



## Summary Report on CACCI Activities

### THE 2019 YEAR-END REVIEW

As the year 2019 comes to a close and the year 2020 about to begin, it is an opportune time for us to take stock of our accomplishments over the past year, with the view to building on them in order to make our Confederation even more relevant to our members in the year ahead.

Hereunder is a summary report on the activities undertaken by CACCI in 2019:

#### I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI CONFERENCE

##### A. Planning Committee Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka



2. A Planning Committee Meeting was held jointly by CACCI and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) on March 25 at the CCC headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Chaired by CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi and co-chaired by CCC Chairman Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah the meeting was attended by 31 representatives of 7 CACCI Primary Members from 8 countries. Discussions focused mainly on preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference - originally proposed to be in September in Colombo, Sri Lanka - as well as on the recent and upcoming activities of CACCI in the year ahead.

3. However, following the bombings and violent attacks that occurred in and around Colombo – including in Shangri-la Hotel where the September Conference was to be held back-to-back with the annual Sri Lanka Economic Summit – it was decided to relocate the 2019 Conference to another venue. The transfer of venue was made in light of the security concerns expressed by members, which many deemed could have an adverse impact on attendance, especially of foreign delegates and speakers.

4. CACCI subsequently received an offer from Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Kitakyushu Chamber of Commerce and Industry to host the 2019 Conference in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture. After consultation with some CACCI officers and members, CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi accepted the offer of Kitakyushu CCI and JCCI.

## B. Visit to Kitakyushu, Japan in Preparation for the 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference



5. On June 6, CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin - along with Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado - met in Kitakyushu with Mr. Kazuo Nishitani, Project Manager for International Division of JCCI, and officers and staff of Kitakyushu CCI to discuss preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference.

6. The two sides also conducted an ocular inspection of the two venues proposed for the Conference, namely, the Righa Royal Hotel Kokura and the Kitakyushu International Conference Center, to check their Conference facilities.

7. After the meeting in Kitakyushu, however, the Kitakyushu CCI informed the CACCI Secretariat that the proposed (and preferred) venue for the Conference – the Kitakyushu International Conference Center – would not be available until end of May 2020 at the latest, which Mr. Modi deemed too late. Hence, Mr. Modi approached another Primary Member – the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), which has not hosted a CACCI Conference in the past. – with a request to host the Conference in 2019. Fortunately, FBCCI agreed.

## C. Meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference



8. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi on September 6, 2019 met with key officers of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) led by Acting President and Director Md. Muntakim Ashraf to discuss preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference to be held on November 26-27, 2019 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. Mr. Modi was accompanied by CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado.

9. Discussions focused mainly on the proposed Conference Program. Both sides shared views on how to make this year's CACCI gathering, which will be held for the first time in Bangladesh, highly interesting and attractive to CACCI members and other participants, particularly the younger generation of businessmen.

## II. PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

### A. Presidential Visit to New Zealand (May 7-8)



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

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

12. Among others, the delegation met with: (a) Hon. David Parker, who holds several portfolio, including the following: Attorney-General, Minister of Economic Development, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Trade and Growth, and Associate Minister of Finance; (b) the officials of the City Council led by Mr. Justin Lester, Mayor of Wellington, and Ms. Jill Day, Deputy Mayor of Wellington; and (c) the key officers of the Victoria University of Wellington; and (d) the officers and members of the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Business New Zealand, and the Wellington Chamber of Commerce.

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

**B. Presidential Visit to Japan (July 24-25)**



14. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi led a 21-member delegation to Japan for a two-day Presidential visit from July 22 to July 23, 2019. The delegation was composed of chamber representatives from five CACCI member chambers – four from Bangladesh, two from Hong Kong, three from India, one from Japan, five from Pakistan, three from Taiwan – as well as three officers of the CACCI Secretariat.

15. Hosted and organized by the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), the two-day program included: (a) a meeting with the officers of the JCCI; (b) a visit to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); and (d) a courtesy call on the Indian Ambassador to Japan. Visits to several places of interest in Tokyo were also arranged by JCCI for the delegates.

**C. Presidential Visit to the Philippines (October 14-18, 2019)**



16. Following his highly successful visits earlier to Wellington, New Zealand on May 7-8 and to Tokyo, Japan on July 22-23, 2019, CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi was joined by other CACCI officers and members in another Presidential visit, this time to Manila, Philippines.

