



CACCI Profile

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dear friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

This month, I was honoured, as CACCI President, to be appointed Vice-Chair for Southeast Asia and Oceania of the ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF). The appointment extends CACCI's voice into the vibrant global network of ICC, with its over 1500 members from more than 100 countries and territories.



I look forward to working closely with the current WCF Chair and CACCI Vice President Mr. Rifat Hisarciklioğlu from Turkiye to further our work in bringing peace and prosperity to our region. I also wish to thank ICC Secretary-General and fellow Australian Mr. John Denton AO for his support and encouragement for me to take on this important role.

In furthering our common agenda in 'helping business get SET for the future', I was happy last month to co-host with Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) President and CACCI Vice President for Sustainability Mr. Lennon Tan a webinar on SMF's work in promoting the APAC Green Alliance. We had over 100 participants on the line from right across our region — I thank them for their engagement and participation.

There is no doubt that embracing the transition to more environmentally sustainable business practices will be critical for future business success. In line with this, I am personally leading a study to find out from our members how CACCI can best support business in our region make this transition.

I realise many of you are busy people and with limited resources, so I just want 30 minutes of your time. To take up the opportunity to discuss what you see as the barriers and needs from your business and network, please sign up for an exclusive 1:1 interview [here](#). Michael Lim from our Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP) is helping coordinate these interviews for me.

I hope through this support we can see this transition as an opportunity and not a requirement.

In the meantime, I wish you another successful month ahead.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter McMullin', written in a cursive style.

Peter McMullin AM
CACCI President

CACCI President elected Vice Chair of ICC WCF



C A C C I
President Peter
McMullin AM has
been elected Vice-
Chair, Southeast Asia
and Oceania at the
ICC World Chambers
Federation (ICC WCF).

ICC WCF
has 1500 members
from more than
100 countries and
territories. It is the
forum that connects
chambers across

global borders, creating a better environment for business and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and driving prosperity and opportunity for all.

According to President McMullin, the idea of ‘merchants of peace’ was always attractive to

him, and remains so. Over 100 years ago a group of people, in the aftermath of the First World War, formed what is now known as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). It was founded on one common idea: if people traded and did business with each other they would be less likely to enter into conflict. In reality, they would be ‘merchants of peace’. 100 years on, and the essence of those founding ideas has never been more important. In a time of geopolitical upheaval, the ICC World Chambers Federation is uniquely positioned to contribute to both peace and prosperity on our planet.

In this role, President McMullin says he looks forward to doing what he can to ensure the spirit of the ‘merchants of peace’ lives on. Additionally, he is eager to bringing the full weight of CACCI’s experience and its 27-country network to the ICC WCF Executive Board, and in continuing his goal to help business get SET for the future.

CACCI ICT Council holds webinar on AI

CACCI recently hosted a webinar on “Envision the Future of AI” last June 7, 2024.

Moderated by Dr. Dennis Hu, Chairman of CACCI’s Asian ICT Council, the 90-minute webinar featured 5 experts who presented different perspectives on AI, and showcased their respective nation’s AI programs, strategic plans, focal areas, and developmental endeavors.

Herewith we present to you a summary of their presentations:

• **Dr. Yung-Hui Li, Director of AI Research Center, Hon-Hai Research Institute, Taiwan**

