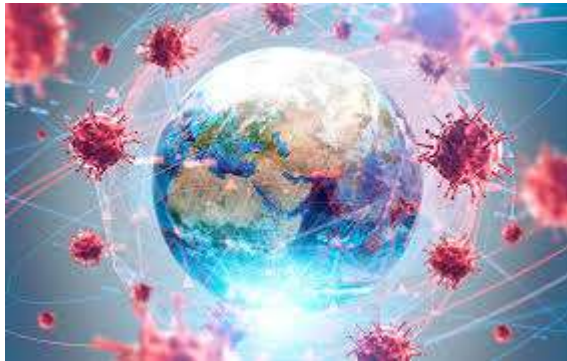




Summary Report on CACCI Activities

THE 2020 YEAR-END REVIEW

The year just ended posed extraordinary challenges for all of us. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic certainly brought unprecedented difficulties globally, shutting down businesses, severely affecting livelihoods, and adversely disrupting personal lives. Over the past twelve months, we were all navigating through uncertainties for ourselves, our loved ones, and our respective communities.



Like many organizations, our Confederation has similarly been affected by the pandemic. We had to scramble to re-strategize cancelled events, meetings and other activities on which we usually rely to bring members together, postponing several planned gatherings, programs, and events indefinitely until the health crisis is declared as safely over. Our day-to-day activities needed to be re-thought on a regular basis to deal with the changes and

challenges caused by the health crisis.

For their part, many of our members have been instituting measures aimed at minimizing the negative impact of the pandemic on our business operations. Several member chambers have been working with their respective governments in implementing stimulus packages to help confront the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 situation. Our Confederation assisted, in some small way, in this endeavour by providing them access to webinars conducted by our Knowledge Partners aimed at helping companies tackle the consequences of the pandemic and attain business continuity during the crisis.



It has been particularly hard for small businesses which represent majority of our member chambers' constituencies. They struggled to formulate their respective plans and strategies on how to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and make the necessary adjustments, both internally and externally, to best serve

their communities amidst the difficult circumstances.

Looking forward, we hope that, amidst the continued uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 – and as some countries begin to gradually re-open some sectors of their economy – the health and safety of your members, employees, and the communities that you serve will remain one of your priorities. We trust that you will remain proactive in implementing precautionary measures in compliance with the guidelines from your local authorities in order to achieve this objective.



We hope that, despite the limitations that the ongoing crisis has placed on your resources, you will continue to pursue activities to further enhance the value of your

chamber to your members and your community, to help rebuild business confidence, and to ultimately achieve economic recovery.



CACCI will endeavour to assist members, in whatever way we can, in your efforts to implement these plans and strategies – while working closely with your members – to quickly adapt to the various challenges we are all facing and to maintain your resilience.

As the year 2020 comes to a close and the year 2021 about to begin, it is an opportune time for us to take stock of our activities 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 2020:

I. Preparations for the 34th CACCI Conference

1. The CACCI Secretariat contacted three CACCI Primary Members – the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), and the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) – on the possibility of hosting the 34th CACCI Conference in the latter part of 2020. However, all three said they are unable to host the Conference this year, for various reasons. For instance, GCCCI said they are scheduled to have the country's Presidential elections in October 2020 which may lead to some political uncertainty at that time. The VCCI said they will be busy with preparations for this year's ASEAN meetings which will be held in Hanoi during the fourth quarter of 2020.

2. Subsequently, the Secretariat approached the two CACCI Primary Members in Taiwan – the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC) – and chairman of both organizations agreed to jointly host this year's CACCI Conference in Taipei.



3. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which has made it inadvisable to organize face-to-face meetings, it was later decided that the 34th CACCI Conference be held in an online format instead. After consultation with the schedule of CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi and other key CACCI officers, it was decided to schedule the virtual Conference on October 30, 2020.



related matters.

4. Thereafter, CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi conducted regular videoconferences with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the CACCI Secretariat to discuss preparations for the 34th CACCI Conference. Discussions focused on the theme and topics, the speaker line-up, the Conference program and format, the virtual meeting platform, and other

II. Training Programs



5. The CACCI Secretariat coordinated with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) on the workshop to be conducted by Mr. Pavel Andrl, from the ICC Banking Commission, on ***“The Latest Rules and Regulations on International Trade Contracts”*** originally scheduled in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City sometime in March.

6. However, due to the continued spread of the corona virus, it was agreed to postpone the workshop to a later date and to hold it in a virtual format, to be conducted and hosted separately by interested member chambers.

III. Invitations to Regional and International Forums

7. Since the CACCI Council Meeting in November 2019, CACCI received several invitations to attend a number of regional and international forums, including the following

ARISE Plus Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation and NTBs



8. The ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE) Plus invited CACCI to attend the 4th ARISE Plus Roundtable Discussion and the Roundtable Discussion on NTBs in ASEAN Between the Private Sector and the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee held on January 21 and 22, respectively, in Bangkok.

9. The ARISE programme is a technical cooperation facility funded by the EU to support the implementation of key regional initiatives prioritised in the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity, to support greater economic integration in ASEAN to build the ASEAN single market and production base through the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

10. The objective of the 4th ARISE Plus Roundtable Discussion was to bring together ASEAN institutions and private sector representatives to discuss in an informal setting on increased private sector engagement in ASEAN and state-of-play of ASEAN Trade Facilitation initiatives.

