



The 2023 Year-End Review

The year 2023 remained a challenging one for many businesses. We entered the year under the spectre of potential recessions in developed markets, with high inflation and interest rates continuing to place downward pressure on growth. Amidst all these, a new world continues to emerge. The global population now thinks and demands differently, cognizant of major shifts in the market environment and the need for adjusting post-pandemic recovery and crafting new economic models.



Focusing on the theme “**Chambers of Commerce - Helping Businesses Get SET for the Future**”, this year’s 37th CACCI Conference aimed at providing our members a platform to share their views on strategies that businesses may pursue for navigating – and creating new opportunities – in the post-pandemic business and global market environment through the three-pronged **SET** principle of Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Trade.

Sustainability is critical for SMEs to gain a competitive advantage in today's market, to be able to manage business risks, grow their brand and enhance their access to capital. Chambers can offer this support to current and potential new members looking to grow their businesses and contribute to a sustainable economy.

Entrepreneurship and particularly inclusive entrepreneurship support people with new ideas to solve some of our most entrenched challenges. By supporting entrepreneurs embrace new technologies and allow for innovation to flourish, we will see new business models emerge to move us toward a truly just economy.

Trade support is a critical service Chambers provide to the business community. Trade not only helps business supply the world with the goods and services we all desire, it also builds and maintains cross-border relationships. Through this support, Chambers are truly strengthening global multilateralism and in-turn global peace.

As the year 2023 draws to a close, and as we usher in the new year, let us examine how various challenges and trends we are seeing today are coming together to influence the future of business, and find ways of making CACCI even more relevant to our members in the years ahead



Summary Report on CACCI Activities in 2023



1. This Report covers the activities of CACCI since the 95th and 96th CACCI Council Meetings held on November 28 and 29, respectively, in 2022. These activities were undertaken in compliance with the decisions made by the CACCI Council during the said meetings and in line with the objectives of CACCI.

I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 37TH CACCI CONFERENCE

A. First Meeting with the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce

2. The CACCI Secretariat held an online meeting on January 6 with key representatives from the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce led by Deputy Director General H. E. Mr. Nimol Meng to discuss initial preparations for the 37th CACCI Conference to be held in Cambodia during the latter part of 2023. Among the items discussed were the format, possible date, and agenda of the Planning Committee Meeting to be convened during the early part of the year to finalize the Conference dates, venue, and theme and topics.



B. Survey on Possible Theme and Topics for the Conference

3. Following the January 6 meeting with the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, the CACCI Secretariat conducted a survey among CACCI officers and members soliciting their suggestions on possible theme and topics for the 37th CACCI Conference. They were requested to identify issues which they deem of current concern to members and the business community as a whole and should be the focus of the Conference discussions.

C. CACCI Planning Committee Meeting

4. The CACCI Planning Committee Meeting was subsequently held virtually on March 16, 4:30 PM Taipei Time. Chaired by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM, and attended by some 15 CACCI members, the meeting discussed and finalized the dates, venue, theme and topics, program, and format of the 37th CACCI Conference. They also reviewed recent and planned CACCI activities for 2023.

D. Change of Date and Venue of the Conference

5. During the early part of the first quarter, the Secretariat continued to hold a series of online preparatory meetings with the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce to discuss the status of preparations for the 37th CACCI Conference.



6. However, on the second week of August, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce informed the CACCI Secretariat that due to recent political developments in the country, they are no longer able to organize the Conference in Cambodia.
7. The CACCI Secretariat thereafter approached the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) to assume the role as Conference host. Thankfully, the Chamber accepted. CACCI officers and members, as well as the invited speakers were then advised of the change in dates and venue.

II. THE 37TH CACCI CONFERENCE

8. The 37th CACCI Conference was successfully held in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 6-7, 2023, with the participation of some 400 delegates over the two-



day period composed largely of businessmen and chamber of commerce representatives from 25 Asia-Pacific countries, led by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM from Australia and Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI). Held at the Hyatt Regency

Kathmandu Hotel, the Conference was jointly organized by CACCI and the FNCCI.

9. The Opening Ceremony of the Conference featured as Keynote Speaker Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Former Prime Minister of Nepal; as Special Guest Dr. Prakash



Sharan Mahat, Honorable Finance Minister of Nepal; and as Chief Guest Mr. Ramchandra Paudel, Right Honorable President of Nepal. On the morning of November 7, CACCI officers led by President Peter McMullin AM made a courtesy

call on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda at his residence.

10. In conjunction with the 37th CACCI Conference, members of the CACCI Council, which is the governing body of the Confederation, convened the 97th CACCI Council Meeting on November 6, 2023. Among the items discussed and agreed upon during the Council Meeting included the following:

- a. **Review of CACCI Activities since the 96th Council Meeting** - The CACCI Council reviewed the activities undertaken by the Confederation since its last meeting held in November 2022 in Melbourne, Australia,



- b. **Admission of New Members** - The CACCI Council formally approved the admission of the **Singapore Manufacturing Federation** as the newest Primary Member, and five new Lifetime Special Members from Pakistan and one the Philippines:



- c. **Proposed Budget for 2024** – Members of the CACCI Council reviewed and approved the proposed budget of the Confederation for 2024.
- d. **Endorsement of CACCI Policy Paper Study** – The CACCI Council endorsed the policy paper study that was reviewed during the meeting held earlier by the CACCI Policy Advocacy Working Group. The paper aimed for a sector specific, green transformation model for value chain formation among CACCI member countries.

CACCI PRESIDENTIAL VISITS TO TAIWAN AND VIETNAM

11. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM and representatives from various



Primary Members visited Taipei and Hanoi on May 17-18 and May 22-23, respectively. to meet with officers of CACCI Primary and Affiliate Members in Taiwan and Vietnam as well as to make courtesy calls on local key government officials and other organizations involved in promoting trade and investment cooperation between Taiwan and other countries. The

CACCI delegation also visited local business enterprises to obtain information on their products and services and other related activities and explore possible areas of business cooperation.

12. The two-day visits provided the delegation the opportunity to strengthen ties between CACCI and Taiwanese and Vietnamese government officials and business sector, and to seek their support for the Confederation and its activities. During their various meetings with private and government sector representatives in the two countries, Mr. McMullin and members of his delegation introduced CACCI, elaborating on the Confederation's objectives and



what it does to encourage cooperation among businessmen in the region. They also exchanged views on the local business conditions; areas of opportunities for business, trade and investment; and policies set in place by the Taiwanese and Vietnamese governments to attract foreign investors.

