



### Change of Venue of the 33rd CACCI Conference

Following the violent attacks that took place in and around Colombo on Easter Sunday last month, it has been decided to move the 33rd CACCI Conference – which was originally scheduled to take place on September 18-19, 2019 in Shangri-la Hotel Colombo with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) as host – to Kitakyushu City, Japan, at a date to be announced soon.

The Japan Conference will be jointly hosted and organized by the Kitakyushu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kitakyushu CCI) and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), which graciously offered Kitakyushu City - situated in the Fukuoka Prefecture in southern Japan - to be the new venue of our 2019 gathering.

The CACCI Secretariat is currently coordinating with Kitakyushu CCI and the JCCI on the Conference arrangements, and will notify members of additional details soonest.

CACCI apologizes for any inconvenience this decision may have caused members. CACCI continues to count on members' support and valuable participation for the successful outcome of the annual gathering in Kitakyushu this year. Should you have questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to email us at [cacci@cacci.biz](mailto:cacci@cacci.biz)

### CACCI President Samir Modi Conducts Successful Visit to New Zealand

CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi and his nine-member delegation composed of businessmen and chamber officers from five Asian countries were warmly received by the officers and members of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce during their visit to Wellington, New Zealand on May 7-8, 2019.

The New Zealand visit was significant as it was the first CACCI Presidential visit led by Mr. Modi since he assumed the CACCI Presidency in November last year. It also served as a valuable occasion for the CACCI delegation to meet with local businessmen and various government officials to exchange views on trade and investment issues as well as identify areas in New Zealand where CACCI members may consider investing. The delegation also had the opportunity to network with officers of local institutions and business enterprises and listened to presentations on their activities and projects, especially those that welcome the participation of foreign investors.

As a result of the delegation's various meetings, the CACCI Presidential visit to Wellington succeeded in generating awareness about CACCI and its activities among key administrative officials and the local companies in the capital city of New Zealand.

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### ***Visit to Pertronic Industries Ltd.***



The first program for Day One was a visit to Pertronic Industries, Ltd., a company that has been designing, manufacturing and delivering mostly custom-made, fully compliant, high-quality automatic fire detection since 1986. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. John Milford, Chief Executive of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce (WCC), and Mr. Josh Tan, Policy and International Relations Advisor at WCC.

At the Pertronic Industries, the delegation was received by the company officers led by Mr. David Percy, Managing Director, who then gave a presentation on the operations of the company. The CACCI visitors learned, among others, the company's manufacturing operation is designed around the flexibility of its modular product system and its vast range of options and peripherals, and that each Pertronic fire alarm control panel is built to a specific customer specification, which often calls for a unique set of optional components.

The company invests a substantial part of its annual profits in continual innovation and improvement and that its research and development activities are guided by an awareness of the critical role of fire detection and alarm systems in safeguarding personnel, protecting property, and maintaining operational continuity. Its research and development process is designed to discover exactly how and why its customers need specific solutions that go above and beyond the capabilities of today's fire systems.

### ***Meeting with the Indian High Commissioner***



The CACCI visitors then proceeded to the Office of the Indian High Commission to make a courtesy call on Sanjiv Kohli, High Commissioner of India to New Zealand along with his colleagues.



The discussion between the two sides focused on the current state of economic relationships between New Zealand and India, highlighting some of the areas and activities in which Indian businessmen are engaged, particularly agriculture and construction products.

### ***Meeting with Hon. David Parker***

The next activity of the CACCI delegation was a meeting with Hon. David Parker, who holds several portfolio, including the following: Attorney-General; Minister of Economic Development; Minister for the Environment; Minister for Trade and Growth; and Associate Minister of Finance.



Mr. Modi thanked Minister Parker for receiving the delegation, and proceeded to brief him about CACCI, the geographical scope of its membership, its objectives and its activities to achieve these objectives.

Mr. Modi informed the Minister that it was his first time to visit Wellington, and based on what he had seen so far, the city and the country itself offer many business opportunities which he and members of the CACCI delegation hoped to further explore. He added that the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NZCCI), through the Wellington Chamber of Commerce (WECC), has been an active member of CACCI and has done a good job at strengthening relations between New Zealand and the CACCI member countries.

Minister Parker thanked Mr. Modi and the CACCI delegation for visiting Wellington. He pointed out a number of points to the delegation. He underscored the importance of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) – which is the trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam - in addressing the issues of digitalization and the rise of nationalist/protectionist

sentiments in many major economies.

He said that New Zealand is worried about the undermining of international rule of law relating to trade as a result of the growing nationalism and protectionism in some countries, adding that the World Trade Organization has been too slow to update its rules to reflect market developments. New Zealand is worried about the impasse in the WTO, he remarked.



He also noted that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)– which is a proposed free trade agreement the ten ASEAN member states and the six Asia-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand) – presents commercial opportunities for CACCI member countries in New Zealand as the country is open to movement of goods. Mr. John Milford supplemented the statement of the Minister by mentioning that during the recently held Regional Australia-Asia Chambers Forum held in Darwin on May 2-3, the “Look North” policy of Australia was underscored, providing business-to-business and investment-opportunities for both Australia and Asian countries.

The Minister also cited the ease of doing business in New Zealand – ranking first in the world in this category – as well as its reputation as free of corruption, makes the country as an ideal destination for trade and investment and for setting up business.

#### ***Meeting and Dinner with the NZCCI Management Team and WECC Officers***



The CACCI delegation then proceeded to the dinner hosted by the WECC officers at the Dockside Restaurant, where they were joined by the officers of the NZCCI, including the following: Mr. Michael Barnett, NZCCI Chairman and Chief Executive of Auckland Chamber of Commerce; Ms. Leeann Watson, Chief Executive of Canterbury Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Ged Casey, Chairman of the Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce.

The dinner served as occasion for the CACCI visitors and the hosts to know more about each other’s activities and about their respective Chambers, and to further strengthen their

networking and professional relationships.

#### ***Visit to the Victoria University of Wellington***



The second day began with a visit to the Victoria University of Wellington, where the delegation was warmly received by high-ranking university officials, including the following: Mr. Neil Paviour-Smith, Chancellor, Mr. Grant Guilford, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Alan Bollard, Chair for Pacific Region Business, School of Government, Professor Siah Hwee Ang, Chai in Business in Asia, School of Marketing and International Business, Victoria Business School.

The University, originally known as Victoria College, was founded in 1897. This was the year of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Victoria University is characterized by the depth, consistency and effectiveness of its culture of domestic and international engagement. Its commitment to reciprocal, high-quality relationships springs from identifying and understanding the need for New Zealand to achieve sustainable development.

Victoria University has developed close ties with a wide range of businesses and government organisations, and several recent initiatives are aimed at improving the University’s engagement with industry.

#### ***Meeting and Lunch with the Mayor and Councilors of Wellington City Council***



Following the visit to the Victoria University of Wellington, the CACCI visitors moved to the Wellington City Council where they were hosted for lunch by the officials of the City Council led by Mr. Justin Lester, Mayor of Wellington, and Ms. Jill Day, Deputy Mayor of Wellington.



During the occasion, Mayor Lester informed the delegation about the various programs of the City Council to make Wellington and liveable city convenient and comfortable for its residents, as well as making it an attractive destination for investments and ideal and profitable place for business. Mayor Lester pointed out that Wellington's economy is primarily service-based, with an emphasis on finance, business services, and government. It is the centre of New Zealand's film and special effects industries, and increasingly a hub for information technology and innovation, with two public research universities. Wellington is one of New Zealand's chief seaports and serves both domestic and international shipping. The city is served by Wellington International Airport, the third busiest airport in the country.

### ***Visit to Te Papa Museum***

The delegation proceeded to the Te Papa Museum where they had a guided tour of some of the points of interest in the Museum. The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is New Zealand's national museum.



Te Papa Tongarewa translates literally to 'Container of Treasures'. Te Papa's philosophy emphasizes the living face behind its cultural treasures, many of which retain deep ancestral links to the indigenous Maori people. The Museum recognizes the partnership that was created by the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, te Tiriti o Waitangi, in 1840.