11. The Roundtable Discussion on NTBs in ASEAN Between the Private Sector and the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee was organized by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the EU-ASEAN Business Council. CACCI was invited to the Roundtable Discussions as an Associate Member of the Joint Business Councils of the ASEAN-BAC.

WCF General Council Meeting in Paris



12. Immediate Past CACCI President Mr. Jemal Inaishvili represented the Confederation at the meeting of the World Chambers Federation (WCF) General Council Meeting held on February 12-13, 2020 in Paris.

13. As a transnational business organization, CACCI is a

Permanent Member of the General Council, the governing body of the WCF. Mr. Inaishvili joined other Primary Member officers who are also members of the WCF General Council.

14. One of the highlights of the two-day event was the bid presentation made by each of the chambers of commerce bidding to host the 13th World Chambers Congress scheduled to take place on 21-23 June 2023. The bidders included the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (CCIRF), a Primary Member of CACCI. The other two were the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services from Switzerland and the Stavanger Region of Chamber of Commerce from Norway.

Joint Business Council Meetings of ASEAN BAC in Hanoi



ASEAN-BAC

15. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) was invited to attend the first meeting for 2020 of the Joint Business Councils (JBC) of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) originally scheduled on April 7 in Danang, Vietnam. CACCI was to participate as an Associate Member of JBC. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was re-scheduled to August 2020 and held virtually. Representatives of CACCI led by Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of the CACCI SME Development Council, joined the said virtual meeting.

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

CoNGO RCAP Meeting in Bangkok



17. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) was once again invited to attend the upcoming meeting of the Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)

originally scheduled to be held on May 22-23, 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand. However, this was later cancelled due to the COVID pandemic

18. To be chaired by CoNGO President Mr. Liberato Bautista and co-chaired by CoNGO First Vice President Mr. Cyril Ritchie, the two-day meeting was supposed to examine case studies by NGOs/CSOs on implementation (regional, national, local) of the six Sustainable Development 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



2020. Since the adoption of the 17 SDGs by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, NGOs and CSOs throughout the world – including those in the Asia-Pacific region – have set to work to make the Goals meaningful to the populations they serve, working in concert with governments, communities, academia and other stakeholders.

19. With the cancellation of the May 2020 meeting, CoNGO members were instead requested to submit their latest activities and experience in advocating for and implementing one or more of the above six SDGs. Members were requested to focus their discussion on good practices, such as what initiatives have worked, what cooperation mechanisms with other stakeholders have proven valuable; as well as core challenges, such as what impediments have arisen in cooperation and outreach; and lessons learned, including what new mobilization actions and channels are needed and/or foreseen to make progress on SDG implementation. From the submissions, CoNGO was expected to produce a synthesis which will be fed into the next HLPF meeting.

ASEAN Business and Investment Summit



20. The ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) invited CACCI members to attend the **2020 ASEAN Business & Investment Summit (ASEAN-BIS)** held on **November 13, 2020** at 08:00 hrs – 21:00 hrs., Hanoi time. The event was on live streaming with English/Vietnamese parallel channels.

21. Focusing on the theme **“Digital ASEAN: Sustainable and Inclusive”**, this year’s ASEAN-BIS 2020 discussed the importance of the fourth industrial revolution in stimulating growth, trade and investment against the backdrop of the shock of the coronavirus and the many challenges facing the region. The Summit’s program covered four sub-themes: ASEAN’s Economic Outlook; the Future of ESG investing in Asia; Technology and the Future of Work in ASEAN; and Sustainable Agri Development and Inclusive Growth

22. The ASEAN-BIS is organized by the ASEAN-BAC annually to coincide with the ASEAN Summit. It brings together private and public sector organizations, government representatives and captains of industry from within and outside ASEAN for dialogue and networking, and provides an interactive platform to advance industry and business in the region. The annual event enables participants to share ideas, information and best practices; to be updated on new trends and challenges; and to evaluate how these impact on business.

IV. CACCI Co-Signs the CoNGO Declaration on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations



Conférence des ONG
ayant des Relations
Consultatives
avec les Nations Unies

23. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) agreed to be a signatory to the Declaration of the Conference of Non

governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations. CACCI, which was granted

Consultative Status with the ECOSOC under the United Nations in 1970, joined CoNGO in 1979.

24. The CoNGO Declaration reaffirmed the centrality of the United Nations to a more peaceful and more just world, where all people have access to education, health, judicial remedy, democratic participation, and economic advancement.; and salutes the achievements of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security, the promotion of human rights, and the advancement of sustainable development. However, CoNGO notes that, while Agenda 2030 is a framework to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the planet, progress has fallen short of what is required. CoNGO calls for the strengthening of the United Nations, expanding its role to more effectively engage civil society everywhere, entering into a dialogue to achieve a structure of relationships that responds to the challenges of a changing world; urging all governments to strengthen their commitment to the United Nations not only morally but also financially and materially.

V. Approval of Governance Framework for All CACCI Product and Service Councils



25. As part of efforts to further strengthen the CACCI Product and Service Councils (PSCs) and make them more effective and efficient platforms for regional cooperation in various industry and service sectors, the CACCI Council has approved a Resolution to adopt a Governance Framework and Terms of Reference that would apply to all CACCI PSCs.

26. The adoption of the Governance Framework and Terms of Reference applicable to all PSCs aims to establish and perpetuate the efficiency in the PSCs’ ability to meet its goals, and even their public relations and perceptions, as well as help define the role of those in leadership positions, delineates duties, and helps prevent duplicated efforts and the overlooking of critical issues. It is also important in preserving and strengthening stakeholder confidence, providing the foundation for a high-performing organization, and ensuring the organization is well placed to respond to a changing external environment.



