



Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

2025 Annual Report



The year just passed saw the Asia-Pacific region continuing to face formidable challenges – both economic and political – that significantly impacted the market environment. Indeed, the region's economies continued to navigate a challenging landscape, with a complex interplay of factors that could lead to instability and uneven growth. These included rising geopolitical tensions, China's economic slowdown, and the risks of financial stress and trade fragmentation. These challenges were exacerbated by issues like climate change, persistent inflation, and uneven economic growth across different countries and regions. Addressing these challenges required global cooperation and a focus on sustainable policies to promote inclusive and equitable development.

Amidst the many daunting challenges that the region faced over the past year, our Confederation remained committed to the principal goal of promoting regional cooperation among Asian businessmen. We continued to undertake activities aimed at achieving this important goal, foremost of which was the 39th CACCI Conference held on 10-11 November 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The theme of this year's Conference - namely, **Entrepreneurship in the Asian Century** - was indeed timely and relevant. Members recognized that the rising trend of new business ventures and innovative ideas flourishing within the rapidly growing economies of Asia are expected to play dominant role in the global economy throughout the 21st century, often called "the Asian Century." They underscored that the Asian Century is projected to be fueled by entrepreneurial activity, driving innovation, job creation, and economic development across the region.

CACCI believes that chambers of commerce and regional business organizations will have a role to play in helping their respective members address the challenges before them and in promoting the role of entrepreneurship in the sustainable growth of the region. The importance of business networking to encourage greater interaction among individual companies and business communities in the Asian region will be crucial to enable the Confederation and its members to go forward.

We therefore strive to continue undertaking activities aimed at helping each other to address challenges on the basis of consultation and coordination, to share our insights, build consensus, leverage on our comparative advantages to help in promoting development and prosperity in Asia and the world.

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

2025 Annual Report

1. This Report covers the activities of CACCI in the whole year of 2025. These activities were undertaken in compliance with the decisions made earlier by the CACCI Planning Committee and the CACCI Council and in line with CACCI's objectives.

I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 39th 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 39th 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 deemed 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 12, 2025 met virtually with Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane, President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCISL), and his team to discuss preparations for the 39th CACCI Conference to be co-organized by FCCISL in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- Among the decisions made during the meeting were the following:
 - Conference date - November 10-11
 - Conference venue - Cinnamon Life Hotel



4. As regards the Conference theme and topics, the Committee agreed that, based on the suggestions from members, the Conference should carry the theme **“Entrepreneurship in the Asian Century”**, with four Plenary Sessions focusing on the following issues of current concern to the region's business sector, namely:

Session One:	Current Market Trends: Navigating Uncertainties & Opportunities
Session Two:	Transforming Business Through Innovation and Technology
Session Three:	Ensuring Resiliency in the Regional Supply Chain
Session Four:	Achieving Inclusive and Resilient Growth for a Sustainable Future



5. It was also agreed that six Sectoral Plenary Sessions will be held covering: (1) SME Development, (2) Food & Agriculture, (3) ICT, (4) Tourism, (5) Entrepreneurship, and (6) Environment.



(headed by Mr. Gunawardane) 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.

6. Following the Planning Committee Meeting, a series of regular preparatory online meetings were held between the FCCISL organizing team

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 40TH CACCI CONFERENCE



Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
The Voice of Business

7. During the past year, the CACCI Secretariat held several online meetings with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) to discuss preliminary preparations for the 40th CACCI

Conference to be held in Manila in 2026, which marks the 60th Anniversary of CACCI since its founding in 1966. Among the points of discussion were the materials for presentation during the Sri Lanka Conference in November, the preliminary Conference theme and topics, and the possible Conference dates and venue.

III. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

8. CACCI participated in events and activities organized by other organizations during the year. These included the following:

A. CoNGO

Participation in 2025 RCAP Meeting in Bangkok



9. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado participated in the meeting of the CoNGO Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) held on April 25-26 in Bangkok.

10. An independent, non-profit membership association of international NGOs with general consultative status with the UN, CoNGO facilitates the participation of NGOs in the UN debates and decision-making. CACCI has been a member of CoNGO since 1979, contributing to important discussions and advocating for inclusive and sustainable growth.



11. The RCAP meeting featured reports by regional, national or local implementation by Asia-Pacific NGOs/CSOs of their respective activities to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals that are up for review this year at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held in New York on July 14-23, 2025. This year the HLPF theme is “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”.



12. In preparation for its attendance in the RCAP 2025 meeting in Bangkok, CACCI submitted a paper summarizing the implementation of its activities on SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), particularly the launching of the Asia Pacific Green Alliance Initiative, which aims to empower companies, especially SMES, with simplified actionability sustainability tools, and the conduct of a survey aimed at understanding the needs and challenges faced by SMEs in transitioning their businesses or organizations toward net-zero gain. Mr. Honrado presented a summary of the paper during the first day of the RCAP meeting in Bangkok.



Initiative.

13. On the second day of the meeting, Ms. Clara Kwan, Chief Sustainability Officer, Singapore Manufacturing Federation, and in-charge of the Asia Pacific Green Alliance Initiative, joined the Panel Discussion. As panelist, Ms. Kwan made a presentation on “Greening Growth: Accelerating Sustainable Manufacturing Across Asia-Pacific”, further stressing the objectives and the benefits of the APAC-GA, and encouraging the meeting participants to join the



Nomination of CACCI as Member of the CoNGO Board for Next Term

14. Following the Bangkok Meeting, CACCI was nominated by the Union of International Associations, a full member of CoNGO, to be a member of the Board of CoNGO for the next term from October 2025 to 2028. The nomination was seconded by four other CoNGO members. Thereafter, during the CoNGO General Assembly on October 29 in New York, CACCI was elected to the CoNGO Board for the next term.

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York

15. CACCI participated in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) convened from July 14 to 24, 2025, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Forum included a three-day Ministerial



segment held from July 21 to 23 under the theme, UN@80: Catalyzing Change. As an NGO holding consultative (roster) status with ECOSOC, CACCI gains access to high-level UN dialogues and policy forums, enabling active engagement in global discussions.

16. As the UN's central platform reviewing progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the HLPF brought together over 6,000 in-person participants, including governments, youth, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders—all focused on sharing experiences and scaling innovative, inclusive solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

17. This year's theme was: “*Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind.*” With an in-depth review of five SDGs:

- SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 5 - Gender Equality
- SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 14 - Life Below Water
- SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals



18. In parallel with the HLPF and the Ministerial Segment, CACCI co-hosted a side event titled “**Code Blue: Digital Solutions for a Changing Ocean**,” in collaboration with the International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF) and the STUF United Fund (World Taiwan Foundation).

19. CACCI also participated in a side event titled “*Strategies to Ensure Sustainable Economic Growth through Disaster Risk Reduction*,” co-organized by the governments of Japan and Thailand, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

20. CACCI's engagement in these forums delivered tangible value—enhancing the Chamber's visibility, influence, and insights in global discussions. It facilitated meaningful partnerships that promote sustainable trade and investment growth.



CACCI's Endorsement of Statement on Women



21. As requested by CoNGO, CACCI endorsed the International Women's Day 2025 Statement on women and artificial intelligence. This endorsement reaffirmed CACCI's long-standing commitment to promoting women's economic empowerment and gender equality throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

22. Initiated by Soroptimist International and joined by CoNGO, the statement called on governments to take action to ensure that all women and girls can thrive in an increasingly technological and digitized world where artificial intelligence is becoming more dominant and a catalyst for lasting change. It stresses that while artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies present new opportunities, we must not overlook the risks tied to their rapid development. Indeed, the misuse of technology, including AI, intensifies the dangers that women and girls encounter daily.

23. The statement urged governments worldwide to ensure the safety of all women and girls online and offline. Implementing these recommendations would guarantee that all women and girls can thrive in an increasingly technological and digitalised world, where AI is becoming more dominant and a catalyst for lasting change. The statement was submitted to the UN Secretary-General, the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Women officials, and other relevant UN offices worldwide.

B. ICC WORLD CHAMBERS FEDERATION

CACCI President's Membership in the ICC WCF General Council for 2025-2028



24. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM was appointed member of the ICC WCF General Council for 2025-2028, representing Transnational Chambers. With his solid business background and strong commitment to the chamber movement, having been actively involved in CACCI as office-bearer for the past many years, as well as WCF Vice Chairman for Southeast Asia and Oceania, Mr. McMullin was considered an ideal candidate for this important position.

25. The platform of Mr. McMullin's CACCI Presidency has focused, and will continue to focus, on the three-pronged theme of Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Trade. He supports SMEs in their efforts to reach NetZero as soon as possible. He strongly promotes entrepreneurship in the region, particularly the development of young entrepreneurs. He also believes in trade as a key pillar in every chamber work.





ICC WCF One Click Roadshow

26. CACCI coordinated with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in organizing on March 27 a webinar for CACCI members aimed at introducing **ICC One Click**, provides easy access to trade resources, providing support to expand into new markets, guidance for cross-border trade and tips to increase your global competitiveness.

27. Thereafter, CACCI coordinated with ICC in promoting to CACCI Members the Roadshow being conducted by ICC on the **ICC One Click**, The Roadshow aims to further to interested member chambers the benefits of ICC One Click for the businesses of their respective constituencies, particularly starting to reach out into the export market.



2nd WCF Global Economic Survey



28. CACCI was invited by the ICC World Chambers Federation to request CACCI member chambers to participate in its 2nd Global Economic Survey aimed at finding out:

- (a) What are the biggest economic challenges facing businesses in their region; and
- (b) What are the biggest opportunities for businesses in their region?

Online Session of the WCF Women Entrepreneur Council



29. CACCI members were invited by ICC WCF to participate in the online session of the WCF Women's Council held on 28 May 2025. The agenda featured presentations by invited women speakers on women empowerment programs being implemented by their respective organizations.

30. The WCF Women's Council is a forum for WCF members – men and women – to exchange ideas and information on best practices, initiatives, tools and services, championed by chambers of commerce, to promote the empowerment of women.