13. The CACCI delegation was composed mostly of some 20 chamber executives and businessmen from eight CACCI



member countries – including Australia, Georgia, Hong Kong, Iran, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Taiwan - looking at possible business and investment opportunities or considering expansion of their existing businesses in Taiwan and Vietnam or to invite them to

consider their respective countries as an investment destination for Taiwanese and Vietnamese investors.

14. During the Taiwan visit, CACCI President McMullin and his delegation visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, National Development Council, MiTAC Information Technology Corp., Delta Electronics, and the Commerce Development Research Institute.

15. Mr. McMullin also had the opportunity to make a courtesy call on President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (ROC), Taiwan. In her



Welcome Remarks for Mr. McMullin, President Tsai said that the nations included in Taiwan's New Southbound Policy maintain engagement with CACCI and are key external trade

partners for Taiwan. She also said that she looks forward to continuing Taiwan's close cooperation with the Confederation to bolster connectivity among Asia-Pacific nations and make even greater contributions to the region's economy and development.

16. In response to President Tsai's Welcome Remarks, President McMullin said that his delegation has been impressed by what they



have seen in Taiwan and that the hospitality they have received has been exceptional. He said that the business-like nature of Taiwan is very much a comfort for the delegation members and that they have found it very easy to engage with

organizations and government agencies in Taiwan.

17. President McMullin stated that his presidency, under the framework of CACCI, is based on three principles of Sustainability,



Entrepreneurship, and Trade. He added that CACCI is working with regional and global organizations including the G20 and European chambers of commerce. Thanking the Taiwanese

government for its support, President McMullin expressed his belief that "through our collaboration, we can achieve a great deal."

18. This was essentially the same message that President McMullin conveyed to the relevant government agencies and private sector organizations that the CACCI delegation visited in Vietnam.

19. Among the highlights of the Vietnam visit was the dinner hosted by Pakistan's Ambassador to Vietnam H. E. Samina Mehtab; the meeting with officers and members of VCCI led by Chairman and President Mr. Pham Tan Cong; the meeting with high-level officials of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Planning and Investment; visit to the Kinh Bac City (KBC) Group, which is considered the leading enterprise in Vietnam in terms of investment, development, construction and business of industrial park and urban infrastructure; and a meeting with the Australian Embassy in Vietnam where they learned about the strong presence of Australia in Vietnam's economy. The various Ministries thanked CACCI for its strong support of the Vietnamese economy through the involvement of VCCI, and expressed their continued commitment to help the Confederation achieve regional cooperation among the business community in Asia Pacific.



III. CACCI INVESTMENT FORUM SERIES

A. Investment Forum on Nepal

20. The Federation of Nepalese CCI (FNCCI) hosted an Investment Forum focusing on the theme **“Nepal Business Outlook”** on March 28, 2023. Moderated by Former FNCCI President



Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, the one-hour webinar featured as Speaker Mr. Manoj Paudel,

Co-Chair on the International Investment Promotion Committee at FNCCI, provided valuable information to business people and investors about Nepal’s business outlook and investment opportunities. The topics covered included: (a) Overview of the Nepalese Economy; (b) Developments in the Nepalese business environment; and (c) Investment opportunities in Nepal.



B. Investment Forum on the Philippines

21. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI)



jointly organized an Investment Forum on the Philippines on June 20, 2023, 2:00 PM, Manila Time.



22. The 90-minute online Forum focused on the theme *“Philippines: An Enviably Destination for Foreign Investments”*. It featured speakers from both the Philippine government and business sectors who made presentations on the current economic situation in the Philippines and the trade, investment, and business opportunities to foreign investors and companies.

23. The speakers and their respective topics included the following:

- Dr. Ceferino Rodolfo, Vice Chairman and Managing Head, Board of Investments, Department of Trade and Industry (*Doing Business in the Philippines*)
- Mr. Perry E. Ferrer, Vice President for Industrial Affairs / Director, Digital Science and Technology, Philippine Chamber of Commerce, and Industry (*Information Technology / Innovation*)



- Arch, Felino A. Palafox, Jr., Vice President for Trade Affairs and Director for Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change, PCCI (*Infrastructure / Smart City*)

- Mr. Salvador Salacup, Co-Chair, Agriculture Committee, PCCI (*Agriculture*)
- Ms. Lisa S. Go, Chief, Investment Promotion Office, Department of Energy (*Renewable Energy*)
- Mr. Tereso O. Panga, Director General, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (*Investment Opportunities in Ecozones*)

24. The Forum opened with a Welcome Remarks by Mr. George T. Barcelon, President of PCCI, followed with the Opening Remarks by Mr. Peter McMullin AM, President, CACCI

25. The Closing Remarks were given by Mr. Jude G. Aguilar, Chairman, International Affairs Department and Co-Chairman, 49th PBC&E Organizing Committee, PCCI.

Investment Forum on Hong Kong

26. The Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) hosted a well-attended webinar on *“Hong Kong After Covid-19”* on July 14, 2023, 2:00 PM Hong Kong Time.



27. Co-organized with the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), the one-hour webinar featured as Speaker Professor Terence Chong, Associate Professor of Economics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Serving as Moderator was Mr. Ernest Yuen, KCC Chairman and Vice President of CACCI
28. Professor Chong made a presentation on the current economic and financial sector situation in Hong Kong, the policy measures the territory has adopted to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to achieve sustainable economic recovery and sustainable growth, and the trade, investment, and business opportunities it currently offers, particularly to investors from other counties in the region.



29. In his presentation, Professor covered the following topics::
 - An overview of the current state of Hong Kong economy
 - The growth in the number of tourists after the opening up of Hong Kong in 2023
 - The current state and future prospects of Hong Kong's Banking and Financial sector
 - Hong Kong's housing market prospect
 - The engine of growth for Hong Kong economy in the second half of 2023

PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCES AND IN EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

A. B20 India

30. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM participated in the B20 India that took place on August 25-27, 2023 in Taj Palace, New Delhi, India and hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Attending with Mr. McMullin was his Chief of Staff Mr. Stuart Thomson.



31. The theme for the B20 India was R.A.I.S.E. This stands for Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses. R.A.I.S.E is rooted in the belief that the G20 business community should raise the bar for equitable growth by committing to business practices that are responsible and rooted in sustainable practices. Such businesses generate profit while advancing economic and social development without negatively impacting people and the planet.
32. The priority areas of the B20 India included the following: (a) Future of Work, Skilling, and Mobility; (b) Energy, Climate Change and Resource Efficiency; (c) Digital Transformation; (d) Financial for Global Economic Recovery; (e) Tech, Innovation & R&D; (f) Financial Inclusion for Economic Empowerment; and (g) ESG in Business.
33. While in New Delhi, Mr. McMullin took some time to visit and meet with officers of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The meeting was held on August 24. Mr. McMullin took the opportunity to update the FICCI officers on recent and upcoming activities of CACCI and explore possible areas of collaboration between the two organizations, and to personally invite them to attend the 37th CACCI Conference to be held on November 6-7, 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

B. ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2023

34. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM joined some 2,000 world business leaders, CEOs, and senior executives representing multinational and regional corporations, as well as a number of heads of state and key government officials from ASEAN member countries, in attending the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2023 held on September 3-4, 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Mr. McMullin was accompanied by his Chief of Staff Mr.