VI. CACCI Foundation-Funded Training Program for Women in Cosmetic Industry



27. The Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) successfully completed the CACCI Foundation-funded training program designed for women in cosmetic industry. Conducted in-house at MNCCI and at the Corporate Hotel in Ulaanbaatar, the training program was held from January 10 to January 24 and was attended by 30 trainees, of whom 28 were women and two were men.



28. The MNCCI project is the beneficiary of a US\$5,000 grant from the CACCI Foundation. Named “Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Cosmetic Industry,” it is primarily aimed at strengthening the capacity of female-owned cosmetic companies by conducting training to some 200 employees (both women and men) of the 30 Mongolian companies engaged in the manufacture of end-use cosmetics.

29. The subjects covered by the training program included: (a) Hygiene and general requirements for the cosmetic industry; (b) Selection of raw materials for cosmetics and methods of suppressing the smell of raw material of animal origin; (c) Physical and chemical structure of vegetable and animal fats and properties; (d) Animal fat and vegetable oil processing methodology; (e) Antioxidant raw materials in Mongolia and their usage in the cosmetic industry; (f) Chemicals used in cosmetics; (g) EU market entry using requirement export system.



VII. CACCI Issues Three Policy Papers Endorsed During the Dhaka Conference



30. CACCI circulated to members three policy papers finalized by the Working Group on Policy Advocacy and subsequently endorsed by the CACCI Council during its meeting on November 27, 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

31. The three papers included the following:

- a. 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)
- b. Paper on “*Greater Emphasis on Skills Development and Availability*”, prepared for CACCI by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce
- c. 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

VIII Preparations for the 35th CACCI Conference in 2021



32. The Wellington Chamber of Commerce (WCC) had earlier offered to host the 35th CACCI Conference on October 2021 in Wellington, New Zealand, to be held in conjunction with Meeting of the APEC Finance Ministers scheduled at that time.

33. However, at the end of June 2020, the WCC advised CACCI that the New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Trade & Export Growth Minister decided that New Zealand’s hosting of APEC 2021 would be held entirely using virtual digital platforms.

34. The WCC thereafter told CACCI that they remain committed to hosting the 35th CACCI Conference in Wellington in October 2021. However, they stressed that the possibility of this pushing through will ultimately depend on the New Zealand Government’s policy on international gatherings and border restrictions at that time.

35. Subsequently, on October 16, the WCC notified the CACCI Secretariat that *“Given the uncertainty around New Zealand’s international border, APEC 2021’s move to a virtual platform, and the time it takes to prepare the CACCI Conference, it is not possible for Wellington to host a face-to-face Conference in October 2021. This is incredibly disappointing for the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce; however, our decision must be aligned with our Government’s strategy for combating the Covid-19 virus.”*



36. The CACCI Secretariat thereafter received a message from Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of the CACCI SME Development Council, conveying the interest of Singapore Business Federation (SBF) to host the 35th CACCI Conference next year but only if it is scheduled in August 2021. They plan to host it in conjunction with its three major business platforms, namely, the Singapore Regional Business Forum, the Asia Infrastructure Forum, and the ASEAN Conference.

37. The Advisory Board agreed that the SBF offer to host the 35th CACCI Conference in August 2021 was an unexpected but welcome development. They expressed their hopes that the travel situation would have normalized by then and members from other countries would not be restricted to travel to Singapore.

38. The Advisory Board decided to recommend to the 92nd CACCI Council meeting on November 20, 2020 the acceptance of the offer of the Singapore Business Federation.

IX. Members’ Submission of Project Proposals for CACCI Foundation Funding



39. A total of four project proposals were received by the CACCI Secretariat in response for the call from CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi for submissions of project proposals for funding by the CACCI Foundation as part of current efforts to help the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the region mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on their respective businesses. The project proposals were submitted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, and the Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

40. 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 the Asian developing countries to become sustained contributors to economic development of their respective countries.

X. Participation in TOBB Online Forum



41. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi was one of the special guest speakers at the online forum on “TOBB International Relations in the Post-Covid Era” organized by the Union of Chambers and Commodity exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on July 1, 2020.

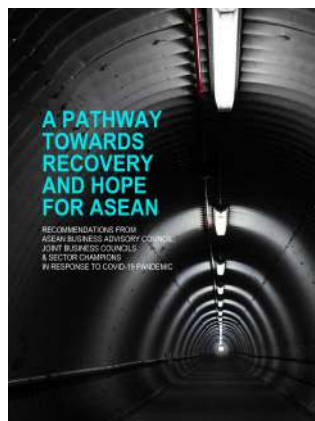
42. Mr. Modi was invited to speak on “*Post COVID-19 and CACCI: The Economies of Asia-Pacific Countries*”. The other speakers included Mr. Youseff H. Khalawi, Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCA), who spoke on “Post COVID-19 and ICCIA: The Economies of OIC Countries”; and Mr. Gunter Verheugen, Advisor to the President of TOBB and Former Vice President of the European Commission, who as Keynote Speaker gave a general evaluation of the relations between the EU and the rest of the World, especially USA, China and the UK in the Post-Covid-19 and of Turkey-EU relations.