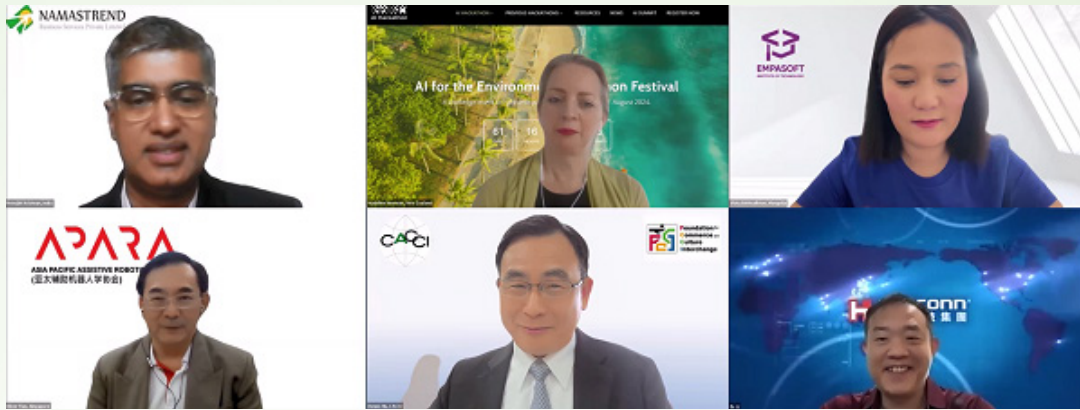
Dr. Li stated that the general public have seen a glimpse of the AI power by experiencing Chat Gpt. However, it is important to see AI as an industry where a lot of things need to be prepared in the background and manufactured in order to

make AI succeed.

From basic labels like components such as chips, memory, sensors to devices such as cloud servers, user devices like PCs and smartphones will be needed to structure the new AI industry. Dr. Li said that hardware is fundamental because of the astronomical number of computations needed to reach AI efficiencies.

His company works closely with Nvidia to help package their GPU into modules. On the software side there are other partners such as Meta, Microsoft, Google, and other players who will be the last link to the consumer side.

Dr. Li argued that to have successful AI usage in society, an emerging AI ecosystem is also needed to create smart manufacturing. AI requires the transformation from just making manufacturing



electronics to the whole system like EV, so AI's capabilities need to be embedded into the platform such as in the case of Smart EV.

These AI applications will evolve into complex systems such as smart city platform with overarching applications dealing with issues such as smart transportation, from home to destination using different means at variable times.

• **Madeline Newman, Executive Director, AI Forum New Zealand**

Madeline Newman talked about Aotearoa New Zealand's collaborative approach to AI regulation, the importance of inclusion, and the common problems we all have in building trust in AI. She argued for actively creating safe and interesting places for people to play with the toolsets as key to building knowledge, familiarity and trust.

Madeline mentioned that the goal in her market is to use AI to promote economic opportunities using its supporting applications. It is necessary to ensure that society can adapt to rapid and far-reaching changes that artificial intelligence technology is bringing.

While New Zealand appears to lack a fixed or stated AI strategy, Madeline said that a lot of work is being done in the background by the Forum and by other entities like the Artificial Intelligence Association, many times in cooperation with some government entities.

The last government wasn't excited by AI, Madeline said, but the situation has changed in part because New Zealanders are using AI.

Madeline mentioned that she talked with several people from around the Asia Pacific region and found a common problem: AI's sketchy reputation and the lack of trust from the public. She said that this problem needs to be addressed to accelerate adoption.

Her group, AI Forum, is creating context for

future government policy and helping organize data to build up the AI database.

• **Mr. Oliver Tian, Vice President, Global Robot Clusters, Singapore**

Oliver emphasized the importance of leveraging AI to augment human capabilities and extend human potential.

He discussed the wonders of AI and how it will help humankind as well as the woes and pains of AI. He cautioned against bias, misuse and over-dependence on AI.

He encouraged the audience to know about AI so that "we can be Master of Technology and not be slave to it." He advised the public to get educated on AI (to a minimum level), to experiment with AI (so as to know how it works), and to continuously engage with practitioners/experts in AI so that one keeps updated on the progress of AI. "Clearly, AI is here to stay with us," Oliver concluded.

• **Mr. Premjith Krishnan, CEO of Namastrend Business Services Pvt Ltd, India**

Premjith Krishnan, in his brief presentation, delved into India's burgeoning AI market landscape, which is set to soar to USD 6.26 billion during the current year and projected to reach a staggering USD 17 billion by 2027, as per various research sources.

Krishnan highlighted the pivotal role of both governmental initiatives and industry endeavors in propelling AI development within India.

He emphasized well thought-out and multi-directional policies initiatives by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) and MeitY (Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology), elucidating on flagship programs such as the India AI Mission and the establishment of various Expert Groups on AI, Open Government Data Platform, and Centres of Excellence and PPP model initiatives such as the National AI Portal.