35. Stuart Thomson, CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu, and CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr.
36. During the course of the two-day ABIS 2023, Mr. McMullin had the opportunity to meet key officials and members of chambers from the region. These included Mr. George Barcelon, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Oudet Souvannavong President of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Michael Chai, Secretary General of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, and Dr. Maria Socorro M. Malitao Managing Director, STANDOUT Group of Companies and member of the CACCI Women Entrepreneurs Council.



37. Organized by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC) under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Arsjad Rasjid, Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), ABIS 2023 focused on the theme of **“ASEAN Centrality: Innovating Towards Greater Inclusivity”**. The two-day Summit aimed to amplify the private sector voice in driving policy reforms and position ASEAN at the centre of global economic interconnectedness.

38. Day 1 of the Summit stressed the urgent need for policy action which stimulates business and investment in ASEAN. It highlighted the private sector’s role in driving the global and regional conversation on the Summit’s key themes: Digital Transformation, Sustainable Development, Health Resilience, Food Security, and Trade and Investment Facilitation.



39. Day 2 of the Summit spotlighted the governments’ efforts to support private sector solutions for the region’s most pressing problems. Strategic legacy projects emerging from Indonesia’s ASEAN Chairmanship will emphasize the critical importance of policy continuity in ensuring stability and preserving ASEAN centrality in an increasingly uncertain world.



Next year's ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS 2024) will be hosted by the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) under the chairmanship of LNCCI President Mr. Oudet Souvannavong. During his meeting with Mr. Souvannavong in Jakarta, Mr. McMullin informed the LNCCI President that he will be organizing a CACCI delegation to attend ABIS 2024 in Vientiane. Mr. Souvannavong said he certainly would welcome the participation of Mr. McMullin and CACCI members in next year's Summit, and that he looks forward to welcoming a big CACCI delegation to Vientiane.

C. Third Business Forum of the Ukraine CCI

40. CACCI President Peter McMullin AM was invited by the Ukraine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) to participate as a Panelist in the Third Business Forum of the Ukraine Diaspora held in hybrid format on September 21, 2023.



41. The theme of the one-day event was "The Role of Diaspora Organizations in Ukrainian Business Rebuilding Through Markets Internationalization Processes." Mr. McMullin was invited as a Panelist on the session on "Organizations Supporting UA Business in Their Ways to Internationalizing".

II. PRODUCT AND SERVICE COUNCILS

A Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP)

CACCI President Meeting with YEGAP Officers



42. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM on February 8 met online with YEGAP Chairman Mr. Mangesh Lal Shrestha from Nepal and YEGAP Vice Chairman Mr. Rommel Gerodias from the Philippines. Mr. McMullin congratulated YEGAP on its recent activities, particularly its strong participation in the 36th CACCI Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in November 2022. He said that during



his Presidency, he would rely on YEGAP for CACCI activities that he hopes would ensure the long-term future of the Confederation. He indicated his intention to engage the young entrepreneurs in CACCI's efforts to deal with issues and challenges faced by the business community and expressed his hopes that YEGAP members would take the leadership role in this regard.

43. Both Mr. Mangesh and Mr. Gerodias updated the CACCI President on the activities undertaken by YEGAP in the past year to restructure and revive the group in order to make it an effective venue for identifying suitable programs geared towards entrepreneurial development for young and start-up entrepreneurs. They also explained how they plan to widen the scope of YEGAP membership by also inviting young business leaders from countries other regions outside Asia-Pacific to become members, as well to participate more actively with the activities of other regional and international organizations such as the ICC WCF, the B20, and the ASEAN-BAC, among others.

Meeting with YEGAP Founding Chairmen Anna Periquet

44. Ms. Anna Marie Periquet, Founder and Former Chairperson of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) of CACCI, had an informal dinner meeting on January 7 with CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado during the latter's recent visit to Manila, Philippines.



45. They exchanged ideas on possible areas where Ms. Periquet can continue to get actively involved in various YEGAP and CACCI activities planned for 2023, especially in her capacity as an experienced consultant in corporate affairs and communications, media and external relations, corporate events management, corporate social responsibility, social enterprise, and entrepreneurship development, among others.

Meeting with Rommel Gerodias on January 23

46. Mr. Rommel Gerodias, Vice Chairman of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP), met up on January 23 with CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado in Manila, Philippines.



47. They discussed possible activities that Mr. Gerodias can undertake in 2023, especially in his capacity as YEGAP Vice Chairman representing Southeast Asia, including



recruitment of new YEGAP members from the region. Mr. Honrado also took the opportunity to give Mr. Gerodias additional YEGAP pins for his new recruits.

Visit of YEGAP Executive Members from Japan with CACCI Secretariat

48. Mr. Hiromi Aoki, Member of the Executive Committee of CACCI’s Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) visited the CACCI Secretariat Office on February 7 during his recent visit to Taipei.

49. Mr. Aoki, who is President and Chief Executive Officer of Suntech Co. Ltd., was in



Taipei on a business trip and took time to meet CACCI officers led by Director-General Mr. David Hsu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado. During their meeting, Mr. Aoki re-affirmed his strong support of YEGAP and its activities and expressed his strong interest to take part in the upcoming events of both CACCI and YEGAP, including the proposed CACCI

Presidential visits lined up for the year as well as the 2023 CACCI Conference and suggested he will organize a delegation from Japan YEG to join them as well.

50. Mr. Aoki also had the opportunity to meet up with Mr. Richard Lin, YEGAP Executive member from Taiwan, as well as with members of the Third Wednesday Club of Taipei, a foremost business organization in Taiwan, making tremendous contributions to the expansion of economic interaction between Taiwan and other countries, particularly Japan.