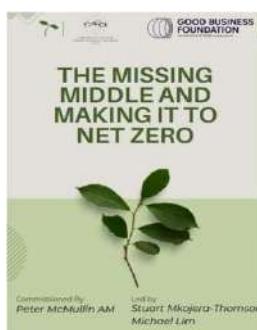


Submission of Entry for the World Chambers Competitions



31. CACCI submitted an entry to this year's ICC WCF World Chambers Competition the survey it conducted late last year jointly with the Good Business Foundation aimed at learning the support needed by chambers of commerce and their respective constituencies, composed mostly of SMEs, in achieving NetZero. The survey was conducted prior to the formal launching of the Asia Pacific Green Alliance during the 38th CACCI Conference held in November 2024 in Singapore.

32. An initiative of the ICC WCF and an integral part of the World Chambers Congress, the World Chambers Competition is the only global award that recognises the most innovative projects undertaken by chambers of commerce and industry. In highlighting the success of local initiatives, the Competition serves to inspire the creation of pioneering and beneficial chamber solutions for business communities worldwide.



33. The CACCI survey was entered under the “**Best green transition project**” category, which recognizes chambers that have taken proactive steps to advance green transition projects. Whether through innovative technologies, strategic partnerships, policy interventions, or community engagement, these projects should showcase tangible results in reducing pollution, preserving natural resources for people and our planet while supporting economic prosperity.

34. The CACCI study aimed at getting a better understanding of the needs and challenges faced by SMEs in transitioning their businesses or organizations toward net-zero goals. Conducted through interviews, the study also sought to gather insights and suggestions on how CACCI can provide effective support in this transition.

35. The study took in the views of business owners from 10 countries from the CACCI network. The guiding research question was: How might chambers of commerce support entrepreneurs and SMEs to respond to the environmental sustainability imperatives, so that they are able to remain competitive and grow into the future?



Webinar on “Stronger Together in Emergencies”



36. CACCI members were invited by the ICC WCF in the latter's webinar entitled **“Stronger Together in Emergencies”** held on 16 October 2025 and later on 20 November. The webinar aimed to explore recommendations, actions, case studies and tools to build SME resilience, ensure business continuity, and address the critical business needs gap in existing disaster readiness programmes.

Sharing of Useful Information from ICC WCF

37. The CACCI Secretariat disseminated to CACCI officers and members the following materials shared by the ICC World Chambers Federation deemed useful to their respective chambers and other constituencies:

- **ICC Chamber Benchmarking Tool:** This free tool for ICC WCF chamber members, developed with Dubai Chambers, allows chambers to assess their operations, compare regionally and internationally, and access best practices and case studies.
- **Together in Emergencies Guide:** An updated publication on disaster preparedness and response, available to all. This guide is especially timely for chambers in regions prone to natural disasters.
- **2025 Global Chamber Survey (ICC Pulse):** The latest report is now available and can be shared with CACCI's network or published in members' newsletter.

C. ICCD

38. CACCI Secretariat executives led by Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu had an online meeting on October 16 with officers of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) led by Ms. Hana Bishr, Associate, Member Relations Management, Regional Office.



ال Chamber of Commerce and Development
Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development
Chambre Islamique de Commerce et de Développement

39. The meeting provided opportunity for both sides to introduce their respective organizations and the activities they undertake to achieve their objectives, and explored possible areas of future collaboration. Dr. Chiu took the opportunity to invite Ms. Bishr to attend the 39th CACCI Conference in Sri Lanka in November to enable her to personally meet CACCI officers and members and know more about CACCI.



D. ASEAN

ASEAN Conference and ASEANNext Forum



40. CACCI was invited by the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Council under the Singapore Business Federation to attend the **ASEAN Conference and ASEANNext Forum** held on 2-3 July 2025 in Singapore.

41. Themed '**ASEAN Integration in a Multipolar World**', the Conference featured a series of high-level discussions examining how ASEAN can strengthen its relevance and cohesion amid rapidly shifting geopolitical and macroeconomic currents.

42. Prior to the main conference, two key events on 2 July laid the groundwork for cross-sector dialogue and collaboration. The inaugural ASEANNext Forum brought together over 120 young entrepreneurs and emerging leaders from the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Council and other regional networks across 16 countries. This dedicated platform for next-generation changemakers enabled a vibrant exchange on unlocking ASEAN's trade potential and developing the geopolitical capabilities of future leaders. The forum also featured insights from pioneering members of Singapore's business community, offering mentorship and inspiration to ASEAN's rising leadership cohort.



43. CACCI President Peter McMullin AM led the CACCI delegation composed of Mr. Stuart Thomson, Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Ms. Teresa Liu, Senior Officer that attended the gathering. Mr. McMullin joined the discussion on the region's strategic positioning amid shifts in the regional and global markets, and exchanged ideas with business leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers on how to foster collaboration and help shape the future of business in the region.

44. Moderated by Theodore Khng from Singapore and joined by his fellow panelist from Indonesia, Fathul Nugroho, President McMullin spoke on a 2-hour panel that covered a range of important topics impacting the Asia-Pacific region, including the role of young ASEAN entrepreneurs.



45. As CACCI President, Mr. McMullin spoke on the following points:

- **Young entrepreneurs are the future to achieving sustainability.** They bring a new mindset where they view their business as a vehicle to achieving social change, not as something separate.



- **The wrestle between being sustainable and making money.** This is dynamic struggle many entrepreneurs are facing: including the impact of tariffs, geopolitical tensions, and escalating regional conflict.
- **There are fantastic innovations across ASEAN we can learn from.** From the Green Alliance in Singapore, to initiatives in Indonesia, Cambodia, Brunei, and Japan, this region (and its partner) are leading change across the world.
- **The rise of Timor-Leste on the international stage.** As it is scheduled to join as member of ASEAN this year, Timor-Leste faces several challenges one of which is its young population that need learning and employment pathways.



46. A group of officers and members led by Mr. Hiromi Aoki, Chairman, YEGAP had an exclusive meeting with Ms. Ee Rong Chong, Chairperson of the Young Business Leaders Network (YBLN) under Singapore Business Federation (SBF), along with fellow YBLN officers. The meeting served as a valuable platform for both organizations to explore deeper engagement and collaboration across the region.

47. Discussions focused on identifying areas of mutual strategic interest, particularly in empowering the next generation of business leaders in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific. A key highlight of the conversation was the joint consideration of launching a “Lighthouse Project”, aimed at showcasing innovative, high-impact entrepreneurship models through joint programming, mentorship, and cross-border exchange.

48. Both parties also agreed to work toward calendar alignment, allowing their respective members to support and participate in each other’s events, training sessions, and flagship activities. This commitment to mutual support signals a strong foundation for a long-term partnership between YEGAP and YBLN, with a shared vision of cultivating a connected and forward-looking regional entrepreneurial ecosystem.





Session on the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade Negotiations



49. As Associate Member of the Joint Business Councils (JBCs) of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC), CACCI was invited by the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore to attend the Session to Update JBCs on the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade Negotiations held virtually on 2 May 2025. Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of the SME Development Council, represented CACCI in the session.



50. The topics covered during the session discussion included: Trade and Sustainable Development, Transparency in ASEAN FTAs, Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism, Enhancement of National Treatment and Market Access, Enhancements in the Rules of Origin, Enhancements in Customs Procedure and Trade Facilitation, Enhancements in Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures, and Enhancements in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

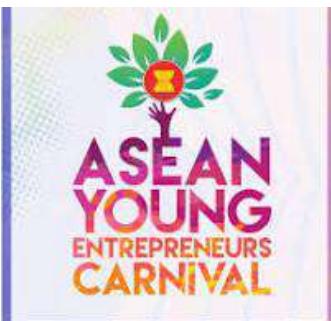
Regional Socialisation of the AEC Strategic Plan

51. CACCI was invited to participate in the **Regional Socialisation of the AEC Strategic Plan** held on 12 June 2025 at the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This event marked a key milestone in ASEAN's economic integration journey, as it officially launched the AEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030—the successor to the AEC Blueprint 2025. The Strategic Plan will serve as a guiding document for the AEC and its sectoral bodies in advancing an Action-Oriented, Sustainable, Enterprising, Adaptable, Nimble, and Inclusive ASEAN in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.



ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival

52. The Chairman and members of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP) were invited to attend the 10th ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival (10th AYEC) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14-16 October 2025.



53. The AYEC is the region's premier platform for fostering entrepreneurial collaboration, innovation, and networking among young business leaders from all ASEAN member states. This year's theme, "**Connecting ASEAN, Creating Global Change**", aligns closely with regional efforts to strengthen economic integration, promote sustainable industries, and empower the next generation of entrepreneurs.

54. The event brought together over 300 international delegates comprising entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors, and thought leaders from across ASEAN and beyond – including CACCI YEGAP members – shared their insights and visions for the future of Asia. It featured keynote sessions, business matching opportunities, panel discussions, and exhibitions showcasing innovative products and services.



Representatives of YEGAP from Japan, Cambodia, and the Philippines took part as panelists in the discussion sessions.





ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2025



<https://abis.aseanbac.com.my/>

shape the future of ASEAN's economy.

55. CACCI was invited to attend the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) that took place on 25-26 October 2025 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) in Kuala Lumpur, alongside the 47th ASEAN Summit. Hosted by ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), this flagship event brought together 1,000 global leaders, CEOs, and top executives to

56. The 2025 Summit came at a time when the region faces growing complexity-economic fragmentation, climate volatility, digital disruption, and widening inequality. These challenges demand not only national resilience but also regional coherence. The theme for this year, '**Unifying Markets for Shared Prosperity**', reflected ASEAN's urgent need to accelerate economic integration and strengthen its position as a resilient, fast-growing, and forward-looking economic bloc. This year's programme supported ASEAN BAC's 2025 priorities, focusing on deeper regional integration through initiatives such as the ASEAN Business Entity, enhanced intra-ASEAN capital flows, and the facilitation of cross-border movement of people and goods.