### ***Meeting with Officers of Business New Zealand and Wellington Chamber of Commerce***



From the Te Papa Museum, the CACCI delegation moved to the WECC headquarters where they met with officers of the WCC and the Business New Zealand, including the following (in addition to Mr. Milford and Mr. Tan): Ms. Jo Healey, President of Wellington Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Kirk Hope, CEO of Business New Zealand, Ms. Catherine Beard, Business NZ Executive Director, Manufacturing and Export, and Mr. Sam McKinnon, ExportNZ Policy Advisor.

The hosts explained to the delegates the relationship between Business New Zealand, Export New Zealand, and WECC. They informed the CACCI visitors that Business New Zealand advocates for enterprise and promotes the voice of thousands of businesses across New Zealand by working for positive change through new thinking, productivity and innovation. Its unique strength lies in its capability to engage with government officials, community groups, MPs and Ministers on a daily basis, ensuring business interests are represented throughout the policy making process.

Export New Zealand is a division of Business NZ. Export NZ's key objectives are to provide effective advocacy and lobbying on behalf of exporters; inspire New Zealand firms to engage in exporting to expand their business horizons and grow internationally; and provide practical support programmes and networking events to help firms achieve these goals.

The Wellington Chamber of Commerce was formed by a group of local business professionals in 1996 to focus on what makes Wellington unique from surrounding communities by emphasizing the differences, to bring a competitive advantage to Wellington merchants, and to protect those differences for all residents. In fact, it was a return to the idea that chambers of commerce best serve their communities when they are local and when they do not try to be all things to all people. It was also felt that local chambers must look to the betterment of their communities in all facets of community life and not just the business aspect of the communities.



The hosts discussed the activities of their respective organizations, particularly their roles in promoting the economic growth and development of New Zealand. They also cited some of the growth sectors of the country's economy, such as the small-scale manufacturing of non-food items that are top-quality and premium products; film industry, gaming, incubators, data processing, and IT.

They likewise mentioned that the SMEs in the country does not have much capital and would therefore welcome the opportunity to partner with overseas companies. In response, Mr. Modi informed them that CACCI, given the geographical scope of its membership, would provide as a good platform for collaboration between New Zealand SMEs and potential investors from the CACCI countries.

Mr. Modi took the opportunity to invite the chamber officers to attend the 33rd CACCI Conference which is now tentatively scheduled to take place in Japan either in late October or November. Their presence will provide them the opportunity to network with CACCI members and explore possible business collaboration.

# CACCI President Delivers Keynote Address at the Regional Australia-Asia Chambers Forum in Darwin



CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi delivered a Keynote Address at the recently concluded Regional Australia-Asia Chambers Forum that took place on May 2-3, 2019 in Darwin, Australia.

Organized by the Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory, which is an Affiliate Member of CACCI, the Forum was held at the SkyCity Hotel Casino. The two-day event gathered together senior representatives from chambers of commerce within Australia and across the Asian region to discuss key issues facing the growth of business in the Asian region.

In his speech, Mr. Modi pointed out that the Asia-Pacific region serves as one of the most promising regions in the current times consisting of some of the world's most vibrant economies. The world is eyeing this region in the times of global slowdown as it offers tremendous opportunities for trade and investment and creating global value chains for manufacturing, he noted, adding that globally, the Asia Pacific region remains the most important destination and source of FDI.

Mr. Modi stated that the Asia-Pacific region continues to be the world leader in growth. Growth in Asia is forecasted at 5.6 percent in 2019, while inflation is projected to be subdued and that despite volatile capital flows, Asian financial markets have been resilient, reflecting strong fundamentals, he said.

"We meet at a time of profound and complex changes in the international landscape. World economic growth has remained in the positive territory, yet it has been weighed down by factors such as sluggish international trade and investment, and rising protectionism.

"According to the 2018 UNESCAP report, trade tensions between the United States and China are expected to lead to a significant trade slowdown in 2019.

"However, on the other hand, these tensions are prompting Asia-Pacific economies to become closer. Opportunities are also arising from the redirection of trade and production in the global value chain."

He identified these opportunities to include the following:

1. Vietnam has a high potential to become the new assembly centre.
2. Indonesia's relatively high opportunity index is driven by its manufacturing sectors and raw material exports.
3. Japan and the Republic of Korea are driven by their competitiveness in hi-tech electronics, concentrated in the

electrical and optical equipment sector.

4. Education and Energy could be driven by Australia.
5. The positive services trade performance will continue to be driven mainly by China and India.

Mr. Modi further noted that the global economy is becoming increasingly digitalised, and some of the emerging technologies have the potential to be truly transformative, even as they pose new challenges. He pointed out that Asia is already a leader in many aspects of the digital revolution, but to remain at the cutting edge and reap the full benefits from technological advances, policy responses will be needed in many areas, including artificial intelligence, information and communication technology, trade, labor markets, and education.

"I feel that the importance of business networking to encourage greater interaction among individual businessmen and business communities in the Asia-Pacific will play a very significant role as we go forward. We will need to do more Activities in this regard have included the exchange of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs such as this Exhibition, the exchange of trade data information, and performing business inquiry services and trade matching activities.

"I feel there is a strong necessity for establishing an effective and strong network between SMEs and large corporations, as well as between the government and the business sector to facilitate a better regulatory environment among countries in the region and to set a forum for sufficient dialogue on policy matters.

"We all have a shared future just like passengers sitting on the same boat. We therefore need to help each other to address challenges on the basis of consultation and coordination and pursue common development. We need to share our insights, build consensus and contribute to promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity in Asia and the world.

"With a few bruises here and there, we have so far made this Asian miracle possible due to the security and stability of our region. Looking ahead, we must deepen strategic mutual trust and work toward the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security for Asia.

We must continue to follow the Asian way of mutual respect, consensus-building and accommodating the comfort levels of all parties and properly handle regional hotspots and resolve disputes through negotiation and consultation. Common efforts in these areas will help preserve the sound momentum of

peace and development in Asia.

“We all have our own comparative strengths and our economies are highly complementary. Greater openness and deeper cooperation within the region will be crucial for the sustained fast growth of Asian economies. Deeper regional integration under the current circumstances can help us better leverage our comparative strengths.

“We need to jointly break new ground in innovation-driven development. After years of fairly fast growth, Asian countries now face the challenge of shifting from old drivers of growth to new ones, and we must rely on innovation to foster the latter. As the new round of global technological revolution and industrial transformation unfolds, we must seize the opportunities, tap into our advantages in human capital and market potential to intensify cooperation on innovation and accelerate the upgrading of traditional industries and growth of emerging industries. We need to make our business environment open, fair, transparent and predictable, clear the way for the unimpeded flow of factors of innovation, and share innovation resources and outcomes, setting the stage for the steady progress of Asia’s innovation-driven development.

“What is also needed is a new plan to respond to the expectations of industry and sustain momentum and aim to

enhance the start-up ecosystem, high growth in social media and e-commerce.

“In fact, as the CACCI President, one area that I wish to strengthen during my tenure is greater involvement of Industry in CACCI activities and conferences. This would certainly help us in better serving the member chambers of CACCI and addressing relevant economic issues in the Asia Pacific region. High level interactions along with policy advocacy on important issues would continue to be an important element.”

Mr. Modi took the opportunity to invite all Forum attendees to join him in the future delegations of CACCI. “This will give each one of you the opportunity to gather first-hand information on the business situation in the country where we are going. Engage and build relationships with key government officials and meet leading businessman in the country, particularly those from industries or sectors that you wish to know, promote or do business with. These delegations have helped me tremendously and I am sure that they will help you, too.”

He also invited the officers and members of the Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory and other local businessmen in Australia to attend the upcoming 33rd CACCI Conference to be held later this year.

## President Modi Invited to ICC Centenary Summit in Paris



CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi has been invited to participate in the International Chamber of Commerce Centenary Summit to be held on May 28, 2019 in Paris. The Summit marks the world business organization’s 100-year anniversary.

Focusing on the theme “The Next Century of Global Business,” the Summit will be especially focused on the ways in which the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has worked to promote international trade and business in the past

and the ways in which it will continue to do so in the future.

The ICC is considered the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its 6 million members in over 100 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.

ICC has three main activities: rule setting, dispute resolution, and policy advocacy. Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business,

ICC has authority in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders. Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of international trade.