Notably, India's active involvement as a founding member and current Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and others such as US-India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) initiative showcases its commitment to collaborative efforts on a global scale. Krishnan underscored India's leadership position in AI implementation and usage, with a remarkable 91% of Indian companies intending to utilize their data for training AI models, surpassing the global average of 62%. This trend is particularly pronounced in sectors like retail and ecommerce, BFSI, healthcare, education, and agriculture.

Moreover, India's vibrant startup ecosystem, ranked as the third largest globally, has witnessed exponential growth in the deep-tech area, with over 31,000 tech startups emerging over the past decade with a 15X growth, as per the NASSCOM-ZINNOV Report. Krishnan also highlighted the milestone achievement of "Krutrim," India's first AI Unicorn, marking a significant milestone in the country's AI journey.

He concluded his presentation by pinpointing areas for improvement, including the absence of specific AI regulation laws, limited availability of high-performance computing devices, scarcity of market-ready models, and concerns surrounding security, misinformation, deepfakes, and transparency. Krishnan's insights underscored India's strides in AI development while acknowledging the challenges that lie ahead in harnessing its full potential.

• ***Ms. Vicky Enkhsaikhan, Co-Founder of Empasoft Institute of Technology /Country Director, Women in Tech Global Movement, Mongolia***

Vicky is the co-founder of the University of Technology in Mongolia that aims to build domestic skills not only for AI development but for many technology areas.

With only 3.4 million people sandwiched between two giants, Russia and China, the country needs technology to advance and also to provide good quality jobs to his youth comprising 35% of the entire population.

She presented the novel idea of AI for nomadic life in Mongolia, since a considerable number of Mongolian citizens still practice nomadic life in such vast country.

Currently, 25% of the population still lives a

nomadic life. Yet they enjoy electricity and Internet 24 hours, including renewable energy generated by wind and solar panels, proving that nomadic life can be sustained with modern technology.

Thus, AI can also be implemented in the nomadic life to strengthen the culture and other traditions of Mongolia.

Vicky also said that language is another cultural area where AI can help Mongolia because only 0.1% of the world population speaks Mongolian language.

Some US\$10 million has been invested in AI area. She recognized that it is a small amount and that much more is needed to make AI usable in the Mongolian market. She also suggested that literature, poems, folk stories and fairy tales can also be incorporated into AI applications that can further solidify nomadic life and education. To that purpose Vicky mentioned Egune, an organization composed of talented engineers interested in the nomadic life.

The video recording of the presentation can be viewed at the CACCI YouTube channel [HERE](#).

CACCI Reps meet with Asian Tourism Council Chairman



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

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



CACCI Reps meet with FCCISL

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

The Secretariat officers were received by FCCISL President Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane and Secretary-General Dr. Tilan Wijayasooriya. During the meeting, the FCCISL officers were briefed on

the upcoming activities of CACCI, and expressed interest in participating in the Investment Forum webinar series, submitting nominees for the CACCI Awards, suggesting activities for inclusion in the CACCI Work Program for 2025-2026, and submitting a project proposal for possible funding by the CACCI Foundation.

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

Webinar on Bangladesh's Business Environment held on June 27



CACCI hosted a webinar on "Bangladesh's Business Environment" held on June 27, 2024 at 2pm Taipei time.

Jointly organized by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and CACCI, the 60-minute webinar featured three distinguished speakers — Sheikh Fazle Fahim, CACCI Vice President, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, FBCCI President, and Mr. Md. Alamgir,

FBCCI Secretary General, who provided valuable information on current economic trends and developments in Bangladesh.

Businesspeople, investors and bankers who joined the webinar gained insights into the business opportunities available and investment prospects in the Bangladesh market.