XI. Invitation from ICC Saudi Arabia Chairman to Participate in B20 Summit



43. Mr. Yassin Alsuroor, Vice Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and concurrently Chairman of ICC Saudi Arabia (and Executive Chairman of A’amal Group), touched base with the CACCI Secretariat on July 13 to discuss the possibility of CACCI organizing a webinar during the B20 Summit on October 26-27, 2020. The B20 is a forum through which the private sector produces policy recommendations for the annual meeting of the Group of 20 (G20) leaders. The B20 brings together business leaders from across G20 member countries to reflect the key role of the private sector as the main driver of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. The B20 Summit serves as the occasion for the B20 members to present their final policy recommendations to the G20 Presidency. This year’s B20 was chaired by Saudi Arabia.

J. CACCI as Co-Signatory to ASEAN-BAC Document



44. CACCI was one of the co-signatories to a document entitled “**A Pathway Towards Recovery and Hope for ASEAN**” jointly prepared by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, the Joint Business Councils (of which CACCI is an Associate Member), and sector champions of ASEAN BAC. The ASEAN BAC submitted the document to the ASEAN Leaders for consideration.

45. The document contains a package of recommendations in response to the Covid-19 epidemic, consisting mainly of short-term proposals “to facilitate coordinated, confidence-building

mechanisms as we gradually re-open our economies.”

XII. CACCI President Joins Online Meeting on NZ-India Relationships



46. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi was invited by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce (WCC) to an online meeting on June 26 for a discussion on New Zealand-India relationships.

47. Organized by Mr. John Milford, Chief Executive of WCC, the online meeting was also attended by Mr. Stephen Jacobi, Executive Director of both the New Zealand International Business Forum (NZIBF) and the APEC Business Advisory Council (NZ); Ms. Fiona Cooper, Associate Director of the NZIBF and Vice-Chair of East Asia Business Council’s RCEP Working Group; and Mr. Fergus Grenfell, Policy Researcher at WCC.

48. Discussions focused mainly on how to further improve the economic and business relations between New Zealand and India, which the meeting participants agreed need improvement. Aside from getting the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) approved soonest preferably with the participation of India, Mr. Modi proposed three other channels for strengthening economic ties between the two countries

XIII. Meeting with Indian Representative in Taiwan



49. CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin had a lunch meeting on July 15 in Taipei with Mr. Rishikesh Swaminathan Ravikumar, Deputy Director-General of India Taipei Association. They were joined by Mr. Guann-Jyh Lee, Deputy Director-General, Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan); Dr. Madhu, Cherukury, CEO, Allgenesis Biotherapeutics Inc.; and CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado. Discussions focused on business and investment opportunities for Indian companies in Taiwan

XIV. Participation in Webinars Conducted by CACCI Knowledge Partners



50. CACCI Forwarded to CACCI officers and members the invitation to join webinars organized by CACCI Knowledge Partners and other associate organizations, such as Oliver Wyman, European Financial Management Association, Fintelekt Advisory Services, the ASEAN BAC, the New Zealand Chamber Singapore, the ASEAN New Zealand Business Council Inc., the Australian Society of Association Executives, the International Hospital Federation, the ICC Academy, and the Philippine



Council of Associations and Association Executives, among others. By joining forces with its Knowledge Partners. CACCI hopes to provide its member chambers and their respective constituencies the opportunity to connect online with their colleagues from other organizations

XV. Monthly Teleconference with ICC WCF



51. The CACCI Secretariat conducted its regular monthly teleconference with its contact persons at the ICC World Chambers Federation for an exchange of information and updates on the ongoing and upcoming activities of their respective organizations.

XVI. Re-scheduling of Proposed CACCI Events



52. During the early part of the year, CACCI was coordinating with some of its Primary Members on the proposed holding of a number of joint activities during the first half of 2020. However, with the onset of the corona virus spread in the region, it was decided to re-schedule these events to later dates when the situation would have been contained. These events included the following

- a. Investment Forum to be jointly organized by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC) and CACCI in Taipei, Taiwan. High-level delegates from the private and government sectors of Bangladesh would come to Taipei to encourage and invite Taiwanese businessmen to invest in Bangladesh.
- b. Young Entrepreneurs Summit to be jointly organized by the Nepal Young Entrepreneurs Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal with the support of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and CACCI's Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP)
- c. CACCI Presidential visit to Taipei to meet with CIECA and CNAIC, followed by a visit to Seoul to meet with the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

XVII. Solicitation of Online Nominations for CACCI Awards



53. The CACCI Secretariat sent circulars to Primary Members soliciting their online nominations for the following CACCI Awards: (a) Local Chamber Awards; (b) Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award; (c) Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award; and (d) Hydropower and Clean Energy Excellence Award. Online submissions were compiled by the Secretariat to be sent to the Awards Committee for evaluation. The winners of the above awards will be announced during the 35th CACCI Conference in 2021 .

XVIII. CACCI Publications



54. The CACCI Secretariat issued the latest editions of the monthly **CACCI Profile** and the newsletters of the various CACCI Product and Service Councils (Health and Education, Tourism, Women Entrepreneurs, Food and Agriculture). It also issued the **CACCI 2019 Year-End Review** which summarizes the Confederation's activities in 2019.



XIX. B20 Arabia



55. The CACCI Secretariat coordinated with the B20 Arabia and the International Chamber of Commerce on the application of CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi to be a member of the Task Force on Digitalization and/or the Task Force on the Future of Work and Education. Unfortunately, Mr. Modi was unable to join any of the Task Forces in which he applied.