## CACCI Admitted as Associate Member of the Joint Business Council of ASEAN-BAC

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) has been formally accepted as Associate Member of the Joint Business Council under the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC). Its application was formally approved by the ASEAN BAC during its May 3 meeting in Manila, Philippines.

The ASEAN-BAC was

established by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the 7th ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Launched in April 2003, ASEAN-BAC was set up with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN’s efforts towards economic integration. Aside from providing private sector feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic

cooperation, the Council also identifies priority areas for consideration of the ASEAN Leaders.

Accordingly, ASEAN-BAC’s activities are primarily focused on reviewing and identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration. To help them in this regard, the ASEAN-BAC invites a number of joint business councils with interest in ASEAN



(e.g., ASEAN-US Business Council, ASEAN-India Business Council, Australia-ASEAN Business Council, etc.) to attend regular meetings for dialogues and exchange of ideas on how to improve regional cooperation.

As Associate Member of the Joint Business Council, CACCI will be invited to join these regular dialogues, and will have the opportunity to provide inputs to the recommendations that the ASEAN-BAC will present to the ASEAN Leaders.

In his Letter of Intent to the ASEAN-BAC Chairman Mr. Arin Jira from Thailand, CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi pointed out that, as a regional organization composed mostly of apex chambers of commerce and industry and business associations in Asia, CACCI is in a position to make significant contribution to the work of the Joint Business Council and the ASEAN-BAC in identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration.

“Given the regional nature and geographical scope of our organization, I believe CACCI will be able to provide expertise in the area of trade facilitation and trade generation, which have been the focus of our policy advocacy work in the past few years.

In addition, we can also contribute to the work of ASEAN-BAC that may focus on specific sectors, such as the promotion of entrepreneurship, SME development, food safety and security, energy and environment, and regional tourism, among others. We have sub-committees, or Product and Service Councils, that are focused on these sectors and a few others as well.”

CACCI had attended, as observer, two previous meetings of the Joint Business Council, namely, the 9th Joint Consultation Meeting held on January 26, 2017 in Manila, Philippines, and the 11th Joint Consultation Meeting held on January 17, 2018 in Singapore. Furthermore, CACCI had participated in several of past years’ ASEAN Business and Investment Summit organized by the ASEAN-BAC in conjunction with the ASEAN Leaders Summit.

“Through our participation in these important gatherings, we have learned that most of the issues being discussed by your organization are the same issues taken up by CACCI members in our meetings and conferences. Hence, we believe that CACCI can provide inputs to the discussions and formulation of recommendations by the ASEAN-BAC,” Mr. Modi stated.

## CACCI Invited to CoNGO Meeting in Bangkok in June



The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) has been invited to attend the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) - of which CACCI is a member - to attend the meeting of the CoNGO Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) on May 29-30, 2019 in Bangkok. The agenda for the meeting is “The UN Sustainable Development Goals and Civil Society – National and Local Implementation and Follow-up”.

The RCAP is an initiative serving the widest non-governmental and civil society constituencies throughout this vast region. Being wholly committed to multilateral consultation and cooperation, to human rights, to social justice, to sustainable development and peace, CoNGO seeks - through RCAP - to be of service to the NGO/CSO sector in Asia-Pacific. Among CoNGO’s core purposes are strengthening civil society interactions and mutual learning; facilitating the input and dialogue of civil society throughout the United Nations System; and generating opportunities for civil society and the UN to promote their shared values and goals.

CoNGO and its Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific are wholly committed to Agenda 2030 and to mobilization and action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since the adoption of the 17 SDGs by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, NGOs and CSOs throughout the



world – and not least in the Asia-Pacific region – have set to work to make the Goals meaningful to the populations they serve, working in concert with governments, communities, academia and other stakeholders. NGOs/CSOs advocate with governments at national and local level to achieve meaningful commitment to implementation of the Goals.

The UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) reviews each July the progress and the gaps on achieving the SDGs. This is done on a rotation basis, and in 2019 the HLPF will review the following Goals:

- \* Quality Education
- \* Decent Work and Economic growth
- \* Reduced Inequalities
- \* Climate Action
- \* Peace, Justice and strong institutions
- \* Partnerships for the Goals

NGOs/CSOs throughout the Asia-Pacific are working in many different ways and at many different levels on the six SDGs up for review at this year’s HLPF. Thus for the 2019 RCAP in May in Bangkok, CoNGO is inviting a wide range of Asia-Pacific NGOs/CSOs to present and discuss their substantive

on-the-ground experience in advocating for and implementing one or more of the above six SDGs. Issues will include good practices, such as what initiatives have worked, what cooperation mechanisms with other stakeholders have proven valuable; as well as core challenges, such as what impediments have arisen in cooperation and outreach; and lessons learned, including what new mobilization actions and channels are needed and/or foreseen to make progress on SDG implementation.

The presentations on each of the six SDGs will be made at RCAP 2019, and be the focus of analysis, lessons learned,

and new cooperation – whether at country or regional level. Following the RCAP session, CoNGO will produce a synthesis which will be fed into the 2019 HLPF. On an ongoing basis, all of these processes will serve also to enhance NGO/CSO relationships with and input to the UN Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), the prime regional intergovernmental body promoting the SDGs. Taking account of existing interactions and structures linking NGOs/CSOs with ESCAP, RCAP 2019 will seek to foster long-term and enhanced cooperation.

## VCCI conducts “Short Term Trade Finance and International Trade” in partnership with CACCI, ICC CR

Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) in partnership with CACCI and International Chamber of Commerce Czech Republic (ICC CR), conducted a workshop on “Short Term Trade Finance and International Trade” on April 17-18, 2019 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Pavel Andrlé from ICC CR led the workshop attended by over 350 participants from 150 businesses (import-export companies, banks, and lawyers among others). He covered practical aspects of using documentary credits from the importer’s and exporter side, as well as various forms of receivable finance such as factoring and supply chain finance. The role of credit insurance was also explained, including new trends and developments in the area of continuing attempts of digitalization of trade finance. The afternoon session was focused on the ICC model sales contract and introduction to the new revision of Incoterms.

Experts from Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) were also invited to share their experience on international contracts.



## UN Launches Women MSME Fintech Innovation Fund

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in collaboration with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), is launching an Innovation Fund on digital solutions for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in Asia-Pacific. The Fund will provide support to companies to pilot innovative digital and financial solutions that can help women entrepreneurs access finance or improve their operational efficiency.

Eligible applicants who can apply for the Innovation Fund include:

- Regulated Financial Institutions (Banks, MFIs, Insurance Companies)
- Payment Service Providers
- Agent Banking Aggregators

- Mobile Network Operators
- Technology Providers
- FMCG/Agriculture/Other Companies
- FinTech Companies
- NGOs

The applicant can be based anywhere globally, but the project must target women-owned, managed or led MSMEs in one or more of the target countries. The target countries include: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, and Viet Nam.

For more information on the Fund and on-line application, please visit the following website: <https://mailchi.mp/uncdf/innovation-fund>.



# ADB's Experience of Investing in Nepal

*Asian Development Bank*



*Keynote Address by Shixin Chen, Vice President (Operations 1), Asian Development Bank at Nepal Investment Summit 2019 on 30 March 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal*

To begin with, let me share with you a few words about how ADB invests in Nepal. The key is infrastructure investment, which accounts for about 70% our support.

First of all, to address the bottleneck of economy, we invest on energy, transport, water supply and other urban infrastructure services, education, and agriculture and irrigation.

Second, to bring about transformative impacts, ADB supports a number of “national pride” projects in Nepal, such as Melamchi Water Supply, and Gautam Buddha International Airport.

Third, to promote inclusive and balanced growth, we invest in the basic needs of people, such as rural roads, water supply and sanitation in small towns, microfinance, earthquake-damaged schools, climate change mitigation and adaptation, not to mention leveraging private sector investments in hydropower projects and tourism etc.

## **Key Priorities for Accelerating Investment in Nepal**

Having said that, let me share ADB’s opinion about the priorities to speed up investment in Nepal.

### *First, building a robust and inclusive Federal System.*

To fully unleash the potential of the federal system, clarity in the mandates and responsibilities of different levels of government; more resources for subnational governments to perform; reforms of state-owned enterprises; enhancement of government agencies’ capacity; and coordination among the three tiers of the government under the framework of national plans, are all required.