17. Hosted by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) on October 14-18, the five-day program included participation in the **45<sup>th</sup> Philippine Business Conference and Expo**, the biggest annual gathering of local business and government leaders to be organized this year by PCCI on **October 16-17**.

18. Members of the visiting CACCI delegation had the opportunity to gather first-hand information on the current economic and business situation in the Philippines, join the courtesy calls on government officials, and meet leading local businessmen.

19. The program included: (a) Meeting with Indian Ambassador to the Philippines; (b) Dinner meeting with PCCI President and members of the PCCI Board; (c) Meeting with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Board of Investments; (d) Meeting with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority; (e) Participation in the National Chamber Management Forum organized by the PCCI during which Mr. Modi was one of the panelists who shared their views on “The Role of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in a Changing Business Environment”; (f) Meeting with Clark Development Corporation and the Bases Conversion Development Authority in Pampanga; and Meeting with the Governor of Bataan Province; and Tour of the Mariveles Freeport Authority.

20. Mr. Modi also served as Speaker during Plenary 5 of the 45<sup>th</sup> Philippine Business Conference. The session focused on the topic “Leveraging New Technologies, Creating a Competitive Edge”

**III. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MEETINGS AND FORA**

**A. Regional Australia-Asia Chambers Forum**



21. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi delivered a Keynote Address at the recently concluded Regional Australia-Asia Chambers Forum that took place on May 2-3, 2019 in Darwin, Australia. Organized by the Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory, which is an Affiliate Member of CACCI, the Forum was held at the Sky City Hotel Casino. The two-day event gathered together senior representatives from chambers of commerce within Australia and across the Asian region to discuss key issues facing the growth of business in the Asian region.

22. Mr. Modi’s speech focused on the topic “The Role of Chambers of Commerce in Promoting Regional Trade and Investment Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.” In his presentation, Mr. Modi pointed out that the Asia-Pacific region is considered currently as one of the most promising regions consisting of some of the world’s most vibrant economies. The world is eyeing this region in the times of global slowdown as it offers tremendous opportunities for trade and investment and creating global value chains for manufacturing, he noted, adding that globally, the Asia Pacific region remains the most important destination and source of FDI.

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

24. Mr. Modi also took the opportunity to invite the Forum participants to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference. He stressed that the Conference aims to provide another important opportunity to exchange views on how chamber members can help their respective countries – and the Asian region as a whole – achieve sustained growth and remain an important contributor to the world economy.

**B. Meeting of the Regional Committee in Asia Pacific of the CoNGO**



25. CACCI attended the Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) held on May 29-30, 2019 at the premises of Siam University in Bangkok, Thailand. The agenda for the meeting was “The UN Sustainable Development Goals and Civil Society – National and Local Implementation and Follow-up”.

26. Representing CACCI at the Bangkok meeting was Mr. Amador R. Honrado, Jr., CACCI Deputy Director-General, who joined some 30 other officers and members of CoNGO in this year's gathering. Also in attendance with Mr. Honrado was Ms. Allisson Hsu, Consultant of CACCI and Chief, Taiwan Technical Mission in the Kingdom of Thailand, International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF).

27. Chaired by CoNGO President Mr. Liberato Bautista and co-chaired by CoNGO First Vice President Mr. Cyril Ritchie, the two-day meeting aimed to examine case studies by NGOs/CSOs on implementation (regional, national, local) of the six Sustainable Goals (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17) that are to be reviewed at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in July 2019. These SDGs cover: (a) Quality Education; (b) Decent Work and Economic growth; (c) Reduced Inequalities; (d) Climate Action; (e) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and (f) Partnerships for the Goals.

28. Ms. Allison Hsu made the presentation on behalf of CACCI. Hsu's presentations focused on the "*Case Studies on Training Education and Better Jobs.*" The case studies – mainly from ICDF's various programs - presented how NGOs can support beneficiaries find decent jobs by providing formal and non-formal education and training. The case studies underscored the importance of human capital as the foundation for all business, and that in the Asia-Pacific region, formal education is vital to gaining access to decent jobs. The studies pointed out that for people who are not able to achieve tertiary education, education training or on-the-job training can improve the quality of employment, adding that for people who cannot afford higher education and those who seek better positions, international NGOs/NPOs can provide solutions to them.