The webinar program was as follows:

- **2:00PM** — Introduction of FBCCI and Video Presentation by Mr. Mahbubul Alam, FBCCI President
- **2:15PM** — Investment and Business Opportunities in Bangladesh by Mr. Md. Alamgir, FBCCI Secretary General
- **2:50PM** — Q&A
- **3:00PM** — End of Webinar

NEWS UPDATES

CACCI VP Offers Condolences to Iran following tragic helicopter crash



Khurram Tariq Sayeed, Vice President of CACCI and Former Vice President of FPCCI, called on Mr. Hassan Nourian, Consul General Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi to offer his condolences on the tragic loss of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister, and other companions in the unfortunate helicopter crash.

Mr. Sayeed conveyed to the Consul General that “the tragic demise of President Ebrahim Raisi is an immense loss not only for Iran but also for the entire Muslim Ummah.” His dedication, leadership, and commitment to the betterment of Iran and its

people will be remembered and cherished, he added. During their conversation at the Consulate, they also discussed Mr. Raisi’s vision of progress, diplomacy, and peace that resonated far beyond Iran’s borders — actions that left a lasting impact on the world stage. Mr. Sayeed also mentioned President Raisi’s recent historic visit to Pakistan to strengthen the brotherly bond between the two countries and the number of MOU’s that were signed.

Mr. Nourian thanked Mr. Sayeed for visiting the consulate and said it is indeed a monumental loss not only for Iran but also for the Muslim world.

ACCI responds to Annual Wage Review outcome



The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry acknowledges the decision by the Fair Work Commission to raise the national minimum wage and modern award minimum wages by 3.75 per cent.

“This tests the acceptable limits for

businesses. The outcome is slightly above current inflation and well over the Reserve Bank’s target range for inflation,” ACCI chief executive officer Andrew McKellar said.

“This decision is not in line with the trajectory needed to shore up the Australian economy, but it does not pose a significant inflation threat so long as productivity is addressed.”

“Over the past year, productivity has been flat at best. For the outcome of 3.75 per cent to be justified, it is essential that there is renewed growth in productivity as an urgent priority. This must be central to bargaining at an enterprise level.”

“This decision is further evidence of wages being de-linked from underlying productivity, which is not an economically prudent approach.”

The Fair Work Commission has ignored the

extreme claims of the union movement.

“This decision is a repudiation of the irresponsible five per cent demand from the ACTU,” Mr. McKellar said.

“Such an increase would have dangerously burdened the economy. It posed an unacceptable risk to inflation, and would have seen interest rates higher for longer.”

“Bringing inflation under control is central to the economic well-being of all. So long as inflation remains elevated, the buying power of every dollar diminishes.”

“Small businesses are grappling with

significant increase costs as a result of the increased compliance burden and wages remain a concern in such an environment.”

“It is inevitable that businesses will need to pass increased costs through to consumers. Many small businesses are in a position where they simply cannot absorb any more.”

“Regulatory costs are going to increase further the impact of the governments industrial relations changes continue to flow through to the economy in such an environment business will need to pass on additional costs.”

ACCI Newsroom

FBCCI suggests creating direct shipping route with Sydney

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has suggested creating a direct shipping route between Chattogram and Sydney to reduce logistical costs and enhance competitiveness as part of efforts to boost bilateral trade.

The FBCCI also sought investment from Australian entrepreneurs and proposed signing a comprehensive economic partnership agreement or a regional trade agreement between the two nations for greater market access and stimulate investment.

FBCCI Vice President Joshoda Jibon Debnath made the calls during a seminar on “Strengthening bilateral trade and investment between Bangladesh and Australia”, held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Australia’s Sydney on May 29.

The seminar was hosted by the FBCCI in association with the High Commission of Bangladesh in Canberra, Australia and was supported by the Consulate General of Bangladesh in Sydney.

At the event, the apex trade body of Bangladesh also reaffirmed its commitment to provide all kinds of support to Australian investors to set up their businesses in Bangladesh.

The FBCCI vice president highlighted the potential of enhanced Bangladesh-Australia coop-



eration across key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, IT services, agricultural technology, renewable energy, and education.

He proposed a joint research and development fund for biotechnology, ICT, and renewable energy, as well as vocational training programmes and education to drive innovation and economic growth.