56. The B20 – currently chaired by Saudi Arabia - is a platform that serves as an intermediary group between G20 governments and the international business community. Its primary mission is to deal with the urgent global issues by developing actionable recommendations from global business leaders to the G20 Leaders.

XX. Monthly Teleconference with ICC WCF



57. The CACCI Secretariat conducted its regular monthly teleconference with its contact persons at the ICC World Chambers Federation for an exchange of information and updates on the ongoing and upcoming activities of their respective organizations.

XXI. Dissemination of ASEAN Investment Report 2019



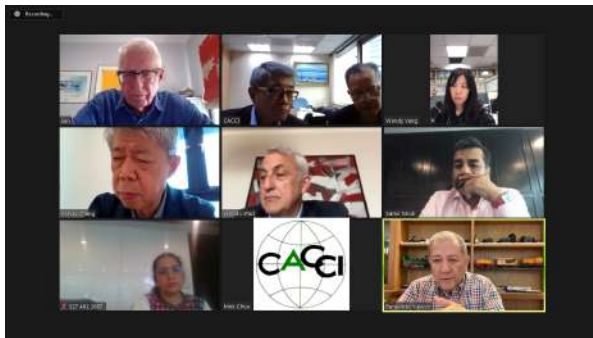
58. The CACCI Secretariat disseminated to all CACCI members copies of the ASEAN Investment Report 2019, which was launched at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Bangkok in November 2019

XXII. Survey on CACCI Activities During Covid-19 and Beyond



59. CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi requested the CACCI Secretariat to conduct a survey among CACCI officers soliciting their suggestions on how CACCI can continue to serve and remain relevant and of value to members under the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

XXIII. First Online Meeting of the CACCI Advisory Board



60. Members of the CACCI Advisory Board, composed of past and current Presidents of CACCI, held a virtual meeting on May 20, 2020 to discuss how CACCI should adopt to the changing world brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain its relevance to its members.

61. Presided by Advisory Board Chairman Mr. Kenneth Court from Australia, the virtual meeting was attended by Mr. Harvey Chang from Taiwan, Amb. Benedicto Yujuico from the Philippines, Mr. Jemal Inaishvili from Georgia, and the incumbent CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi from India. Also in attendance were CACCI Secretariat officers led by Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin as well as Ms. Aneesha Duggal, Special Assistant to Mr. Modi.

62. The Advisory Board members exchanged views and insights on how the Confederation can continue to serve and be of value to its members under the current circumstances and uncertainties . caused by the pandemic. Among others, they shared ideas on how to continue bringing members together during this time when congregating in person is not possible, how to assist and learn from each other as they face identical challenges across the region, how to maintain communications with and among members to keep them informed and learn from each others' experiences; and how to move forward into the future under the so-called new normal created not only by the pandemic but also by the changing geopolitical and global economic landscapes.

XXIV. Virtual Conference on “Roadmap Towards Back-to-Business for Asia Pacific Countries”



63. With the economic fallout from the global spread of COVID-19 continuing to increase, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and CACCI invited representatives from selected CACCI member chambers – including those from Japan, the Philippines, Australia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Georgia, Bangladesh and India – to convene online for a panel discussion on June 2, 2020.

64. The panelists were requested to share information and their insights on: (a) the expected impact of the health crisis on their respective economies; (b) what the business sector and government authorities in their countries are doing to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the economy and to safeguard business operations; (c) what measures are currently being set in place as part of efforts to put back the economy and businesses on the road to recovery; and (d) the challenges – and

opportunities – that their markets face at the present time and what businesses have learned from this situation.

XXV. Second Virtual Meeting of the CACCI Advisory Board



65. The CACCI Advisory Board met virtually for the second time on October 26, 2020, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Taipei Time. Presided by Advisory Board Chairman Mr. Kenneth Court from Australia, the virtual meeting was attended by Mr. Harvey Chang from Taiwan, Amb. Benedicto Yujuico from the Philippines, Mr. Jemal Inaishvili from Georgia, and the incumbent CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi from India.

66. During the meeting, the Advisory Board continued their discussion on how CACCI should adapt to the changing world brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing shifts in geopolitical and global economic landscapes, and maintain the relevance and value of the Confederation to its members, while keeping them engaged and involved in the activities of the organization.

67. Among the policy issues and activities that the Advisory Board members exchanged views and insights on included the following: (a) the process for the election of new CACCI officers for 2021-2022 and thereafter; (b) the commissioning of a research study on “Restructuring the World Trading System” which would examine the demise of the global trading system and what to do to fix the system; (c) the projects to be funded by the CACCI Foundation aimed at helping SMEs survive amidst the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and (d) the venue of the 35th CACCI Conference in 2021.

68. The decisions and recommendations reached by the Advisory Board during its October 26 meeting were later presented to the 92nd CACCI Council Meeting on November 20 for endorsement and approval.

XXVI. Virtual Meeting of the CACCI Budget Commission



69. Members of the CACCI Budget Commission held its first-ever online meeting on October 26, 2020 at 3:30 PM, Taipei time.

70. Presided by Budget Commission Chairman Dr. Steve Hsieh from Taiwan, the meeting was attended by CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi, CACCI Honorary Treasurer Mr. Ernest Yuen from Hong Kong, Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Tabish from Pakistan, and CACCI Secretariat executives led by DG Mr. Ernest Lin.