57. The Summit explored how ASEAN can strengthen business-to-business collaboration, promote a more cohesive ASEAN identity, and embed greater inclusion through support for MSMEs, equal opportunity, and workforce development. It also addressed regulatory challenges and initiate a regional conversation on collaborating to fully leverage AI for ASEAN.

58. The Opening Keynote Address was delivered by The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chair of ASEAN 2025. As in previous ASEAN Business and Investment Summits, the Presidents and Prime Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners, including Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, the Philippines and the United States of America were expected to attend.



E. APEC

APEC CEO Summit Korea 2025



59. CACCI was invited to take part in the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit Korea 2025, which took place in Gyeongju, Korea, from October 28 to 31. Representing the CACCI Secretariat at the Summit was Senior Officer Ms. Wenju Liao.

60. The APEC CEO Summit is the most significant business event that occurs concurrently with the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. It brings together global CEOs, as well as leaders from the APEC member economies, to participate in high-level discussions on critical global economic issues.

61. The APEC CEO Summit Korea 2025 commenced with a welcome reception on the evening of October 28, followed by three days of discussions centered around the theme "**Bridge, Business, Beyond,**" offering insights on the global economy and key industry trends, including artificial intelligence, energy transition, and the growing influence of Korean soft power.



62. This year's Summit also featured a range of side events, including the Future-Tech Forum, which highlighted Korea's strengths in key industries; the K-Tech Showcase, where cutting-edge Korean technologies were presented to global leaders to foster collaboration; the Spouse Program, offering cultural and artistic experiences for accompanying guests; and the Wine & Traditional Spirits Fair, celebrating traditional

liquors from across the region — offering an elegant ambiance for informal networking and cultural exchange.

F. PECC



63. The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) requested CACCI for the participation of its officers and members in its PECC State of the Region Survey 2025. The survey sought to gauge regional views on issues affecting Asia-Pacific economic cooperation. In addition to questions on the economic outlook and risk to growth, this year's survey focused on trade policies in a disrupted world and the impact on the region. The objective of the survey was to provide a sense of priority for policymakers on the many issues being addressed.

64. The PECC is a tripartite partnership of senior individuals from business and industry, government, academic and other intellectual circles. All participate in their private capacity and discuss current, practical policy issues of the Asia Pacific region. Established in 1980, the PECC has various Member Committees, each of which brings together leading thinkers and decision makers from government and business to discuss and formulate ideas on the most significant challenges facing the Asia Pacific.

IV. EVENTS OF CACCI MEMBERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Japan YEG National Convention in Japan



65. CACCI participated in the 44th Japan YEG National Convention that took place in Kurume, Fukuoka, on February 14-15, 2025, gathering young entrepreneurs from across Japan and international delegates from various youth business organizations. CACCI was represented by Senior Officers Teresa Liu and Abby Moreno, who actively participated in key discussions and networking sessions.

66. One of the activities during the two-day event was the Joint Chairperson Meeting that brought together representatives from Japan YEG and various foreign business organizations to discuss the role of youth economic organizations in the international community.

67. During this meeting, Teresa Liu delivered CACCI's perspective on the theme "*What roles should youth economic organizations fulfill in the international community?*" She emphasized three key roles:

- Amplifying the Voice of the Region's Entrepreneurs – Engaging with platforms like APEC, ASEAN, and the B20 to ensure young business leaders have a seat at the table when major economic decisions are made
- Enhancing Knowledge and Skills – Expanding access to training, mentorship, and new ideas to help young entrepreneurs stay ahead in an evolving business landscape
- Building Stronger Regional and Global Connections – Strengthening cross-border partnerships and networks to create new opportunities for collaboration and growth

68. The remarks were well received, with multiple delegates also echoing CACCI's points on fostering stronger international collaboration. The discussion also included input from other foreign representatives who shared their perspectives on the role of



entrepreneurship in economic development.

69. The 44th Japan YEG National Convention successfully fostered international dialogue, encouraged cross-border collaboration, and reinforced the role of youth economic organizations in driving economic progress. CACCI's active participation further strengthened ties with Japan YEG and other business groups, paving the way for future partnerships.

PCCI's Philippine Business Conference & Expo 2025



70. CACCI was invited by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) to attend the 51st Philippine Business Conference & Expo (PBC&E), which was positioned as the country's most influential gathering of business leaders,

policymakers, and technology innovators to accelerate digital transformation across industries.

71. The two-day event, held on 20 and 21 October at the SMX Convention Center Manila, focused on the theme **“The Future is Now: Unleash the Power of Digital Transformation.”** This year's edition was designed to deliver not just discussions, but actionable solutions that will help enterprises – particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) – thrive in a digital economy.

72. Key government agencies were invited to unveil priority digital programs during the conference. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) presented technology-powered disaster recovery and preparedness initiatives, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) highlighted digital infrastructure projects, while the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) showcased MSME readiness tools to help small businesses scale through digital platforms.

73. On the private sector side, multinational tech firms and local champions featured enterprise solutions ranging from artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and robotics to smart city systems, cloud services, and cybersecurity. Industry leaders like Huawei, Google, Tencent Cloud, Converge, Lenovo, and San Miguel Corporation were among the lineup of exhibitors.

74. The PBC&E Tech Showcase served as a platform for businesses to engage directly with solutions providers, creating opportunities for partnerships and investments. Global firms such as Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, Adobe, Dell Technologies, VMware by Broadcom, and Zoom demonstrated how digital tools can improve productivity and competitiveness across industries.



FICCI Leads 2025



on 10-11 September 2025 in New Delhi, India.

75. CACCI was invited by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to be an Institutional Partner of the 4th Edition of FICCI LEADS organized by FICCI

Participation in Asian ICT Council Forum in Taipei



76. Carrying the theme **“Collaborations for Growth in a Transformative World”**, FICCI LEADS 2025 brought together thought leaders, policymakers, industry experts, change-makers from across the globe to discuss innovative solutions and strategic partnerships that can drive sustainable growth in today's rapidly evolving landscape. As Institutional Partner, CACCI was offered complimentary registration for its members attending the event.



77. CACCI was invited to be a co-organizer of the 2025 Asia Connect Forum held on March 20 by the Foundation for Commerce and Culture Interchange (FCCI) headed by Dr. Dennis Hu, Chairman of the CACCI Asian ICT Council.

CACCI Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu was one of those who gave the Welcome Remarks during the Forum. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM also gave his Welcome Remarks through a pre-recorded video.



78. Focusing on the theme “**The Age of Digital Convergence – Startups & Innovation Cooperating in Asia Pacific**,” the Forum gathered industry leaders, startup founders, and policy experts from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore innovation and collaboration in the age of digital convergence. The forum highlighted startup ecosystem development, international partnerships, and market expansion opportunities. Esteemed speakers from Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Japan, India, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Taiwan shared insights on startup trends and cross-border collaboration opportunities.

Elite Development Programme for the New Century 2025



79. The Kowloon Chamber of Commerce invited CACCI and its members to join the Chamber’s pioneering project “**Elite Development Programme for the New Century 2025**” which aimed to empower future business leaders and explore students’ networking worldwide. The Programme provided the participants the opportunity to know more about different university elites from all over the world; and empower them to become future business leaders.

Europe-Asia Economic Summit



80. CACCI continued coordinating with Europe-Asia Economic Society (EAES) on CACCI’s participation in its inaugural Europe-Asia Economic Summit held on May 26-28, 2025 in Davos. The Summit aimed 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. As partner organization, CACCI was primarily requested to help promote the Summit to its members.



ICCTM



The banner for the 'EXCLUSIVE INFO SESSION FOR CONFEDERATION OF ASIA-PACIFIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (CACCI)' features the logos of the International Centre for Trade Transparency (ICTTM) and ADAMftd. It includes a brief description of the session, key takeaways, speakers, and a registration link.

Key Takeaways:
1. Instantly access global trade data and trends
2. Ensure compliance with international trade regulations
3. Gain actionable insights to drive business growth

Speakers:
James York - CEO, ICTTM & ADAMftd
Ron Nolasco - Global Outreach Manager
Orys Connor - Head of Customer Success

[Register now to save your spot!](#)

International Centre for
Trade Transparency
& Monitoring
icttm.org



regulations, and assisting them in identifying new international markets. The holding of the webinar was in implementation of the MOU signed between CACCI and ICTTM providing access to CACCI members to the software system.

81. The CACCI Secretariat coordinated with the International Centre for Trade Transparency and Monitoring Limited (ICTTM) on the holding of a webinar on February 6 aimed at providing CACCI member chambers an update on ADAMftd, a software system aimed at enhancing transparency and compliance in international trade.



83. Following the webinar, CACCI provided a link to member chambers that will enable them to claim their free account and time, and receive the benefits provided under the terms of CACCI's MOU with ICCTM. The ITC and ICTT offered CACCI the opportunity to embed this live, ever-changing tariff data directly on its website at no cost. This will:

- Equip CACCI members with critical insights to make informed market decisions
- Drive targeted traffic as exporters and importers search for real-time tariff rates
- Re-affirm the role of CACCI as a leader in digital trade innovation

84. The comprehensive analytics platform aims to provide:

- Exact identification of global buyers and suppliers (with data sourced from billions of original shipping documents)
- Demand, seasonality, and pricing trends - with micro-level details at individual shipment level
- Company information on every importer and exporter making a shipment, their trade partners and complete supply chains
- Live, continually updated data - with pinpoint accuracy of exact market prices and demand for any product - anywhere in the world



Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW)



85. CACCI was invited to be a Supporting Association of a number of the partner events of this year's Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) held on 29-30 October in Singapore. These side events included the Asian Downstream Summit (ADS), Asian Refining Technology Conference (ARTC), and Ammonia & Carbon Capture Asia (ACCA), which are all organized by Clarion Events Asia Pte. Ltd.

86. These partner events of SIEW aimed at providing an opportunity to focus on industry specific topics. They were designed to unite the region's downstream, refining, petrochemicals, and low-carbon solutions community.