In his speech, Stephen Kamper, minister for small business, land and property of New South Wales (Australia), described the advantages of doing business in Australia. He highlighted the opportunities and potential for setting up businesses in New South Wales and encouraged Bangladeshi investors to invest in Australia.

The Daily Star

Singapore's Wong and Malaysia's Anwar say both countries' ties can be ASEAN model



How Singapore and Malaysia resolve their outstanding differences should set the standard for collaboration between Southeast Asian nations, the prime ministers of both countries said on June 12.

In his first official trip to Malaysia since taking office, Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said a masterplan for a special economic zone between his country and the southern Malaysian state of Johor was an example of how Asean members could strengthen economic ties.

Singapore and Malaysia on January 11 signed an agreement on a new Johor-Singapore special economic zone under which both sides will work towards boosting the cross-border flow of goods and people and supporting investments on both sides of the Causeway.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur, Wong said Johor and Singapore had all the ingredients to make a very successful economic zone and the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link was a “major game changer” for collaboration.

“What we are doing between Singapore-Malaysia and between Johor-Singapore is also in many ways what ASEAN ought to be doing to strengthen our economic integration as one community. So I’m very hopeful that Malaysia and Singapore can provide that strong anchor for a stronger and more integrated ASEAN community,” said Wong.

On the issues of maritime boundaries

between Singapore and Malaysia, Anwar said he understood their complexities and hoped they could be resolved by the next bilateral leaders’ retreat.

“It is something that we as good neighbours have to get and I am a bit ambitious. I want this to be able to showcase to the region and the world how good neighbours should behave and interact so I look forward to that sort of final amicable resolution,” Anwar said.

Singapore and Malaysia have been trying to resolve their maritime boundary delimitation issues and implementing the International Court of Justice’s 2008 ruling on Pedra Branca, Middle Rocks and South Ledge.

Following the leaders’ retreat last October, then Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Anwar noted that a technical working group on the agreement between both countries to delimit precisely their territorial waters’ boundary held their first meeting in June 2023.

Singapore had protested against Malaysia’s maritime boundary extension in October 2018, saying it resulted in Malaysian government vessels making repeated incursions into Singapore waters, with the city state responding by extending its port limits within its territorial waters.

Another outstanding issue for the two countries is water. Under the 1962 Johor River Water Agreement, which is in effect until 2061, Singapore pays Malaysia for the right to draw up to 250 million gallons of raw water per day from the Johor River. It then provides Johor daily with treated water up to 2 per cent of the imported water.

In November 2023, the Malaysian government said it sought to review the agreement due to “certain issues”.

Leaders from both countries have previously agreed to resume discussions on the prices of raw and treated water, without prejudice to each other’s long-declared positions on the right to review prices under the current agreement.

On June 12, Anwar quipped that these issues “should have been resolved yesterday”. He added: “But we understand the complexities, we appreciate

the need to resolve this amicably. Notwithstanding some minor differences, it should not deter us from exploring new avenues and working together.”

Wong, who is in Kuala Lumpur as part of a series of introductory visits to Southeast Asian capitals, said his meeting with Anwar was a good opportunity to take stock of outstanding issues and guide officials from both countries in their continuous discussions in a constructive manner, taking into account “the importance of the overall relationship”.

“Whatever differences we may have on these issues should not affect or colour how we treat the overall relationship and certainly should not detract from the possibilities of pursuing new areas of cooperation. That’s the spirit which we have in thinking and addressing these issues,” said Wong.

He added that, if these issues cannot be resolved completely, the two leaders look forward to being able to “see very good progress” across all of them by their retreat later this year.

Asked about Malaysia’s focus when it assumes chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2025, Anwar said the region had achieved consensus on meeting new challenges in digital and energy transitions and partnerships to anchor ASEAN as a “cohesive force”.

He added: “There’s an outstanding issue to achieve the five-point consensus in Myanmar, and I think that is the resolve for all ASEAN countries, that this must be a priority too... It’s not very simple, but then it will be great if we can get this engagement going with the clear undertaking of the five-point consensus.”