In the to-do list, I would like to highlight the importance of a sound budgetary process. Nepal can further strengthen the linkages between national plans, a medium-term expenditure framework, and annual budgets, to enable more longterm capital expenditure.

### *Second, engaging development partners.*

To support Nepal’s ambitions of achieving the SDGs and becoming a prosperous country, it will need support from development partners and forge greater partnership with the private sector. Even countries that are now relatively developed in Asia and the Pacific made good use of development assistance



in their early stages of development.

With continuing reforms, there are scopes to leverage more financial resources, technical know-how, and knowledge based on international experience.

### *Third, fostering private sector development.*

In Nepal, recent improvements in the economy and reform initiatives signal progress in the enabling environment for private sector development. Greater private sector participation is essential to mobilize resources, introduce innovation and technology, bring better management, and most importantly, ensure sustainable development results.

### *Fourth, promoting regional cooperation and integration.*

Nepal is situated between two large and fast-growing economies, India and China. While landlocked, Nepal can make itself a land-linked country by enhancing transport connectivity, developing regional energy markets, promoting tourism industry, and implementing trade facilitation measures. A number of regional forums, such as SASEC, SAARC, BIMSTEC, and BRI can be used to integrate Nepal’s economy into regional and global value chains.

Last but not the least, improving project preparation and implementation.

It is encouraging to note that the Government has taken bold legal and regulatory reforms to promote investment, such as the recently enacted PPP and Investment Act. However, a lack of investment-ready projects remains one of the key reasons behind low capital investment.

On project implementation, we highly commend the government’s initiatives to fast-track the execution of national priority projects. Ensuring timeliness, efficiency and quality in project implementation remains a challenge in Nepal. We hope such efforts can be fully integrated into the government’s public management system and build the confidence of investors.

## **ADB’s Commitment and Conclusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude, I would like to reiterate that this is an opportune moment for Nepal to focus on speeding up economic development. Nepal has large investment needs to develop itself into a middle income country, to achieve the SDGs by 2030, and to fulfill its ambition of becoming a prosperous country in 2043.

This is also an opportune moment for investors and development partners to contribute good ideas of promoting

investments. I look forward to hearing from the panelists and the audience their experience and thoughts about investing

in Nepal. All of us will benefit from the discussion. Thank you.

## Product & Service Councils

### Asian Council on Health and Education

#### Global Measles Cases Up 300% Year-On-Year: WHO



Measles cases rose 300% worldwide through the first 3 months of 2019 compared to the same period last year, the UN said on April 15, as concern grows over the impact of anti-vaccination stigma.

Measles, which is highly contagious, can be entirely prevented through a two-dose vaccine, but the World Health Organization (WHO) has in recent months sounded the alarm over slipping global vaccination rates.

“Preliminary global data shows that reported cases rose by 300% in the first three months of 2019, compared to the same period in 2018. This follows consecutive increases over the past two years,” it said in a statement.

“While this data is provisional and not yet complete, it indicates a clear trend. Many countries are in the midst of sizeable measles outbreaks, with all regions of the world experiencing sustained rises in cases,” WHO further said.

The agency noted that only about one in 10 actual measles cases are reported, meaning the early trends for 2019 likely underestimate the severity of the outbreaks. So far this year, 170 countries have reported 112,163 measles cases to WHO. At this time last year, 163 countries had reported 28,124 cases.

“Spikes in case numbers have also occurred in countries with high overall vaccination coverage, including the United

States,” WHO said.

*Agence France Presse*

### Asian Council on Tourism

#### Sri Lanka's Violent Attacks Cast Pall Over Tourism Revival



With its capital under curfew following devastating Easter Sunday bomb attacks on churches and upmarket hotels, Sri Lanka is filled with fear, horror and grief and tourists who have been flocking to the Indian Ocean island could cancel in droves.

A tweet posted on the travel booking website First Choice captured the trepidation among holidaymakers, while some airlines and travel agents said they would waive cancellation charges for people scheduled to travel imminently.

“What are you doing about the holidays you have booked to that country?” tourist Judith Ann Clayton asked on the social media site.

“Clearly it is unsafe for anyone to go there.”

Others set to travel said they would not to be cowed into cancelling.

“Not giving in to terror. We want to support you in your time of need. Never gave any thought about cancelling our trip,” Facebook user John Karmouche said in a post.

Named by the Lonely Planet guide for independent travelers as the best country to visit in 2019, Sri Lanka had rebuilt its image as a tropical paradise after crushing a long-running separatist

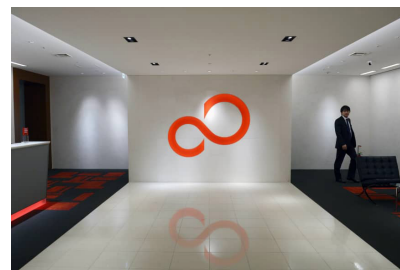
insurgency by ethnic minority Tamils a decade ago.

Arrivals of 2.3 million last year were up by more than 400 percent on 2009 levels, according Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority data.

*Reuters*

### Asian ICT Council

#### Fujitsu Finishes Designing Japan's Post-K Supercomputer



Fujitsu Ltd., working with national research institute Riken, has finished designing the successor to the K supercomputer.

Fujitsu and Riken have also concluded an official agreement on the production, shipment and installation of the Post-K supercomputer, the company said on April 15.

The team and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology plan to start jointly operating the supercomputer, which is designed to be able to calculate 100 times faster than the existing K, in 2021-2022. It is expected to be used for predicting natural disasters and developing novel drugs.

Put into full service in 2012, the K supercomputer, in a world first, achieved over 10 quadrillion calculations per second. The Post-K will be built at a Fujitsu plant in Ishikawa Prefecture and then installed at the Riken Center for Computational Science in Kobe for research use by universities and corporations.

Capitalizing on technical advantages it has obtained through

## Product & Service Councils

the Post-K development, Fujitsu plans to launch a supercomputer model for corporate customers in the second half of this business year.

*The Japan Times*

### Asian SME Council

#### HSBC Fusion to Help Small Businesses Better Manage Their Finances

A new financial proposition that caters to small business owners to better manage their finances was unveiled recently.

Known as HSBC Fusion, it is designed to meet the needs of customers of small businesses whose personal



and professional lives are increasingly interconnected.

By integrating business and personal banking in this new offering, HSBC Fusion provides business banking customers more clarity into their finances, helping them save time and get ahead with easy access to funding, advice and opportunities.

HSBC Malaysia head of retail banking and wealth management Tara Latini said in a statement: “Malaysia’s

small and medium enterprises (SMEs), comprising 98.5% of the country’s business community, contribute more than one-third to our economy. They are a key growth engine and HSBC is committed to provide best-in-class financial services to help these business owners succeed.”

“After all, small businesses are not small versions of big businesses. They have distinctive needs, and their owners’ lives are often blended with their business.

“With an established retail banking and wealth management franchise, connected to an unparalleled international footprint and a full range of banking capabilities, and a solid commitment to invest here in the long term, HSBC has a unique advantage to support this important segment in Malaysia.”

*The Star*

## Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

#### Toyota, Denso, and Softbank Invest \$1 billion in Uber’s Self-Driving Division



Uber’s autonomous vehicle unit has raised \$1 billion from a consortium of investors including SoftBank, giving the company a much-needed funding boost for its pricey self-driving ambitions on the eve of its public stock offering.

Uber said on April 18 that the investment valued its Advanced Technologies Group, which works to develop autonomous driving technology, at \$7.25 billion. SoftBank will invest \$333 million from its \$100 billion Vision Fund, while Toyota and automotive company Denso will combined invest \$667 million.

Reuters had reported in March talks of the investment in ATG, which has

locations in Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Toronto.

The funding allows Uber to transfer some of the substantial cost of developing self-driving cars onto outside investors. That is likely to appease some investor concerns over Uber’s spending on the autonomous unit, which has topped \$1 billion since the program started in 2016.

The business unit brings in no meaningful revenue for Uber, which last year lost \$3.03 billion. The company is not even offering free rides in the robot cars to passengers, like some of its rivals are, following a fatal crash last year in Arizona involving an Uber self-driving SUV.