71. Discussions focused mainly on the proposed CACCI budget for 2021, the status of membership fee payments and actions to take to encourage delinquent members to bring their account up-to-date, and activities that may require additional budget allocation for next year including the research study proposed by the CACCI Advisory Board and the projects submitted by members for funding by the CACCI Foundation.

72. The decisions and recommendations of the Budget Commission reached during its October 26 meeting will be formally presented to the CACCI Council when it meets online on November 20.

XXVII. Virtual 34th CACCI Conference

73. Focusing on the theme **“Achieving Sustainable Growth in a Turbulent and Disruptive**



Global Market”, this year’s CACCI Conference – the first-ever to be held by the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) in an online format – featured speakers who elaborated on their perspectives on current trends, challenges, and uncertainties in the world market environment and geopolitical landscape, and the role of

governments and businesses in mitigating the impact of these market developments and global disruptions on the economy and business operations.

74. The focus areas of discussion by the invited speakers included:

- Asian Development Outlook: The Precarious Path to Recovery
- The Challenge of Restoring the Multilateral Trading System
- The China-US Trade Friction and Its Impact on the Global Economy

75. Organized with the support of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the webinar provided the participants the opportunity to explore what the new normal might look like and prepare for it, to better understand the current landscape they are operating in, and to know what they need to do to resume operations and achieve business recovery. Representatives from selected member chambers were also given the opportunity to deliver brief statements on activities they have undertaken to address the challenges and difficulties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

XXVIII. Virtual 92nd CACCI Council Meeting

76. The 92nd CACCI Council Meeting was held virtually on November 20, 2020 – the first-ever annual gathering of CACCI Council members held in an online format.



77. Organized with the support of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the meeting was chaired by CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi and attended by CACCI officers, designated Chief Representatives of CACCI Primary Members, and members of the CACCI Advisory Board.

78. In his Welcome Remarks, CACCI President Mr. Modi thanked the participants for attending the virtual meeting, stressing that their kind virtual presence showed their continued commitment not only to the Confederation and what it stands for, but also to the global chamber movement, especially during these uncertain and extraordinary times



79. The Council Meeting reviewed the activities of CACCI since the last Council Meeting held in November 2019 in Dhaka. It also discussed and exchanged views on CACCI ongoing and upcoming activities and programs, including the election of CACCI officers for the next term, the proposed research study on “Restructuring the World Trading System”, the proposed projects for funding by the CACCI Foundation, the proposed CACCI budget for 2021, the online nominations of the four CACCI Awards, and the host and venue of the 35th CACCI Conference in 2021, among others.

XXIX. Invitation to the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival



80. CACCI was invited to participate in the virtual 5th ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival (AYEC) held on November 30, 2020.

81. Jointly organized by the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Council and Vietnam Young Entrepreneurs Association with the support of the ASEAN-BAC, this year’s Carnival carried the theme “Together We are Making Differences” and aimed to foster closer networking, interaction and collaboration amongst young business leaders in ASEAN and the region. Two panel discussions were held. The first one featured panelists from various

ASEAN member countries who shared their perspectives on “Ecosystem and Alliance: Building our Future Via Strategic Collaboration”. The second panel addressed the topic “Roadmap to the Digital Future for ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs.” The Carnival also saw the handover of the Chairmanship of AYEC 2020/21 to the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Brunei.

XXX. Endorsement of the CoNGO Statement on NGO Access to and at the UN in the Time of Covid-19



82. CACCI endorsed the Statement issued on November 30, 2020 by the Conference of NGOs with Consultative Status Under the United Nations (CoNGO) on NGO Access to and at the United Nations in the Time of COVID-19. Developed during a consultation held on November 18, 2020 among representatives of CoNGO member organizations and officers of its NGO committees, the Statement aims to address challenges and opportunities for NGO access to and at the United Nations in a time of COVID-19 pandemic.

83. The Statement cited difficulties arising from new UN rules instituted as a result of the pandemic. It also identified limitations on human rights on democracy instituted by national governments while combating the pandemic, and identified specific access issues – physical, practical, political – in the year before the pandemic.

XXXI. Endorsement of CoNGO Statement on Covid-19 Recovery



84. CACCI endorsed a statement made by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) entitled “COVID-19 Recovery: Building Back Better.”

85. The CoNGO statement complements and reinforces the October 2019 CoNGO declaration made on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, for the global collaboration needed to address lingering and emerging issues of concern, not the least about global health. COVID-19 is one such concern, whose virulent effect no one anticipated. According to the CoNGO Statement, COVID-19 is ravaging lives and livelihoods, imperiling people and the planet even more, on top of already worrisome global warming, global forced migration, global poverty, global disregard for human rights, global unrest and insecurity, and more. As such, the statement notes that the situation requires collaborative action at local, national, regional and global levels.

XXXII. Submission of Paper on “The Application of Science, Technology and Innovation Through Public-Private Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Development” for the 2020 ECOSOC High Level Segment.



86. CACCI submitted a paper to the 2020 UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment entitled “*The Application of Science, Technology and Innovation Through Public-Private Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Development*”. The paper was prepared for CACCI by the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF).

87. The paper points out that to fight against communicable diseases and improve efficiency in preventing future pandemics, CACCI urges civil society, nations and

private sector to stand together and establish infectious diseases surveillance systems, globally replicate proven models to deal with widespread pandemics, and jumpstart efforts to achieve a more sustainable future.

