

CACCI 2024 Year-End Review



During the past year, the global economy was faced with five major challenges which, according to a report issued by the Washington-based Brookings Institution, included the following:

- First, rising geopolitical tensions that heighten uncertainty, which hurts investment and economic growth;
- Second, China's economic slowdown that is expected to bear down on a large number of advanced and developing economies that depend on trade with China;
- Third, a flare-up in financial stress due to the combination of weak growth, high real interest rates, and elevated debt levels which could make servicing debt more difficult in vulnerable developing economies;
- Fourth, trade fragmentation resulting from an increase in the number of policy measures restricting trade imposed by some countries, which bode ill for developing economies, for whom trade has been a key force for greater productivity and improved living standards; and
- Lastly, climate change is increasing the frequency and cost of natural disasters, which tend to crimp economic growth, aggravate poverty, and lower agricultural yields, casting a long shadow over the global economy this year and next.

As CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM pointed out in his Opening Remarks at the 38th CACCI Conference held on November 11-12 in Singapore, how businesses respond to these challenges will determine how they will rebuild for the future. He expressed his strong belief that chambers of commerce and regional business organizations such as CACCI will have a role to play in helping their respective members address the challenges before us.

Recognizing the importance of business networking in encouraging greater interaction among individual companies and business communities in the Asian region will be crucial to enable us to go forward, CACCI continued to implement activities and projects in 2024 to achieve this objective. It therefore conveys its sincere appreciation to all CACCI officers and members for your support and cooperation in successfully undertaking these efforts.

CACCI 2024 Year-End Review



1. This Report covers the activities of CACCI in the whole year of 2024. These activities were undertaken in compliance with the decisions made by the CACCI Planning Committee and the CACCI Council during their meetings and in line with the objectives of CACCI.

I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 38TH CACCI CONFERENCE

A. Survey on Possible Theme and Topics for the Conference



2. In preparation for the CACCI Planning Committee Meeting to discuss preparations for the 38th CACCI Conference, the CACCI Secretariat conducted a survey among CACCI officers and members soliciting their suggestions on possible Conference theme and topics. They were requested to identify issues which they deem of current concern to members and the business community as a whole and should be the focus of the Conference discussions.

B. CACCI Planning Committee Meeting

3. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM and CACCI Secretariat officers on February 1 met virtually with Mr. Lennon Tan, President of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and his team for an initial discussion on preparations for the 38th CACCI Conference to be co-organized by SMF in November 2024 in Singapore.

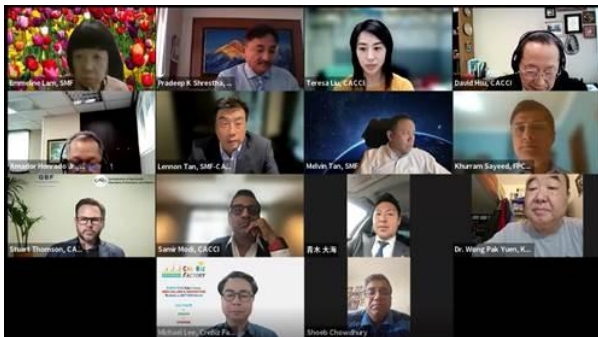


4. The CACCI Secretariat subsequently organized on March 5 the online CACCI Planning Committee discuss initial preparations for the 38th CACCI Conference to be held in Singapore in November 2024.



5. The meeting was chaired by SMF President Mr. Lennon Tan on behalf of CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM, who was unable to join as he was not feeling well at the time. A total of 36 delegates from 12 countries attended the Meeting, including representatives from

Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea, the Philippines, Türkiye, and Taiwan.



6. Among the decisions made during the meeting were the following:

- a. Conference date - November 11-12
- b. Conference venue - One Farrer Hotel

7. As regards the Conference theme and topics, the Committee agreed that, based on the suggestions from members, the

Conference should focus on the following timely and relevant of current concern to the region's business sector, namely:

- a. Sustainability/ Green Economy
- b. Entrepreneurship
- c. Trade Facilitation
- d. Digital Transformation
- e. Artificial Intelligence in business

8. It was later decided that the Conference be called **Asia-Pacific Economic and Sustainability Forum** and carrying the theme ***“Making Asian Business Future-Ready”*** and with three Plenary Sessions focusing on the following topics:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Session One: | Navigating the Future: Integrating AI in Asia-Pacific's Trade and Commerce |
| Session Two: | Sustainable Entrepreneurship Building Resilient and Green Businesses |
| Session Three: | Future of Trade: Digitalization, E-Commerce, and Cross-Border Collaboration |

9. It was also agreed that In lieu of the usual concurrent Breakout Sessions of the CACCI Product and Service Councils, there will be five Sectoral Plenary Sessions covering: (1) SME Development, (2) Food & Agriculture and Textile & Garments, (3) ICT and Tourism, (4) Entrepreneurship, and (5) Water, Energy, Environment and Sustainability. A special session will also be held on the APAC Green Alliance.

10. Thereafter, a series of regular preparatory meetings were held between the SMF organizing team headed by Mr. Lennon Tan and the CACCI Secretariat. to discuss the status of preparations for the Conference. Members were also requested to submit their suggestions on possible speakers to be invited for each of the Conference sessions.

C. CACCI Awards Nominations

11. In conjunction with the 38th CACCI Conference to be held in November 2024 in Singapore, CACCI announced the launching of the following awards and requested all Primary Members to submit their nominations.



- a. 10th CACCI Local Chamber Awards - First presented in 2004, the CACCI Local outstanding achievement in promoting the industrial, Chamber Awards aims to recognize local chambers for their commercial and social welfare of their respective communities. It is also intended to help promote CACCI awareness among members of local chambers in the region.



- b. 9th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award - The Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award was inaugurated in 2006 in celebration of CACCI's 40th anniversary in 2006. Presented every two years thereafter, the Award aims to recognize outstanding young entrepreneurs in the region, who are not only successful in their business, but also advocate corporate social responsibility.

- c. 4th Asia-Pacific Women Entrepreneur Award - The inaugural Asia-Pacific Women Entrepreneur Award was presented as part of the activities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of CACCI in 2016. The Award aims to recognize excellent women entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific rim who not only are successful in their business but also advocate corporate social responsibility for the good of their country.



- d. 4th CACCI Hydropower and Clean Energy Excellence Award, - Initiated by CACCI Asian Council on Water, Energy and Environment (ACWEE), the Asia-Pacific Hydropower and Clean Energy Excellence Award is presented by CACCI as a mark of appreciation and recognition to the person or institution that has contributed significantly to the sustainable promotion, support and development of hydropower and clean energy in the Asia Pacific region.



D. Nominations for CACCI Officers for 2024-2026

12. In preparation for this year's election of CACCI Officers for the 2024-2025 to be held during the 38th CACCI Conference in November in Singapore, the Secretariat requested CACCI Primary Members to submit their nominations for the following positions:

- President
- Vice Presidents
- Honorary Treasurer
- Budget Commission Members



13. On September 30, an online meeting of members of the CACCI Advisory Board was convened primarily to discuss the nominations received from members for the various positions. Chaired by Mr. Harvey Chang, the meeting evaluated the qualifications and experience of each of the nominees, and exchanged views on whom the Advisory Board will recommend to the Council for possible election.

E. Request for Suggestions on Activities for the 2025-2026 CACCI Work Program



14. A circular was sent to CACCI officers and members to solicit their suggestions on activities that they deem CACCI should undertake in the next two years and should be included in the 2025-2026 CACCI Work Program to be considered and finalized during the 38th CACCI Conference by the incoming office-bearers who will serve for the next two years.

15. The submissions from members were compiled by the CACCI Secretariat to be presented to the 99th CACCI Council Meeting scheduled to take place on November 12, 2024. The areas of activities covered the following:

- Promoting CACCI
- Policy Advocacy
- Membership Expansion
- Professional Development Program
- Relationship with other Regional and International Business Organizations
- Relationship with Multilateral Government Organizations
- Information Exchange
- Promoting the Product and Service Councils
- Presidential Visits
- Annual Conferences

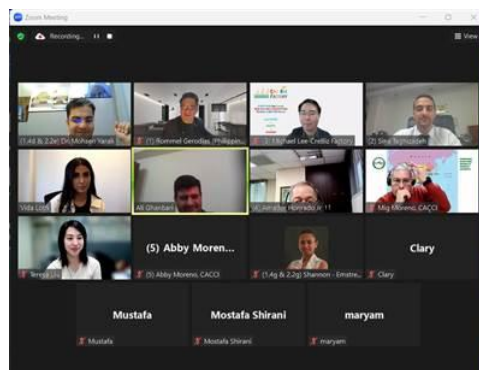
II. PRODUCT AND SERVICE COUNCILS

A. Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP)

B2B Meeting



16. The Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP) co-organized with the Youth Business Club Iran and the Iranian Business Council - Dubai a virtual B2B meeting on March 6. The online meeting provided the participants the opportunity to introduce themselves to each other, what their business interests are, and explore possible business cooperation.