51. Officers and members of The Young Entrepreneurs Group of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Japan YEG) visited the CACCI Secretariat headquarters in Taipei on July 28, 2023. Led by Mr. Hiromi Aoki, member of the Executive Committee of Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) established under the CACCI umbrella, the visiting group was briefed by CACCI Secretariat



officers headed by Director-General David Hsu on CACCI and its activities, as well as on the history and background of YEGAP, its current membership, its organizational structure, and its recent and upcoming activities and programs. They were also each given a YEGAP pin. Following the meeting, the visiting group was hosted lunch by the CACCI Secretariat. Members of Japan YEG was in Taipei to attend the formal inauguration on January 27 of Mr. Richard Lin, also a member of the Executive Committee of YEGAP, as the new Chairman of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of the Third Wednesday Club of Taiwan, a well-established and foremost business organization in the island that aims to expand economic interaction between Taiwan and other countries, particularly Japan and mainland China.



52. CACCI President Peter McMullin AM as well as the officers and Members of the Executive Committee and of the various Working Committees of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP) met several times during the third quarter mainly to discuss: (a) the turnover of the YEGAP Chairmanship from Mr. Mangesh Lal Shrestha of Nepal to Mr. Rommel Gerodias of the Philippines,; and (b) planned activities of YEGAP in the run-up to its breakout session to be held in conjunction with the 37th CACCI Conference to be held on November 6-7 in Kathmandu, Nepal, as well as its activities during the Conference itself.



B. ACWEE



**Iranian Society for
Green Management**

53. The Iran Society for Green Management invited CACCI members, particularly members of the CACCI Water, Energy, and Environment Council (ACWEE), to attend its 18th Round of the GM Conference. To be held on November 5-7, 2023 in Tehran. The Conference aims to address the following topics: (a) What is green knowledge and explanation of green intelligence; (b) Green Building; (c) Green tourism industry; (d) Carbon footprint calculation; (e) Water footprint calculation; (f) Product life cycle assessment; (g) The green product label process; (h) Green University; (i) Green management, paragraph (g) of article 38 of the country's sixth plan; (j) Green IT; (k) From energy audits to carbon footprints/GHG emissions; (l) Organizational governance with a green

approach; and (m) Knowledge of green human resource management and organizational well-being.

54. CACCI and ACWEE were also invited to be Partner Organization for the 16th Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) organized by the Energy Market Authority of Singapore (EMA) on 23 to 27 October 2023 with the theme "Energy Transition Towards a Net Zero World". SIEW 2023 brought together energy ministers, leaders of global energy organizations and renowned industry experts, while providing a platform for panel discussions and networking opportunities where energy professionals can gain insights and forge new partnerships to address key energy issues. With a diverse lineup of renowned speakers and engaging sessions, SIEW offered an unparalleled platform for professionals to gain insights and exchange perspectives.



C. Asan ICT Council

Appointment of New Asian ICT Council



55. The Asian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Council, one of the Product and Service Councils established under the CACCI umbrella, has a new Chairman under the person of Dr. Dennis Hu. Dr. Hu is President of the Foundation for Commerce & Culture Interchange (FCCI), Taiwan and concurrently Senior Adviser of Taipei Computer Association (TCA), Taiwan. He replaces James Chiao, Chairman and CEO of SmartCities Consulting Technology Co. Ltd., who served the position for two years.
56. Dr. Hu established FCCI in 2010 for promoting international cooperation and collaboration in Smart++ industries development, i.e., Smart City, Smart Healthcare, Smart Agriculture, etc. At TCA, where he has been connected since 1991, Dr. Hu has devoted and focused his efforts on international marketing, research of industry and technology trends, and government ICT policies.
57. Dr. Hu initiated and joined many cross-border cooperation with India, Australia, China, Myanmar, Singapore, and New Zealand, among other countries. He has also been invited to be the Director-General in ADC 2.0 CSR Development Office which was initiated by Acer Group Founder Dr. Stan Shi for narrowing the digital divide in the APEC region.

Webinar on Cross-Border Digital Skilling

58. CACCI and the Asian ICT Council, in cooperation with the Foundation for Commerce and Culture Interchange (FCCI), Computer Skills Foundation (CSF) Taiwan, National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) India, and Digital Skills Organisation (DSO) Australia, recently held a webinar on “Cross-Border Cooperation in Digital Skilling and Innovation” on April 18, 2023.



59. The recently concluded webinar discussed what the current standards are for digital skills across different countries, and what can be done to facilitate cross-border skilling by addressing the following questions:
- Who is offering the services and programs in this area?
 - What are the current issues being encountered?
 - What can enterprises do to improve the recruitment of a digitally skilled workforce?
 - How can we bridge the digital divide in education and improve digital literacy?
 - How can we enable digital skilling and innovation on a regional or international level?
60. Moderated by Dr. Dennis Hu, Chair of CACCI’s Asian ICT Council and President of the Foundation for Culture and Commerce Interchange (FCCI), the webinar featured as speakers Dr. J.B. Xiao, Secretary-General of Taiwan’s Computer Skills Foundation (CSF); Ms. Alison Wall, Chief of Staff of Australia’s Digital Skills Organization (DSO); Dato Palani, Chair of the ASEAN Future Workforce Council based in Malaysia; and Sh. Subhanshu Tiwari, Executive Director of India’s National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT). NIELIT Director General Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi was originally slated to speak, but was ultimately unable to, and was instead represented by Sh. Tiwari.
61. The speakers each gave a 10-to-12-minute presentation introducing their respective organizations and detailing their capacities and services. This was followed by a panel discussion that featured panelists from the business or enterprise side, including Mr. George Abraham, Chair of CACCI’s SME Development Council; Mr. Charly Gordon, Global Policy Lead for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and Ms. Charmaine Leong, President of the Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association (PYEA). The panel discussed the needs of digital skills for development in the Asia-Pacific region, programs



for strengthening digital skills and innovation, and mutual recognition of digital skills for talents and HR in Asia, among other issues.

III. MEETINGS WITH CACCI MEMBERS

A. IEAT Secretary-General



62. Mr. Peter W. J. Huang, Secretary-General of the Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei (IEAT), on February 8 visited the CACCI Secretariat office in Taipei and met with CACCI officers led by Director General David Hsu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado.

63. Mr. Huang briefed the CACCI officers on the programs and activities of IEAT, particularly its recent efforts to strengthen its relationships with other similar business organizations in many other countries around the world. He expressed his hopes to make use of CACCI as an additional platform for this purpose.

64. For his part, Mr. Hsu invited the IEAT to participate in the upcoming activities lined up by CACCI in 2023, including the proposed Presidential visits to several CACCI member countries, as well as the online Investment Forum series aimed at providing CACCI members the opportunity to make presentations on the economic situation and the trade, investment and business opportunities in their respective countries, as well as on their organizations' activities and services that benefit their members and the customer base they serve.

65. The February 8 visit of Mr. Huang to the CACCI Secretariat was later followed by a visit of CACCI officers to the IEAT headquarters where the visitors were given a tour of the facilities of the Association and a further briefing on the activities and services of IEAT.



B. Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry

66. Members of the delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) who joined the CACCI Presidential visit to Taiwan held on May 17-18 called on the CACCI Secretariat on May 19. Headed by CACCI Vice President Mr. Khurram Sayeed, the Pakistani businessmen met with the Secretariat officers and staff led by Director-



General David Hsu and were given a briefing on CACCI and its activities and explored possible areas where they can cooperate with and get support from the Secretariat in seeking business opportunities with other CACCI members.



C. Kowloon Chamber of Commerce

67. An eight-man delegation from Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC) headed by Chairman Mr. Ernest Yuen visited the CACCI Secretariat on March 16 and met with the Secretariat executives led by Director-General Mr. David Hsu.



68. The visiting Hong Kong delegation – which was composed of members of the KCC Council including former KCC chairmen Mr. Conrad Lee, Mr. John Li, and



Mr. Cheng Kwan-Suen - were in Taipei to attend the Taipei Chinese Medical Association International Medical Conference and to visit various organizations with which KCC has good relations such as CACCI. During the meeting, CACCI Director-General Mr. Hsu gave a brief

introduction on CACCI and identified possible areas where KCC can participate or conduct joint activities with the Confederation. The meeting was followed by lunch hosted by Mr. Hsu for the KCC visitors/

Singapore Manufacturing Federation

69. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM met with Mr. Lennon Tan, President of the Singapore Manufacturers Federation (SMF) on March 7 at the SMF headquarters in Singapore. The meeting was a follow-up to the visit made by CACCI Immediate Past



President Mr. Samir Modi in October last year to meet with Mr. Tan. The discussion during the March 7 meeting of Mr. McMullin and Mr. Tan focused on the formalization of the Primary Membership of SMF with CACCI, and possible areas of collaboration between the two organizations.

70. CACCI President Peter McMullin AM on August 31 met again with key SMF officers led by President Tan. Mr. McMullin and Mr. Tan discussed a range of issues during their second meeting, including SMF's participation in the 37th CACCI Conference to be held on November 5-6 in Kathmandu, Nepal. They further explored ways of working together to strengthen the CACCI foundation and truly support business to get SET (Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Trade) for the future.
71. Subsequently on September 28, Mr. Tan and his colleagues welcomed Executives of the CACCI Secretariat led by Director-General Mr. David Hsu during the latter's visit to Singapore.
72. The SMF officers briefed the CACCI visiting delegation on the activities of the Federation, including those conceptualized with relevant government agencies of Singapore. They also explored possible areas and projects in



which CACCI members can participate, particularly in its various training programs designed to promote the growth and development of SMEs.

Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN)

73. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM called on Mr. Arshad Rasjid, Chairman of the Indonesia, during his visit to Jakarta on April 12, 2023 accompanied by his Chief of Staff Mr. Stuart Thomson. During the visit, Mr. McMullin and Mr. Rasjid exchanged ideas on possible areas where their two organizations can work together for the common benefit of their respective members.





74. According to Mr. McMullin, the main focus of his CACCI Presidency – namely, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Trade, that is, not only to support business do what business does best, which is to provide jobs and essential products and services, but also to help business prepare for a net-zero and more equitable economy – resonated strongly with the KADIN Chairman.
75. The CACCI President said that he and Mr. Rasjid, who is also the current Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council of which CACCI is an Associate Member of its Joint Business Councils, share a common vision of 'Innovating Towards Greater Inclusivity'. “We firmly believe that the Asia-Pacific region has the skills and ideas to address our most pressing global issues. We just need to work together to support emerging business and entrepreneurs. We have what we need right under our noses!” Mr. McMullin stated.
76. He added that “Despite regional and global insecurity business and chambers of commerce play a critical role in strengthening multilateralism and peace. Through trade and supporting each other we can contribute strongly to maintaining dialogue, building mutuality and continuing our work in ensuring prosperity for all.

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

77. Khurram Tariq Sayeed, CACCI Vice President and Former Vice President of FPCCI,



called on Richard Burge, CEO of the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry at their office in London on August 2. Rameez Sattar, Lifetime Special Member of CACCI, and Ms. Marta Kozłowska, Head of International at the London Chamber, were also present on the occasion.

78. Mr. Sayeed briefed the CEO and his team that CACCI is a powerful and influential non-governmental organization composed of the National Chambers of 25 countries of Asia and the Western Pacific region, adding that it has been granted consultative status under the United Nations. CACCI’s objective is to cut across national boundaries to link Asian businesspersons and promote economic growth of member countries, which account for 40 percent of the World population and 20 percent of the world’s GDP.
79. Mr. Burge showed keen interest in CACCI activities and appreciated the role CACCI is playing in promoting trade, investment, and commerce among the CACCI member countries. They offered to introduce CACCI to the British Chambers of Commerce, which is the national chamber of the United Kingdom, in order to foster a partnership for the promotion of trade and investment



between CACCI member countries and the UK. Mr. Sayeed also extended an invitation to the London Chamber to participate in the 37th CACCI Conference. He also briefed them on the activities of FPCCI and assured them that FPCCI will extend all possible co-operation to the London Chamber for exchange of trade delegations and participation in various trade shows in both countries.

Dubai Chambers and Abu Dhabi CCI

80. CACCI Vice President Dr. Alireza Yavari from Iran CCIMA in early August visited the chambers of commerce and industry in Dubai and Abu Dhabi to introduce CACCI and explore with them the possibility of taking a more active involvement in CACCI activities and probably join as Primary Member. Dr. Yavari reported that he had promising discussions with the chambers in these two places.



IV. MEETINGS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND SECTORAL BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Meeting of WCF General Council in Bogota

81. President Peter McMullin AM attended the meeting of the ICC World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF) General Council held on February 28 in Bogota, Colombia. He joined the discussions on why multilateralism and co-operation is the foundation for global success.
82. Mr. McMullin agreed with the other General Council members that they have the knowledge and experience to confront the challenges that face them, both in the global south and north, and that the global chamber network is up for the



challenge. He told the other General Council members that he looked forward to leading CACCI into an era of even greater collaboration, and that he is excited to see how CACCI can contribute to a global business environment that is sustainable and prosperous for all.



Meeting with CoNGO President in New York

83. CACCI President Peter McMullin AM on March 3 met with Mr. Liberato Bautista,



President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) at the CoNGO headquarters in New York. During their meeting Mr. McMullin and Mr. Bautista exchanged views on how CACCI can make use of CoNGO as an important mechanism to ensure the Confederation is heard on the global stage.