87. SIEW itself is organized annually by the Singapore Energy Market Authority (EMA), a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. SIEW is an annual event of which CACCI has been a Supporting Organization for the past few years. It serves as an annual platform for energy professionals, policymakers and commentators to share best practices and solutions within the global energy space.



Dinner Talk on Energy and Resources: CACCI Director-General Visits Australian Representative



88. On June 12, 2025, Dr. Darson Chiu, Director-General of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), was invited to a dinner meeting at the official residence of Mr. Robert Fergusson, Representative of the Australian Office in Taipei. The discussion focused on strengthening resilience in Australia's mining and energy supply chains—sectors of increasing strategic importance.

89. Both parties exchanged views on regional cooperation and agreed that, given its rich mineral and resource base, Australia is well-positioned to play a vital role in supporting the energy needs of the Asia-Pacific region. They also acknowledged CACCI's potential as a platform to foster collaboration. Dr. Chiu further introduced the upcoming CACCI Presidential Visit to Melbourne, and Mr. Fergusson expressed readiness to provide support and coordination.



V. CACCI INVESTMENT FORUM SERIES



90. The CACCI Secretariat approached CACCI member chambers in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Pakistan, Mongolia, and Japan to participate in this year's Investment Forum Series of CACCI. The Investment Forum Series consists of webinars that feature special one-hour country presentations by member chambers from selected CACCI member countries.

91. The country presentations were intended to provide the presenting member chambers the opportunity to share information about the market conditions and business opportunities in their respective countries. The country presenters were also requested to cover their organizations' activities and services that have benefited their constituencies or the community they serve and may be adapted by member chambers from other countries.

Investment Forum on Japan



92. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) held a webinar on "Current Japanese Economy Status and Business Opportunities" on 23 May 2025.

93. Moderated by Dr. Darson Chiu, CACCI Director General, the 60-minute webinar featured Mr. Kengo Nakayama, Senior Economist, Corporate Planning Division, Economic Research Office at MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Mr. Takeo Nakajima, Director-General, Innovation Department at Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

94. Mr. Peter McMullin AM, CACCI President delivered the Opening Remarks of the session, followed by Mr. Tetsuya Matsuoka, Deputy General Manager, International Division at Japan/ Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI/ TCCI) who delivered the Welcome Remarks.





Investment Forum on Pakistan



95. The webinar on “Pakistan’s Business Opportunities,” co-organized by CACCI and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) was successfully held on 18 April 2025.

96. The webinar showcased the country’s investment potential and ongoing economic reforms. Dr. Darson Chiu delivered the opening remarks in his capacity as Director General of CACCI, highlighting Pakistan’s strategic location, youthful population, and the importance of fostering regional cooperation through initiatives such as this webinar.

97. The main presentation was delivered by FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh, who provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan’s macroeconomic landscape and investment environment. Key sectors identified by Mr. Atif for foreign investment include agriculture and food processing, logistics, textiles, automobiles, information technology, housing and construction, tourism, and renewable energy.

Investment Forum on Sri Lanka



98. CACCI and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) jointly conducted webinar on “**Sri Lanka’s Business Opportunities**” held on 23 October 2025 at 2PM Sri Lanka Time (4:30PM Taipei time.)

99. Moderated by FCCISL President Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane, the 60-minute webinar featured two expert speakers:

- Mr. Revan P. Wickramasuriya, CFA, CIMA, Director General of the Port City Sri Lanka, who explained the current business and financial conditions in the country, and
- Mrs. Renuka M Weerakone, Director General of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, who discussed the investment environment and opportunities in Sri Lanka.





VI. WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Webinar on the Green Alliance Initiative



100. CACCI and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation held a webinar on **“The Green Alliance: Latest Developments”**, on 26 February 2025.

101. Moderated by Michael Lim, Founder, Launch Hero Digital Marketing Agency and Member, Executive Committee of CACCI YEGAP, the 60-minute webinar

featured Clara Kwan, SMF Sustainability Officer, in a panel conversation with two other distinguished guests, Lennon Tan, SMF President and CACCI Vice President for Sustainability, and Stuart Thomson, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Good Business Foundation ad CACCI Vice President for Entrepreneurship.



102. The February 26 webinar aimed to encourage CACCI member chambers and their respective constituencies, composed mostly of SMEs, to take an active participation in the Initiative, highlighting the benefits that they and their respective businesses can derive from their involvement in it.

Workshop on Incoterms



103. As in previous years, the CACCI Secretariat coordinated with its Knowledge Partner Mr. Pavel Andrl from the ICC Banking Commission on the conduct of workshops on **“International Business Practices (Incoterms)”** organized jointly with selected member chambers in 2025.

104. Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) organized a two-day seminar on **“Advanced Seminar on International Sales Contract, Payment and**

Security Tools in Foreign Trade 2025, ESG, Compliance” in cooperation with CACCI on 13-14 May 2025 in Hanoi and on 15-16 May 2025 in Ho Chi Minh City.

105. The well-attended training sessions were conducted by Pavel Andrl, an international trainer and consultant, long-time member of **Incoterms® 2020** ICC Banking Commission and Commission on Commercial Law and Practice, in conjunction with local Vietnamese lecturers.





TOBB-TEPAV Webinar on the Changing Technology Landscape



106. The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkiye (TEPAV), which is the economic thinktank of the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Commodities of Turkiye (TOBB) – a CACCI Primary Member – held a highly informative webinar on **“Competing and Cooperating in the Asia-Pacific Region Amid a Changing Technology Landscape”** on

December 2, 2025.

107. The 60-minute session featured as speakers Dr. Güven Sak, Managing Director of TEPAV; Ms. Selin Arslanhan, Innovation Studies Program at TEPAV; and Ms. Sibel Güven, Sustainability Governance Program at TEPAV.

108. The webinar essentially analyzed CACCI’s positioning in the global technology landscape and outlined actionable policy recommendations for cooperation. In their presentations, the three speakers led by Dr Sak highlighted the following:

- The global landscape has undergone a profound transformation, with technology now central to both economic competitiveness and geopolitical power. As the global technology race intensifies, technological capability has become a dual force: a source of strategic advantage and systemic vulnerability.
- These trends call for new models of regional cooperation that can balance strategic competition with deeper collaboration. Within this evolving context, CACCI stands out as a diverse and heterogeneous network of economies, differing in scientific and technological capacity, industrial strength, and market scale. While CACCI’s high-tech exports have expanded significantly, this growth has yet to translate into technological sovereignty and readiness for frontier technologies.
- CACCI’s diversity and heterogeneity are strategic assets when leveraged through complementary specialization, fostering innovation, technology transfer, and market scaling across the region. Key policy proposals include establishing a CACCI Strategic Foresight Alliance, promoting joint R&D partnerships and a CACCI Technology Investment Fund, and aligning regional standards and certification for critical technologies.
- Together, these measures aim to bridge the gap between scientific capability and industrial strength and to position CACCI as a proactive actor in shaping a resilient, balanced, and interconnected Asia-Pacific technology ecosystem.



VII. CACCI PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

109. CACCI President Peter McMullin organized delegations to join him in his Presidential visits planned for the rest of the year. The CACCI Presidential aims to provide the CACCI President and members of his delegation the opportunity to gather first-hand information on the business situation in the host country; to further build up the image of CACCI by making courtesy calls on officials of relevant government agencies of the host country, and to meet with local businesspersons and explore opportunities for possible business cooperation.

Japan Visit



110. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM and representatives from various CACCI Primary Members visited Osaka, Japan on 1-3 June 2025 to meet with officers and members of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), and the Japan Young Entrepreneurs Group (Japan YEG), primarily to network with each other and share their views on current global and regional economic situation and explore possible areas of business cooperation.

111. The visit also allowed the CACCI delegation to visit the Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai, one of world's most anticipated global events, providing them the opportunity to experience the cutting-edge innovation that were on display in the various country pavilions.

112. The delegation to Osaka was composed mostly of 25 chamber executives and businessmen from 11 CACCI member countries looking at possible business and investment opportunities in Japan or considering expansion of their existing businesses in the country, as well as to explore the possibility of attracting Japanese businesses to consider the market of their respective countries.



113. Members of the CACCI Presidential visit delegation and of Japan YEG attended the dinner co-hosted by CACCI President Mr. McMullin and YEGAP Chairman Mr. Aoki. Held at the Blue Birds Rooftop Terrace at The Landmark Osaka Square situated right beside the historical Osaka Castle, one of Japan's most famous landmarks, the welcome dinner provided the attendees the opportunity to introduce themselves to each other and to know more of their businesses and their other interests. The welcome dinner also marked the launching of the Good Business Network (GBN) founded by Mr. McMullin that aims to bring



together businesspeople and encourage them not only to make money but also to undertake initiatives and activities focused on different aspects of social good.

Meeting with the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



114. As the first activity for Day One Program of the visit, Mr. McMullin and his delegation went to the headquarters of Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where they were met by the officers and members of the Chamber led by Vice Chairman Mr. Gyo Sagara and President Mr. Setsuo Iuchi.

115. In his Welcome Remarks, Vice Chairman Sagara noted that given the currently difficult economic and geo-political situation globally, it is important for business organizations such as CACCI and OCCI to explore possible areas of collaboration to help enterprises overcome various challenges over time.

116. In response, Mr. McMullin thanked Osaka CCI and its officers Vice-Chair Gyo Sagara and President Setsuo Iuchi for receiving the CACCI delegation at the Chamber's headquarters in Osaka. He also expressed appreciation to Osaka CCI for helping organize the CACCI Presidential visit to Osaka which coincides with the 2025 Osaka Expo.



