacific

DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY	DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY
3-5 March 	Autumn Gift & Homeware Fair 2019 (XPO Exhibitions Ltd., Tel: 64-9-976-8300, Email: info@giftfairs.co.nz, URL: http://www.giftfairs.co.nz/)	Auckland New Zealand	9-12 March 	JSAP Expo Spring 2019 (Japan Society of Applied Physics, Tel: 81-3-3828-7724, Email: meeting@jsap.or.jp, URL: https://meeting.jsap.or.jp/english/)	Tokyo Japan
4-6 March 	SINO – Label 2019 (Adsale Exhibition Services Ltd., Tel: 852-2516-3363, Email: printpack.hkpr@adsale.com.hk, URL: URL)	Guangzhou China	13-15 March 	VIV Asia 2019 (VNU Exhibitions Europe, Tel: 31-30-295-2700, Email: viv.asia@vnuexhibitions.com, URL: https://www.vivasia.nl/)	Bangkok Thailand
3-5 March 	Climate World 2019 (EUROEXPO GmbH, Tel: 43-1-230-85-3533, Email: y.marouf@euroexpo-vienna.com, URL: https://climatexpo.ru/eng/)	Moscow Russia	13-15 March 	Sweet 2019 (Kimdaejeung Convention Center, Tel: 82-62-611-2252, Email: info@sweet.or.kr, URL: https://www.sweet.or.kr/fairDash.do?hl=ENG)	Gwangju Korea
4-9 March 	TIMTOS (TAITRA, Tel: 886-2-2725-5200, Email: timtos@taitra.org.tw, URL: https://www.timtos.com.tw/)	Taipei Taiwan	14-17 March 	WIN EURASIA 2019 (Hannover Fairs Turkey Fuarcilik A.S., Tel: 90-212-334-6900, Email: info@hf-turkey.com, URL: URL)	Istanbul Turkey
5-7 March 	Solar at Middle East Electricity (Informa Exhibitions, Tel: 971-0-4-407-2470, Email: rahul.rawat@informa.com, URL: URL)	Dubai U.A.E.	18-20 March 	PHAR-EAST ASIA'S Pharma & Biotech Festival (Terrapinn Pte Ltd., Tel: 65-6222-8550, Email: enquiry.sg@terrapinn.com, URL: URL)	Singapore Singapore
5-8 March 	Security Show 2019 (Nikkei Inc./Space Media Japan, Tel: 81-3-6256-7355, Email: info@securityshow.jp, URL: https://messe.nikkei.co.jp/en/ss/)	Tokyo Japan	18-20 March 	Smart Health Japan 2019 (UBM Japan Co., Ltd., Tel: 81-3-5296-1034, Email: medtecjapan@ubm.com, URL: http://www.medtecjapan.com/en)	Tokyo Japan
6-8 March 	Automotive Testing Expo Korea 2019 (UKIP Media & Events Ltd., Tel: 44-1306-743744, Email: dominic.cundy@ukimediaevents.com, URL: URL)	Goyang Korea	18-21 March 	FILMART (Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Tel: 852-1830-668, Email: film@hktdc.org, URL: URL)	Hong Kong China
6-8 March 	GES2019 (MVRDC/World Trade Centre Mumbai, Tel: 91-22-6638-7272, Email: Marketing@wtcmumbai.org, URL: http://gesmumbai.com/)	Mumbai India	19-21 March 	BASIS SoftExpo 2019 (Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), Tel: 880-96-1232-2747, Email: info@basis.org.bd, URL: URL)	Dhaka Bangladesh
6-9 March 	VIFA-EXPO 2019 (Hawa Corporation, Tel: 84-28-3526-4714, Email: info@hawacorp.com.vn, URL: http://vifafair.com/home/)	Ho-Chi-Minh City/Vietnam	20-22 March 	Truck & Trailer Indonesia 2019 (GEM Indonesia, Tel: 62-21-5435-8118, Email: info@trucking-indonesia.com , URL: https://www.iibt-exhibition.net/)	Jakarta Indonesia
7-9 March 	10th Textech Sri Lanka Expo'19 (Conference & Exhibition Management Services Ltd., Tel: 1-646-416-7902, Email: contact@cems-textech.com, URL: https://lk.cems-textech.com/)	Colombo Sri Lanka	20-22 March 	ITIF asia (ITIF ASIA Secretariat, Tel: 92-21-111-222-444, Email: info@itifasia.com, URL: http://www.itifasia.com/)	Karachi Pakistan
7-9 March 	FOTEG ISTANBUL 2019 (HKF Trade Fairs, Tel: 90-212-216-4010, Email: info@hkf-fairs.com, URL: http://www.fotegistanbul.com/en/index.html)	Istanbul Turkey	25-27 March 	HVACR Vietnam 2019 (Informa Exhibitions, Tel: 6564117709, Email: hvacrvietnam.sales@informa.com, URL: URL)	Ho-Chi-Minh City/Vietnam
7-10 March 	CIEX 2019 – 15th China International Industrial Expo (Tianjin Zhenwei Exhibition Co., Ltd., Tel: 86-22-6563-4212, Email: overseas@zhenweiexpo.com, URL: URL)	Tianjin China	27-28 March 	IoT Asia 2019 (SingEx Exhibitions Pte Ltd., Tel: 65-6403-2229, Email: sales.iotasia@singex.com, URL: https://www.internetofthingsasia.com/)	Singapore Singapore