17. The attendees represented various industry sectors and field of activity, including medical, food, chemical, car parts, clothing and garment, renewable energy, and tourism.

Japan YEG National Convention



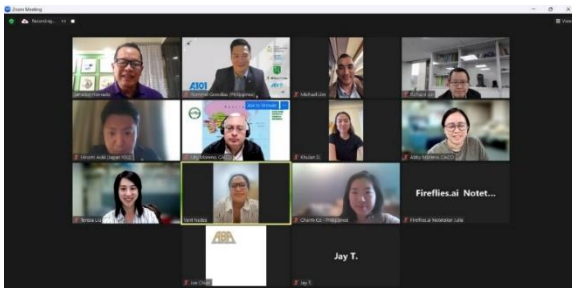
18. CACCI was invited to attend the 43rd National Convention organized by the Japan Young Entrepreneurs Group (Japan YEG) held on March 15-16, 2024 in Komatsu, Ishikawa, Japan.

19. CACCI Senior Officers Ms. Teresa Liu and Ms. Marvee Gail Moreno attended the event on behalf of CACCI

President Mr. Peter McMullin AM. Members of the CACCI Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP) led by its Chairman Mr. Rommel Gerodias from the Philippines also participated.

20. One of the highlights of the two-day Convention was the signing of MOUs between Japan YEG and the young entrepreneurs groups from other Asian countries, including the following:

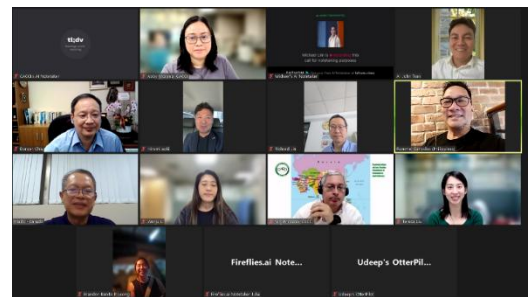
- The Third Wednesday Club – Young Entrepreneurs Group, Taiwan
- Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia
- Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association
- Young Entrepreneur Thai Chamber of Commerce
- Vietnam Young Entrepreneurs Association



21. Members of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of the Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) met online on April 10 to discuss its recent and upcoming activities for 2024. Chaired by YEGAP Chairman Mr. Rommel Gerodias from the Philippines, the EC members were briefed and exchanged views on the latest and proposed activities for the year.

They also discussed plans for YEGAP's participation in the upcoming 38th CACCI Conference.

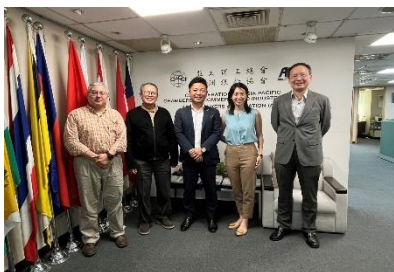
22. Thereafter, members of the Executive Committee of YEGAP again convened online for its regular monthly meeting on May 15 to discuss ongoing and upcoming activities. Presided by YEGAP Chairman Mr. Rommel Gerodias, the meeting discussed, among others, the following: status of the YEGAP website, planned MOU signing with other young entrepreneur groups from other countries including the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Brunei and the Japan Young Entrepreneurs Group; and planned webinars on how to conduct B2B meetings and how to tap the Middle East market, among others.



23. Another meeting was held by the Executive Committee on June 21. Discussions focused on the proposed revisions to the Constitution and By-laws of YEGAP; potential strategies for strengthening cooperation with young entrepreneur associations in the Middle East; as well as updates and other relevant information on ongoing and upcoming activities of CACCI and YEGAP.



24. On June 26, members of the YEGAP Advisory Council, which is composed of the CACCI President and former chairpersons of YEGAP, met to discuss YEGAP chairmanship succession plan, YEGAP representation in the CACCI Council, YEGAP By-Laws revisions, and updates on YEGAP activities for the year.



25. Mr. Hiromi Aoki, Member of the YEGAP Executive Committee from Japan, on June 27 visited the CACCI Secretariat for a courtesy call and informed the Secretariat executives led by Director General Darson Chiu of his activities both as a businessman and as an officer of the Haoa Young Entrepreneurs Group, and his plans for YEGAP.

Meeting with the Iranian Business Council



26. Key officers of YEGAP led by Chairman Mr. Rommel Gerodias and Executive Committee Members Mr. Michael Lee and Mr. Hiromi Aoki on July 9 met virtually with the officers of the Iranian Business Council (IBC) led by President Mr. Amit Mosadeghi and Vice President Ms. V. Mashreghi mainly to discuss how YEGAP members can reach out into the Middle East market through the close connections of IBC with the chambers of commerce and the business councils from different countries with presence in the Middle East.



27. The two sides also agreed to sign a partnership agreement identifying possible activities that the two organizations can jointly undertake, as well as outlining other areas of cooperation. They also agreed to provide each other their respective list of upcoming activities that they will be undertaking during the rest of the year in which their respective members may be invited to participate.

Invitation to the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival



28. YEGAP members were invited by The Young Entrepreneurs Association of Laos to attend the 9th ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival on October 3-4, 2024 in Vientiane, Lao People Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

29. Focusing on the theme **“Fostering Connection Among Young Entrepreneurs for a Resilient Future”**, the two-day event called on businesses and young entrepreneurs to stay relevant and resilient to the rapid changing economic and technological landscape through strong collaboration and co-creation. Members of the YEGAP Executive Committee led by Chairman Mr. Rommel Gerodias, Mr. Hiromi Aoki, and Ms. Charmaine Co-Leong were featured as speakers at the 9th AYE Carnival.

B. Asian IC T Council



30. Dr. Dennis Hu, President of the Foundation for Commerce and Culture Interchange Taiwan and Senior Adviser of Taipei Computer Association as well as the current Chairman of the CACCI Asian ICT Council, met with the CACCI Secretariat on March 14 to discuss the proposed topic and format of the breakout session of the Asian ICT Council during the 38th CACCI Conference in November in Singapore.

31. Dr. Hu proposed that the session feature experts from CACCI member countries who will share the related programs, plans, focus or development of AI in their respective countries. Dr. Hu believes that the future of AI development is important for enhancing and upgrading the national competence, and that the impacts of AI on society, business as well as education also need to be taken into account.

Webinar on “Envision the Opportunities of AI”

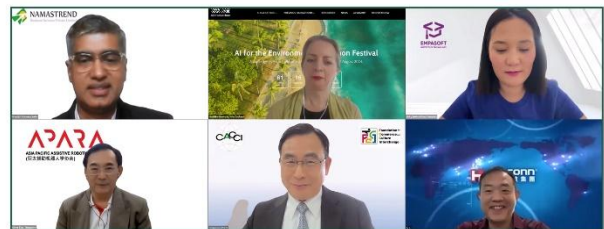


32. A webinar entitled ***“Envision the Opportunities of AI”*** was held **June 7, 2024 at 11:00am Taipei time**. This event was organized by the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) – through its Asian ICT Council under the chairmanship of Dr. Dennis Hu - in cooperation with the Foundation for Commerce and Culture Interchange (FCCI)

33. In this webinar, esteemed speakers from Taiwan New Zealand, Singapore, India and Mongolia delved into the vast opportunities that Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents in today's rapidly evolving landscape, sharing their insights, experiences, and visions regarding the transformative power of AI across different industries and regions.

34. Among others, the speakers addressed such questions as:

- What potential impacts of AI to future commerce, industry, education and skills?
- What policies or regulations will be needed or are discussed by Government.
- How should the general public to be prepared, comprehend, or applying AI for the future life, enhance welfare or benefits?
- Any or what issues or difficulties of AI development in your country have been encountered or foreseen?



Meeting with CIBO Executive Director



35. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador R. Honrado Jr. met with Mr. Buddy Villasis, Executive Director of CIBO on April 6 during the former's recent visit to Cebu City in the Philippines. Mr. Honrado and Mr. Villasis had a follow-up discussion on matters – particularly those pertaining to re-skilling of workers in technology use and application - that were taken up during the meeting of Mr. Villasis and Dr. Dennis Hu, Chairman of the CACCI ICT Council, when the former visited the CACCI Secretariat in late March 2024 during his Taiwan trip to attend the Taiwan Smart City Forum as part of the official delegation of the Mayor of Cebu City Mr. Mike Rama.

C. Asian Textiles and Garments Council



36. Ms. Shareena Safdar Janjua, Chief Executive Officer of Shareena Garments from Pakistan, has been appointed Chairperson of the Asian Textiles and Garments Council (ATGC), one of the Product and Service Councils established under the CACCI umbrella.

37. Ms. Janjua and her Lahore-company have a proven track record in the manufacturing, retail and export of garments and textile industry in Pakistan, specializing mainly in uniforms for employees in healthcare, hospitality and other industries. She has been conferred the Daughter of Punjab Award by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in recognition of her contribution to the textile industry of the country.

38. Ms. Janjua is a member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lahore, the Punjab Bar Council, and the Lahore Bar Council.