Memorandum of Agreement Signing Ceremony



117. Following the meeting with OCCI, the CACCI delegation proceeded to the ATC Hall to attend the formal signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Agreements between YEGAP and the following Young Entrepreneurs Group from other Asian countries:

- Young Entrepreneurs Association Brunei
- Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia
- Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association

Asian Youth Economic Organizations Exchange Program



118. The delegation then proceeded to the **Asian Youth Economic Organizations Exchange Program** organized by Japan YEG to provide a platform for members of YEGAP, the various young entrepreneurs groups from other Asian countries represented in the meeting, and members of the CACCI Presidential visit



delegation to exchange views on the main theme of **“What Role is Japan Expected to Pay in Asia and the World Today”**

Opening Reception and Tour of Expo Osaka 2025 Expo26.



119. The delegation attended the Opening Reception held at the Japan Pavilion. As part of the Program, representatives of the various young entrepreneurs groups under the CACCI YEGAP umbrella were requested to go up the stage and formally presented to the audience. Mr. McMullin as head of the CACCI delegation was asked to deliver brief Remarks as well.

CACCI Presidential Visit to Melbourne

120. CACCI Vice Presidents, heads of CACCI Primary Members, and other CACCI members were invited to join the CACCI Presidential Visit to Melbourne, Australia that took place on September 1-4, 2025, happening simultaneously with the 14th World Chambers Congress (14WCC) which was organized by the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) on September 2-4. CACCI President McMullin arranged one-on-one online meeting with each of the CACCI Vice Presidents during the first half of July to personally invite them to join the Melbourne visit and to request them to reorganize a delegation from their respective chambers.



121. The visit began on September 1 with a full-day CACCI-exclusive program arranged in partnership with the **Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (VCCI). The delegates first met with the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Mr. Nicholas Reese and other VCCI officers for brief dialogue on areas of possible collaboration between CACCI members and the business community of Melbourne and Australia as a whole.

122. Thereafter, the delegation was given a private tour of the following:



a. The **Melbourne Cricket Ground** is a sports stadium located in Yarra Park, Melbourne, Victoria. Founded and managed by the Melbourne Cricket Club, it is the largest stadium in the Southern Hemisphere, the eleventh-largest stadium globally and the second-largest cricket stadium by capacity.



b. **Melbourne Connect** is a digital innovation ecosystem which represents a physical and programmatic convergence of many organisations and interdisciplinary institutions seeking to leverage research and emerging technologies to disrupt and transform our society.

c. **Science Gallery Melbourne**, which is supported by Mr. McMullin

and his wife Ruth, aims to involve, inspire and transform curious minds through art and science. It is an award-winning international initiative that delivers a dynamic model for engaging 15–25-year-olds with emerging research and ideas from the worlds of art, science, design and technology, offering a social space to develop ideas, imagine the future, and realise dreams.



123. Later that afternoon, the delegation attended the Good Business Gathering co-hosted by the Good Business Network and the ICC Centre of Entrepreneurship at the Melbourne Business School. Focusing on the theme **“Doing Good and Making Money”**, the event featured a fireside chat that highlighted how young business founders are profitable ventures with social impact.



dialogue and cooperation. Focusing on the theme **“Business, Chambers, Government: Partners for Prosperity”**, the Congress addressed shared global challenges such as international trade, geopolitical disruptions, investment-readiness, sustainable energy transition, innovation and digital transformation.

125. A **YEGAP Session** was held **September 2**, and a **CACCI Session** took place on **September 4**:



- The **YEGAP September 2** session marked the launch of the Australian Young Entrepreneurs Group (AYEG), which then formalized its partnership with YEGAP with a ceremonial signing of a Letter of Intent. It also featured a panel discussion among young Australian entrepreneurs on why young Australian entrepreneurs should look to Asia, followed by a panel discussion among Asian young entrepreneurs on how



their respective countries are cultivating young entrepreneurs and explored ways to build deeper collaboration with the Australian business community.



- The **CACCI September 4** session focused on Family Business featuring President McMullin and members of YEGAP who shared their candid reflections on what they had inherited, the challenges of carving out their own entrepreneurial paths, and how they balance family expectations with new

directions for growth. They also discussed the difficulties of doing things differently from previous generations and the opportunities for Asian family enterprises to expand globally, illustrating both the struggles and rewards of next-generation entrepreneurship within established family businesses

Side Meetings

126. During the four-day event, some members of the delegation also participated in a number of side activities/meetings, including the following:

- a. In a media interview conducted by the local media during the event focusing on regional trade agreements, Peter McMullin AM said that Taiwan's exclusion from regional trade agreements is not for economic reasons, but political ones. He called on all parties to prioritize economics and, in light of rising global trade uncertainty, strengthen cooperation among democratic nations to support

Taiwan's inclusion in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).



- b. President McMullin met with officers of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce led by Deputy Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer Ms. Alikie Perera. The two sides discussed CACCI programs in which Ceylon Chamber can take an active participation. The Chamber officers also invited President McMullin and CACCI members to attend the Sri Lanka Economic & Investment Summit 2025, themed "Gateway to Growth: Asia's Emerging Opportunity" on 2-3 December in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- c. CACCI members were invited to attend the breakfast session of the ICC World Chambers Federation Women Entrepreneurs Council for a briefing on some of the ongoing and upcoming activities of the Council to promote the growth and development of women entrepreneurs around the globe.

d. CACCI President McMullin, CACCI Vice President Stuart Thomson and CACCI Deputy Director-General briefly met with Mr. Balyan, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Development, and Foreign Relations (Chamber India). They discussed possible areas of cooperation between the two organizations.

CACCI President Peter McMullin AM Visit to Taipei



127. Mr. Peter McMullin AM visited the CACCI Secretariat in Taipei on July 7, 2025, to discuss preparations for the upcoming **CACCI Presidential Visit to Melbourne from September 1 to 4, 2025** and to promote the **39th CACCI Conference**, which will be held in Sri Lanka on November 10-11, 2025.

128. During his visit, President McMullin met with members of the Secretariat to review promotional strategies and coordination efforts for both events.

In honor of his visit, the Secretariat thereafter hosted a luncheon at **Fujin Tree Taiwanese Cuisine & Champagne**, inviting key figures from Taiwanese business organizations that are members of CACCI.

129. Distinguished guests attending the luncheon included: **Mr. Henry Kao**, Vice President of CACCI and Immediate Past Chairman of the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Council (CIECA); **Amb. John Feng**, Chairman of the Budget Commission of CACCI; **Mr. Harvey Chang**, Advisory Board Member of CACCI; **Mr. Thomas Wu**, Chairman of the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC); and **Mr. Frank Wu**, Secretary-General of CIECA.



130. Following the luncheon, Mr. Henry Kao arranged a courtesy meeting between President McMullin and **Ambassador François Chihchung Wu**, Representative at Large of Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting focused on exploring avenues for promoting business cooperation between Taiwan and other Asian countries through the CACCI platform.

131. President McMullin's visit to Taipei reinforced CACCI's commitment to enhancing cross-border collaboration and private sector engagement throughout the Asia-Pacific.

Luncheon Meeting with Officers of FMM

132. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM met with officers of the Federation of Malaysia Manufactures (FMM) led by FMM President Tan Sri Dato's Soh Thian Lai and members of the President's Committee. Mr. McMullin was accompanied by CACCI Vice



President for Entrepreneurship Mr. Stuart Thomson and Chairman of the CACCI Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) Mr. Hiromi Aoki.

133. Held on October 14 during lunch hosted by the FMM in Kuala Lumpur, the meeting focused on enhancing business linkages, promoting regional cooperation, and exploring joint initiatives to advance private sector collaboration across the Asia-Pacific.

VIII. MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS

JCCI Officers Visit CACCI Secretariat



134. Officers of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Managing Director Mr. Issei Hatakeyama and International Department Officer Mr. Tetsuya Matsuoka, on November 4 met with CACCI Secretariat officers led by Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu. Accompanying the JCC officers was Mr. Tsai Chao Yi, Member of the International Committee of the Taiwan National Federation of International Management Council.

135. During the meeting, both sides took the opportunity to update each other on the ongoing and upcoming activities of their respective organizations, including JCCI's participation in the 39th CACCI Conference taking place on 10-11 November in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Meeting with Ceylon Chamber of Commerce



General and CACCI Pivotal Person for the Chamber.

136. CACCI Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on 12 November visited the headquarters of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in Colombo, Sri Lanka, accompanied by Deputy Director General Mr. Amador Honrado. The CACCI executives warmly received by Ms. Alikie Perera, Deputy Secretary General and Financial Controller of the Chamber, and Ms. Lilakshi de Mel, Senior Assistant Secretary



137. During the meeting, the visiting CACCI executives informed Ms. Perera and Ms. De Mel that the 40th CACCI Conference will be held in Manila, Philippines in November 2026, and took the opportunity to invite them to organize a delegation from the Chamber and join other CACCI members in next year's annual gathering which marks the 60th Anniversary of the Confederation.

138. Dr. Chiu informed them that a number of important activities are lined up for the Conference, including the election of CACCI officers who will serve for the next two-year term from 2026 to 2028, and the CACCI Awards to be given under four categories, namely, Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award, Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award, Hydropower and Clean Energy Award, and Local Chamber Award (Big Chamber and Small Chamber categories), and encouraged them to take active participation in these activities.

139. For their part, Ms. Perera and Ms. De Mel requested Dr. Chiu and Mr. Honrado to help promote to CACCI members the upcoming "***Sri Lanka Economic and Investment Summit 2025***" scheduled to take place on 2-3 December at the Shangri-la Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This year's Summit will carry the theme '**Gateway to Growth – Asia's Emerging Opportunity**'.

Courtesy Call on New MECO Chairperson



140. CACCI Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu on 2 December made a courtesy call on Ms. Corazon Avecilla-Padiernos, the newly-appointed Chairperson and Resident Representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO), the Philippine Representative Office in Taiwan. Accompanying Dr. Chiu was CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr.

141. The CACCI Secretariat executives took the opportunity to introduce to the MECO Chairperson what CACCI is all about and the activities it undertakes to achieve its objective of promoting greater networking among businesspeople in the region and ultimately enhancing regional cooperation for economic growth. They also offered the Chairperson the services of the CACCI Secretariat for any information or assistance her office may require in promoting trade and investments between the Philippines and Taiwan.