Uber released its IPO filing this month and is preparing to launch is “roadshow,” when it will pitch its company prospective investors, the week of April 29, setting up for an early May debut on the New York Stock Exchange.

Uber is expected to raise \$10 billion at a \$90 billion to \$100 billion valuation, at least an 18 percent jump from its current \$76 billion valuation.

*Reuters*

#### Philippines’ Ayala Conglomerate Sets Up \$150m Tech Fund



Ayala Corp., a major conglomerate in the Philippines, is setting up a \$150 million venture fund to invest in disruptive technologies, Chairman and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said Friday.

Ayala’s move is the first in the Philippines, where many of the family-owned conglomerates are heavily invested in traditional industries such as banking and property development -- high-margin sectors that are increasingly being shaken up by new innovations.

“We will continuously look for ways to disrupt and digitally transform our core businesses to ensure that our companies remain relevant to our partners and stakeholders in this environment that



## Investment & Joint Ventures in the Region

is quickly being redefined by technology,” Zobel told shareholders during the company’s annual meeting.

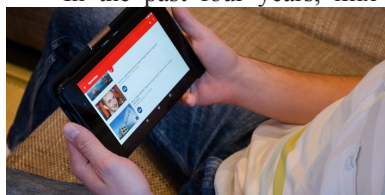
The fund, which will be the largest in the Philippines, also represents an opportunity for local startups, which have struggled to survive or compete in the region due to lack of capital sources. Close to 90% of Philippine startup founders have noted capital requirements to be their biggest challenge, according to a 2017 survey by accounting group PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Ayala expects to raise the capital from its subsidiaries later this year, according to Chief Financial Officer Jose Teodoro Limcaoco.

*Nikkei Asian Review*

### Asia’s Video Streaming Giant Adds Japanese Flavor

In the past four years, iflix has



established itself as the world’s leading entertainment service for emerging markets, with strong presence in over 20 countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Now, it is tapping the Japanese audience.

Yoshimoto Kogyo Co. Ltd, Japan’s largest entertainment conglomerate, has announced an investment in iflix. The value of the transaction hasn’t been disclosed nor

has the size of the equity stake, though the two companies described it as “strategic” and “significant.”

Founded in 2015 by Malaysia-based Catcha group, iflix offers movies and television shows, along with subtitles, at an affordable cost, with content coming from more than 100 studios and distributors, including Disney, Paramount, Sony, the BBC and Media Prima.

It offers users two tiers of usage and is available in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Brunei, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar, Vietnam, the Maldives, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Morocco. The platform has received investment from European satellite broadcaster Sky (\$45 million in 2016). Among the other contributors are Kuwait’s Zain Group, and Los Angeles-based Evolution Media Capital.

*Entrepreneur*

### Klook Receives \$225 Million SoftBank Investment in Nod to Tours and Activities

SoftBank Vision Fund is investing \$225 million in Hong Kong-based Klook, the largest financing in the global tours and activities sector to-date.

This brings Klook’s Series D funding raise to \$425 million, and the company’s total raise since inception in 2014 to \$521.5 million. Softbank Vision Fund led the round with participation from existing investors Sequoia China, Matrix Partners, TCV, and Our Crowd.



Klook would not disclose the valuation basis of the latest round but for certain it fortifies its unicorn status while tours and activities itself gains added legitimacy. Doubting Thomases who are still in two minds about the real size of the sector, the lower prices of local tours and attraction tickets compared with flights or hotels, the discounting by players to win share, the highly fragmented marketplace, may be silenced.

The latest deal is also significant as “it is a sign of the times that a startup built in Asia is leading funding for a major global travel industry sector — sayonara Silicon Valley,” said Douglas Quinby, founder and CEO of Arival, who is bringing the tours & activities event to Asia from this year in Bangkok in June.

“The \$200 million [Series D] raise last year was a milestone. This is a further affirmation of the opportunity in the sector,” said Quinby. “It definitely ups the ante, again, for everyone involved. Other players with regional or global ambitions, such as KKDay and GetYourGuide, will have to raise. TripAdvisor and Expedia will see more competition on their doorstep.”

*Skift*

## Economic Cooperation News

### Singapore PM meets top Chinese Leaders, Discusses Areas for Tie-Ups

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang separately on April 30 and discussed the

progress of governmental collaboration projects and other areas where they can work together.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including relations between China and the United States, as well as the early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), said PM

Lee’s press secretary in a statement.

The RCEP is a free trade agreement between the 10 Asean member states and six other Asia-Pacific nations, including China.

Negotiations have stretched for more than six years but are expected to be sewn up this year.

One project which Mr Xi and

PM Lee discussed was to twin Singapore and Shenzhen as smart cities under the Asean Smart Cities Network, and as part of Singapore's broader engagement of the Greater Bay Area, China's ambitious plan to link its Guangdong province with Hong Kong and Macau to become an economic powerhouse.

The two leaders also took stock of the "good progress" made in the three inter-governmental projects: China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park, Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city and China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity.

*Straits Times*

### **China's Foreign Minister Wants Greater Economic Cooperation with Japan**

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed his willingness to boost economic cooperation with Japan. He also called on Japan to treat Chinese firms fairly. Ministers from Japan and China held economic talks in Beijing on April 14. They included Wang and his Japanese counterpart, Taro Kono.

China's Foreign Ministry says Wang commented during the talks that bilateral ties are at a starting point of a new history.

He said this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, while Japan will soon enter a new era whose name is Reiwa.

Wang voiced his willingness to bolster bilateral economic cooperation. He mentioned hopes that Chinese and Japanese companies will increase their joint efforts to develop markets in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Wang also called on Japan to join China's Belt and Road initiative to create a huge economic zone. He said he hopes Japan will take part in it with a more active and clear attitude.

In an apparent reference to the building of next-generation 5G communication networks, Wang stressed that a business environment needs to be fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory.

The United States has been urging its allies and other nations to exclude Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei Technologies from their communication networks out of security concerns.

*NHK World*

### **S. Korea, Philippines Elevate Ties to High-Tech, Smart City, and Future Mobility**

The Philippines, the fifth country to recognize South Korea as a sovereign state in 1949 and backed the country fight against communist North, now looks to Korean resources and technology to turn smart, clean, and digitally efficient, said Raul Hernandez, Philippine Ambassador to Korea.

The New Southern Policy under President Moon Jae-in to elevate the country's relations with The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) can push the relationship between Korea and the Philippines to a new level, said the envoy who has been in Seoul for five years.

"We expect that there will be dramatic improvement in the cooperative relationship between Korea and the Philippines as the New Southern Policy seeks to step up South Korea's collaboration with ASEAN in areas including economics and business," Hernandez said, in a recent interview with Maeil Business Newspaper. "One of the ways this can be achieved is through further trade liberalization through the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement [AKFTA] as well as the finalization of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership [RCEP]."

Hernandez, in particular, hoped that a free trade agreement (FTA) between Seoul and Manila would further enhance bilateral ties, especially as the two countries celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relationship this year. The ambassador noted his country hopes to pursue "enhanced collaborative linkages" with Korea in areas of infrastructure and transportation, science, technology, and innovation, agriculture and fisheries, climate change response and mitigation, and development of micro, small, and medium enterprises.

Bilateral relationship and cooperation have expanded to high-tech and soft front in line with changes of times.

*Pulse*

### **Qatar-Malaysia Trade, Economic Ties set to Witness Major Boost**

Qatar-Malaysia bilateral trade

and economic relations are set to witness major boost in the coming years as both sides are working aggressively to expand cooperation. A trade delegation from Malaysia representing a wide range of sectors, including leading suppliers of building and construction materials, medical devices and products other manufacturing industries, is participating in this year's edition of the Project Qatar, which kicked off on April 29 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The trade delegation spearheaded by MATRADE, a trade and export promotion arm of the Malaysian government, has 14 representatives offering their expertise in facility management, latex medical glove, cleaning and sanitizing products, stethoscope, wood, plastic composite wall tiles, fibre mastic advanced asphalt, advanced insulation material, interior design and building information modeling.

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) will focus on Malaysian new technology in building material and medical device as well as promoting expertise in the facility management. This mission will include series of exclusive sessions for Malaysian companies to collaborate with Qatari business community on promoting their products and services.