The five-point consensus was agreed upon by ASEAN leaders in April 2021 after the Myanmar military seized power in a coup in early 2021 and deposed the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. It includes the immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar with all parties exercising restraint, constructive dialogue among all parties to seek a peaceful solution and mediation of the dialogue process facilitated by a special envoy of the ASEAN chair, with the assistance of ASEAN’s secretary-general.

Wong’s introductory visits to Southeast Asian capitals started in Brunei on June 11 - his first overseas official trip since he was sworn in as prime minister on May 15.

His predecessor, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is the son of modern Singapore’s founding father Lee Kuan Yew, made similar introductory visits to Brunei and Malaysia when he took over as prime minister in August 2004.

South China Morning Post

Thailand emerges as next big market for Japan seafood

Japanese distributors of seafood are racing to make inroads into Thailand, which is turning into a key market now that China has banned seafood imports from Japan.

Yokohama-based Sprout Investment organized a tasting event at a Bangkok tavern in late April to showcase fresh seafood from Japan. Restaurant owners, both Thai and Japanese, enjoyed sashimi made from bonito, mackerel and more.

“I was surprised at the quality of the bonito and the mackerel,” a Thai participant said. “I want to serve them at my restaurant.”

Sprout operates more than 20 izakaya pubs in Japan and has opened a location in Bangkok. It plans to expand into seafood wholesaling in Thailand as early as August.

“We sense high potential,” said Naoki Ito, Sprout’s representative director. The business will purchase mainly seafood caught off Chiba prefecture’s Boso Peninsula and supply it to eateries in Thailand.

“We aim to provide fresh, quality fish in the medium price range,” Ito said.

Tokyo-based seafood distributor Uoriki



aims to have up to 100 outlets in Thailand within five years under plans laid out last October.

“Thailand is a ‘blue ocean,’” or a relatively untapped market, President Masayuki Yamada said.

Uoriki formed a joint venture with Thai conglomerate Charoen Pokphand Group in April 2023. The venture opened its first outlets that October.

Uoriki is looking to set up additional outlets mainly at Lotus’s hypermarkets and Makro cash-and-carry stores, both operated by CP. It wants to expand its footprint beyond Bangkok to areas like Chiang Mai and is considering additional tie-ups with Central Group and other Thai conglomerates.

Jalux, a trading house backed by Japan Airlines and Sojitz, has opened in central Bangkok a wholesale market selling fresh Japanese seafood. The market has seen an increase in retail customers since the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the store.

Japanese food was once considered a luxury in Thailand but has become more ubiquitous as incomes in the country rise. Growing demand has strengthened Thailand’s cold chain -- a necessity for distributing Japanese seafood at prices affordable for middle class consumers.

The growing Thai market is also a boon for Japan given that China, once the largest importer of Japanese seafood, barred inbound shipments after Japan began to release wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea.

At the three-way summit in Seoul on May 26, the Japanese side unsuccessfully lobbied China to quickly lift the ban.

“It’s critical to diversify export destinations,” said Junichiro Kuroda, president of the Bangkok office of the Japan External Trade Organization.

With China not budging, Japan looks to expand seafood exports to Thailand. Tetsushi Sakamoto, the Japanese minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, visited Bangkok in early May and promoted Japanese scallops at an export event.

Thailand is home to an estimated 70,000-plus Japanese nationals, as well as numerous Japanese restaurants and izakaya. It is seen as a test case for establishing a thriving Japanese-seafood business with the hope of replicating the success in Singapore, Malaysia and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

Nikkei Asia

ICCIMA to support enhancing food exports

The Deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Qadir Qiafeh has said that the exports of non-oil products are one of the main agendas of the chamber, with a high significance attached to the exports of food products.

In an address to the International Food Commerce Conference in Tehran, Qiafeh said that the global value of food industry exports stands at \$9.5 trillion.

He stressed that Iran’s exports of food have

registered a 5.3 percent increase over the past 12 years in terms of tonnage while the value of the country’s food exports has decreased by an average of 0.6 percent in the timespan.

Qiafeh noted that the Iran Chamber of Commerce supports holding food industry weeks in neighboring countries and main trade partners of Iran.