Webinar on Textiles and Garments



39. CACCI coordinated with The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Asian Textiles and Garments Council (ATGC) in organizing a webinar focusing on the textiles and garments industry of the Asia-Pacific region.

40. Focusing on the theme **“Textile Industry in Asian Region: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward”**, the one-hour webinar is expected to address issues such as the undergoing significant transformation in the textile industry due to technological advancements, sustainability concerns, and shifting geopolitical

dynamics. The webinar aims to delve into the current state of the industry, exploring the challenges and opportunities arising from these factors. By examining the impact of technology and sustainability in a changing geopolitical landscape, the webinar hopes to understand how businesses can adapt and innovate for future growth.

D. Meeting with Asian Tourism Council Chairman



41. During their Colombo visit, Mr. Honrado and Ms Liu also met with Mr. Anura Lokuhetty, Chairman of the CACCI Asia Council on Tourism on May 29. They discussed with Mr. Anura the proposed agenda and format of the Sectoral Plenary Session on ICT and Tourism to be held as part of the 38th CACCI Conference to be held on November 11-12, 2024 in Singapore.

42. They agreed that the theme of the session will be on the use of technology and AI in the tourism sector. Mr. Anura said he will formulate the exact wording of the session theme and will submit this to the Secretariat, along with his speaker suggestions.

III. MEETINGS WITH CACCI MEMBERS

Singapore Manufacturing Federation

43. CACCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with four other organizations to form an alliance of Asia-Pacific (APAC) Trade Associations and Chambers of Commerce.

44. The alliance will have the common objective “to help small and medium enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region to embark on their sustainability transformation, sharing of best practices, standards development, advisory support, recognition, and collectively striving towards a net-zero goal and be future ready for Industry 5.0”.



45. Aside from CACCI, the other MOU signatories include the Singapore Manufacturing Federation, the Singapore Business Federation, and the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants.

46. The alliance intends to collaborate in the following areas:



- Green Excellence for Manufacturing (GEM) Mark for the manufacturing sector within the APAC region;
- Green Excellence for Business (GEB) Mark for non-manufacturing companies within the APAC region;
- Training of consultants to provide consultancy services for GEM and GEB Mark
- Training of assessors to provide assessment services for GEM and GEB Mark

47. The alliance also seeks to promote and seek recognition of the GEM Mark by national trade associations and chambers of commerce on the manufacturing sector within each Party's country and/or GEB Mark by national trade associations and chamber of Commerce of the non-manufacturing sector within each Party's country.

48. To help achieve these objectives, the MOU signatories' plan is to establish the APAC Green Alliance Association.



49. The MOU signing ceremony took place during the Manufacturing Day Summit 2024 organized by the Singapore Manufacturing Federation on January 18, 2024 in Singapore. Signing on behalf of CACCI was CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM.

50. The Summit featured keynote speakers who shared their insights towards industry 5.0, AI, and more, and exchanged ideas on how to stay competitive and embrace emerging technologies. CACCI was represented by President Mr. Peter McMullin AM and Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of CACCI SME Development Council. Mr. McMullin spoke on *"Fostering a Sustainable & Resilient Manufacturing Ecosystem: Strategies for Industry Collaboration & Success"*.

51. Following the setting up of the Green Alliance Initiative, the CACCI Secretariat conducted an exclusive one-on-one interview with selected members across 10 countries to better understand the needs and challenges when it comes to transitioning their business or organization to take on the Net-Zero opportunity. The interview aimed to obtain the interviewees' insights and suggestions on how CACCI can help in this regard.

Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

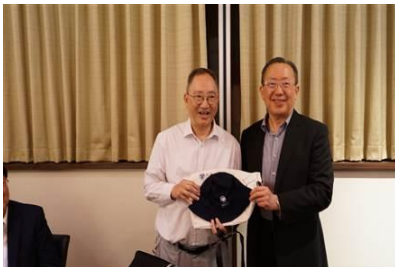




52. CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado were hosted lunch by Mr. Kazuo Nishitani, Executive Director, Japan Chamber of Commerce (JCCI) and Mr. Masahiko Oshima, Manager, International, Division, JCCI on February 23 during the former's recent official visit to Tokyo.

53. Mr. Hsu and Mr. Honrado invited the JCCI officers to send a delegation to the upcoming 38th CACCI Conference to be held in November 2024 in Singapore and to attend the virtual February 29 Planning Committee Meeting to discuss preparations for the Conference, and explored with them the possibility of participating in the "Investment Forum" series and make a presentation on the current trends and developments in the Japanese economy and opportunities for trade and investment presented by the country for CACCI members from other countries.

Kowloon Chamber of Commerce



54. A delegation from Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) led by Chairman Mr. Ernest Yuen was hosted dinner by officers of the CACCI Secretariat headed by Director-General Mr. David Hsu on March 17.

55. The visiting Hong Kong delegation – which was composed of members of the KCC Council – were in Taipei to attend the Taipei Chinese Medical Association International Medical Conference and to visit various organizations with which KCC has good relations such as CACCI.

56. During the dinner with the KCC visitors, CACCI Director-General Mr. Hsu briefed the attendees on the ongoing and upcoming activities of CACCI, including the 38th CACI Conference to be held on November 18-19 in Singapore, and invited them to attend these important events.



Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka

57. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado and CACCI Senior Officer Ms Teresa Liu visited the office of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCISL) on May 29 during their visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka to attend a training program organized by Hatton National Bank.



58. The Secretariat officers were received by FCCISL President Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane and Secretary-General Dr. Tilan Wijayasooriya. During the meeting, the FCCISL officers were briefed on the upcoming activities of CACCI, and expressed interest in participating in the Investment Forum webinar series, submitting nominees for the CACCI Awards, suggesting activities for inclusion in the CACCI Work Program for 2025-2026, and submitting a

project proposal for possible funding by the CACCI Foundation. They also said they are prepared to host the ACCI Conference in 2025, and requested the Secretariat to send a formal request letter to FCCISL which President Mr. Gunawardane would submit to the Chamber Board for consideration.

Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association



59. CACCI officers led by Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on June 28 visited the headquarters of the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), CACCI Primary Member in Taiwan, where they were received by CIECA officers led by Secretary-General Mr. Frank Wu. The two sides discussed CACCI's participation in the 48th Joint Conference of ROC-Korea and Korea-Taiwan Business Councils jointly organized by CIECA and the Federation of Korean

Industries on July 18-19, 2024 in Seoul, Korea.

Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry



60. CACCI Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on July 19 made a courtesy call on officers of The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) led by Mr. Archer Lee, Vice President for International Trade Division. Joining the meeting were CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. and Mr. Beom Sik Jung, Director, International Trade Division, Asia-Pacific Team, KCCI.

61. Dr. Chiu and Mr. Honrado briefed the KCCI officers on CACCI activities and provided them relevant information on KCCI's involvement in CACCI since the Chamber

joined the Confederation as a Founding Member in 1966. They encouraged Mr. Lee and his colleagues to have KCCI continue its active involvement in CACCI and its activities and provide CACCI members from other countries the opportunity to learn more about the Chamber and meet its officers and members.

62. The CACCI executives were in Seoul to participate in the 48th Joint Conference of ROC-Korea and Korea-Taiwan Business Councils organized by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) on July 19, 2024 in Seoul, Korea. CIECA is a Primary Member of CACCI from Taiwan.

Participation in the 48th Joint Conference of ROC-Korea & Korea-Taiwan Business Councils



63. Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. represented the Confederation at the 48th Joint Conference of ROC-Korea and Korea-Taiwan Business Councils organized by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) on July 19, 2024 in Seoul.

64. Held at the FKI Tower Conference Center, the event was attended by some 100 businesspersons from both Taiwan and Korea who exchanged views on possible areas of cooperation that are expected to further strengthen the foundation of economic relations between the two countries. The Taiwanese delegation was headed by Mr. Jimmy Chu, Chairman, ROC-Korea Business Council under CIECA (Taiwan), while the Korean side was led by Mr. Joon Kim, Chairman, Korea-Taiwan Business Council and Mr. Kim Chang Beom, Vice Charman and CEO of FKI.



65. Speakers from both sides presented business opportunities in various fields including e-commerce, logistics, distribution, food and beverage, tourism, start-ups, new energy, smart manufacturing, machinery industry, and exchange programs for young Taiwanese and Koreans.



66. Before the closing of the Conference, Dr. Chiu met and conveyed his appreciation to Mr. Joon Kim, Chairman, Korea-Taiwan Business Council, and to Mr. Kim Chang Beom, Vice Charman and CEO of FKI, for the opportunity not only to participate in the important dialogue between members of CIECA and FKI which enabled him and Mr. Honrado to learn from the sharing of ideas on areas of possible cooperation between the two sides, but also to be able to introduce to them and to a number of FKI members about CACCI and its activities.

67. Dr. Chiu also extended invitation to both Mr. Kim and to other FKI officers and

members to join the 38th CACCI Conference scheduled to be co-hosted by the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) on November 11-12, 2024 in Singapore, adding that their presence will allow them to know more about the Confederation and to personally meet its officers and members from other Asia-Pacific countries.