84. As a holder of a Consultative Status at the United Nations, CACCI is among 6,000 organizations worldwide with a similar status to connect with likeminded organizations and advocate at the United Nations on behalf of CACCI members for sustainable and equitable growth. CoNGO was founded in 1948, the year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council, CoNGO works in relation with to the entire United Nations System: the Secretariat, Agencies, Treaty Bodies, Regional Commissions, Institutes, Summits and World Conferences.

CoNGO President Meeting with CACCI Secretariat Officers

85. Mr. Liberato Bautista, President of the New-York based Conference of Non-Government Organizations with Consultative Status in the United Nations



(CoNGO) met on November 16 with executives of the CACCI Secretariat led by Director-General Mr. David Hsu during the former's recent visit to Taipei. CACCI is a member of CoNGO as it has consultative status, Roster category, with the UN Eco. Mr. Bautista briefed Mr. Hsu and representatives of STUF United

Fund, also a CoNGO member, led by its President Mr. John Lin, on the upcoming activities of CoNGO. Mr. Bautista was in Taipei as Keynote Speaker in the NGO Leadership Forum that STUF United Fund helped organize on November 17.



CACCI President at CoNGO Meeting Panel in Bangkok

86. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM was in Bangkok, Thailand on May 19 to



20 to speak on a panel at the Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) meeting organized by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), of which CACCI is an active member. With the theme “*Defining the Present - Shaping the Future*”, the meeting

also served as the first global commemorative celebration of the 75th anniversary of CoNGO.

87. President McMullin joined the Open Panel on Business and Labour: For Human Rights and Sustainable Development, during which he focused his address on the need for partnerships (UN SDG 17) if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is no doubt that the challenges facing us are daunting in achieving the SDGs by 2030, according to Mr. McMullin. However, he stressed that we cannot just get caught 'observing the problem'. Instead, we must continue to work together to maximize peace and prosperity for our region. President McMullin said he firmly believes that if civil society, government and business work together, we can ensure human rights are upheld while eliminating poverty (SDG 1) and ensuring decent work and economic growth (SDG 8).

88. In his final remarks he outlined the need to focus our efforts on gender equality (SDG 5) and mentioned that gender diversity offers two great opportunities:

- Businesses led by women in developing economies reinvest 80% of their income in the wellbeing and education of their families.
- Businesses led by women often take into account sustainability and decarbonization into their business models.

CACCI Membership in the Steering Committee of CoNGO’s Regional Committee for Asia-Pacific

89. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) has recently joined as member of the Steering Committee of the Regional Committee for Asia Pacific (RCAP) of the Conference on Non-Government



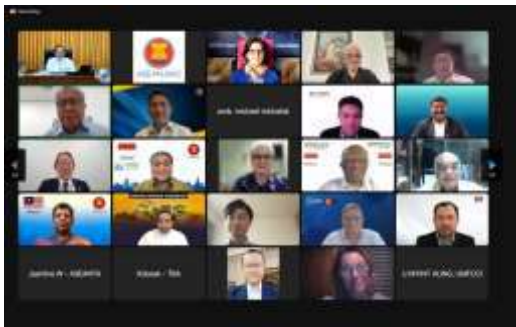


organizations (CoNGO), an international organization of NGOs from around the world with Consultative Status under the United Nations, of which CACCI is a member.

90. RCAP elected CACCI to the Steering Committee during RCAP's meeting on May 19, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. RCAP recognized CACCI's very important work in the Asia-Pacific Region and its acknowledged status in civil society and business circles, and of course its positive responses to RCAP initiatives.
91. Currently composed on nine members (with CACCI as the latest one to join), the RCAP aims to facilitate Asia-Pacific NGOs' participation in all UN and CoNGO activities globally and regionally. It will cooperate with UN, ESCAP and other UN bodies and agencies in Asia and the Pacific. It will promote better cooperation among CoNGO members as well as other civil society organizations in Asia-Pacific.

ASEAN-BAC Meeting

92. Representatives from CACCI led by President Peter McMullin AM and SME Development Council Chairman George Abraham attended the 21st Meeting of the Joint Business Councils (JBC) of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) held virtually on January 24.



93. During the meeting, Mr. Abraham briefed the JBC members on the recent and upcoming activities of CACCI, including a summary report on the 36th CACCI Conference held in Melbourne, Australia. As an Associate Member of the JBC, CACCI is invited to participate in

the series of JBC meetings usually held by the ASEAN-BAC, chaired this year by KADIN Indonesia, in preparation for the annual ASEAN Summit Meeting.

Online Meetings of the ICC WCF and Eurochambres

94. CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM attended the virtual meetings held recently by the Eurochambres and the ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF).
95. On January 25, Eurochambres held an online launching of its Global Economic Survey 2023 (GES2023). Conducted during November and December 2022, the survey provides a qualitative assessment for the year ahead of global economic developments, trade and other key policy challenges from a business



perspective based on responses from participating organizations in countries representing around 70% of the world GDP. CACCI, which is a member of the Eurochambres' Global Chamber Platform, was one of participants of the survey.



96. Thereafter, the ICC WCF held an orientation meeting on January 26 for the new members of the WCF General Council, its governing body. During the meeting, which was chaired by ICC WCF Chairman Mr. Nicolas Uribe Rueda, the newly elected Council members listened to a presentation by ICC WCF Director Mr. Julian Kussum on "WCF: What it is, What it Does". This was followed with a presentation by Chairman Mr. Rueda on "WCF Strategy 2023-2025". As a Transnational Chamber, CACCI is a Permanent member of the WCF General Council and is currently represented by Mr. McMullin.

Meeting with WCF Re ICC and CACCI Collaboration



97. The CACCI Secretariat officers joined the February 14 meeting between Mr. Stuart Thomson, Chief of Staff of CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM and Ms. Stephanie Vieilledent from ICC World Chambers Federation to discuss possible areas of cooperation between CACCI and the International Chamber of Commerce.
98. Among the potential cooperation areas identified were: (a) cooperation in the holding of the 2023 Asia-Pacific Mediation Competition; (b) Potential joint side event at this year's B20 Summit focused on entrepreneurship; (c) Attendance at this year's COP28 in Dubai as part of their common advocacy calling for real action on climate change; and (d) Special Session for CACCI during the 13th World Chambers Congress to be held in mid-June 2023 in Geneva.

Regular WCF Monthly Meetings

99. During the quarter, the CACCI Secretariat held two online meetings with representatives of the ICC World Chambers Federation to update each other on their recent, ongoing, and planned activities for the year, and identified possible areas for collaboration.