142. Mrs. Avecilla-Padiernos expressed her appreciation to the visiting CACCI executives for making her aware of CACCI and its activities, adding that the Confederation will certainly be able to help her in achieving her mandate of further strengthening economic relations between the two countries. She said she will soon touch base with the CACCI Secretariat on possible areas for collaboration between CACCI and MECO after further consultation with her team.



Meeting with CIPE Deputy Director



143. Ms. Catherine Tai, Deputy Director, Asia and the Pacific Program at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), on December 8 visited the Secretariat of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) in Taipei where she was received by Director-General Dr. Darson Chiu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr.

144. During the visit, Ms. Tai briefed the CACCI executives on the mandates of CIPE and the activities it is currently undertaking with business organizations and relevant government agencies based in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in achieving economic resilience and enhancing economic security. The CACCI executives informed Ms. Tai that the mandates of CIPE align very well with the activities of the Confederation, particularly in promoting entrepreneurship and trade facilitation in the region. They discussed possible areas that the two organizations can work together in achieving these important objectives in 2026 and thereafter.



CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

alongside local partners in developing countries to build business environments that are fair and stable. Its global network includes organizations representing small and medium-sized companies, as well as governments and think tanks to overcome barriers to economic participation through streamlined trade, regulatory efficiencies, stronger property rights, increased e-commerce, and more transparent government processes.

145. Established in 1983, CIPE is an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a core institute of the National Endowment for Democracy, and a co-host of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation. CIPE works



ix. REDESIGN OF THE CACCI LOGO



146. As part of his ongoing efforts to refresh CACCI's brand and better reflect a more dynamic, forward-thinking, and youthful identity of the Confederation, President McMullin approved a proposal to re-design of the CACCI logo

147. The CACCI thereby engaged a designer to develop a more modern and impactful visual identity. Several new designs proposed by the designer were then submitted to the CACCI Officers who were requested to select their preferred design and share any comments or suggestions to help refine the final version.

148. During the 100th CACCI Council Meeting held on 10 November in Sri Lanka, Council members endorsed the design of the new CACCI logo as proposed by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM and subsequently approved by CACCI officers.

X. NEW MEMBERS

New Affiliate Members



149. CACCI received the application for Affiliate Membership from the Camarines Sur Chamber of Commerce and Industry from the Philippines. Established in 2002 as coalition of committed businessmen and entrepreneurs from the Philippine province of Camarines Sur, CSCCI aims to serve as a private sector counterpart to the provincial government, playing a role in advancing the economy of Camarines Sur.



150. CACCI also admitted as the newest Affiliate Member the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Quezon City from the Philippines. The PCCI-QC is a highly esteemed coalition of entrepreneurs in Quezon City and a local member chamber of the Philippine CCI.

151. A third Affiliate Member applicant was the Greater Bay Area Health Industries Association; a non-profit organization registered in Hong Kong. The association aims to promote medical and health services in the Greater Bay Area, and to provide medical and health services to business units and assist in various projects.





152. In addition, we also received applications for three Lifetime Special Members – two from Pakistan and one from Bangladesh. These included:

Pakistan	-	Muhammad Aun Raza
	-	Mr. Iftikhar
Bangladesh	-	Labaid Cancer Hospital & Super Specialty Centre

XI. OTHERS

CACCI Vice Presidents' Portfolio



153. 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 they may require from the Secretariat in implementing them.

CACCI Foundation



154. As part of its continuing efforts to lend a helping hand to the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the region – which comprise majority of its member chambers' constituencies – in achieving sustainable growth, CACCI once again invited member chambers to submit formal proposals on projects that they wish to be financed by the CACCI Foundation.

155. The CACCI Foundation was established in 2006 to help Primary and Affiliate Members implement projects aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and the development of SMEs. The ultimate objective is to assist chambers in Asian developing countries region to become sustained contributors to the economic development of the private sector.

Regular WCF Monthly Meetings



156. During the year, the CACCI Secretariat held regular online meetings with representatives of the ICC World Chambers Federation – on April 30 and June 12 - to update each other on their recent, ongoing, and planned activities for the year, and identified possible areas for collaboration.

157. As requested by the WCF during one of these regular monthly meetings, the CACCI Secretariat conveyed to all CACCI Primary and Affiliate Members the invitation of WCF

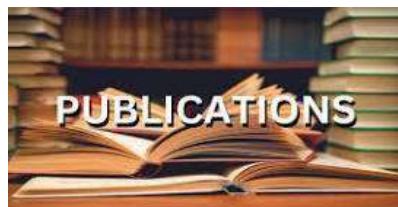


to participate in its newly launched **WCF Chamber of the Month Recognition Program**, which aims to celebrate innovation, impact, and leadership across our global chamber network. This initiative offers an excellent opportunity for CACCI members to gain international visibility, share best practices, and inspire peers within the world's largest chamber network.

158. Programme highlights include:

- Open to all WCF Members and Affiliates — including local, regional, national, bilateral, and transnational chambers of commerce.
- Showcases achievements such as impactful initiatives, innovative projects, sustainability and climate action, technology-driven service improvements, collaborative projects, and programmes advancing diversity and inclusion.
- Selected chambers are featured in the WCF monthly newsletter, promoted on ICC/WCF social media, and included in our Member Spotlight archive in Chambers Connect.

CACCI Publications



159. The 2024 Annual Report of CACCI was published early this year. It summarizes the major activities of CACCI during the previous year, as well as outlining the challenges it faced during the period, and the prospects for CACCI in 2025.

160. The CACCI Secretariat continued to publish its newly-formatted monthly CACCI Newsletter, 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 of interest to Asian businessmen.

161. CACCI also introduced a fresh approach to its Product and Service Council Newsletter. The combined newsletter will spotlight thought leadership pieces from CACCI members and industry experts, offering timely insights and perspectives to keep the business community informed and engaged.



162. CACCI requested members to submit articles for the reformatted Newsletter including: (a) Summaries of recent news events; (b) Analysis of emerging or ongoing trends; (c) Op-eds and short reports; and (d) Interviews with industry leaders, particularly those aligned with CACCI's core themes - digital transformation and innovation, economic development and trade, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Summary Report on the Proceedings of the 39th CACCI Conference



President of Federation on Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL).

2. Held at the Cinnamon Life Hotel, the 2025 Conference was co-hosted by CACCI and the FCCISL, the largest and most representative apex business organization of Sri Lankan business, with a nationwide membership of over 63 chambers of commerce and business associations.

39th CACCI CONFERENCE



enabling them to grow and expand beyond the domestic borders and into the global market.

1. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) successfully held its 39th CACCI Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka on November 10-11, 2025, with the participation of some 150 delegates composed largely of businessmen and chamber of commerce representatives from 15 Asia-Pacific countries, led by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM from Australia and Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane,

3. The Sri Lanka Conference focused on the theme **“Entrepreneurship in the Asian Century”**. It was designed to provide delegates a platform to exchange views on measures that well, thereby in the region – with the support of their respective governments - 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



4. The Conference organizers noted that the rising trend of new business ventures and innovative ideas flourishing within the rapidly growing economies of Asia are expected to play dominant role in the global economy throughout the 21st century, often called "the Asian Century." Invited experts shared their perspectives on how the Asian Century will be fueled by entrepreneurial activity, driving innovation, job creation, and economic development across the region.

DAY ONE PROGRAM (10 November)

Opening Ceremony

5. FCCISL President **Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane** and CACCI President **Mr. Peter McMullin AM** delivered their Welcome Statements during the Day One Opening Ceremony.



6. In his Welcome Remarks, FCCISL President Mr. Gunawardane said that the 21st century truly belongs to Asia, home to more than 60% of the world's population and a similar share of global GDP. He attributed this economic growth and strength to the entrepreneurial spirit of the region's people, the small business owners, start-up founders and visionary business leaders who are shaping

industries and communities. He added that Sri Lanka, situated at the crossroads of East and West, is well positioned to play a catalytic role in connecting regional markets and ideas, and cited the important role of the CACCI Conference in providing a platform to connect, collaborate and create, linking nations through commerce, collaborating on new technologies, formulating sustainable solutions, and creating opportunities for inclusive growth.

7. For his part, CACCI President Mr. McMullin said that CACCI's founding principle that businesspeople should act as "merchants of peace" has remained deeply relevant amid

geopolitical challenges and uncertainty. Recognizing this century as belonging to the Asian communities, CACCI and its members approach challenges as entrepreneurs, and strive to resolve these issues by "working together rather than sitting on our hands." He pointed out that the Confederation's work since its establishment in 1966 has focused on connecting Asia-Pacific economies through conferences, trade missions, and policy dialogue

to strengthen collaboration and trust across the region.

Plenary Sectoral Sessions



8. Plenary Sectoral Sessions were organized on Day One that gathered government and private sector experts for dialogue and panel discussion on important issues in the various sectors including the following:

Sectoral Session One: SME Development

9. This session addressed the theme “**New Developments in Government Sector Cooperation with Chambers of Commerce and Industry for the Growth of SMEs in the New Era**”.



10. Invited speakers noted that over the past few years, the global economy has suffered profound shocks that have had a marked impact on SMEs, particularly the pandemic. They also see new threats that have emerged, such as rising geopolitical tensions, labor shortages, high trade barriers - all of which contribute to a more challenging business environment for SMEs.

Meanwhile, they acknowledged an urgent need to accelerate the contribution of SMEs to the green and digital transitions and help them navigate a changing international trade and investment landscape.

11. The speakers shared their perspectives on the need for greater move towards cooperation between the government sector and the private sector in the development of SMEs, and to set in place policies to help them address the changing business conditions and integrate into global and supply-chain networks and benefit from the transformations they are currently going through.

12. Moderated by FCCISL President **Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane**, the session featured as speakers the following:



(a) **Mr. Ernest Yuen**, Chairman of Kowloon Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of CACCI;

(b) **Professor Aparna Rahman**, Global Understanding for Sustainable Development Consultant and Director; and

(c) **Mr. Lakshman Abeysekera**, Chairman, National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA), Sri Lanka.