68. Dr. Chiu and Mr. Honrado also joined the industrial visits organized by FKI for the visiting Taiwanese delegation on July 18 to the following:

LG Science Park – Considered Korea’s biggest R&D complex, the LG Science Park gathers LG’s major R&D capabilities including electronics, chemicals, and communications services to lay the foundation for innovation. Its Innovation Gallery showcases the future technologies and core products of LG.



Hyundai Motor Studio Goyang – This is the largest automobiles and mobility experience space in Korea where one can experience Hyundai Motor’s technology and future vision in a friendly and enjoyable way.

Meeting with Advisory Board Member in Georgia



69. Deputy Director-General Amador Honrado Jr. met with CACCI Advisory Board Member Jemal Inaishvili on May 2 in Tbilisi, Georgia during the 57th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank held on May 2-5 in the Georgian capital. Mr. Honrado took the occasion to brief Mr. Inaishvili on preparations for the upcoming 38th CACCI Conference that will take place on November 11-12 in Singapore.

50th Philippine Business Conference and Expo



70. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) invited CACCI officers and members to attend the 50th Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E) held on October 22-23, 2024 in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

71. Focusing on the theme “Embracing Innovation, Empowering Business, Enriching Lives”, this year’s PBC&E explored sustainable growth strategies essential for businesses to thrive in today’s competitive landscape. A line-up of renowned speakers from both government and business sectors were invited to address significant industry concerns, particularly in such sectors as ICT, agriculture, science and innovation and tourism.

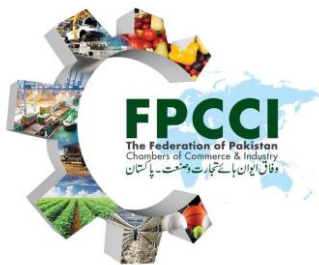
72. PCCI arranged meetings for the CACCI delegation with relevant government offices and a number of company visits to allow CACCI members to gain first-hand information on the trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines and to explore possible areas of business cooperation.

FCCISL: South Asia Trade Fair 2024 Sri Lanka



72. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka invited CACCI members to attend the South Asia Trade Fair 2024 Sri Lanka held on 2-4 August in Colombo. The Fair aimed to facilitate South Asian businesses for expanding their visibility at the export markets in South Asia and beyond.

International Conference on “Agritech: Feeding the Future”



73. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has invited CACCI members to attend the International Conference on **“Agritech: Feeding the Future”** held on **August 28, 2024** at the Expo Center Karachi **Karachi**.

74. The one-day Conference aimed to promote investment in the agriculture sector, improve agriculture productivity, enhancement of agriculture trade and creation of climate financing through Islamic Banking System.

75. International experts were invited to provide an opportunity for participants to get advance knowledge of agriculture development and technological advancement. The Conference is also aimed to motivate our young generation to bring their ideas/projects and promotion of entrepreneurship activities in Pakistan. Representatives from the agriculture sector of Thailand, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan also attended the Conference.

FNCCI: Invitation to Nepal International Trade Fair 2024



**10TH
NEPAL
INTERNATIONAL
TRADE FAIR 2024**

12 ~ 16 December, 2024
27 Mangsir ~ 1 Poush, 2081
Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu, Nepal

**STALL
BOOKING
OPEN**

75. The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) invited CACCI members to participate in the 10th Nepal International Trade Fair (NITF 2024) scheduled to take place on 12-16 December 2024 in Kathmandu.

76. NITF 2024 is expected to bring a multitude of Nepalese and international business enterprises under one roof, allowing them to directly interact with local and international customers and their better business opportunities. The event aims to promote Nepal's international trade and enhance the growth of Nepalese exportable product base focusing on Nepal Trade Integration Strategy (NITS) identified products. NITF creates a one-stop platform for international participants to showcase their products and services among Nepalese buyers, sellers, and customers.

IV. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Joint Business Councils of the ASEAN-BAC

January 29 Meeting in Laos



77. Members of the Joint Business Councils (JBC) under the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) met on January 29 in Luang Prabang, Laos in preparation for the upcoming ASEAN Summit to be held later in the 2024 in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos. As Associate Member of the ASEAN-BAC JBC, CACCI was represented in the meeting by Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of the CACCI SME Development Council.

78. Mr. Abraham briefed the meeting on the upcoming activities of CACCI in 2024, including those of the various Product and Service Councils, highlighting those which are relevant to and are aligned with the priority areas of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry as ASEAN-BAC Chairman for 2024, namely, digital transformation, regional connectivity sustainable development, health resilience, food security, and trade and investment facilitation.

79. Mr. Abraham also stressed the importance of water and called on the ASEAN-BAC members to likewise address the need and the urgency to prioritize water sustainability, and proposed to make 2024 and 2025 the Year of Water Awareness.

September 13 Meeting in Vietnam



ASEAN-BAC

80. CACCI attended virtually the 24th ASEAN Business Advisory Council and Joint Business Councils (JBC) Meeting held on September 13 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

81. The JBC Meeting featured thematic discussions on the following topics:

- a) Trade and Investment
- b) Digital Transformation
- c) Green Economy and Energy Transition
- d) Supply Chain Connectivity

82. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado presented online a report on CACCI's initiatives and activities undertaken in the above areas .

Participation in the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2024



83. CACCI and its members were invited by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) to attend the **ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ASEAN BIS)** to be held on **8-11 October 2024** in **Vientiane, Lao PDR**. CACCI is an Associate Member of the Joint Business Council and Associations under the ASEAN-BAC.

84. As a gathering of thought leaders, industry influencers, and policymakers from across the Asia Pacific region, the ASEAN BIS 2024 – focused on the theme **“Enhancing Economic Connectivity and Resilience”** aimed to provide the delegates the opportunity to:

- **Network** with top business leaders and decision-makers.
- **Gain insights** into the latest trends in trade, digital transformation, green economy, and more.
- **Shape the future** of ASEAN business through collaborative discussions and strategic partnerships.

International Council for Trade Transparency and Monitoring



85. CACCI virtually signed an MOU with the International Council for Trade Transparency and Monitoring (ICTTM) on March 21 aimed at providing access to CACCI and its members to the ADAMftd software system, a revolutionary tool aimed at enhancing transparency and compliance in international trade.

86. The MOU forms the basis for the provision of priority access to the ADAMftd software system for CACCI and its members, thereby enhancing the economic activity of companies, ensuring their compliance with international trade rules and regulations, and assisting them in identifying new international markets.

87. CACCI was subsequently invited by ICTTM to participate in the ADAMftd MOU Partner Onboarding Webinar held on September 30. The webinar was designed to help the partners to get started with ADAMftd. The participants were provided a detailed orientation on the platform, explored partner expectations, and reviewed the current roadmap and future developments. There was a guided tour of the custom-branded “infotoolbox” for the partners, with all promotional and onboarding materials ready to go and share with the partners’ members and constituents.

Partnership Agreement for the Inaugural Europe-Asia Economic Forum



Europe-Asia Economic Summit

— DAVOS, SWITZERLAND —

Davos.

88. CACCI has accepted the partnership offer for the inaugural Europe-Asia Economic Summit to be held on May 26-28, 2025 in

89. The Summit aims to primarily provide a platform for SMEs in Europe and Asia to come together to explore possible areas of cooperation, as well as to listen to experts on the New AI Era and on Sustainable Development, topics which are also of current interest to CACCI members. For the Tentative Program of the Summit, please visit the following link: <https://www.eaesummit.com/index.php/schedules.html>

90. As partner organization, CACCI is primarily be requested to help promote the Summit to our members and possibly collaborate on content creation. There will be no financial obligation on the part of CACCI.

Election of CACCI President as Vice Chairman of World Chambers Federation



91. CACCI President Peter McMullin AM has been elected Vice Chairman for Southeast Asia and Oceania at the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF).

92. The ICC WCF has 1,500 members from more than 100 countries and territories. It is the forum that connects chambers across global borders, creating a better environment for business and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and driving prosperity and opportunity

for all.



93. On his election as ICC WCF Vice Chairman, President McMullin says: “The idea of 'merchants of peace' was always attractive to me, and remains so. Over 100 years ago a group of people, in the aftermath of the First World War, formed what is now known as the International Chamber of

Commerce (ICC). It was founded on one common idea: if people traded and did business with each other they would be less likely to enter into conflict.

94. “In reality, they would be 'merchants of peace'. 100 years on the essence of those founding ideas has never been more important. In a time of geopolitical upheaval the ICC World Chambers Federation is uniquely positioned to contribute to both peace and prosperity on our planet. In this role I am looking forward to doing what I can to ensure the spirit of the 'merchants of peace' lives on.”

95. Mr. McMullin says he therefore looks forward to bringing the full weight of CACCI's experience and its 27-country network in his new role within the ICC WCF Executive Board and in continuing his goal to help business get SET (Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Trade) for the future.