Mission Produce Rolls Out Hazel Tech Avocado Program



Mission Produce is using Hazel Technologies' shelf-life extending product. (Courtesy Mission Produce)

Mission Produce Inc., Oxnard, Calif., is using Hazel Technologies' shelf-life extension product on avocados, with plans to integrate the technology throughout its global supply chain.

Mission, which has ripening/distribution facilities across the U.S., in Canada, the Netherlands and China, has been testing with Hazel Technologies for a year and will continue at all facilities to reduce waste and shrinkage.

"Our partnership with Hazel Technologies strengthens our position in the industry," Steve Barnard, president and CEO of Mission Produce, said in a news release.

This isn't the first time Mission Produce has sought post-harvest solutions to extend shelf-life and product quality, according to the release.

"We decided to collaborate with Hazel Technologies because in our initial year of testing, the company's solutions proved to increase the shelf-life of both hard and ripe avocados, maintain and extend the internal quality of the fruit, and minimize the operational impact to the supply chain," Patrick Cortes, senior director of business development, said in the release. "However, the main benefit of the partnership is working together to reduce global food waste."

Hazel Technologies offers quarter-sized biodegradable and food-safe packaging inserts with 1-MCP technology, according to the release. That blocks fruit's ethylene receptors to stall ripening.

Aidan Mouat, CEO and co-founder of Hazel Technologies, said the

product is easy to integrate into packing-shipping operations. It can be used at harvest, during packaging, or at distribution centers.

"Because of the packet's ease of use, there is little impact to the efficiency of the supply chain," Mouat said in the release.

Mission Produce has packing facilities in California, Mexico and Peru.

The Packer

Braille Technology Firm Builds 'Kindle for The Blind'



British firm Bristol Braille Technology developed the Canute 360, their new "Kindle for the blind". (Photo: Twitter/ Sharon Jones)

A British company plans to launch a Braille e-reader for blind people this year that should greatly enhance their reading experience and spare them from lugging around hefty print volumes.

Since it was developed by Louis Braille in the 19th Century, the alphabet of raised dots has brought the joy of reading to millions of blind and partially-sighted people.

But in its printed form it's not exactly convenient or portable: A Braille copy of the Bible can take up about 1.5 meters of shelf space.

British firm Bristol Braille Technology hopes to change this with Canute 360, their new "Kindle for the blind" which it says is the world's first multi-line Braille e-reader, displaying nine lines of text at a time, or about a third of a page of regular print.

"This means you only have to press the forward button every 360 characters rather than every 20," said Stephanie Sergeant, whose company Vision Through Sound provides training for blind people and has been working with

Bristol Braille.

"It refreshes a line at a time, starting at the top. So even though it takes a little while for all the lines to refresh, you can start reading almost as soon as you press the forward key."