He also touched upon an upcoming presidential election on June 28, stressing that the private sector expects the next president to refrain



from intervening in the pricing process.

The International Food Commerce Conference is being sponsored by the ICCIMA Commission of Food Industries.

Iran exported 1,562,000 tons of agricultural products worth \$684 million since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) to May 20, an increase of 28 percent in value year on year.

Agricultural exports also rose by 24 percent in terms of weight, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Iran exported some 1,260,000 metric tons (mt) of agricultural products worth \$536 million in the same period last year.

In terms of value, the main agricultural items exported in the mentioned period are apples worth \$96.3 million, in-shell pistachios worth \$74.1 mil-

lion, watermelons worth \$73.8 million, field tomatoes worth \$50.3 million, and greenhouse tomatoes worth \$44.7 million, the report added.

The statistics show that agricultural items account for about 6.66 percent of the total weight and 8.53 percent of the total value of Iran's exports in the same period this year.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous year.

Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items. The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood in second place, importing \$751 million of the mentioned products, followed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

Tehran Times

MEMBER PERSONALITIES

FICCI appoints Jyoti Vij as new director general with immediate effect



The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) announced the appointment of Jyoti Vij as its Director General. Vij is

currently the additional director general at FICCI. She will take charge of the FICCI secretariat with immediate effect.

She graduated from Shri Ram College of Commerce in 1988 and later received her master's in business economics from the University of Delhi in 1990. In 1993, she joined the industry body and has served it in various capacities.

On Vij's appointment, FICCI president Anish Shah said, "We are delighted to welcome Jyoti Vij in her new role. Her thought leadership, strengths in policy formulation, people skills and long experience in the organisation will add immense value to FICCI."

In the announcement, FICCI said, "Vij has worked across sectors and with an assortment of stakeholders around policy and business issues. She currently leads cross-functional teams across a range of FICCI departments."

She is a business economist by training and

leads a range of policy areas across industry sectors.

"Jyoti regularly interfaces with senior government officials, multilateral organisations, and industry leaders on industry concerns and projects. She is part of several government committees on industry-related issues and has handled numerous multilateral projects. She also contributes to the international inward-investment promotion agenda of the government," FICCI said.

In another development, Shailesh Pathak, secretary general, FICCI has resigned citing personal reasons.

"We thank Pathak for his leadership and contributions to FICCI and wish him well in his new endeavours," FICCI said.

Business Standard

FNCCI President Dhakal receives 'Corporate Excellence Award'



Chandra Prasad Dhakal, the president of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), has been honored with the 'Corporate Excellence Award' by the Association of Chartered Accountants of Nepal.

President Ram Chandra Poudel presented the award to Dhakal during a special event in the capital on May 9.

The Association commended Dhakal for his significant contributions to the country's economy, physical and human development, job creation, and social and economic progress.

The Association acknowledged Dhakal's dedication, commitment, competence, and capacity, which have been recognized through this award.

In the appreciation letter, it has been stated, "Your achievements in fostering the nation's economy, development, and employment across various sectors underscore your dedication and competence. This award is a testament to your dedication."

Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Dhakal mentioned that the honor has inspired him to embrace further responsibilities in the future.

Starting from his upbringing in rural western Nepal, Dhakal has established a successful presence in sectors such as banking, investment, tourism, hydroelectricity, insurance, and social services.

MyRepublica

PRODUCT & SERVICE COUNCILS

Asian Council on Food and Agriculture

Can Asia be relied on to ensure global food security?

Asia has about 60 percent of the world's population but only about a third of its arable land. Food security expert Paul Teng of Nanyang Technological University consistently uses such measured words to explain his findings. Teng has been underlining the food security challenges facing Asia and the rest of the world for decades, highlighting the challenges associated with climate change and the use of technology.

In 2013, Teng warned against South Asia's declining agriculture production and reduced gross domestic product share, also underlining that Asia produces more agricultural commodities than it imports. "The agri-food picture in Asia has changed much in response to changes in its number of middle-class people and their rising economic power at the household level," his 2021 co-authored study claimed. In 2022, he highlighted the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war's "massive consequences" for global food security.