Invitation to the WCF Europe & Asia Regional Summit



96. The ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) invited CACCI officers and members to attend the WCF Europe & Asia Regional Summit held on 15-16 October 2024 in Istanbul.



97. Focusing on the theme of "A Collaborative Approach to Climate Action," the two-day Summit brought together chamber executives, business leaders, experts, and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to discuss and forge new paths toward effective climate action through collaboration. There were also opportunities for networking with business delegations from various countries in the region, as well as arrangement of B2B meetings.

98. ICC WCF is currently under the chairmanship of Mr. Rifat Hisaciklioglu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) as well as Vice President of CACCI

Participation in the WCF Global Economic Survey



99. CACCI members were invited by the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) to participate in its inaugural Global Economic Survey aimed at gathering insights from chambers executives on business climate and outlook in their country as well as key opportunities associated with climate change.

100. Specifically, the survey aims to find out from the chambers: (a) What are the biggest economic challenges facing businesses in their region, and (b) What are the biggest opportunities for businesses in their region.

101. According to the ICC WCF, the survey is a pivotal element of its broader strategy to develop real time data from our chamber network. It is designed to be both concise and accessible, encompassing key economic indicators and a dedicated focus on sustainability, in line with the central theme of the forthcoming WCF Summit: "A Collaborative Approach to Climate Action".

102. The findings were scheduled to be unveiled in October, aligning with the WCF Europe & Asia Summit in Istanbul, Türkiye on 15-16 October 2024, and expected to contribute to the global discourse on economic patterns and the challenges associated with the green transition, besides supporting ICC's policy work during COP 29.

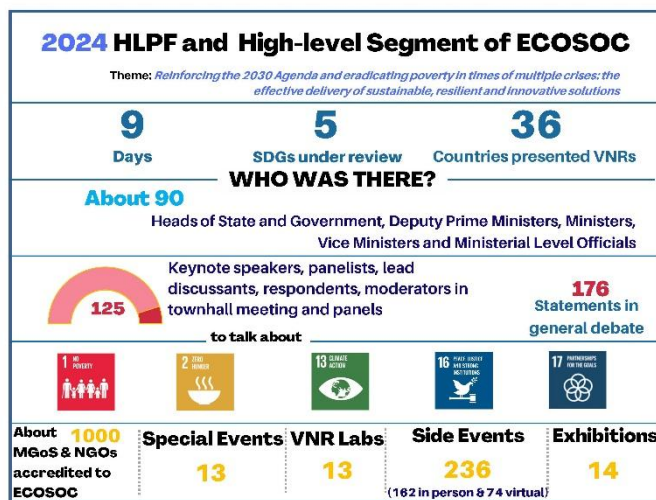
WCF Task Force on Sustainability and Climate Action

103. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM received an invitation from the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) for CACCI to participate in the program of the WCF Task Force on Sustainability and Climate Action called **“Our Way Forward”**, which is designed to enhance the sustainability and climate resilience capacities of chambers of commerce through a structured and impactful approach.



104. The ICC WCF believes that CACCI's participation in the program will be instrumental in driving sustainable business practices and climate resilience within the community of our respective member chambers, and will not only benefit the environment but also enhance the economic and social impact of our constituent organizations. CACCI is a Permanent Member of the ICC WCF General Council, its governing body.

High-Level Political Forum 2024



105. As member of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO), an organization of NGOs with consultative status with the United Nations, CACCI was invited to participate in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held on July 8-17 2024 in New York under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The theme was "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery

of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.

106. The HLPF in 2024 reviewed in-depth following SDGs of the United Nations: **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere; **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

107. CACCI invited representatives from the International Cooperation Development Fund (Tawain ICDF) to represent CACCI in the Forum. The Taiwan ICDF is responsible for assisting the economic, social and human resource development of friendly or developing countries, enhancing economic relations with these countries, and providing humanitarian assistance to countries or international refugees suffering from natural disasters. Two officers from ICDF attended the Forum.

PECC State of the Region Survey



108. The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) requested CACCI members to participate in its State of the Region Survey.

109. In addition to the regular questions on the economic outlook and priorities for APEC, this year's PECC survey is focused on aging populations and its impact on growth and productivity. The results of the survey are reported to APEC and provide a useful input into the policy making process.

110. Founded in 1980, PECC brings together leading thinkers, and decision makers from government and business in an informal setting to discuss and formulate ideas on the most significant challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. It regularly develops and advocates regional policy initiatives to aid in the stable economic development of the region.

V. INVESTMENT FORUM SERIES

111. The CACCI Secretariat coordinated with several CACCI Primary Members to conduct an online Investment Forum focusing on the trade and investment opportunities in their respective countries. These included the following:

The Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry



MNCCI Investment and Trade Agency Officer Dulgun Barsuren. They provided detailed information about Mongolia's current economic conditions and the business opportunities the country has to offer, as well as on the Chamber's plans for further business growth.

112. The Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) conducted a webinar on **"Mongolia's Business Environment"** on May 2, 2024. The one-hour online session featured MNCCI President Enkhtuvshin Dashtseren, MNCCI CEO Duuren T. Tumenjargal, and



Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry



that featured as speakers CACCI Vice President Sheikh Fazle Fahim, FBCCI President Mahbubul Alam and FBCCI Secretary-General Md. Alamgir who elaborated on the current business trends and developments in Bangladesh.

113. The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) on June 27 organized a webinar on **"Bangladesh's Business Environment"**



Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry



114. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) jointly organized a webinar on **"Investment Opportunities in Indian Food Processing Sector & World Food India 2024"** held on August 1, 2024, 2PM, Taipei time.



115. The one-hour online session showcased the numerous investment opportunities in the Indian food processing sector which, with its impressive growth averaging 7.26% annually in the last seven years, is supported by a favourable environment for foreign investors and increasing demand.

116. The World Food India held on September 19-22, 2024 aimed not only to promote investments in the diverse food processing ecosystem of India, but also to introduce to the world the rich Indian food culture. The event identified five focus areas, namely, sustainable packaging, minimizing waste, plant-based proteins, food irradiation, and ensuring food safety.



Webinar on the “Chamber Model Innovation (CMI) Framework: How to Deliver More Value to Your Members in 2024”



117. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized a webinar on “**Chamber Model Innovation (CMI) Framework: How to Deliver More Value to Your Members in 2024**” on July 31, 2024 (2PM, Taipei time). The one-hour session was held in partnership with the ICC World

Chambers Federation (ICC/WCF) and Integra Seven, an advisory firm that helps organizations stay adaptable and competitive by fostering a culture of ongoing change and improvement to remain successful in a rapidly changing business environment.

118. The webinar aimed to provide actionable strategies and resources to enhance your Chamber’s performance in 2024. Conducted by Ms. Natalia Sycheva, Partner of Integra Seven, the session provided the participating chambers the opportunity to explore: How to reduce cost and time for new service development; How to enhance Chamber’s proposition for members; How to become an attractive employer for the top talent; How to think of AI disruptions to your business model. The attendees also gained early access to information about CMI’s trainings and resources developed by ICC.

VI. TRAINING PROGRAMS

Seminar on INCOTERMS



119. The Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) jointly organized two-day seminars each in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. The advanced courses on Contract of Sale, Incoterms 2020 and Secured Payment Methods in International Trade took place on 7-8 May in Hanoi, and on 9-10 May in Ho Chi Minh City. The seminars focused on securing exports overseas using the most popular payment methods in international trade

120. Both seminars were very successful in terms of both attendance and class participation. The Hanoi seminar attracted about 100 participants, while the Ho Chi Minh City seminar surpassed 200 participants, coming from a variety of industries, including exporting companies, banks, logistics companies, insurance companies and even law firms.



121. The seminars were conducted by the experienced trainer and consultant Pavel Andrie, long-time member of ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) Banking Commission and Commission on Commercial Law and Practice. His presentations, which were interpreted into Vietnamese language, focused firstly on best practices in relation to drafting of international contracts of sale, above all its main parts: delivery and payment conditions.



Webinar on the Green Alliance Initiative

122. A webinar on the “**Green Alliance Initiative**” took place on **May 23, 2024 at 5:00 PM, Taipei Time**. Jointly organized by CACCI and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), the one -hour webinar will introduce the Green Alliance Initiative, which aims “to help small and medium enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region to embark on their sustainability transformation, sharing of best practices, standards development, advisory support, recognition, and collectively striving towards a net-zero goal and be future-ready for Industry 5.0.”

123. Moderated by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM, the one-hour session featured SMF President and CACCI Vice President for Sustainability Mr. Lennon Tan as Panelist and Mr. Clement Teo Chief Sustainability Officer, Assistant Chief Executive at SMF as the main Presenter. Underscoring its importance during his Welcome Remarks, Mr. McMullin said that the Green Alliance Initiative is designed to empower SMEs on their sustainability journey.



124. Following the webinar, the CACCI Secretariat sent a circular to the webinar participants requesting them to participate in an exclusive one-on-one interview to better understand the needs and challenges when it comes to transitioning their business or organization to take on the Net-Zero opportunity. The interview also hopes to obtain the interviewees’ insights and suggestions on how CACCI can help in this regard.