Meeting with JCI Taiwan

100. CACCI Secretariat executives on March 3 met with officers of the Taiwan



Chapter of Junior Chamber International (JCI Taiwan) at the latter's headquarters in Taipei. Both sides took the opportunity to introduce their respective organizations to each other, and to explore possible areas of collaboration, especially in their efforts to achieve their common

objective of promoting youth entrepreneurship in the region. The CACCI visitors also briefed the JCI Taiwan officers about the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) and its activities, and cited potential joint activities

Meeting with STUF United Fund

101. Representatives of STUF United Fund led by CEO Mr. John Lin (4th from left) visited



the CACCI Secretariat on March 28 to discuss with CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu (3rd from left) and other CACCI executives the possible support of CACCI for the NGO Leadership Forum that they propose to organize in Taiwan in September 2023. Mr. Lin informed Mr. Hsu that they plan to invite as Keynote Speaker for the Forum Mr. Liberato Bautista, President of the

Conferences of NGOs with Consultative Status in UN ECOSOC (CoNGO).

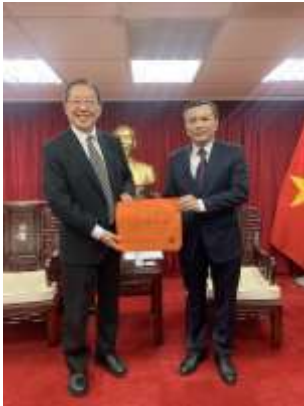
102. Just like CACCI, STUF United Fund has Consultative Status in the UN ECOSOC and is a member of CoNGO. It was established in 2009 as a US-registered nonprofit organization that supports international charity work. The organization focuses on the areas of Disaster Relief, Culture and Education, Public Health, and Environmental Protection. STUF aims to create sustainable changes through connecting and working with NGO/NPO (non-government organization, nonprofit organization), government departments, UN agencies, and the corporate sector. STUF's charity work has been in 5 continents, 32 countries.

V. MEETINGS WITH TRADE REPRESENTATIVES OF CACCI MEMBER COUNTRIES

Vietnam's Representative in Taipei



103. CACCI Director General Mr. David Hsu – along with other CACCI Secretariat executives – called on Mr. Vu Tien Dung, Representative of Vietnam Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, on March 14. Mr. Hsu took the opportunity to introduce



CACCI – as well as the Asian Bankers Association (ABA) - to Mr. Dung and the active participation of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Vietnamese banks in CACCI and the ABA, respectively. He sought the assistance of Mr. Dung in facilitating the implementation of CACCI's and ABA's activities that may be held in Vietnam (e.g., Presidential visits, annual Conferences, etc.) in the future. Mr. Dung was joined in the meeting by Mr. Vu Van Cuon, Head of Commercial Division, and Mr. Le Quang Tuan Assistant to

Representative / In-Charge of Investment.

Japanese Representatives in Taipei

104. Ms. Mayumi Eda, Director for Economic Affairs, and Ms. Yuko Arita, Chief, Trade Inquiry Unit and Director for Economic Affairs at the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Taipei Office, received CACCI Director General Mr. David Hsu on June 9, 2023 at their headquarters.



105. Mr. Hsu, briefed Ms. Arita on the programs of CACCI and highlighted the active involvement of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) since the Confederation was established in 1966 with JCCI as one of its Founding members. Among others, Mr. Hsu informed that JCCI has hosted 10 annual gathering of CACCI and two CACCI Presidential visit, and that four of the past CACCI Presidents were from Japan.

Ms. Eda and Ms. Arita expressed his appreciation for the work of CACCI and its efforts in helping the Japanese business community – through JCCI – reach out into the Asian market.

Turkey's Representatives in Taipei

106. Turkey's Representative in Taipei Mr. Muhammed Berdibek received CACCI Director General Mr. David Hsu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr. on July 21, 2023 at the Turkish Trade Office in Taipei.



107. During the visit, Mr. Hsu introduced CACCI and the Asian Bankers Association (ABA), one of the Product and Service Councils established under the CACCI umbrella, to Mr. Berbidek. He also outlined programs of CACCI and highlighted the active involvement of the Union Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) since it joined CACCI as a Primary Member in 2009. Among others, Mr. Hsu informed Mr. Berbidek that TOBB has hosted two annual gathering of CACCI and three CACCI Presidential visits, and that incumbent TOBB President Mr. Rifat Hisarciklioglu has served as CACCI Vice President since 2014.



108. Mr. Berbidek expressed his appreciation for the visit of Mr. Hsu and Mr. Honrado and offered his office's assistance in helping CACCI members from other countries – especially those from Taiwan - who may be interested in exploring business opportunities in Turkey, and in establishing contacts with relevant government agencies in the country.

Indonesian Representative Office in Taipei

109. CACCI Secretariat executives led by Director-General Mr. David Hsu called on key officers of the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office to Taipei (IETO) led by Head of Investment Ali Fauzi and Director of Investment Bayu Nugroho on March 28. During the meeting, IETO officers briefly described the main tasks and functions of its various departments. For their part, the visiting CACCI executives introduced the objectives of CACCI and its activities to promote regional cooperation, and cited the active role played by KADIN Indonesia in achieving CACCI's objectives. They also offered the assistance and resources of CACCI in promoting the activities and programs of IETO not just in Taiwan but in other countries in the region, including those major trade and investment exhibitions being held in Indonesia and elsewhere in Asia-Pacific and beyond.





New Zealand Representative in Taipei

110. Mr. Mark Pearson, Director, New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei, visited the CACCI Secretariat headquarters on June 6 and met with CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu and other Secretariat officers



Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado, Deputy Director-General Mr. Mig Moreno, Senior Officer Ms. Abby Moreno, and Senior Officer Ms. Teresa Liu. The meeting provided the Secretariat the opportunity to give Mr. Pearson a brief introduction on CACCI and the participation of the New Zealand

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NZCCI) and the Wellington Chamber of Commerce (WCC) in CACCI activities over the years, as well as the upcoming activities that CACCI is co-organizing with the two chambers for the rest of the year. Mr. Pearson expressed his strong support for CACCI and offered his assistance in promoting the Confederation’s programs to enhance regional economic cooperation.

CACCI Director-General Calls on Russia’s Representative in Taipei

111. CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu on September 15 called on Mr. Yury Metelev, the Representative office in Taipei for the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission on Economic and Cultural Cooperations. Mr. Hsu was accompanied by CACCI Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado Jr.. Also attending the meeting was Mr. Kirill Beliaev, Assistant to Representative/Cultural Section Chief and Mr. Aleksei Tamara, Economic Section Chief of the Representative Office.



112. Mr. Hsu and Mr. Honrado briefed Mr. Metelev introduce the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and the Asian Bankers Association (ABA). They also learned from Mr. Metelev and his colleagues about the activities of their organization, as well as about the Far Eastern Economic Forum, an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.