29. The case studies presented by Ms. Hsu demonstrated the strategies, methods and outcomes of providing education and training in the Asia-Pacific region and how they helped to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

30. Among the examples she highlighted on formal education were ICDF's International Higher Education Scholarship Programs for Asia-Pacific students focusing mainly on agriculture and fisheries, public health and medicine, business and management, engineering and science, and human resources. On the other hand, non-formal education programs offered to participants from Asia-Pacific countries focused mainly of health care personnel training, professional workshops on agriculture biodiversity, circular agriculture, water management, and youth entrepreneurship development.

31. She also highlighted ICDF's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program that aims mainly to improve the employability of the youth and women in the small developing island states in the Pacific region, by fostering professional skills through training and building capacity for micro-business start-up.

### C. ICC Centenary Summit

32. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi was invited to participate in the International Chamber of Commerce Centenary Summit to be held on May 28, 2019 in Paris. The Summit marked the world business organization's 100-year anniversary. Carrying the theme "***The Next Century of Global Business,***" the Summit especially focused on the ways in which the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has worked to promote international trade and business in the past and the ways in which it will continue to do so in the future. Unfortunately, due to conflict in schedule, Mr. Modi was unable to attend the Summit.

### D. 11<sup>th</sup> World Chambers Congress

33. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi was invited to play two roles in the 11<sup>th</sup> World Chambers Congress hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Chambers Federation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 12-14, 2019, namely: (a) as speaker in one of the Congress sessions; and (b) as a Judge in one of the categories of the World Chambers Competition. However, due to the untimely demise of his grandmother, Mr. Modi had to cancel at the last minute.

## IV. ADMISSION AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF ASEAN-BAC



34. CACCI was formally accepted as Associate Member of the Joint Business Council under the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC). Its application was formally approved by the ASEAN BAC during its May 3 meeting held this year in Manila, Philippines.

35. The ASEAN-BAC was established by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the 7th ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Launched in April 2003, ASEAN-BAC was set up with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration. Aside from providing private sector feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic cooperation, the Council also identifies priority areas for consideration of the ASEAN Leaders.



36. Accordingly, ASEAN-BAC’s activities are primarily focused on reviewing and identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration. To help them in this regard, the ASEAN-BAC invites a number of joint business councils with interest in ASEAN (e.g., ASEAN-US Business Council, ASEAN-India Business Council, Australia-ASEAN Business Council, etc.) to attend regular meetings for dialogues and exchange of ideas on how to improve regional cooperation.

37. As Associate Member of the Joint Business Council, CACCI will be invited to join these regular dialogues, and will have the opportunity to provide inputs to the recommendations that the ASEAN-BAC will present to the ASEAN Leaders. In his Letter of Intent to the ASEAN-BAC Chairman Mr. Arin Jira from Thailand, CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi pointed out that, as a regional organization composed mostly of apex chambers of commerce and industry and business associations in Asia, CACCI is in a position to make significant contribution to the work of the Joint Business Council and the ASEAN-BAC in identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration.

**A. Consultative Meeting and Technical Workshop**



38. Following its admission as Associate Member of the ASEAN -BAC Joint Business Councils, CACCI was invited to the following meetings held in Bangkok in July:

- a. The 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Trade Facilitation – Joint Consultative Meeting held on July 10-11, 2019
- b. The Technical Workshop on ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan held on July 11-12, 2019

39. Unfortunately, CACCI was unable to send representatives to the above-mentioned meetings as the persons in-charge of the issues concerned were not available due to prior commitments.

**B. 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Consultation Meeting with ASEAN + 1 Business Councils and Associations**

40. Subsequently, however, Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of the CACCI SME Development Council, represented CACCI in the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Consultation Meeting with ASEAN + 1 Business Councils and Associations and other related meetings held by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on September 5-6, 2019 in Bangkok. It

was the first ASEAN-BAC meeting attended by CACCI in its capacity as Associate Member of the Joint Business Councils.

41. During the two-day event, Mr. Abraham met with ASEAN BAC Deputy Chairman Mr. Robert Yap from Singapore at the ASEAN MSMEs Conference, with ASEAN-BAC Chairman Mr. Arin Jira from Thailand, and with participants from ASEAN member countries and from ASEAN Dialogue Partners at the Inclusive Business Network meeting.