XXXIII. Submission of Paper to the Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific of CoNGO



88. CACCI submitted a paper on *“A Paradigm toward an Equitable and Sustainable Future through the Public-Private Partnership in the Asia-Pacific”* to the Regional Committee in Asia Pacific of CoNGO.

89. Among others, the paper - which was prepared by TaiwanICDF for CACCI - states that to increase the impact of sustainable development, resources from public and private need to be synergized. Sustainable development requires active participations from all stakeholders. Through public and private partnership, real-time information will be disseminated, sustainable awareness will be raised, and resources will be integrated.

XXXIV. ASEAN-BAC and JBC Joint Statement on Covid-19 Pandemic and Post-Recovery



90. CACCI was one of the signatories of the Joint Statement issued by ASEAN Business Advisory Council, with the support of the Joint Business Council and other private sector champions, to the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) concerning ASEAN’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic economic recovery plans.

91. The Statement notes that as the voices for ASEAN and international businesses across the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and the Joint Business Councils, along with their partner institutions, stand united with the governments of the region in the fight to eradicate COVID-19 and mitigate the significant and adverse economic impacts of this pandemic on all ASEAN peoples.

92. According to the Joint Statement, there is an opportunity for ASEAN to demonstrate cohesiveness in a pandemic, that its immediate action is critical to its long-term prosperity, and that a new and transformative normal is needed to fast track ASEAN economic integration.

93. To that end, they recommend the immediate establishment of an ASEAN High Level Special Commission (HLSC). This Commission would be tasked by ASEAN Leaders to look at ensuring and mandating better collaboration and cohesiveness across the region, both in dealing with the current and raging pandemic, and in ensuring that ASEAN comes out stronger, more integrated, and globally competitive from the pandemic. Ideally, the proposed COVID-19 HLSC would be formed swiftly in order to allow for medium to long-term recommendations to be made to the Leaders at the ASEAN Summit in November 2020, if not sooner, and for those recommendations to be speedily implemented. Additionally, the

Special Commission should consider concrete and practical measures during the pandemic with regard to priority sectors such as: travel, essential goods and related supply chains, medical services, and digital tools.

94. Finally, the statement notes that it is crucial to deepen ASEAN Economic Integration, as well as to demonstrate that ASEAN is the destination of choice for foreign direct investments. The business community will undoubtedly look to ASEAN for the bold and decisive way forward

XXXV. Participation in Virtual 15th ASEAN-BAC JBCs Meeting



95. CACCI participated in the 15h ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Joint Business Councils (JBCs) meeting held via Zoom on May 15, 2020.

96. Chaired by Dr. Doan Duy Khuong from ASEAN-BAC Vietnam and Vice President of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), and moderated by Mr. Gil Gonzales, Executive Director of ASEAN-BAC Secretariat, the two-hour virtual meeting discussed possible JBC response to COVID-19 and the way forward. Among others, the participants considered the ASEAN Secretariat Report on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and proposed policy recommendations. Representatives of each of the JBCs also provided updates on their recent and upcoming activities to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

97. Representing CACCI during the video conference was Mr. George Abraham, Chairman of the CACCI SME Development Council and Chairman and Managing Director of The GA Group Pte Ltd. from Singapore. Also in attendance were CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. CACCI joined the virtual meeting as an Associate Member of the ASEAN-BAC JBCs. It was admitted as Associate Member in June 2019.

XXXVI. Meeting with Philippine Representatives in Taiwan

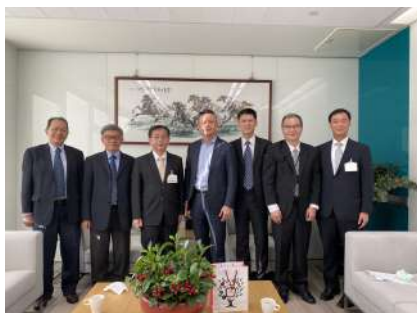


98. CACCI Director General Mr. Ernest Lin and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. visited the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) in Taiwan where they were received by MECO Chairman and Resident Representative Mr. Angelito Tan Banayo and MECO Trade Representative/Director for Commercial Affairs Mr. Michael Alfred V. Ignacio. Accompanying them were Mr. Joseph Huang, Senior Vice President of CTBC

Financial Holding and Deputy Secretary General of Third Wednesday Club; Mr. Robert Chang, Vice President of CTBC Financial Holding; and Ms. Ivy Chang, Assistant Manager of CTBC Financial Holding.

99. Discussions focused on possible areas of cooperation between MECO, CACCI and CTBC Financial Holding in promoting business opportunities in Taiwan and the Philippines. One proposal put forward was the holding of a joint webinar featuring relevant government officials and businessmen from the Philippines who would talk about policies and incentives to attract foreign investors to the country.

XXXVII. Meeting with Newly Appointed Taiwan Representative to India



100. CACCI Secretariat officers led by Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin met with Mr. Baushuan Ger, Director-General, Department of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan. Mr. Ger is newly-appointed representative of Taiwan to India. The meeting served as an occasion for the CACCI Secretariat officers to introduce CACCI and its activities to Mr. Ger, as well as to the other MOFA officials who accompanied him to the meeting.

101. The CACCI Secretariat made special mention of the current CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi who is from India, and of the active involvement of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Confederation. The Secretariat offered assistance to Mr. Ger in case he would like to meet with Mr. Modi and/or visit FICCI. Mr. Ger expressed interest in meeting Mr. Modi and visiting FICCI after his arrival in new Delhi. This message was subsequently conveyed by the CACCI Secretariat to both Mr. Modi and to FICCI during their videoconference on September 21.