Mansor Shah Wahid (pictured), MATRADE's Director for Central, West Asia and Africa, who is also the leader of delegation, said: "The companies are expected to highlight their value proposition on offering their latest products and services and at the same time comply with the latest trend and market demands in the Qatar. Qatar has been one of our major markets in the region. This can be seen from our bilateral trade with Qatar showed positive trend and series of officials and business delegation exchange visit from Qatar and Malaysia. This was supported on discussion to further strengthen both countries cooperation through Malaysia-Qatar.

*The Peninsula Qatar*

### **India, Netherlands Agree to Boost Bilateral Ties**

India and the Netherlands on April 11 reviewed bilateral cooperation in various fields, including political, economic and cultural ties, and deliberated

## Economic Cooperation News

on regional and multilateral issues, including cooperation at United Nations and other international fora.

The two countries held Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by A. Gitesh Sarma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Dutch side was led by Johanna (Yoka) Brandt, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to an official statement

by MEA.

“India and the Netherlands share a multifaceted relationship. Both countries used this opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, commercial, scientific and cultural cooperation,” it said.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues, including cooperation at United Nations and other international fora,” the MEA

statement added.

India welcomed the participation of the Netherlands as the partner country for the 25th edition of the CII-DST Tech Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi in October this year.

“Both sides underlined the importance of sustaining exchanges at all levels, including high level,” the MEA statement said.

*Asian News International*

## Technology

### Edmonton Hospital Uses Teleconferencing to Link Parents with Newborns in Intensive Care



Tutopiya, a Singapore-based educationA new program at an Edmonton hospital allows parents to monitor their newborns if a medical complication forces their separation.

It’s called the “NowICU project,” a secure videoconferencing system at Misericordia Community Hospital.

The program also allows parents to ask their care teams any questions they might have about their newborn’s treatment, while at the same giving the mothers some peace of mind during a stressful time.

“(It has) such a calming effect on the mother, her levels of anxiety decrease, same thing happens to the baby,” Dr. Mehaboob Shaik, a neonatologist at the hospital who came up with the idea, told CTV Edmonton. “The separation distress lowers down in both the mother and the baby and it helps the new Standard article mother to produce more milk.”

Catharina Lane was the first mother in the province to use the program. In November 2018, her son Lorcan was born six weeks premature and needed to be transferred to the NICU while doctors dealt

with her excessive bleeding.

“The iPad came on wheels and (the nurse) said: ‘This is an iPad and you are actually the first mom to use it in Alberta’ and I was like ‘Oh, oh cool!’” Lane said.

Lane said the program helped her anxiety and could help others as well.

“Moms will definitely benefit from it,” she said. “You want to make sure that he’s OK because he’s born early and you don’t know if he has any issues.”

*CTV News*

### Naturo Milk Company Develops Technology to Keep Milk Fresh for At Least Two Months



*Jeff Hastings of Queensland company Naturo*

It’s a problem many Aussies face - not getting through that carton of milk in the fridge in time and having to do the dreaded sniff test.

Now a Queensland company has come up with a way to avoid doing that for at least 60 days, developing a breakthrough technology that keeps it fresh for that long.

The world-first technology, said to be the biggest breakthrough in the global milk industry since pasteurisation

in 1864, has been unveiled by Naturo, an Australian food technology company based in Cooloom.

Their new processing technique keeps natural milk safe for human consumption for more than two months.

The process, approved by Dairy Food Safety Victoria, is said to ensure no additives or preservatives, and natural colour and taste.

Naturo boss Jeff Hastings said the technology was a game-changer for the global export market because the extended shelf life allowed it to be shipped, rather than flown, to markets all over the world including Japan, China, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

He said while the process had only been applied to cow’s milk it had the potential to expand to other forms of milk including camel, goat and sheep’s milk.

Mr Hastings has previously developed processing technology for sliced apples for the international market and more recently commercialized technology that produces ‘no-browning’ cut avocado.

His company is backed by Dr Glen Richards of Shark Tank fame.

“Our milk tastes like milk straight from the cow,” he said.

“It is safer, better for you and lasts longer. The primary difference between our milk and pasteurised milk is the fact that we don’t “cook” the milk to make it safe for human consumption.

“Our milk is much closer to milk

Continued to page 16



# Fairs & Exhibits in Asia-Pacific

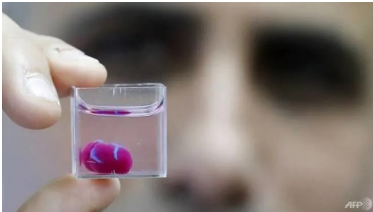
DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY	DATES 2019	NAME OF FAIR (Further Information)	COUNTRY
3-5 June 	<b>Flowtech China 2019</b> (CHC Expo), Tel: 86-21-3323-1499, Email: vicky@chcbiz.com, URL: <a href="http://expo.flowtechsh.com/">http://expo.flowtechsh.com/</a>	Shanghai China	18-21 June 	<b>Iran Food + Hospitality</b> (Fairtrade GmbH & Co. KG, Tel: 49-6221-4565-21, Email: c.mayer@fairtrade-messe.de, URL: <a href="http://www.fairtrade-messe.de/">http://www.fairtrade-messe.de/</a> )	Tehran Iran
4-6 June 	<b>WasteTech 2019</b> (Reed Exhibitions Russia, Tel: 7-495-937-6861, Email: wastetec@reedexpo.ru, URL: <a href="https://www.waste-tech.ru/en-gb.html">https://www.waste-tech.ru/en-gb.html</a> )	Moscow Russia	18-20 June 	<b>CTA2019</b> (Singapore Exhibition Services UBMA Asia, Tel: 65-6233-6638, Email: enquiry@connectechasia.com, URL: <a href="https://www.connectechasia.com/">https://www.connectechasia.com/</a> )	Singapore Singapore
4-6 June 	<b>Philbeauty 2019</b> (United Business Media (M) Sdn Bhd, Tel: 603-2176-8788, Email: June.loh@ubm.com, URL: <a href="https://www.philbeautyshow.com/">https://www.philbeautyshow.com/</a> )	Pasay Philippines	18-20 June 	<b>BITE2019</b> (Beijing Relation Conference & Exhibition Services Co., Ltd., Tel: 86-10-8586-6611-8061, Email: likaihua@bre-expo.com, URL: <a href="http://www.bjbite.com/">http://www.bjbite.com/</a> )	Beijing China
4-7 June 	<b>Bauma CTT Russia 2019</b> (CTT Expo LLC/Messe Muenchen GmbH, Tel: 49-89-949-20251, Email: info@bauma-ctt.com, URL: <a href="https://bauma-ctt.ru/en/">https://bauma-ctt.ru/en/</a> )	Moscow Russia	18-22 June 	<b>YAPI FUARI TURKEYBUILD ISTANBUL</b> (YEM Exhibitions, Tel: 90-212-266-7010, Email: info@yapifuari.com.tr, URL: <a href="http://www.yapifuari.com.tr/">http://www.yapifuari.com.tr/</a> )	Istanbul Turkey
4-7 June 	<b>Agro 2019</b> (AgroExpo, Tel: 49-2161-303-2997, Email: info@agro-expo.com, URL: <a href="http://www.agro-expo.com/">http://www.agro-expo.com/</a> )	Kiev Ukraine	19-21 June 	<b>10th Educational IT Solutions Expo</b> (Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8510, Email: edict@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: <a href="http://www.reedexpo.co.jp/">http://www.reedexpo.co.jp/</a> )	Tokyo Japan
5-8 June 	<b>Asean Sustainable Energy Week 2019</b> (UBM Asia (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Tel: 66-2036-0500, Email: info-th@ubm.com, URL: <a href="http://www.asew-expo.com/">http://www.asew-expo.com/</a> )	Bangkok Thailand	19-21 June 	<b>HNC 2019</b> (Shanghai UBM Sinoexpo International Exhibition Co., Ltd., Tel: 86-21-3339-2289, Email: yosuke.horikawa@ubm.com, URL: <a href="https://www.hncexpo.com/Hnc">https://www.hncexpo.com/Hnc</a> )	Shanghai China
6-7 June 	<b>The 6th Earthquake Technology Expo</b> (Exhibition Technologies, Inc., Tel: 81-3-5775-2855, Email: bosai@exhibitiontech.com, URL: <a href="http://www.shinsaexpo.com/osaka/">http://www.shinsaexpo.com/osaka/</a> )	Osaka Japan	19-21 June 	<b>K SHOP 2019</b> (KINTEX, Tel: 82-31-995-8078, Email: kshop@kintex.com, URL: <a href="http://www.kshop.org/2019_en/">http://www.kshop.org/2019_en/</a> )	Goyang Korea
11-12 June 	<b>Agrochemex Vietnam 2019</b> (VEAS Co., Ltd., Tel: 84-28-3848-8561, Email: info@veas.com.vn, URL: <a href="http://www.veas.com.vn/index/articles/la ng/en/cid/278/id/1007">http://www.veas.com.vn/index/articles/la ng/en/cid/278/id/1007</a> )	HoChiMinh City/Vietnam	19-22 June 	<b>FOOD TAIPEI</b> (Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), Tel: 886-2-2725-5200, Email: foodtaipei@taitra.org.tw, URL: <a href="https://www.foodtaipei.com.tw/">https://www.foodtaipei.com.tw/</a> )	Taipei Taiwan
12-14 June 	<b>AAE 2019</b> (IAAPA, Tel: 1-321-319-7600, Email: iaapa@iaapa.org, URL: <a href="https://www.iaapa.org/expos/iaapa-expo-asia">https://www.iaapa.org/expos/iaapa-expo-asia</a> )	Shanghai China	20-22 June 	<b>POGEE – OIL &amp; GAS PAKISTAN</b> (Pegasus Consultancy (PvT) Ltd., Tel: 92-21-1117-34266, Email: info@pogee.com.pk, URL: <a href="http://www.pogee.com.pk/">http://www.pogee.com.pk/</a> )	Karachi Pakistan
13-15 June 	<b>Medical Show Japan &amp; Business Expo 2019</b> (JSMI, Tel: 81-3-3813-1062, Email: web@jsmi.gr.jp, URL: <a href="http://www.jsmi.gr.jp/">http://www.jsmi.gr.jp/</a> )	Osaka Japan	26-28 June 	<b>11th Baby &amp; Kids Expo Tokyo</b> (Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd., Tel: 81-3-3349-8505, Email: giftex@reedexpo.co.jp, URL: <a href="http://www.reedexpo.co.jp/">http://www.reedexpo.co.jp/</a> )	Tokyo Japan
15-16 June 	<b>5th Color &amp; Chem Expo 2019</b> (Event and Conference International (Pvt.) Ltd., Tel: 92-21-3481-8178, Email: jamal@eventandconference.com.pk, URL: <a href="http://www.eventandconference.com.pk/">http://www.eventandconference.com.pk/</a> )	Lahore Pakistan	26-28 June 	<b>Feeds Expo Philippines 2019</b> (UBM Exhibitions Philippines Inc., Tel: 63-2-551-7803, Email: info-ph@ubm.com, URL: <a href="https://www.livestockphilippines.com/">https://www.livestockphilippines.com/</a> )	Manila Philippines
17-18 June 	<b>Aqua Fisheries Cambodia 2019</b> (VEAS Co., Ltd., Tel: 84-28-2848-8561, Email: info@veas.com.vn, URL: <a href="http://aquafisheries-expo.com/">http://aquafisheries-expo.com/</a> )	Phnom Penh / Cambodia	26-28 June 	<b>MIFB 2019</b> (Sphere Exhibits Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Tel: 60-3-7989-1133, Email: mifb@sphereexhibits.com.my, URL: <a href="https://mifb.com.my/">https://mifb.com.my/</a> )	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia

## Technology

in its original state and is independently proven to be nutritionally superior.”

*News.com.au*

### Scientists Unveil ‘First’ 3D Print of Heart with Human Tissue, Vessels



*This photo taken on Apr 15, 2019 at the University of Tel Aviv shows a 3D print of heart with human tissue*

Scientists in Israel unveiled a 3D print of a heart with human tissue

and vessels on April 15 calling it a first and a “major medical breakthrough” that advances possibilities for transplants.

While it remains a far way off, scientists hope one day to be able to produce hearts suitable for transplant into humans as well as patches to regenerate defective hearts.

The heart produced by researchers at Tel Aviv University is about the size of a rabbit’s.

It marked “the first time anyone anywhere has successfully engineered and printed an entire heart replete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers,” said Tal Dvir, who led the project.

“People have managed to 3D-print the structure of a heart in the past, but not with cells or with blood vessels,” he said.

But the scientists said many challenges remain before fully working

3D printed hearts will be available for transplant into patients.

Journalists were shown a 3D print of a heart about the size of a cherry at Tel Aviv University on April 15 as the researchers announced their findings, published in the journal *Advanced Science*.

Researchers must now teach the printed hearts “to behave” like real ones. The cells are currently able to contract, but do not yet have the ability to pump.

Then they plan to transplant them into animal models, hopefully in about a year, said Dvir.

“Maybe, in 10 years, there will be organ printers in the finest hospitals around the world, and these procedures will be conducted routinely,” he said.

But he said hospitals would likely start with simpler organs than hearts.

## Policy Updates

### Australia

#### Australian Taxi Drivers Launch Class Action Against ‘Illegal’ Uber



Global rideshare company Uber could be forced to shell out hundreds of millions of dollars if a class action launched by thousands of Australian taxi and hire car drivers is successful.

More than 6000 people have joined the action, covering drivers across Victoria, NSW, Queensland and Western Australia.

The action deals with the period before Uber was legalised in those jurisdictions, and alleges it operated illegally because the company knew its drivers were not properly licensed and accredited when it first entered the market.

“Make no mistake, this will be a landmark case regarding the alleged illegal operations of Uber in Australia and the devastating impact that has had on the lives of hard-working and law-abiding citizens here,” Maurice Blackburn’s national head of class actions Andrew Watson said.

“It is not acceptable for a business to place itself above the law and operate illegally to the disadvantage of others.”

The law firm’s Elizabeth O’Shea said it could be the largest class action in Australian history.

### Hong Kong

#### Hong Kong Economy in Contractionary Territory for 13 Straight Months

Hong Kong’s private sector economy showed little signs of life, with its key economic activity gauge extending its downturn to a 13th straight month, a survey found May 6.

The Nikkei Hong Kong

Purchasing Manager’s Index, or PMI, stood at 48.4 in April vs 48.0 in March, a slightly moderate pace of deterioration but still remaining below the break-even level of 50 since April 2018. A reading above 50 indicates an expansion while a reading below 50 points to a contraction.

Lower demand from external clients, especially mainland China, weighed on sales performance, according to the survey.

“Private sector businesses in Hong Kong continued to face challenges at the start of the second quarter amid a deteriorating demand environment,” said Bernard Aw, economist at IHS Markit, which compiles the survey. The long stretch of downbeat conditions are now “fueling an increasingly gloomy outlook,” he added.

“Firms continued to express concerns over trade wars, greater competition, rising costs and a slowdown in the global economy. The survey is broadly indicative of the economy expanding at an annual rate of 1.5%-2.0%,” he said.

*Nikkei*

# Policy Updates

## India

### India's Services Sector Output Growth at 7-Month Low in April

The country's services sector activity fell to a seven-month low in April owing to softer rise in new business and disruptions arising from the elections, a monthly survey showed on May 6. However, predictions that economic conditions will normalise after the elections underpinned optimism regarding the outlook and supported a stronger upturn in employment.

The seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index, fell from 52 in March to 51 at the start of the 2019 financial year, pointing to the weakest upturn in output since last September.

Despite the moderation, the services PMI was in the expansion territory for the 11th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.

"Although the Indian private sector economy looks to be settling into a weaker growth phase, much of the slowdown was linked to disruptions arising from the elections and companies generally foresee improvements once a government is formed," said Pollyanna De Lima, Principal Economist at IHS Markit, and author of the report.

The general election, that began on April 11 is currently underway. Votes will be counted on May 23.

*Times of India*

## Indonesia

### Indonesia Considers \$33 Billion Plan to Move Government from Jakarta

Indonesia plans to relocate its administrative capital from Jakarta, with the move set to take up to a decade and cost as much as \$33 billion.