**C. 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival in Bangkok**



42. CACCI Secretariat executives led by Director General Mr. Ernest Lin participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival organized by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on September 2-3, 2019 in Bangkok.

43. The Carnival was attended by global change makers, high level entrepreneurs, impact investors and high ranking governmental officials forming the ASEAN (+6) community; as well as by delegates from China, Japan, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia all of whom were interested in meeting and establishing ties with the new generation of young and dynamic ASEAN entrepreneurs.

44. Young entrepreneurs from Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam spoke about their businesses, projects, problems, challenges, failures and futures plans.

**D. Moscow Meeting of the WCF General Council**



45. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi participated in the second meeting this year of the General Council of the ICC World Chambers Federation. The meeting was held on September 10-11, 2019 at the World Trade Center in Moscow, Russia.

46. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (CCIRF), a CACCI Primary Member, the two-day gathering included a meeting of the WCF Executive Committee and two separate meetings of the WCF General Council. During the meetings, Mr. Modi met with the CCIRF President Mr. Sergey Katyrin, CCIRF Vice Chairman Mr. Vladimir Padalko; President of the Union Primorsky Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Boris V. Stupnitsky, as well as leaders of other chambers of commerce and industry of the region.

47. The WCF is a global network of 12,000 chambers that aims to help individual chambers to become more productive and strengthens links among them. The General Council is the governing body of WCF that sets the strategic direction and development of WCF's services. As a transnational chamber, CACCI is a Permanent Member of the WCF General Council and is currently represented by Mr. Modi.

**V. POLICY ADVOCACY**

**A. Submission of CACCI Paper on Rules of Origin to Ministers Responsible for RCEP**



48. CACCI submitted to the Ministers responsible for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement the **“CACCI Statement on Rules of Origin in Preferential Trade Agreements”**.

49. In his transmittal letter to the Ministers concerned, CACCI President Mr. Samir said that the submission of the CACCI Statement was being made in the context of the negotiation of the RCEP Agreement “which we hope will soon be finalised and ratified as it will significantly benefit all nations covered by the Agreement and we also hope will recognise and support the supply chains to trading partners.”

50. In the CACCI Statement, which was issued at the 29<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference held in October 2015 in Hong Kong, CACCI called on governments party to bilateral and regional PTA negotiations to instruct their negotiators to ensure that their regional and bilateral agreements harmonise with the Rules of Origin by following wherever possible the

provisions and procedures of the Revised Kyoto Convention (2006), and embracing the principles of harmonisation contained in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

51. The RCEP is a proposed FTA between ten member countries of the ASEAN and the six Indo-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing trade agreements namely, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand. RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia

**VI. TRAINING PROGRAMS**

**A. CACCI Workshops Co-Hosted by Primary Members**

52. The CACCI Secretariat co-hosted several workshops, jointly with Mr. Pavel Andri of the ICC Banking Commission, with several Primary Members. A workshop on “International Trade and Finance Rules and Practices: was hosted by the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran on March 5-6. This was followed by a workshop on “Short-Term Trade Finance and International Trade” hosted by the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hanoi on April 15-16, and in Ho Chi Minh City on April 18-19.



53. The Secretariat subsequently coordinated with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the workshop on “International Trade Contracts” held on November 2-3, 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh



## **B. Webinar on Trade-Based Money Laundering**

54. The CACCI Secretariat invited members to participate in the webinar on “Trade-Based Money Laundering and Sanctions Risks for Corporates” to be conducted – for the first time - by Fintelekt Advisory Services on October 15, 2019. However, due to insufficient registration, it was decided to postpone the webinar for next year.

55. The webinar was supposed to run for 90-minutes duration and would cover the following topics:

- a. **Sanctions – latest trends and good practices in screening** - Presentation on understanding the most recent global geopolitical developments, underlying consequences and recent trends in enforcement action. The session will also cover good practices in what and how often to screen
- b. **Trade-based money laundering – challenges and inherent risks** - Presentation on the latest typologies used to launder money using the trade route, use of methods such as shell companies and tax havens, how can companies safeguard themselves against the risk of TBML
- c. **Enhanced due diligence to understand complex ownership structures** - Presentation on the strategic use of data to manoeuvre through complicated ownership patterns, especially among intermediaries and supply chain partners

56. Fintelekt Advisory Services is a specialist in research, training and advisory on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) in Asia. It produces industry research, fosters dialogue and creates opportunities for knowledge sharing between senior executives from banking, financial services and insurance.