VII. MEETINGS WITH TRADE REPRESENTATIVES OF CACCI MEMBER COUNTRIES

Australia’s Representative in Taipei

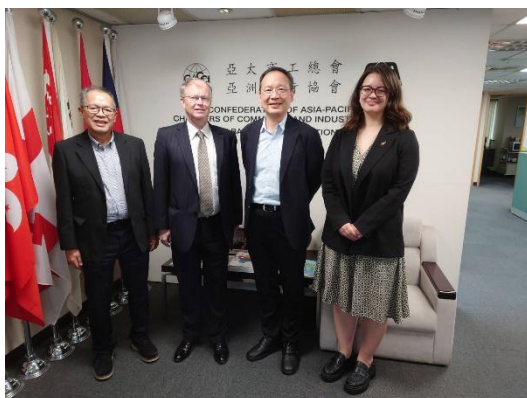


125. Mr. Robert Fergusson, Representative, Australian Office, Taipei received CACCI Secretariat executives led by Director-General Mr. David Hsu on February 2, 2024.

126. Mr. Hsu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado briefed Mr. Fergusson on the activities of CACCI and the important role that the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) in the Confederation since it joined as a Founding

Member in 1966, particularly in the policy advocacy work of CACCI.

New Zealand Commerce Director in Taipei



127. On September 19, 2024, Mr. Mark Pearson, Director, and Ms. Portia Allen, Section Head of Economic Affairs, from the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office, visited the Secretariat of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI). They were welcomed by CACCI's Director-General, Dr. Darson Chiu, and Deputy Director-General, Mr. Amador Honrado.

128. The discussions centered on the region's economic outlook and explored opportunities for deeper collaboration between New Zealand and CACCI. A key focus was CACCI's ongoing partnership with the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NZCCI), which remains pivotal to regional trade and investment. Despite NZCCI considering a potential withdrawal from CACCI, Mr. Honrado emphasized the importance of maintaining the relationship to support shared economic objectives.

129. In a positive turn, Mr. Pearson expressed his commitment to keeping NZCCI engaged with CACCI and offered assistance in sustaining the partnership, recognizing the benefits it brings to the broader Asia-Pacific business community. Mr. Honrado highlighted the upcoming 2024 CACCI conference, titled "Making Asian Business Future-Ready," and Dr. Chiu expressed optimism that a New Zealand delegation would attend the event in Singapore this November. Mr. Pearson assured his support in facilitating their participation.

JETRO Hong Kong Managing Director



130. CACCI Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on August 22, 2024, welcomed Mr. Takanori Okuda, Managing Director of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Hong Kong. During the meeting, they engaged in an in-depth discussion on the economic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region. They exchanged insights on several critical issues, including the importance of sustaining stable trade and investment flows amidst global uncertainties, the transformative potential of emerging technologies on regional industries, and the pressing need for sustainable economic development that carefully balances environmental and social imperatives.

131. The conversation underscored the shared recognition of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the region. They emphasized the importance of continuous dialogue and collaboration between the public and private sectors, not only

to navigate the current economic environment but also to strategically position the region for future growth. The exchange of perspectives provided a comprehensive understanding of the factors shaping the economic outlook, with both of them acknowledging the significance of keeping abreast of regional trends and developments. While the meeting was largely focused on discussing the broader economic context, it served as a crucial platform for reinforcing the mutual commitment of CACCI and JETRO to staying engaged and informed about the evolving dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region.

VIII. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Appointment of New CACCI Director-General



132. Dr. Darson Chiu was appointed as the new Director-General of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) effective May 1, 2024, replacing Mr. David Hsu who retired from the position.

133. Dr. Hsu obtained his BA in Economics from Tunghai University in 1988 and went on to earn an MA in Economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1994. Continuing his academic journey, he pursued a Ph.D. candidacy in Agriculture and Applied Economics at the same university. In 2007, Darson furthered his qualifications by obtaining a doctoral degree in Leadership in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, enriching his expertise in both theoretical and practical realms, especially in economics and organizational management.

134. Prior to joining CACCI, Dr. Hsu was Researcher, Department of International Affairs at the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER), a position held from 1999. He was mainly responsible for the research of international organizations such as PECC, APEC, ABAC, PAFTAD, and PBEC. It was in that capacity that he worked closely with the late Dr. Jeffrey L.S. Koo, former CACCI President and one of the pillars of the Confederation, in the latter's role as Chairman of the PECC Standing Committee and Finance Sub-Committee.

135. Among his other concurrent positions in other institutions are the following: (a) Contract Researcher, Taiwan Security Center, National Chengchi University; (b) Professor of Department of Economics, Tunghai University; (c) Editorial Board Member, Modern Management Science & Engineering, British International Journal; (d) Member, International Economic and Trade Affairs Committee, Chinese National Federation of Industries and (e) Honorary Advisor, Taiwan Southeast Asia and South Asia Association.

Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Outgoing Director-General



136. The CACCI Secretariat, on behalf of the CACCI Officers and Members, presented to Mr. David Hsu a Plaque of Appreciation for his two-year service as Director-General of the CACCI Secretariat from April

2022 to March 1, 2024. Mr. Hsu also received a letter of commendation from CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM for his contribution to the efforts of CACCI in promoting cooperation among its members and the region's business community as a whole.

CACCI Charter Amendments



137. The CACCI Secretariat sought the CACCI Council's approval of proposed amendments in the CACCI Charter pertaining to the composition of the CACCI Council, the governing body of the Confederation. Under the amended Charter, the Council would now be composed of representatives from the CACCI Primary Members as well as representatives from the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) and the CACCI Women Entrepreneurs

Council (CWEC), and that each Primary Member and the YEGAP and CWEC would be allocated one vote each.

CACCI Vice Presidents' Portfolio



138. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM requested the nine CACCI Vice Presidents to provide their proposals on any programs or projects that they want to undertake in their assigned field of activity, and the assistance you may require from the Secretariat in implementing them.

139. Mr. McMullin also sought their assistance in promoting CACCI among other business organizations in the region, in the hope that they may consider joining the Confederation. Mr. McMullin suggested that, in their planned travels to other countries in 2024, they will take some time to meet with relevant business organizations in the countries they will be visiting. During these visits, they may wish to introduce CACCI and its activities, and encourage them to consider the possibility of membership in the Confederation.

Regular WCF Monthly Meeting



140. The CACCI Secretariat continued to hold regular online meetings with representatives of the ICC World Chambers Federation to update each other on their recent, ongoing, and planned activities for the year, and identified possible areas for collaboration.

CACCI Publications



141. The CACCI Secretariat continued to publish its monthly newsletter CACCI Profile, which contains reports and articles on recent and upcoming activities of CACCI and its member chambers, news on recent trade and investment policies in CACCI member countries, and reports on other issues and events that may be of interest to Asian businessmen. Latest editions of PSC newsletters were also worked upon.

IX. 38TH CACCI CONFERENCE

142. CACCI successfully held the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum and the 38th CACCI Conference in Singapore on November 11-12, 2024. The two-day event was attended by some 200 delegates composed largely of businessmen and chamber of commerce representatives from 30 Asia-Pacific



143. Held at One Farrer Hotel, the 2024 gathering was co-organized by CACCI with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), a Primary Member of CACCI. CACCI internal meetings, including the 98th and 99th CACCI Council Meetings, were also held in conjunction with the Conference.

144. The Singapore gathering focused on the theme **“Making Asia Pacific Business Future-Ready”**. It was designed to provide delegates a platform to exchange views on measures that the business sector and governments in the region can undertake to address the challenges and take full advantage of the current opportunities offered not just by markets in the Asia-Pacific region but by countries in other parts of the world as well, thereby enabling them to grow and expand beyond the domestic borders and into the global market



145. The various sessions during the Conference addressed vital issues for the Asia-Pacific, from green financing to sustainable supply chains and circular economy initiatives. Invited speakers and panelists tackled the challenges of climate change in smart agriculture and explored the role of startups and SMEs in driving environmental solutions.



146. The session on artificial intelligence shed light on the transformative impact AI can have on our industries, from improving business operations to enhancing customer experiences. It also reminded us of the importance of ethical and fair deployment of these technologies, a topic that will require continued collaboration between governments and the private sector.

147. The discussions on global trade, digitalization, e-commerce, and cross-border collaboration demonstrated the importance of resilient trade networks. The Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone session underscored how partnerships can drive shared prosperity and sustainable growth, showing us that collaboration between nations is key to regional resilience.

148. The Conference also saw the launching of the Asia-Pacific Green Alliance (APAC-GA), a milestone that reflects our region's commitment to sustainable progress. APAC-GA will enable businesses across the Asia-Pacific to collaborate on sustainability initiatives, share resources, and build a resilient ecosystem focused on environmental stewardship. This alliance represents a collective promise to drive regional growth responsibly and inclusively.



149. The First Day Opening Ceremony featured as Special Keynote Speaker Dr. Tan Khee **Giap**, Chairman of the Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation and Economic Advisor for SMF. In his Keynote Address, Dr. Tan presented a global economic scenario, identifying opportunities and challenges in the Asia Pacific region arising from the recent US elections results.