Sectoral Session Two: Food and Agriculture

13. This session focused on the topic “**Theme: Sustainable Innovation for an Inclusive Future**”. Discussions highlighted that the challenges that agriculture and food systems now



face provide insights into what is at stake and what is to be done. While much progress has been made in reducing hunger and poverty and improving food security and nutrition, major concerns persist, with millions still suffering from hunger, while climate change and mounting pressure on natural resources threaten the sustainability of food systems at large.

14. Speakers examined why sustainable innovation in food and agriculture is crucial for an inclusive future. Invited speakers will share practices that increase productivity while minimizing environmental impact and ensuring food security for all. They identified the major transformations needed in agricultural systems, rural economies, and natural resource management to realize the full potential of food and agriculture and ensure a secure and healthy future for all people and the entire planet.

15. The session was moderated by **Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha**, Chairman, CACCI Asian



Council for Food and Agriculture, with the following as speakers:

- (a) **Mr. Homer Yu**, Vice President, Kowloon Chamber of Commerce;
- (b) **Consul Enunina V. Mangio**, President, Philippine CCI;
- (c) **Ms. Hui-Fei Hsu**, Secretary-General, Taiwan Agriculture;

specialist on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into
the Organization of the UN, Sri Lanka; and

earch Professor, Microbial Biotechnology, Nat'l
.

Sectoral Session Three: Information and Communication Technology

16. This session discussed issues surrounding the topic **“Regional Cooperation in Digital Innovation and Start-ups”**. The speakers observed that there has been a growing interest on Innovation and Start-ups in commerce and industry in the region and worldwide not only among businessmen and the chambers but also among government policymakers.



17. The featured panelists from CACCI member countries (Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Taiwan as well as representatives from the Young Entrepreneur Groups in other countries such as Japan, Vietnam, and Malaysia) shared the direction and highlights of the Digital Innovation and Startups Programs in their respective countries, and explored areas for possible cross-border cooperation.

18. Moderated by **Dr. Dennis Hu**, Chairman, CACCI Asian ICT Council and President, Foundation for Commerce and Culture Interchange (FCCI), the session included the following as Speakers:



(a) **Mr. Premjith Krishnan**, CEO, Namastrend Business Services Pvt. Ltd.;

(b) **Mr. Ruwan Amarasekara**, Past Chairman – BCS Sri Lanka Section / Treasurer, APICTA ;

(c) **Dr. Michael Lin**, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University; and

(d) **Mr. Michael Lim**, Founder and CEO, Solopreneur Launch & Vice Chair, YEGAP .



Sectoral Session Four: Tourism



19. This session tackled the topic ***“Tourism as a Catalyst for Economic Growth in the Asia Pacific Region.”*** The speakers highlighted that tourism is a significant catalyst for economic growth in the Asia Pacific region, contributing to GDP, employment, and infrastructure development. They also noted that it is a major source of foreign exchange and can help diversify national economies, especially in developing countries. Discussions further pointed out the industry's multiplier effect across various sectors, like agriculture and manufacturing, further boosts local economies.



20. The session also discussed the significant economic benefits and opportunities offered by the tourism industry, as well as the challenges it presents, such as potential environmental impact, social consequences, and vulnerability to external shocks. It examined how sustainable tourism practices and diversification of the economy are crucial for long-term economic growth in the region.

21. Among the points raised by the session speakers included the following:

- **Dr. Rohanthan Athukorala**, Vice Chairman of the World Rural Tourism Council talked about destination competitiveness strategies; data-driven tourism intelligence; and branding and digital market penetration
- Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability Ltd., Chairman and CEO **Dr. Ravi Fernando** spoke about ESG frameworks and sustainability leadership; climate-resilient tourism development; and responsible industry transformation
- Colombo University Sustainable Tourism Unit Coordinator and Tourism Studies Program Head **Prof. Suranga Silva** touched on economic multiplier analysis; Strengthening tourism-linked value chains; and Policy integration for national development
- **Mr. Peter Semone**, Chairman of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), in his pre-recorded video presentation shared information on Regional tourism performance outlook; Cross-border cooperation and connectivity; and Market recovery trends and industry readiness



Sectoral Session Five: Environment



22. This session focused on the theme **“Renewable Energy and Environmental Resilience: Safeguarding South Asia’s Future”**. Invited speakers noted that unlike other regions, South Asia is constrained by a scarcity of fossil fuel and hydrocarbon resources, relying primarily on limited hydro and solar potential. As energy consumption in South Asia exceeds supply, there is a real risk of reversing the region’s current environmental

advantage largely sustained through low consumption and modest renewable energy use. Without a strategic shift to renewables and robust environmental planning, the region may face severe consequences: rising global temperatures, accelerated Himalayan glacier melting, and subsequent threats to water security, agriculture, and regional ecosystems through floods and climate disruption.

23. This session explored how South Asia can meet its rising energy needs while avoiding irreversible environmental degradation. Speakers examined policy frameworks, regional cooperation, renewable technology investments, and the socio-economic imperatives of transitioning to a resilient, low-carbon energy future.



24. Moderated by **Mr. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan**, Chairman, CACCI Asian Council on Water, Energy, and Environment and Executive Chairman, Hydro Solutions Group, the session featured the following as speakers:

- **Dr. Sneha Malhotra**, Programme Associate Director - Energy Innovation and Technology, WRI India;
- **Mr. Sarath Chandrasena**, Sri Lanka Country Manager, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development, Denmark; and
- **Prof. Wijendra J. Bandara**, Chairman, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority.



Sectoral Session Six: Entrepreneurship



leaders are helping create a more connected, resilient, and sustainable Asia-Pacific economy.

26. The session was moderated by **Mr. Hiromi Aoki**, Chairman, CACCI Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP) and featured the following as panelists:

- (a) **Ms. Khulan Davaadorj**, Founder & CEO, Lhamour & Vice Chair, YEGAP;
- (b) **Mr. Michael Lim**, Founder and CEO, Solopreneur Launch & Vice Chair, YEGAP;
- (c) **Ms. Ekaterina Ueda**, President, KES English School & Vice Chair, YEGAP.

DAY TWO PROGRAM (10 November)

Opening Ceremony



27. FCCISL President **Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane** in his Day Two Welcome Remarks reflected on the previous day's discussion, which he said reflected the diversity, dynamism, and determination of the region, from SME development and technology innovation to tourism and sustainability. These dialogues, he said, reaffirmed that **Asia's future will be built by its entrepreneurs** — bold, creative, and

forward-looking individuals who see opportunities where others see as challenge.

28. He continued to say that the theme of the Conference - "**Entrepreneurship in the Asian Century**" - celebrates the power of innovation, the resilience of businesses, and the cooperation among nations that together are transforming the global economy. He added that for Sri Lanka, the conference was more than an event — it was a statement of confidence in the country's capacity to engage, to innovate, and to grow as part of the Asia-Pacific success story. Through FCCISL and its partner chambers, members continue to strengthen the voice of the private sector and open new pathways for investment, exports, and collaboration, he remarked.



29. CACCI President **Mr. Peter McMullin AM** in his Welcome Statement on Day Two, said that the Sri Lanka Conference is timely and relevant as it focuses on the role of Asian entrepreneurship in the international business world. He pointed out that the continuing rapid evolution of Asian economies over the next decade will require a focus on entrepreneurship as it incorporates technology and innovation change as a way to

achieve global best practice, and as meeting social and sustainable needs increasingly becomes a particular key concern of many governments and trade organizations globally.

30. Mr. McMullin 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 them and in promoting the role of entrepreneurship in the sustainable growth of the region. He stressed the importance of business networking to encourage greater interaction among individual companies and business communities in the Asian region which he said will be crucial to enable the region to go forward.



31. The Day Two Opening Ceremony also featured as Guests of Honor and Special Guest Speakers **Hon. Anton Jayakodi**, Deputy Minister of Environment and Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka, and **Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal**, President Designate, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



32. In his Special Address, Deputy Minister Jayakodi pointed out that economies and businesses in the region are faced with various problems including natural disasters and climate change, which threaten the survival of industries and the economy itself. How to address these challenges are now the main concern of both the private sector and governments in the region.



33. For his part, Mr. Dhakal underscored the timeliness and relevance of the Conference theme of “Entrepreneurship in the Asian Century”. He pointed out that to compete effectively, Asian entrepreneurs must think globally, innovate relentlessly, and collaborate regionally. He also encouraged businesses to invest in digital transformation, intellectual property creation, and green technologies. He also emphasized the importance of building joint platforms for venture

capital mobilization, cross-border incubation centers, innovation networks, and digital trade corridors.

Plenary Sessions

34. Day Two Plenary Sessions featured eminent speakers who shared their valuable perspectives on the following timely and relevant issues:

Plenary Session One: “Global Market Trends: Navigating Uncertainties and Opportunities.”



governments, and individuals.

35. Invited speakers noted that the global market environment is rapidly transforming influenced by technological advancements, trade liberalization, geopolitical shifts and evolving consumer behaviors. They agreed that many Asian economies are now facing greater uncertainties in their macroeconomic environment because of tariff imposed by the US on certain economies, adding that these changes have profound implications for important businesses, governments, and individuals.