## **VII. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Meeting with ICDF Officers**

57. Officers of the International Cooperation and Development Fund of Taiwan (TaiwanICDF) led by Ms. Regine Liu, M. Yun-Ching Tseng, and Mr. Tim Tseng on August 22 met with CACCI Secretariat executives Mr. Ernest Lin, Mr. Amador Honrado and Ms. Wendy Yang. Both sides discussed possible areas of cooperation between the two organizations that would mutually benefit their respective stakeholders.

58. Founded in 1996, TaiwanICDF assists developing countries in economic, social and human resource development and in promoting economic relationships among these countries through technical cooperation, lending and investment, international education and training, and humanitarian assistance.

### **B. CACCI as Supporting Organization of A CSR Lanka (Guarantee) Ltd. Project**

59. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry was invited by CSR Lanka (Guarantee) Ltd. to be a Supporting Organization of its project on “Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace” theme.

60. Proposed by the UK-based Durham University, Department of Anthropology, the project aims to set up The Social Enterprise in Conflict-Affected Regions (SECAR) Network. The aim is to generate knowledge to help private philanthropists, large companies, and small businesses play an active and positive role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Central and Southeast Asia. CSR Lanka is seeking to receive support from CACCI by reaching out to some of its members countries and institutions.

61. As Supporting Organization of the project, CACCI agreed to:

- Become a Network Member and contribute towards the research and policy agenda by contributing towards the development of strategy and impact of the research;
- Facilitate access to CACCI members and partner organisations to further promote the Networks and to increase membership;
- Explore the possibility of participating in mentoring and exchange opportunities, to enhance and share our own expertise and involvement with thematic issues; and
- Seek to use the outcomes of the Network (research findings, training guides) in our own work.

62. CSR Lanka was formed in May 2013 with the encouragement from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is an initiative piloted and managed collectively by a group of private sector companies in Sri Lanka with the aim of providing strategic guidance and necessary resources to bridge this gap between ad hoc CSR projects and creating sustainable value.

### **C. Gender Innovation Awards**

63. CACCI conveyed to members the invitation from Impact Hub, a shared workspace and event platform, to submit proposals for the Gender Innovation Awards (GIA). Created to “Celebrate New Solutions That Shape Tomorrow,” GIA is launched to source new solutions on different pressing problems with gender perspectives in the Asia-Pacific region. It is the first competition based on SDG 5 (Sustainable Development Goals) of the United States, expecting to connect the international community to solve the problems and maximize social impact within the region.

64. Impact Hub selected 10 iconic proposals/solutions for the final round, after the preliminary review. The finalists were invited to Taiwan to participate in the Boot Camp on October 6-8, 2019, and present their solutions at the final pitch. Air tickets (if the finalists were not residing in Taiwan), lodging and meals for the duration of the Boot Camp were subsidized. Moreover, top three champions were matched with an expert mentor for 6 months.

### **D. HKCBMIA Donation of Products**

65. CACCI forwarded the offer of the Hong Kong Children, Babies, Maternity Industries Association (HKCBMIA), an Affiliate Member, to donate products from Carmelton Group of Companies, a Lifetime Special Member of CACCI engaged in the manufacture of hygiene products, to interested non-government organizations, government hospitals, or related

government health agencies in CACCI member countries. The products include sanitary pads, maternity pads, and underpads.

66. Members were requested to identify and recommend one beneficiary organization from their respective countries. The donor company – through the HKCBMIA – would donate one 20-footer container of the products to each of the organizations recommended by CACCI member chambers (Terms: Ex-factory, with recipient to pay shipment cost from the port of Shenzhen, China). However, the donor company would select only a total of three beneficiary organizations. Hence, the beneficiaries were chosen on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### **VIII. Solicitation of Projects for Funding by the CACCI Foundation**

67. CACCI requested members to submit formal proposals on projects – either ongoing or still to be implemented – that encourage entrepreneurship and promote the growth and development of SMEs for funding by the CACCI Foundation.

68. 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 objective is to assist chambers in developing countries to become sustained contributors to the economic development of the private sector.

#### **IX. Promotion of the 2019 Taiwan Business Conference**

69. CACCI conveyed to members the invitation to attend the **2019 Taiwan Business Alliance Conference** held on October 7, 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan. Carrying the theme of “Secure and Trustworthy,” the one-day event served as a platform for showcasing the achievements of international corporations operating in Taiwan as well as Taiwan’s investment potential.