Any text that has been translated into Braille format can be downloaded into the Canute, potentially putting an endless supply of reading material at the user's fingertips.

The proportion of blind people who can read Braille lettering, formed of one to six dots in a range of combinations, has fallen, partly due to advances in audio description technology.

But Bristol Braille says learning to read it can significantly boost literacy and numeracy rates among the blind.

The final prototype of Canute will enter mass production this year, priced similar to a high-end laptop.

Reuters

Vehicle Screens Go Super-Sized at CES as Tech Catches Up



A dashboard video screen is displayed in a Byton M-Byte electric vehicle during the 2019 CES in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. January 8, 2019.

Take a glance at the vehicle displays shown at Consumer Electronics Show (CES) and you could be forgiven for thinking you are at the movies.

"This is not science fiction!" announced the head of Byton, an electric vehicle startup, onstage earlier this week at the global technology conference in Las Vegas. CEO and Chairman Carsten Breitfeld was referring to the jaw-dropping, 48-inch (1.22 m) screen inside the Chinese-funded company's M-Byte car.

Byton's vehicle will not be built until later this year. But its super-sized display - supplied by China's

BOE Technology Group - is proving an undeniable trend in the automotive world, fuelled by the rise of more connected cars.

"The screens are the window to the digital world," said Gorden Wagener, chief design officer for Daimler AG, Mercedes-Benz's parent. "Screens are the new horsepower."

The 2019 Mercedes EQC crossover features two 10.25-inch displays behind a glass surface forming a free-standing screen.

It is not just futuristic electric and luxury vehicles that are upping the ante. Fiat Chrysler's 2019 RAM 1500 truck boasts a 12-inch vertical display in its dashboard.

Channel News Asia

Policy Updates

Hong Kong

Hong Kong's 'Spicy Measures' are Here to Stay, Even as Property Prices Slump, Say Government Officials

Any hope for first-time buyers of paying less initial deposit to buy a home was once again quashed as a senior government official reiterated on January 14 that Hong Kong's mortgage policy remains unchanged.

The government considered it too soon to lift the curbs, or "spicy measures" as they are commonly known, imposed over the past few years to cool the city's overheated property market, said Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury James Lau.

Lau said the measures - including the higher stamp duty on certain transactions and high amount of the initial down payment, which represents 30 to 40 percent of the property - were necessary to maintain a stable financial market in a red hot property market.

"While we have seen the property prices decreasing recently, it is still too early to remove these spicy measures. The government has no timetable on when they would be removed," Lau said on the sidelines of the government-organised

Asian Financial Forum.

He said the government would keep close tabs of prices and supply, as well as related issues before it made any changes to the current policy.

South China Morning Post

India

Salaries in India Expected to Increase 10% in 2019: Report

Employees in India are likely to see a double-digit salary growth in 2019, but inflation may play a dampener capping the hike at 5 percent, a report said January 17.

According to global consulting firm Korn Ferry, as a result of rapid economic growth, India continues to enjoy the highest overall salary increases and real-wage growth in Asia. Salaries in India are expected to increase 10 percent in 2019 as compared to 9 percent last year and inflation-adjusted real-wage hikes are likely to rise to 5 percent from 4.7 percent in 2018.

"Consequent to rapid economic growth, India continues to enjoy the highest overall salary increases and real-wage growth in Asia," said Navnit Singh, Chairman & Regional Managing Director, Korn Ferry India. Singh further said companies should take a broader perspective to define their business strategy and cost drivers in view of increasing automation, use of new technology and the rising demand for skilled workers.

"Compensation programs need to be regularly reviewed to make sure they align with the changing business and market conditions," he said. The Korn Ferry 2019 Global Salary Forecast, which predicts real-wage salaries across the world, is based on Korn Ferry's pay database which contains data for more than 20 million job holders in 25,000 organizations across more than 110 countries.

Business Today

Japan

Japan Prices Rose Sluggish 0.9% Last Year

Japanese consumer prices rose a

sluggish 0.9 percent last year, according to government data published on January 18, as the world's third-largest economy continues its years-long battle to stoke weak inflation.

The annual figure is far below the central bank's inflation target of two percent, and come as the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is reportedly preparing to revise down the country's inflation forecast.