36. Moderated by **Dr. Alireza Yavari**, CACCI Vice President and Chief Advisor and Representative for Regional Organizations, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturing, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIMA), the session featured the following as speakers: **Ms. Priyanka Kishore**, Director & Principal Economist, Asia Decoded; **Mr. Ravi Jayawardena**, Group CEO, Maliban Biscuit Manufacturers PVT LTD.; and **Dr. Palitha Kohona**, former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to China

Plenary Session Two: "Transforming Business Through Innovation and Technology"



37. The session speakers concurred that innovation and technological advancements are recognized as key drivers in transforming businesses and their sustainability. As the digital economy continues its exponential growth, emerging technological innovations are fundamentally transforming how businesses operate and deliver value

38. The session moderator was **Mr. Stuart Thomson**, Vice President for Entrepreneurship, CACCI and Co-Founder and Executive Director, Good Business Foundation; and the speakers included: **Ms. Enkhsaikhan Nyamsuren**, Co-Founder, Empasoft Institute of Technology and Country Ambassador of Women in Tech-Global Movement, Mongolia; **Mr. Premjith Krishnan**, CEO, Namastrend Business Services Pvt. Ltd.; **Dr. Dennis Hu**, Chairman, CACCI Asian ICT Council / President, Foundation for Commerce and Culture Interchange (FCCI); **Mr. Jeevan Gnanam**, Founder, Veracity AI/ Vector/ Spectrify AI; and **Mr. Wansapriya Gunaseela**, Managing Director, Vision International.

Plenary Session Three: "Ensuring Resiliency in the Regional Supply Chain"



39. The speakers pointed out that geopolitical conflicts, inflation, and logistical challenges have made supply chain disruptions common. A 2023 McKinsey survey indicated that nearly all businesses have grappled with supply chain issues in the past year causing major planning challenges. The speakers agreed that companies should implement strategies to adapt to changing conditions, so as to mitigate risks and maintain smooth

product flow even during unexpected events. Discussions explored how a resilient supply chain can help businesses endure disruptions and recover quickly, minimizing the impact of most disturbances on their production and delivery, and how they can build a resilient supply chain that meets customer expectations and propels business forward in the face of disruption.



40. **Mr. Aun Ali Syed**, Vice President, Federation of Pakistan CCIs served as Moderator, and the following as speakers: **Mr. Praseedh Philip**, Manager, Sales and Marketing, Robert Bosch Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.; **Ms. Manohari Gunawardhena**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, South Asia Regional Dept. ADB; **Mr. Chandana Ranasinghe**, Founder & CEO, Acentura (PVT) Ltd.; and **Mr. Saliya Gooneratne**, DGM Group Supply Chain, LAUGHFS Holdings Pvt.Ltd.

Plenary Session Four: “Achieving Inclusive & Resilient Growth for a Sustainable Future”



41. The session speakers agreed that achieving inclusive and resilient growth for a sustainable future means fostering economic development that benefits all members of society while also building systems capable of withstanding shocks and adapting to change. They added that this also helps achieve the objectives of protecting the environment and ensuring long-term prosperity for future generations; essentially, creating growth that is equitable, adaptable, and environmentally conscious.

42. Moderated by **Mr. Lennon Tan**, President of Singapore Manufacturing Federation and Vice President for Sustainability, CACCI, the session included the following as panelists: (a) **Prof. Aparna Uma Shankar Raman**, Consultant and Director of Projects, Global Understanding for Sustainable Development and National University of Singapore; (b) **Dr. Alireza Yavari**, CACCI Vice President and Chief Advisor and Representative for Regional Organizations, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturing, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIMA); (c) **Hon. Selima Ahmad**, President and Founder, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Vice Chairperson, Nitol-Niloy Group; (d) **Ms. Thilini de Silva**, Dean, NSBM Green University Faculty of Business; and (e) **Mr. Deera Hettiarachchi**, Chairman, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau.

CACCI INTERNAL MEETINGS

Advisory Board Meeting and Budget Commission Meeting



43. The CACCI Advisory Board, which is composed of former CACCI Presidents, met on 10 November to discuss important programs and policies that have significant impact and of current concern to members.

44. The Budget Commission Meeting was thereafter convened mainly to discuss the status of membership fee collections and the proposed CACCI Budget for 2026, to be presented later to the Council members for endorsement.



100th CACCI Council Meeting



45. The CACCI Council, which is the governing body of the Confederation, convened the 100th Council Meeting on the afternoon of 10 November. Among the agenda items were as follows:

Special Statement by CACCI Vice President from JCCI



46. Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Daijiro Oshima, CACCI Vice President and Special Advisor of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), delivered a special statement to the Council. In his Statement, Mr. Oshima reiterated his appreciation to President McMullin for organizing a Presidential visit to Osaka, Japan in early June and for taking time to visit the 2025 Osaka Fair; expressed JCCI's strong support of President McMullin's platform promoting entrepreneurship – especially through the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) under the chairmanship of Mr. Hiromi Aoki from Japan YEG - as a key CACCI initiative for advancing regional cooperation and economic development; and invited CACCI members to attend Green Expo to be held in 2027 in Yokohama.

Special Statement by the Deputy President of ICCIMA



47. Following the Special Statement of Mr. Oshima, the Deputy President of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Mr. Ghadir Ghiafe, was given the floor to deliver his Special Statement. In his Remarks, Mr. Ghiafe expressed ICCIMA's deep appreciation for CACCI's leadership and for the valuable work the CACCI Council has done in promoting trade, investment, and industrial cooperation across Asia and the Pacific; and announced that ICCIMA is establishing a dedicated CACCI Coordination Office within its

headquarters in Tehran, the purpose of which is to strengthen the Chamber's engagement with the CACCI Secretariat and with member chambers.



Special Statement from the YEGAP Chairman

48. YEGAP Chairman Mr. Hiromi Aoki presented a brief video introducing YEGAP, highlighting its objectives and its key officers, and outlined the activities undertaken by YEGAP in 2025, including: participation in the CACCI Presidential Visits to Osaka and Melbourne, participation in meetings and events organized by the ASEAN, signing of MOUs with other young entrepreneurs' groups in other Asian countries, and providing relief support to Asian countries affected by adverse events.

Review of CACCI Activities Since the 98th and 99th Council Meetings



49. The CACCI Council reviewed the activities undertaken by the Confederation since its last meeting held in November 2024 in Singapore.

Admission of New Members



50. The Council formally approved the admission of three Affiliate Members, namely: (a) Camarines Sur Chamber of Commerce and Industry from the Philippines; (b) the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Quezon City from the Philippines; and the Greater Bay Area Health Industries Association, a non-profit organization registered in Hong Kong. The Council also endorsed the three applications for Lifetime Special Membership, namely Muhammad Aun Raza and Mr. Iftikhar, both from Pakistan, and Labaid Cancer Hospital & Super Specialty Centre from Bangladesh.

CoNGO Board Membership

51. The Council noted the election of CACCI as member of the Board of the Conference on NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CoNGO), which has been serving as a vital platform for NGOs with UN consultative status to promote multilateral cooperation and support the UN's global agenda. Through this new role, CACCI can contribute Asia-Pacific perspectives and business insights on issues such as SME development, sustainability, digital transformation, and women and youth entrepreneurship, among others.

New CACCI Logo

52. The Council endorsed the new CACCI logo, noting that the re-designing of which was the initiative of CACCI President Peter McMullin aimed at refreshing CACCI's brand and better reflecting a more dynamic, forward-thinking, and youthful identity of CACCI.

Next CACCI Conference



53. The CACCI Council accepted the offer of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry to host the 40th CACCI Conference in 2026 in Manila, Philippines in November, with the exact dates and venue, along with the Conference theme and topics, to be discussed and finalized during the CACCI Planning Committee to be held in early 2026.

GALA DINNER

Brief Remarks by FCCISL President

54. FCCISL President Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane in his brief welcome remarks noted



that the two-day Conference was filled with learning, energy, friendship, and the true spirit of Asia-Pacific entrepreneurship. Mr. Gunawardane noted that this year's theme, "**Entrepreneurship in the Asian Century**," reminded us that the region's success will be built by visionaries — by people like those gathered in the room — who dream big, take risks, and work together across borders.

Brief Remarks of the CACCI President

55. In his Brief Remarks at the Gala Dinner held on 11 November, CACCI President McMullin expressed his hopes that this year's gathering has given them an opportunity



to renew ties with their colleagues from other countries, and to make new friends among both old and new members.

56. He further stated that CACCI is committed to the principal goal of promoting regional cooperation among Asian businessmen. He pointed out that countries in the Asia-Pacific region are closer than ever before, and as the

region continues to grow and prosper, its economies become increasingly vital to each other. He said that today, more than ever, regional cooperation and integration play a critical role in accelerating economic growth, reducing poverty and economic disparity, raising productivity and employment, and strengthening institutions.

Brief Remarks by the Special Guest of Honor

57. The evening's Special Guest of Honor, Member of the Parliament MP Chandima Hettiarachchi, thanked CACCI and FCCISL for choosing Sri Lanka as the venue for this year's annual Conference. Citing CACCI as having a track record of getting things done, Mr. Hettiarachchi extended his invitation to CACCI members - whom he referred to as the



people who create wealth and opportunity - to take advantage of the business opportunities offered by Sri Lanka, which he said is a place open to investment, facilitates the entry of foreign investors and new technologies, and where young entrepreneurs and start-ups are most welcome and encouraged.



PCCI Presentation on Preparations for the 2026 Conference

58. Mr. Raymund Jude Aguilar, Vice President of International Affairs at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), invited the Conference participants to attend the 40th CACCI Conference to be hosted by PCCI in Manila, Philippines in 2026.



59. Mr. Aguilar pointed out that the 2026 Conference will be truly extraordinary as it will also mark CACCI's 60th Anniversary, celebrating 60 decades of bolstering trade and investments across

the Asia Pacific. He said that the 40th CACCI Conference will feature an intensive two-day program specifically designed to facilitate business linkages and knowledge exchange, adding that beyond the Conference venue, delegates will also have the opportunity to experience the Philippine's renowned hospitality, rich cultural heritage, and exceptional cuisine.

Presentation on YEGAP and Its Activities in 2025



60. YEGAP Chairman Mr. Hiromi Aoki once again made another video presentation that introduced YEGAP and highlighted its objectives and its key officers. Mr. Aoki reiterated the activities that the group undertook during the year 2025, such as participation in the CACCI Presidential Visits to Osaka and Melbourne as well as in meetings and events organized by the ASEAN, signing of MOUs with other young entrepreneurs' groups in other Asian countries, and providing relief support to Asian countries affected by adverse events.