70. The Conference focused on emerging business areas such as 5G mobile telecommunications, the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, electric vehicles, and self-driving cars. Senior managers of transnational corporations operating in Taiwan were invited to participate in the Conference, and provided in-depth analysis of industry trends and the opportunities associated with investing in Taiwan. By attending the Conference, participants were given the opportunity to learn about new cutting-edge technology applications and changing patterns in global business.

#### **X. Accommodation of Request from Azerbaijan CCI**

71. At the request of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Primary Member of CACCI, the Secretariat conveyed to CACCI members the solicitation of “CPC” LLC company for interest in its main products which include starch, glucose, maltose, fructose, and other by-products from corn. The company is said to be the main importer of Corn production for Azerbaijan market. It is working with many big companies and factories working on the field of food industry.

## **XI. Singapore International Energy Week**

72. CACCI agreed to be a Supporting Organization of the 2019 Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) held on October 29 – November 1, 2019 in Singapore. Organized by The Energy Market Authority (EMA) of Singapore, the four-day event served as a platform in Asia for energy stakeholders to discuss energy issues that impact the region. Annually, SIEW attracts over 13,000 delegates from more than 70 countries including energy ministers, industry captains and heads of international organisations.

73. By attending the event, the participants were able to exchange ideas and discussions on pertinent energy-related issues, understand the strategic objectives of Singapore's commitment to becoming a global leader among energy companies, as well as to experience innovative products and solutions in the energy marketplace.

## **XII. Publication of Newsletters of CACCI Product and Service Councils and of CACCI Journal of Commerce and Industry**



74. The Secretariat published the latest issues of the newsletters of the various CACCI Product and Service Councils, including those focusing on ICT, Energy, Trade Facilitation, Textiles and Garments, SME Development, Construction Councils, Food and Agriculture, Health and Education, Young Entrepreneurs Group, Tourism, and Women Entrepreneurs.

75. The Secretariat also resumed the publication of the semi-annual CACCI Journal of Commerce and Industry, which is a compilation of articles, research studies, speeches, and manuscripts on issues of current interest to CACCI members and Asia's business community.

## **XIII. Publication of the 2018 Year-End Report**

76. The CACCI Secretariat issued the 2018 Year-End Report summarizing the major activities of CACCI in 2018.

## **XIV. Dissemination of ASEAN Investment Report 2018**

77. In addition, the CACCI Secretariat disseminated to all CACCI members copies of the ASEAN Investment Report 2017, which was launched at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Singapore in November 22018



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 33<sup>RD</sup> CACCI CONFERENCE

1. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) successfully held its 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh on November 26-27, 2019, with the participation of some 200 delegates composed largely of businessmen and chamber of commerce representatives from 22 Asia-Pacific countries, led by CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi from India and Mr. Sheikh F Fahim, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). Held at the Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, the Conference was co-organized by CACCI and FBCCI.



### 33<sup>rd</sup> CACCI CONFERENCE

#### Opening Ceremony



2. Focusing on the theme **“Asia: At the Center of a New World Order”**, this year's Conference aimed to provide another important opportunity for CACCI members and other delegates to exchange views on how chamber members can help individual Asian countries – and the Asian region as a whole – achieve sustained growth and remain an important contributor to the world economy. Eminent speakers and experts from the private sector, the academe, and the government were invited to share their views on timely and relevant topics including:

3. FBCCI President **Mr. Sheikh F Fahim** and CACCI President **Mr. Samir Modi** delivered their Welcome Statements during the Opening Ceremony. A Special Address was given by the Chief Guest **Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman, M.P.**, Private Industry and Investment Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh.

5. In his Special Address Mr. Rahman said that Bangladesh has been very successful in reducing poverty as its rate came down to 23 per cent from over 40 per cent only ten years back. Referring to the country's per capita income reaching around US\$ 2,000 he said, "The achievements in different economic and social indicators give us confidence to become a middle- income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041." In this regard, Bangladesh prioritises three key areas for development--energy, infrastructure and agriculture, he said. Meanwhile, the government envisioned 100 economic zones as part of a planned industrialisation. He also cited CACCI as a unique platform to build on and called on FBCCI to utilize the platform to learn from each other and share knowledge and experience. Focusing on the business environment in the country, Mr. Rahman said that the authorities concerned have taken robust policy reform program to improve its Ease of Doing Business Index.