XXXVIII. Company Visit to MiTAC Information Technology Corp.



102. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado joined other representatives in Taiwan of embassies and trade and economic offices from other countries during their visit to MiTAC Information Technology Corp. held on October 20, 2020. Organized by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the visit to MiTAC – a Taiwanese electronics company established in 1982 - provided the participants the opportunity to get a

better understanding of Taiwan's capabilities as one of the leading ICT providers in the world.

103. MiTAC has a wealth of experience in system integration and has participated in numerous projects in other countries, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, among others. MiTAC's businesses cover mobile and automotive solutions, client computing solutions and enterprise solutions that are tailor made to satisfy regional and global market requirements

XXXIX. Company Visit to Advantech Linkuo Campus



104. CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado joined other representatives in Taiwan of embassies and trade and economic offices from other countries during their visit on November 24, 2020 to the Advantech Linkou Campus located in Linkou in the northwestern part of New Taipei City in northern Taiwan. Advantech is considered a global leader in industrial IoT (Internet of Things) with its innovative products,

services and solutions, and has been ranked fourth place on the Best Global Taiwan Brands list in 2020, with a brand value of US\$626 million and a growth rate of 13%.

105. The visit was part of the Tour of Taiwan Tech and Innovation Program jointly organized by the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT) and Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) covering Taiwan's finest companies that offer innovative solutions to help shape smart cities, providing the participants the opportunity to get a better understanding of Taiwan's capabilities as one of the leading ICT providers in the world. Taiwan recognizes that governments around the world are pushing the development of smart cities to improve the life quality of their citizens, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, and has offered to help foreign countries achieve this goal by sharing Taiwan's technological capabilities through visits to outstanding Taiwanese technology companies.

XL. 2020 Taiwan-Philippine Industrial Collaboration Summit and the 26th PCBC-CPBC Joint Meeting Held in Taipei

106. CACCI Secretariat officers joined business leaders from Taiwan and the Philippines on November 13, 2020 at the 2020 Taiwan-Philippine Industrial Collaboration Summit and the 26th Philippine-Chinese Business Council (PCBC) – Chinese-Philippine Business Council (CPBC) Joint Meeting.

107. Speakers from both sides underscored the need for Taiwan and the Philippines to strengthen their partnerships to meet the economic and public health threats and difficulties brought about by the ongoing Covid-pandemic and other geopolitical challenges (such as the US-China trade friction) with the view to achieving business recovery and resilience.

108. At the end of the Opening Ceremony, two MOUs were signed by both sides – one calling for cooperation in Covid-19 prevention, and the other outlining cooperation in smart education.

109. Four breakout sessions were thereafter held, each one focusing on a specific theme, as follows:

- Sub-Forum 1: Application of ICT Industry (Theme: Fighting Covid-19 Through Digital Technology)
- Sub-Forum 2: Machinery Industry (Theme: PPE and Smart Manufacturing Cooperation Opportunities Between Taiwan and the Philippines in Post-Pandemic Era)
- Sub-Forum 3: Experience and Prospect of Industrial Zone Development (Theme: Joining Hands to Create a Bright Future)
- Sub-Forum 4: Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Theme: Startup Development During and After the Pandemic).

110. A meeting by government and private sector representatives from Taiwan and the Philippines also held a meeting on the sides of the Summit to discuss market access for Philippine young coconuts and mangoes into Taiwan.

XLI. CACCI Secretariat Joins Global Corporate Sustainability Forum in Taipei



111. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) was invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Global Corporate Sustainability Forum (GCSF) held on November 18, 2020 at the Grand Hotel in Taipei. Representing CACCI

at the event was Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr.

112. Hosted by the Alliance for Sustainable Goals (A-SDGs) and executed by Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy (TAISE), the GCSF aims to provide a common platform among policy makers and business communities to exchange their views on promoting and implementing sustainability. Considered as the largest sustainability forum in Asia, the GSCF serves as a dynamic platform where over 2,500 corporate leaders, government executives, and sustainability experts gather to formulate effective partnerships.

113. The theme of this year’s Forum focused on the “3 Is”, namely, Investment, Innovation Driven Sustainability, and Inclusiveness Sustainable Development. The two-day event consisted of 17 workshops and dialogues on issues and topics surrounding the Forum’s theme.

114. The Opening Ceremony was graced by the presence of H. E. Madame President Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (ROC), who delivered an Opening Remarks. President explained the government's sustainable development policies, and expressed hope that government and business will learn from each other and explore the viability of various action plans together so that we can actively share Taiwan's experiences with our global partners

115. Mr. Chuan-Neng Lin, Vice Ministry, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) of the ROC, and Mr. Yung-Chin Hsu, Vice Chairperson, Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) also addressed the Forum

XLII. TAITRA's Tech and Innovation Tour of Southern Taiwan



116. The technological ingenuity and innovation of four major Taiwanese companies in Southern Taiwan were front and center during the Tour of Taiwan Tech and Innovation, conducted by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) from November 12 to 13, 2020.

117. Over twenty members of the diplomatic corps — ambassadors and representatives from several European, African, South American, Caribbean and Pacific island nations — as well as a representative from CACCI, participated in the two-day visit to four firms in Pingtung and Kaohsiung: Fuwan Chocolate, TCI, Nanliu Enterprise, and Brogent Technologies.