President Joko Widodo on April 29 ordered ministers to formulate a financing plan for the move, with private investment set to play a key role. The plan envisages

relocating government and its executive branch, ministries and the parliament while retaining the central bank as well as trade and investment functions in Jakarta.

While moving Indonesia's administrative center has been discussed periodically for decades, there is now a sense of urgency as Jakarta fast approaches total gridlock. The greater Jakarta area is already home to 30 million people, with the traffic congestion estimated to cost 100 trillion rupiah (\$7 billion) a year in lost productivity. Widodo, known as Jokowi, cited Malaysia, South Korea, Brazil and Australia as examples where the nation's development had been a factor in deciding the location of the capital, and in some cases had prompted a move.

With an official tally of votes from election held April 17 showing Jokowi on course to win a second five-year term, the president said on April 29, he wants "visionary" development, starting with the "big idea" of moving the capital away from Jakarta.

*Bloomberg*

## New Zealand

### NZ PM Ardern Surprises with Decision Against Capital Gains Tax



*New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern*

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on April 16 her coalition government would not proceed with a proposal for a capital gains tax (CGT) due to a lack of consensus and ruled out ever implementing such a tax under her leadership.

The surprise decision went against the position Ardern's Labour Party had taken for more than a decade. The

party had campaigned to bring in a tax on capital gains income to ensure fairness and balance.

A tax working group appointed by Ardern in February recommended a capital gains tax.

"All parties in the government entered into this debate with different perspectives and, after significant discussion, we have ultimately been unable to find a consensus," Ardern said in a statement.

"While I have believed in a CGT, it's clear many New Zealanders do not. That is why I am also ruling out a capital gains tax under my leadership in the future," she said.

The proposed capital gains tax covered assets such as residential rental properties, land and buildings, business assets, intangible property and shares.

*Reuters*

## Philippines

### DOF Commits to Push 'Game-Changing' Reforms

The Department of Finance (DOF) has committed to pursue game-changing reforms by leveraging on the broad and deep popular support as well as the strong political will of President Duterte.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said the Duterte administration has proven its steadfast resolve and capability to shepherd tough reforms and to carry out big-ticket infrastructure projects on time and within the targeted budget deficit ceiling.

"We are very fortunate to have a President whose latest approval rating is 79 percent. We have a President who has a large fund of political capital, and he knows that by using his political capital, it actually increases it rather than bring it down. That is the most fundamental factor we have," Dominguez said during a recent business forum in Washington.

These measures include the first package of the tax reform program, which slashed personal income tax (PIT) rates for the benefit of 99 percent of individual taxpayers while adjusting excise taxes



# Policy Updates

on fuel, automobiles, mining and non-essential products; a new law further strengthening the central bank, the national ID system, adoption of digital technologies and new platforms to improve governance and improve the ease of doing business, and a law liberalizing rice trade in order to pull down the cost of the staple.

*Philippine Star*

## Singapore

### Singapore May Allow Virtual Banks after Hong Kong Move, DBS says



*DBS Group CEO Piyush Gupta*

Singapore could follow Hong Kong in handing out virtual banking licenses, according to the head of the largest local lender, in a move that would create another source of competition for the city state's established banks.

"I see no reason why it would not," DBS Group Holdings chief executive officer Piyush Gupta said in an interview with Bloomberg Television, when asked whether the Singapore authorities might issue similar licenses to Hong Kong. But he downplayed the likely impact on Singapore's existing banks, which are already competing with international giants like Citigroup as well as financial technology start-ups.

Provided incumbent lenders have been upgrading their digital capabilities, any virtual banking newcomers shouldn't be considered a threat, Mr Gupta said. "To my mind, that's just basically giving a few more banking licenses," he added.

Among the firms to receive virtual licenses in Hong Kong, three have partnered with financial institutions such as Standard Chartered, BOC Hong Kong Holdings and ZhongAn Online P&C Insurance Co.

Fintech firm WeLab Holdings Ltd has also received a Hong Kong banking license. The new entrants are targeting a market dominated by HSBC Holdings Plc, which has a leading share of the local market for retail and corporate lending, mortgages and credit cards.

*Business Times Singapore*

## Taiwan

### Taiwan's New E-Bike Helmet Law to Impact Foreign Commuters



*Scene of accident.*

*Photo from Hemei Township Police Department*

In an effort to better regulate electric bicycles and address the rise in injuries and deaths from the vehicles, the Legislature on April 29 passed a preliminary review of an amendment that would levy an NT\$300 (US\$9.69) fine on riders for not wearing a helmet, as well as stiff fines for unauthorized modification of the bikes.

As the popularity of electric bicycles, or e-bikes, is on the rise in Taiwan, so has the accident rate and injuries. In addition, some riders have modified their vehicles to exceed their originally designed speed of 25 kilometers per hour to up to 50 kilometers per hour.

In order to safeguard people's lives and to maintain order on the roads, the Legislative Yuan's Transportation Committee provided preliminary approval to amend the Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act to impose fines for those riders caught riding an e-bike without a helmet, speeding, and illegally modifying their bikes to increase their maximum speed, reported CNA.

In recent years, e-bikes have become popular among foreign migrant workers because they are cheap and easy

to repair, reported UDN. They have also become popular among tourists and high school students, because they do not require a license for ownership or a driver's licenses for operation.

*Taiwan News*

## Thailand

### Thailand Urges SMEs To Sign Up For Single Account Business Scheme

Thailand introduced a business scheme in 2016 that has since gained the attention of over 20,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The single account initiative allows for business owners to avoid potential criminal liabilities and delayed payments.

According to the Bangkok Post, Director-General of Thailand's Revenue Department Ekniti Nitithanprapas revealed that from 2016-2017, around 24,000 SMEs availed of the scheme to help them with managing their financial accounts.

While many SMEs already signed up for the single account scheme, thousands of others have been urged to comply with the scheme. The Revenue Department recently found out that some of the 460,000 business owners who initially registered under the plan understated their supposed tax statements.

The department has since rolled out a deadline of June for operators who understated taxes to comply with the single account scheme.

*Business Times*

## Turkey

### Turkey Vows to Recapitalize State Banks and Tackle Bad Debts

Turkey's finance minister promised to tackle corporate debt and bolster the banking sector as he unveiled a reform program aimed at stabilizing the country's fragile economy.

A plan to recapitalize Turkey's struggling state banks by issuing government bonds worth TL28bn (\$4.9bn) was the centerpiece of the program announced on April 9 by Berat Albayrak.

# Policy Updates



Finance minister Berat Albayrak also promised reforms to tax collection and pensions © AFP

He also promised reforms to tax collection and pensions, and plans to boost exports.

Mr Albayrak said the injection of capital, combined with a plan to take some bad loans off banks' balance sheets, would improve the liquidity and the capital levels of state banks. "In order to increase the strength of our banking sector, we are prioritizing reform efforts here," he said.

The finance minister, who is the son-in-law of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said Turkey would also create two special funds to tackle debt in energy and construction — sectors that have faced the greatest problems.

*Financial Times*

## Vietnam

### Vietnam Cannot Continue Down Low-Cost Labor Path: PM



Vietnam cannot continue to rely on low-cost labor since it faces increasing competition due to global integration, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc says.

Speaking at a forum on May 5 he said: "If we continue to go down the traditional low-cost labor path, we will fail. Innovation in technology to improve labor quality will be the decisive factor in the country's development."

Businesses need to offer skilled workers attractive wages and benefits since

they are the leaders in the use of technology, he added.

Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs Dao Ngoc Dung said his ministry is working to improve training for workers using curriculums from Australia and Germany so that they can get internationally recognized certificates.

Nguyen Duc Thanh, director of the Vietnam Institute for Economic and Policy Research (VEPR), said recently that labor productivity only tripled between 1991 and 2015.

With Vietnam climbing on the Industry 4.0 bandwagon, experts have warned that its low-skilled workforce could be threatened by artificial intelligence.

Vietnam's labor productivity is among the lowest in Southeast Asia. The General Statistics Office said it is only 1/18th of Singapore's rate, 1/16th of Malaysia's and 1/3 of Thailand and China's.

*VN Express*

## 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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