6. In his Welcome Remarks, FBCCI President Mr. Fahim noted that the country’s economy has been stable and its macro-economic growth has been in an upward trajectory. He also mentioned that FBCCI has been addressing crucial issues of the transitional economy including knowledge transfer for the third industrial revolution (3IR) to the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), artificial intelligence (AI), regulatory planning, SDG goals, industry-academia gap assessment, re-skilling and technology transfer. He said that Bangladesh had one of the most liberal and flexible investment regimes in South Asia and made it to World Bank's list of 'Top 20 Improvers of Doing Business in 2020', and pointed out that net FDI inflow to Bangladesh in fiscal year 2017-18 grew by 67.94% to \$3.61 billion over the \$2.15 billion in previous (2016-17) fiscal. He pointed out that, with Bangladesh at the cusp of the next growth trajectory, the country considers CACCI members to be an important strategic partner augmented by positive trends for greater business engagements and cooperation in multiple sectors. In addition to diversifying business with existing trade partners, Bangladesh hopes to explore with private sectors of CACCI member countries to engage on each other’s strengths in investment, trade and knowledge while adding value to the country’s constituents and environment.



7. CACCI President **Mr. Samir Modi** in his Opening Statement, pointed out that in a short span of time, Bangladesh has become one of the world’s economic success stories, with major contributions from the ready-made garments industry, remarkable agricultural production and infrastructural development. Moving forward, Mr. Modi cited three things that he said gave him reason to believe that Bangladesh’s rise will continue: First, a vibrant civil society; Second, a strong sense of community volunteerism; and third, the dynamism among the youth. Looking at the region as a whole, Mr. Modi noted that the new globalization presents steep challenges for Asia. However, he expressed confidence that, with effective leadership, the region is in a strong position to make the needed transition and capitalize on the new opportunities. He also pointed out that for the economic opportunities and gains of the new globalization to be shared widely among Asian citizens and businesses of all sizes, it remains as urgent as ever for governments to maintain progress in integrating their markets and to develop common rules and norms.



**Plenary Sessions**

8. The Conference included four Plenary Sessions that featured eminent speakers who shared their perspectives on the following timely and relevant issues:

- a. **Plenary Session 1: Asia Pacific in a Changing Global Order: The Next Decade –**  
 The session addressed issues from an international and strategic perspective, including: What are some of the other global trends that will shape the global order? How will the Asia Pacific respond towards these trends? What are some of the trade policies and alliances the region should pursue?



- b. **Plenary Session 2: Technologies Transforming Economies** – With the technology trends for 2019 dominated by areas such as AI, Industry 4.0 and the Role of 5G, amongst others, this session featured invited speakers who explored and identified emerging technologies that could have an impact on industries in the region.



- c. **Plenary Session 3: In Pursuit of Equitable and Sustainable Growth** – Invited experts were requested to share their insights and recommendations on measures to be undertaken by Asian countries to meet the SDGs by 2030, including reducing poverty, increasing renewable energy growth, addressing ageing population, and improving regional migration in a bid for increased development.



- d. **Plenary Session 4: Building an Enabling Environment for Inclusive Digital Transformation in the Asia-Pacific** – Speakers invited by the Washington-based Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) shared their perspectives on how to engage entrepreneurs and businesses and other stakeholders regarding digital empowerment and how to encourage chambers/associations to play an active role in achieving this objective.



## Sectoral Breakout Sessions

9. In addition, parallel sectoral breakout sessions were organized that gathered government and private sector experts for dialogue and panel discussion on important sectoral issues, including: (a) Promoting Entrepreneurship; (b) Achieving Food Security and Food Safety; (c) Overcoming the Digital Gender Divide; and (d) Promoting SME Development.



## Discover Business Opportunities Through CACCI

10. The two-day program also included a special session on “**Discover Business Opportunities Through CACCI**”, which featured country presentations by selected organizations on current economic conditions in their respective countries and opportunities for trade and investments, or on special programs, projects, products or services that have benefited their members of the community they serve and may be adapted by chambers from other countries.



11. The country presentations were made by the following organizations: (a) Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry; (b) Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry; (c) Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines; (d) The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey; and (e) Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory.