150. The Guest of Honor for the Second Day Opening Ceremony was Mr. Desmond Tan, Senior Minister of Trade, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore, who shared insights into how Singapore and National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) are leading efforts in AI and sustainability to drive business and workforce transformation



151. A Keynote Address was also delivered by His Excellency Dr. Ceferino S. Rodolfo, Undersecretary (Vice Minister), Industry Development, Trade and Investment Promotions, Managing Head, Board of Investments, Philippines. He shared his perspective on leveraging cross-border partnerships for economic resilience which is particularly relevant as the region navigates the challenges posed by shifting global trade dynamics.

98th and 99th CACCI Council Meetings

152. The CACCI Council, which is the governing body of the Confederation, convened the 98th and the 99th CACCI Council Meetings on November 11 and November 12, respectively, both of which were chaired virtually by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM.

153. Among the major decisions made during the Council Meetings were the following

Election of New CACCI Officers



154. The CACCI Council endorsed the recommendations of the CACCI Advisory Board for the election of the following member chamber representatives as CACCI Officers to serve the next two-year term from 2025 to 2026:

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| President | - | Peter McMullin AM (Australia) (Re-elected for second term) |
| Vice Presiden | - | Dr. Alireza Yavari (Iran) |
| | - | Ernest Yuen, Chairman, Kowloon Chamber of Commerce |
| | - | Hiroshi Oshima, Special Advisory Japan CCI |
| | - | Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Former President, FNCCI |
| | - | Henry C. S. Kao, Chairman, CIECA |
| | - | Atif Ikram Sheikh, President, FPCCI |
| | - | Ma. Alegria Limjoco, Vice President, Regional Affairs & Membership, PCCI |
| | - | Lennon Tan, President, Singapore Manufacturing Federation |
| | - | Rifat Hisarciklioglu, President, TOBB |

Honorary Treasurer - Leslie Wong, Vice Chairman, Kowloon Chamber of Commerce

Budget Commission

- | | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Members | - | Amb. John Feng, Adviser, CIECA (Chairman) |
| | - | Jude Aguilar, Vice President for International Affairs, PCCI |

Appointment of New Advisory Board Chairman

155. The Council endorsed the appointment of Ambassador Benedicto Yujuico as Chairman of the CACCI Advisory Board, replacing Mr. Harvey Chang. Ambassador Yujuico served as CACCI President from 2020 to 2024, and is currently President Emeritus of CACCI.

CACCI Work Program for 2025-2026

156. The CACCI Council adopted the Draft Framework for the 2025-2026 CACCI Work Program outlining activities over the next two years. These activities are in the areas of policy advocacy, professional development program, membership expansion,



relationship with other regional and international organizations, development of the CACCI Product and Service Councils, promoting CACCI in the region, information exchange and publications, and CACCI Presidential visits, among others.

Proposed Budget for 2025

157. Members of the CACCI Council reviewed and approved the proposed budget of the Confederation for 2025 as prepared by the CACCI Secretariat.

Next CACCI Conference in 2025

158. The CACCI Council formally accepted the offer of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) to host the 39th CACCI Conference in 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with the exact dates and venue to be finalized during the CACCI Planning Committee to be held in early 2025.

Creation of the Planning Committee

159. The Council constituted the 2025 Planning Committee and gave it the mandate to discuss preparations for the 39th CACCI Conference as well as flesh out the details for the 2025 CACCI Work Program. The Council also authorized the constituted Planning Committee to convene a meeting in early 2025 at a venue and date to be agreed by its members and the host chamber.

Presentation of CACCI Awards

16. Winners of this year's two CACCI awards were also announced and presented their trophies during the Gala Dinner. These included:

- 10th Local Chamber Award, Big Chamber Category - Chamber of Industries-Morang (Nepal)
- 4th Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award - Dr. Asli Elif Tanugur Samanci, Co-Founder & General Manager, SBS Bilimsel Bio Cozumler San. Tuc. A.S.



161. Representatives from the Chamber of Industries-Morang accepted the Award from CACCI Advisory Board Chairman Mr. Harvey Chang and the members of the Board of Judges Mr. Ernest Yuen, Chairman of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce and CACCI Vice President, and Mr. Kazuo Nishitani, Executive Director, Japan CCI.



162. Dr. Asli Elif Tanugur Samanci accepted the Award from Mr. Chang and members of the Board of Judges Mr. Rommel Grodias, President of A101 Innovations and Outgoing YEGAP Chairman, and Ms. Khulan Dhavaadorj, Founder and Director of Lhamour and Member, YEGAP Executive Committee.

Formal Turnover of the YEGAP Chairmanship

163. A formal turnover of the Chairmanship of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) was held during the Gala Dinner on November 12. Mr. Hiromi Aoki was installed and took his oath as the new YEGAP Chairman, replacing Mr. Rommel Gerodias from the Philippines.



Post-Conference Company Visits

164. The Singapore Manufacturing Federation arranged two Post-Conference company visits for the delegates on November 13 – one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.



165. Hyundai Motor Group Innovation Center Singapore is Hyundai Motor Group's open innovation hub to support research and development in advanced mobility ecosystems and pave a smarter way of urban living

for the benefit of the wider society.

166. The center explores new business ideas and technologies to revolutionise the customer experience and future mobility solutions to people and communities with the aim of enriching their lives.

167. The Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre (ARTC) is a contemporary platform built upon strong public-private partnerships to translate research into industry applications. It is led by the Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A*STAR), in partnership with the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore). By providing a collaborative platform that brings together industry players, public sector research institutes, and academia, ARTC bridges technological gaps in the adoption of advanced manufacturing and remanufacturing processes.



168. The Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech) develops high-value manufacturing technology and human capital to enhance the competitiveness of Singapore's manufacturing industry. It collaborates with various multinational and local companies in the fields of precision engineering, MedTech, aerospace, automotive, marine, oil & gas, electronics, semiconductors, logistics, and other sectors.

X. FOURTH QUARTER 2024 ACTIVITIES

Participation in the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2024



169. CACCI Secretariat executives Deputy Director-General Amador Honrado Jr. and Senior Officer Wenju Liao attended the ASEAN Business and Investment Forum (ASEAN BIS) 2024, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on October 7, 2024.

170. Spotlighting ASEAN as a key investment destination. Chaired by Lao PDR under the theme **“Enhancing Economic Connectivity and Resilience,”** the event gathered over 400 attendees, including, world leaders, CEOs, and senior executives from multinational and regional corporations.

171. Several of the participating world leaders, including Philippine President of Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Laos Sonexay Siphandone, Vice President of Indonesia Ma'ruf Amin, and Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, delivered keynote addresses.



172. ASEAN BIS serves as a platform to advance ASEAN's economic integration goals, showcasing investment opportunities that align with the region's vision of promoting stronger economic ties, sustainable development, and digital transformation.

173. The summit emphasized the importance of fostering resilience and connectivity within the region, empowering the business community to drive innovation, competitiveness, and creativity. Key discussions focused on six priority areas:

- a. Digital Transformation: Digital Transformation can boost ASEAN growth, empower MSMEs, and encourages responsible ethical tech use;
- b. Sustainable Development: Equitable access to clean energy, financial incentives, and renewables are key for Net Zero in Southeast Asia;
- c. Health Care Resilience: Prioritize on One ASEAN Healthcare Market, VTD R&D Manufacturing and de-risking private sector investment in healthcare;

- d. Food Security: Strengthen food security, promote sustainable production, enhance information systems, and identify nutrition-enhancing agricultural mechanisms for sustainable ASEAN food system;
- e. Trade and Investment Facilitation: Address intra-regional trade disparity by reducing Non-Tariff Barriers, balancing trade with partners, and exploring Free Trade Agreement upgrades;
- f. Connectivity and Supply Chain: Crucial role of connectivity in supporting an integrated ASEAN community building process and transforming from a land-locked to a land-linked country and connectivity hub.

50th Philippine Business Conference & Expo 2024



174. Representatives from the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) attended the 50th Philippine Business Conference & Expo (PBC&E) 2024 organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) on October 22-23, 2024 at the Marriott Hotel in Manila, Philippines.

175. The CACCI delegation was led by CACCI Vice President Dr. Alireza Yavari, Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu, Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr., Senior Officer Ms. Abby Moreno, and two representatives from the Middle East Commercial Association, namely GCC Local Market Manager Milad Hajhosseini and Digital Platforms Manager Mohammad Amin Emamian.



176. Focusing on the theme “Embracing Innovation, Empowering Business, Enriching Lives”, the 50th PBC&E 2024 explored sustainable growth strategies essential for businesses to thrive in today’s competitive landscape. A line-up of renowned speakers from both government and business sectors were invited to address significant industry concerns, particularly in such sectors as ICT, agriculture, science and innovation and tourism.