The BOJ will lower its inflation forecast for the year to March 2020 to around one percent from the current estimate of 1.4 percent in its quarterly report, reflecting falls in crude oil prices, local media have reported.

This would be the latest in a string of downward revisions. In October, the central bank also lowered its inflation forecasts, in the latest sign it had failed to make headway towards its two-percent target despite years of massive monetary easing.

Japan has battled sluggish inflation for many years and the central bank's ultra-loose monetary policy appears to have had limited impact.

Japan Today

Malaysia

Malaysia Consumption Growth to Slow to 5.5% in 2019, Fitch Research says

Private consumption growth was likely in "sharp correction" last quarter, with effects continuing in 1Q and 2Q this year, Fitch Solutions Macro Research says in report released January 18.

Consumption will be supported by RM37bil one-time payment of tax refunds in 2019, tight labour market and low inflation.

Fitch lowered real GDP growth forecast to 4.2% in 2019, from 4.5%, due to exports and investment growth concerns. Risk seen in high level of household debt at 68% of GDP in June 2018.

Growth of households loans has slowed however, after peaking in August during the tax holiday period when consumers front-loaded purchases.

Credit card loan growth has also eased from August peak.

Fitch sees average inflation at 1.4% in 2019.

Central bank likely to hold rates unchanged

Policy Updates

at 3.25% through 2019.

Bloomberg

Nepal

Nepal Begins Construction of International Dry Port in Kathmandu

The construction of an international dry port has begun in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley.

Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on January 17 laid a foundation stone of the dry port in Chovar, Kirtipur municipality, several km away from the Ring Road.

The construction of the dry port has been handled by the Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board under the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies with the loan assistance from the World Bank.

The dry port is expected to ease the congestion of cargo in existing dry ports and in expansion of Nepal's trade with neighbor countries.

"The dry port will take our trade from central level to the international level. It will have a positive impact especially on Nepal-India and Nepal-China trade relations," the prime minister said after laying the foundation as per the Hindu rituals.

Mentioning that the dry port has multi-dimensional benefits, the prime minister said that it will highly contribute to the country's goal of development and prosperity.

The dry port is being constructed in a piece of 11.77 hectare land allocated by Himal Cement Factory at an estimated cost of 1.48 billion Nepali Rupees (13.3 million U.S. dollars).

Xinhua News

Philippines

DTI to Impose Additional Php8.40 Tariff on Cement Imports

An additional 8.40 Philippine pesos duty per bag of imported cement will

soon be implemented, a Cabinet member said on January 17.

Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez told CNN Philippines in a text message the move is an additional safeguard against further importation.

"That's a provisional safeguard measure...effectivity will be around Feb. 8," Lopez said.

According to the World Trade Organization, a safeguard measure is an "emergency" action in response to higher imports of certain products. A government adopts such measures to protect its domestic industry from "serious injury" over the influx of imported items.

Asked about the possible impact of the tax at the retail level, Lopez said he expects prices to remain unchanged.

"We expect prices to stay still with more imports, no permits needed," Lopez said.

Tariff proceeds will fund the administration's aggressive Build, Build, Build program.

"Eventually after provisional measure, this becomes a revenue for government to support infrastructure," Lopez said.

He said the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is getting in touch with newspapers to have the tariff order published as required by law.

CNN Philippines

Russia

Russia's Business Opportunities to be Presented to Foreign Investors in Davos

Russian Presidential Envoy for Entrepreneurs' Rights Boris Titov plans to tell the participants of the World Economic Forum in Davos about the opportunities Russia offers to foreign investors, a spokesman with the press service of Titov told TASS.

"My task is to try to convince Western officials that a mutually beneficial business should not suffer from decisions which are forced by pure politics, and often by policies imposed from outside. In Russia, there are still opportunities to make

profit. We want businessmen from other countries to weigh the balance of risks and income soberly, being guided by the real situation not by myths," the Russian business ombudsman said as quoted by his press service.

According to him, provided that there are certain changes in macro regulation, the non-oil and gas sector of the Russian economy has huge growth potential.