## **91<sup>ST</sup> CACCI COUNCIL MEETING**

12. Members of the CACCI Council, which is the governing body of the Confederation, convened for the 91<sup>st</sup> CACCI Council Meeting on the afternoon of November 27, 2019. Among the items considered and agreed upon during the Council Meeting included the following:

- a. **Review of CACCI Activities since the 90th Council Meeting** - The CACCI Council reviewed the activities undertaken by the Confederation since its last meeting held in November 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey, including the various Presidential visits, the training programs, participation in regional and international meetings and forums, and issuance of regular publications containing useful and timely information for members, and the approval of the CACCI Foundation grant for a project proposal submitted by the Mongolian national Chamber of Commerce and Industry aimed at strengthening the capacity of women engaged in the cosmetics industry.



- b. **Admission of New Affiliate Member** - The CACCI Council formally approved the admission of the Union “**Primorsky Chamber of Commerce and Industry**” from Vladivostok, Russia as Affiliate Member of CACCI. The Chamber was last year’s winner of CACCI’s Local Chamber Award under the Small Chamber category.



- c. **Proposed Budget for 2020** – Members of the CACCI Council reviewed and approved the proposed budget of the Confederation for 2020.



- d. **Endorsement of CACCI Position Papers** – The CACCI Council endorsed the three position papers that were reviewed during the meeting held earlier by the CACCI Policy Advocacy Working Group. The three papers were the following:
- (i) Paper on “*Special Economic Zones: Why is it Timely to Have a Fresh Look at the Concept and How?*”, prepared for CACCI by the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), the Think Tank of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)
  - (ii) Paper on “*Greater Emphasis on Skills Development and Availability*”, prepared for CACCI by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce
  - (iii) Paper on “*Overcoming Tensions Between ‘Buy Local’ Policies and Campaigns and the Wider CACCI View of Liberal Trade and Investment*” prepared for CACCI by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce”
- e. **Creation of a New Membership Category** – The CACCI Council endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Board to create a sub-category of “Special Corporate Member” under the Special Member category which will be requested to pay an annual membership fee of US\$500.
- f. **MNCCI Project Proposal for CACCI Foundation Funding** – The Council endorsed the recommendation of the CACCI Advisory Board to approve the CACCI Foundation grant for a project proposal submitted by the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) primarily aimed at strengthening the capacity of female-owned cosmetic companies by conducting training to some 200 employees of the 30 Mongolian companies engaged in the manufacture of end-use cosmetics.



- g. **Associate Membership of CACCI in the ASEAN-BAC** – The CACCI Council noted the formal acceptance of CACCI as an Associate Member of the Joint Business Council under the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC). As Associate Member of the Joint Business Council, CACCI will be invited to join the regular dialogues of the other Council members, and will have the opportunity to provide inputs to the recommendations that the ASEAN-BAC will present to the ASEAN Leaders.
- h. **Next CACCI Conferences** - The CACCI Council noted that the host chamber for the 34<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference in 2020 was still to be confirmed and is expected to be formally announced before the end of 2019. Meanwhile, the Council accepted the offer of the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NZCCI) to host the 35<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference in May 2021 in Christchurch, New Zealand. The NZCCI plans to hold the 35<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference alongside the May 2021 APEC

Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting scheduled to take place in Christchurch at that time.

i. **MOU Signing** – During the CACCI Council Meeting, two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and one Letter of Intent were signed. These included the following:

(i) MOU Between CACCI and Moscow CCI - The purpose of the MOU is to further concretize partnership between CACCI and the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry in achieving its common objective of forging economic links between and among their respective members. Through the Business Market Platform, both sides will be in a position to collect, compile and disseminate trade data among their respective members as well as other chambers of commerce with the view to promoting closer economic and trade relations between and among countries in the region.



(ii) MOU Between FBCCI and Moscow CCI - The aim of the MOU is to connect all chambers and units of the FBCCI to a global network - E-Chamber - enabling the country's traders to display their products and services in the global market free of cost. The MOU is hoped to enhance marketability of the products of Bangladesh and expand FBCCI's connectivity with the world.

(iii) Letter of Intent Between FBCCI and the International College of Advanced Education, Australia – The aim of the Letter of Intent is to exchange knowledge between the two sides, with the educational institution sharing with FBCCI their training modules to prepare local instructor for effective quality training of undergraduate, graduate, professional certification programs and technical vocational educational training.