177. Breakout sessions were also held focusing on: (a) *Shaping the Future of Entrepreneurship through Dialogue with Entrepreneurs, Support Networks, and Policymakers*; (b) *Business Dispute Resolution: The Advantages and Benefits of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) under the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Dispute Resolution Services (DRS)*; (c) *Technology for Good – Scaling Sustainability and benefits for SMEs*.



Mr. Edwin Glindro, Deputy Secretary General of PCCI, and Ms. Lyn Gabionza, International Relations Department.

179. During the meeting, the CACCI visitors had the opportunity to introduce CACCI and its activities to Ms. Cagatan, and highlighted the important role played by PCCI in the founding of CACCI and its continued strong support of the Confederation and its activities. They also extended an invitation for Ms. Cagatan to participate in the upcoming 38th CACCI Conference scheduled to be held on November 11-12, 2024 in Singapore, with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) as host.

180. Ms. Cagatan made a presentation on the current economic situation in the Philippines, discussed the sectors in which foreign investments are encouraged by the government, and the pointed out the incentives offered to foreign investors. These include investments in activities that promote the following:



- Green ecosystems
- Health-related activities
- Defense-related activities
- Industrial Value-chain gaps
- Food Security related activities
- Research & development and activities adopting advances digital production technologies
- Highly technical manufacturing and production of innovative products and services
- Establishment of innovation support facilities

181. Dr. Yavari offered to disseminate to CACCI members the information contained in Ms. Cagatan's presentation to help attract investments in the Philippines from CACCI member countries. Ms. Cagatan expressed her appreciation to Dr. Yavari his kind offer.

Courtesy Call on MECO

182. CACCI Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on November 27 made a courtesy call on Atty Cheloy E. Velicaria-Garafil, the newly-appointed Chairperson and Resident Representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) in Taipei.

183. Also joining the meeting was Mr. Amador Honrado, Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado, Ms. Alice Visperas, MECO Deputy Resident Representative and Mr Anthony Rivera, Trade Representative and Director for Commercial Affairs, the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Taipei.



184. Dr. Chiu and Mr. Honrado introduced CACCI to Atty Garafil and the MECO officers, highlighting the important role played by the Philippines, through the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), in the founding of the Confederation and in the implementation of its various activities. They also informed the MECO officers of the offer of PCCI to host the Annual CACCI Conference in Manila in 2026, which marks the 60th anniversary of CACCI, and expressed their

hopes that the event will get the support from the Philippine government. Discussions also focused on possible areas of cooperation between CACCI and MECO, particularly in promoting investment in the Philippines not just from Taiwan but also from other CACCI member countries.

185. Atty. Garafil, who took over the position on October 1, 2024, succeeding Silvestre Hernando Bello III, was previously the Presidential Communications Office Secretary. MECO is the Philippines' unofficial embassy in Taiwan, serving as a link between the two countries in the absence of formal diplomatic relations.

2024 Taiwan-Philippines Industrial Collaboration Summit



186. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. on November 28 attended the 2024 Taiwan-Philippines Industrial Collaboration Summit jointly organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the Chinese National Federation of Industry (CNFI), and Institute for Information Industry (III) in Taipei, Taiwan.

187. Speeches on recent and planned collaborative efforts between the Philippines and Taiwan were made by representatives from the organizers including Mr. Clement Yang, Chairperson of the Philippine Affairs Committee, CNFI; Mr. Perry Ferrer, Executive Vice President, PCCI; and Dr. Luzviminda Jose, Chairperson of the Philippine- Chinese Business Council.

188. Remarks on the current Philippine-Taiwan economic and trade relations were also delivered by government officials from both the Philippines and Taiwan, including Mr. Jyh-Huei Kuo, Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan; Mr. Allan B. Gepty, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines; Mr. Wallace Chow, Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Manila; and Atty. Cheloy Valicaria-Garafil, Chairperson and Resident Representative, Manila Economic and Cultural Officer in Taipei.

189. The Summit also featured four break-out sessions involving a sharing of experiences and best practices by representatives from the two countries on the following areas: (a) Application of ICT Industry (Taiwan Semiconductor Development Experience and Intelligent Mg) ; (b) Innovative Technologies (Electric mobility ecosystem cooperation); (c) Industria/Smart Park (Development Trends of Smart Industrial Park); and (d) Electric (Policies and Development Achievements of Electric Vehicles).

Europe-Asia Economic Summit

190. CACCI has accepted the partnership offer for the inaugural Europe-Asia Economic Summit to be held on May 26-28, 2025 in Davos.



191. The Summit aims to primarily provide a platform for SMEs in Europe and Asia to come together to explore possible areas of cooperation, as well as

to listen to experts on the New AI Era and on Sustainable Development, topics which are also of current interest to CACCI members. For the Tentative Program of the Summit, please visit the following link: <https://www.eaesummit.com/index.php/schedules.html>

192. As partner organization, CACCI is primarily be requested to help promote the Summit to our members and possibly collaborate on content creation. There will be no financial obligation on the part of CACCI.

Nepal International Trade Fair 2024



193. The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) invited CACCI members to

participate in the 10th Nepal International Trade Fair (NITF 2024) scheduled to take place on 12-16 December 2024 in Kathmandu.



194. NITF 2024 is expected to bring a multitude of Nepalese and international business enterprises under one roof, allowing them to directly interact with local and international customers and their better business opportunities. The event aims to promote Nepal's international trade and enhance the growth of Nepalese exportable product base focusing on Nepal Trade Integration Strategy (NITS) identified products. NITF creates a one-stop platform for international participants to showcase their products and services among Nepalese buyers, sellers, and customers

WCF Europe & Asia Regional Summit



195. The ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) invited CACCI officers and members to attend the WCF Europe & Asia Regional Summit held on 15-16 October 2024 in Istanbul.

196. Focusing on the theme of “A Collaborative Approach to Climate Action,” the two-day Summit brought together chamber executives, business leaders, experts, and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to discuss and forge new paths toward effective climate action through collaboration. There were also opportunities for networking with business delegations from various countries in the region, as well as arrangement of B2B meetings.

197. ICC WCF is currently under the chairmanship of Mr. Rifat Hisaciklioglu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) as well as Vice President of CACCI

Participation in the WCF Global Economic Survey

198. CACCI members were invited by the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) to participate in its inaugural Global Economic Survey aimed at gathering insights from chambers executives on business climate and outlook in their country as well as key opportunities associated with climate change.

199. Specifically, the survey aims to find out from the chambers: (a) What are the biggest economic challenges facing businesses in their region, and (b) What are the biggest opportunities for businesses in their region.



200. According to the ICC WCF, the survey is a pivotal element of its broader strategy to develop real time data from our chamber network. It is designed to be both concise and accessible, encompassing key economic indicators and a dedicated focus on sustainability, in line with the central theme of the forthcoming WCF Summit: "A Collaborative Approach to Climate Action".

201. The findings were unveiled in October, aligning with the WCF Europe & Asia Summit in Istanbul, Türkiye on 15-16 October 2024, and expected to contribute to the global discourse on economic patterns and the challenges associated with the green transition, besides supporting ICC's policy work during COP 29.

WCF Task Force on Sustainability and Climate Action

202. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM received an invitation from the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) for CACCI to participate in the program of the WCF Task Force on Sustainability and Climate Action called **"Our Way Forward"**, which is designed to enhance the sustainability and climate resilience capacities of chambers of commerce through a structured and impactful approach.



203. The ICC WCF believes that CACCI's participation in the program will be instrumental in driving sustainable business practices and climate resilience within the community of our respective member chambers, and will not only benefit the environment but also enhance the economic and social impact of our constituent organizations. CACCI is a Permanent Member of the ICC WCF General Council, its governing body.

PECC State of the Region Survey

204. The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) requested CACCI members to participate in its State of the Region Survey.



205. In addition to the regular questions on the economic outlook and priorities for APEC, this year's PECC survey is focused on aging populations and its impact on growth and productivity. The results of the survey are reported to APEC and provide a useful input into the policy making process.

206. Founded in 1980, PECC brings together leading thinkers, and decision makers from government and business in an informal setting to discuss and formulate ideas on

the most significant challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. It regularly develops and advocates regional policy initiatives to aid in the stable economic development of the region.

Meeting with Incoming APEC Secretariat Executive Director



207. CACCI Secretariat executives led by Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on December 4 received Mr. Eduardo Pedrosa, the newly-appointed Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat, at the CACCI headquarters in Taipei. Mr. Pedrosa, who brings extensive experience in engaging stakeholders in international organizations, pointed out that a key priority for APEC this year has been assisting informal actors to transition to the formal and global economy.

He added that APEC is also expected to address a broader range of issues including sustainable and inclusive trade, with a particular focus on MSMEs, women, and indigenous people. He also cited the rapid adoption of digital technology which requires inputs from all sectors of society.

208. Dr. Darson informed Mr. Pedro that the priorities of APEC are very much aligned with those of CACCI. He explained that the platform for the next two years of the newly-elected CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin from Australia will continue under the theme of “helping business get SET for the future”, highlighting that Sustainability and Trade are two important elements of his program, and that the role of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking will be more critical in the coming period.