"This primarily concerns projects on processing of natural resources, agro-industry, production of various equipment and consumer goods. We are working to determine what changes in Russia should be made and invite Western partners to participate in joint investment projects," Titov said.

The Russian delegation in Davos will be headed by Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin. The forum will be held January 22-25, 2019.

TASS Russian News Agency

Taiwan

More than 60 Taiwanese Companies Mull Taiwan Expansion Amid Trade War

Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) said that more than 60 Taiwanese companies are considering expanding their Taiwan operations, amid concerns stemming from the U.S.-China trade war, reported CNA.

The Taiwan government is seeking to incentivize Taiwanese firms to invest in Taiwan, through a host of new government policies and advisory services provided by the MOEA and Ministry of Finance.

The U.S.-China trade war has been identified as a significant economic risk by a range of analysts including U.S. financial services giant Moody's and the Taiwan government, as well as local and international think tanks. CEO of TSMC, C.C. Wei, said that the trade war will affect all of Taiwan's industries last November.

The trade war is bringing about significant uncertainty for both businesses and markets, and giving pause for thought for Taiwanese businesses with

Policy Updates

manufacturing and service bases in China.

In response to this, the MOEA announced a two-pronged plan to help industries affected by the U.S.-China trade war in August 2018, while the central government has tabled a host of reforms as well as established a new advisory office for Taiwanese and international businesses.

Taiwan News

Thailand

World Bank Tells Thailand to Invest in Public Services

The Thai economy is projected to grow by 3.8% this year and 3.9% in 2020 amid a global slowdown in growth and trade tension, according to the World Bank's Thailand Economic Monitor, released on January 16.

It highlighted that investing in 'human capital' – the skills of people and public services to support citizens – and economic reforms were "critically important" for the country to become a high-income nation.

Thailand became an upper-middle income economy in 2011, after decades of social and economic development. With continued efforts to improve the public sector and education, Thailand could move to high-income status, the World Bank said.

Birgit Hansl, World Bank country manager for Thailand, said: "Sustaining the pace and quality of structural reforms will be crucial for reducing poverty and raising Thailand's long-term growth path above 4% in the face of demographic challenges caused by rapid aging.

"To build a better future for all Thais, an emphasis on human capital investment is key. Addressing priority areas in education and health can go a long way in equalizing opportunities for the next generation."

The bank said Thailand should prioritize addressing the challenges faced by small schools, to ensure poor students get a quality education, by improving school-based management and public education expenditure.

Public Finance International

Vietnam

Vietnam Urged to Become a Factory for the World

Vietnam must become a factory for the world and foster a good investment environment for all economic sectors in order to develop production and boost growth.

This statement was made by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc at a meeting

of the Ministry of Industry and Trade held in Hanoi on January 17.

PM Phuc said that after 30 years of renewal, the industry and trade sector has seen impressive growth and has become a key contributor to the country's development, contributing 80 percent of the GDP and 7 percent of the State budget.

He said the economy completed the targets set for 2018. Many areas saw high growth including import-export and consumption.

The industry and trade sector made a significant contribution to the country's economic achievements, the PM said.

For example, import-export turnover last year reached US\$245 billion, posting 13.8 percent year-on-year increase and far surpassing the Government's targets.

Export turnover was higher in all markets, especially those with which Vietnam has free trade agreements (FTAs) and developed markets such as South Korea, Japan, the US and the EU.

The PM noted that the industry still has shortcomings including a lack of initiatives and plans. Some plans were implemented slowly, causing management problems.

Vietnam Net

About CACCI

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) is a regional grouping of apex national chambers of commerce and industry, business associations and business enterprises in Asia and the Western Pacific.

It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) serving as a forum for promoting the vital role of businessmen in the region, increasing regional business interaction, and enhancing regional economic growth. Since its establishment in 1966, CACCI has

grown into a network of national chambers of commerce with a total now of 29 Primary Members from 27 countries in the region. It cuts across national boundaries to link businessmen and promote economic growth throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

As an NGO, CACCI is granted consultative status, Roster category, under the United Nations. It is a member of the Conference on NGOs (CoNGO), an association of NGOs with UN consultative status.

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