113. Mr. Metelev kindly offered to encourage the Russian business community – through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian federation (CCIRF) – to participate in the 37th CACCI Conference to be held on November 6-7, 2023 in Kathmandu. He agreed that participation by Russian businessmen in CACCI Conference will provide them to network with CACCI members from other countries and explore possible areas of business cooperation and joint ventures.

IV. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Webinar on CPTPP

114. The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) jointly organized a webinar on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on June 28, 2023.



115. Moderated by Mr. Lennon Tan, President of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), the webinar featured speakers from Japan, Taiwan, and Australia. The speakers included the following



- Mr. Noriyuki Mita, Director, Strategy and Planning Division, Basic Materials Group, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, made a presentation on the journey of CPTPP from the time it was first created up to its current state, on the value of CPTPP as a platform for Regional Economic Integration amid a rapidly changing global economic order, and on the expansion strategy of CPTPP.
- Ms. Huai-Shing Yen, Associate Research Fellow and Senior Deputy Executive Director, The Taiwan WTO and RTA Center, Chung Hwa Institution for Economic Research, elaborated on the importance for Taiwan to join CPTPP and how its membership in the Agreement can benefit the other members as well as most informative

- Dr. Andrew Stoeckel, Honorary Professor, CAMA, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, gave his insightful views and perspectives on the challenges and issues surrounding the implementation of the Agreement and how these challenges may be overcome going forward

116. In addition, Dr. Roy Chun Lee, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) delivered Special Remarks at the start of the webinar. Deputy Minister Lee noted that amidst recent developments, major economies – represented by the G7 member countries – are putting more emphasis and weight on economic resilience, security, and autonomy, which are reshaping the global supply chain and global economic order. He stressed the need for CPTPP member states to send a message to the world on the importance of actively creating and inclusive and open global trading system, and for this, the valuable experiences and inputs from the business community are needed.

Advanced Seminar on Payment and Security Instruments in Foreign Trade, Trade Finance and INCOTERMS 2020

117. CACCI organized jointly with Mr. Pavel Andrl, Secretary to the Banking Commission of ICC Czech Republic and also to Commission on Commercial Law and Practice of ICC Czech Republic, an Advanced Seminar on Payment and Security Instruments in Foreign Trade, Trade Finance and on INCOTERMS 2020 for the officers and members of



Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on 17-18 April and 9-20 April, respectively.

118. The program aimed to provide the participants the opportunity to:
- a. Get familiar with main international payment conditions, their features, inherent risk, costs.
 - b. Learn how to use properly various payment and security instruments such as documentary credits, guarantees, standbys.
 - c. Become aware of the main techniques of financing provided under documentary credits such as pre-shipment and post-shipment finance.



- d. Learn about various receivable finance techniques and how to use them effectively.
- e. Be informed about recent developments and trends in the of international trade finance.

119. The program was attended by bankers working in trade finance, particularly in documentary payments, export/import finance departments; specialists in trade finance, front office bank specialists, relationship managers; bank lawyers, auditors, middle level management, corporate banking managers; corporate managers and specialists, above all those working in sales, finance, treasury, legal departments, exporters, importers, traders, etc.

VI. OTHERS

CACCI Vice Presidents Portfolio

120. As requested by CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin AM, the Secretariat requested each of the eight CACCI Vice Presidents representing the major geographical regions of Asia to indicate their preferred portfolio or areas of responsibilities from among the following:



- Membership Expansion
- Policy Advocacy
- Participation in Organizations Involved in Regional Cooperation Efforts - Strengthening of Relationship with Other Regional and International Business Organizations
- Promoting trade and investments among our member countries
- Information Exchange Program (e.g., publications, social media, etc.)
- Professional Development Program
- Strengthening of the Product and Service Councils
- Annual Council Meetings and Conferences

Project Proposals for CACCI Foundation Funding

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



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



123. From the submissions, CACCI would choose **one** project to be given the grant of US\$5,000. It is looking for a project – either ongoing or still to be implemented - that would help the Confederation achieve the objective of the CACCI Foundation, particularly at this time when business enterprises – especially SMEs – are still facing challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Sympathy Letter to TOBB for the Turkey Earthquake

124. A day after Turkey was hit by a powerful earthquake on February 6 that caused huge infrastructure damage and significant loss of lives in the country, CACCI



President Mr. Peter McMullin AM sent a letter to Mr. Rifat Hisarciklioglu, President of Union Chambers of Commerce and Commodity of Turkey (TOBB) and CACCI Vice President, conveying CACCI's deepest sympathy to the Turkish people for the unbearable pain and sorrow brought about by the terrible catastrophe. Mr. Hisarciklioglu thanked CACCI and its members for their words of sympathy

for the tragic disaster, and expressed his gratitude for our caring support during this time of loss, noting that *"A true friend is the first to extend his hand in times of trouble"*.

125. Mr. McMullin also conveyed to CACCI Members the request of ICC Secretary General Mr. John Denton to support the recovery efforts initiated by TOBB through its launching of an emergency recovery fund, urging them to support the TOBB campaign and help and demonstrate solidarity with the communities and colleagues affected by the tragedy.

Participation in the Luncheon Hosted by MECO

126. Director General David Hsu and Deputy Director-General Mr. Amador Honrado, attended the luncheon hosted by The Chairman and Resident Representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office Atty. Silvestre H. Bello III on December 7, 2023 in Taipei.

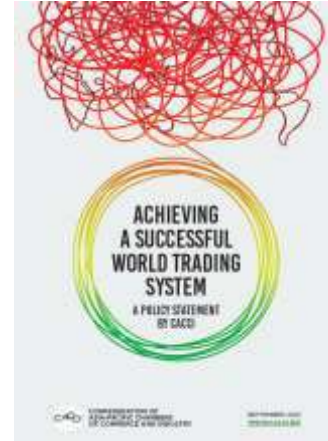




Promotional Activities on the CACCI Study on Rebuilding the World Trading System

127. Dr. Andrew Stoeckel, Honorary Professor, CAMA, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, on May 8-10, 2023 held a series of meetings with key policymakers and trade officials at the WTO, UNCTAD (Geneva), OECD (Paris) and the Chief Economics Commentator at the Financial Times (London).

128. The purpose of the meetings was to publicise CACCI's study *Rebuilding the World Trading System*, along with the associated CACCI Policy Statement, and to assess how best to secure a better trade environment for Chambers of Commerce. Trade is, after all, simply commerce across borders.



CACCI Publications

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

130. CACCI also published the 2022 Year-End Review, which summarized the activities of CACCI during the whole year of 2022. This was disseminated to all CACCI officers and CACCI members.