While it helps to follow a reliable expert on a matter that resonates globally, the bigger question is the broader implications of Asia's food security dynamics. The continent is home to many of the countries most affected by climate change. It also has some of the world's most economically active countries, with increasing urbanization and a growing middle class. This suggests that food security in Asia affects global food security through many links.



Asia's role in global food security comes with complexities and challenges that influence its reliability as a stabilizing force in the world's food supply. The continent is a major producer of numerous agricultural products and countries like China and India are among the largest agricultural producers globally, making their contributions vital to regional and global food markets. However, Asia's population pressure creates immense demand for food internally, potentially limiting the amount available for export and impacting global food security.

Moreover, water scarcity and land degradation are significant challenges in parts of Asia, impacting agricultural productivity. And some Asian regions face political instability and economic challenges that can disrupt food production and distribution. Trade policies and regional conflicts can also affect food availability and prices.

Asia's ability to ensure food security depends on addressing internal challenges, enhancing sustainable practices and maintaining stable economic and political conditions. International cooperation, investment in technology and infrastructure and policies aimed at sustainable resource management will be essential in leveraging Asia's full potential to contribute to global food security.

Critical concerns on the supply side include diminishing agricultural productivity, excessive use of natural resources and growing water scarcity. As Asia undergoes further urbanization and prosperity, these factors will likely drive food prices up unless supply can adequately meet the rising demand. Moreover, climate change is poised to be the most significant threat to food security as it affects agricultural productivity and could severely impact food availability.

An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development paper on food security claimed

that 40 percent of developing Asia is projected to face severe water shortages by 2030, which, along with urban encroachment and soil erosion, will significantly stress the region's agricultural land base. "Increasing productivity is complicated and limited by climate change. Its impact on Asia's food security is not a distant threat," the report stated, adding that climate change has a measurable impact on agriculture in a wide range of economies, crops and farming systems.

Research suggests that shifting temperature patterns rather than rainfall changes will pose the greatest risk to crop productivity in Asia. As a result, countries and regions dependent on Asia for food security would need to take several strategic measures. These measures start with adopting advanced agricultural technologies to help increase domestic food production, such as precision farming, hydroponics and vertical farming, which are particularly suited to the region's arid areas. Efficient water use is crucial, too.

Techniques such as drip irrigation, desalination and wastewater recycling can help conserve precious water resources and increase agricultural output. Another way forward is to diversify the sources of food imports. Trade links with multiple regions can help stabilize food prices and supply, making them less vulnerable to geopolitical tensions or local agricultural disruptions in Asia. Equally critical is the need to invest in agricultural research and development that can lead to innovations tailored to the region's specific needs, such as crops more resistant to heat and drought.

Improving food storage, processing and distribution infrastructures can minimize waste and enhance food systems' efficiency. Supportive policies and regulatory frameworks can encourage investment in agriculture, foster innovation and facilitate sustainable practices. Countries and regions seeking greater food security should encourage collaborations between the government and private sector, leading to investments in agricultural projects and infrastructure development that boost local food production.

Food security is often at the core of national policy agendas and international cooperation efforts, reflecting its critical role in ensuring a stable, healthy and productive global population. Many Middle East and North African countries depend heavily on food imports due to limited agricultural

capacity caused by arid climates and water scarcity. The reliance on Asian food supplies makes these regions sensitive to fluctuations in the continent's food production and export policies, highlighting the importance of sustainable and stable agricultural practices within Asia for global food security.

Arab News

Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific

Young entrepreneurs disrupting Asia's retail and ecommerce sectors



Asia's retail and e-commerce sectors are currently experiencing significant innovations thanks to a group of young entrepreneurs. These dynamic individuals, all under 30, capitalize on unique market opportunities and disrupt traditional business models with fresh concepts and technologies. They're making a significant mark on the industry by tapping into consumer needs and digital platforms.

Among these disruptors is YOOME Hwang, the founder of YOLO. Inspired by her world travels, she's created a digital retail platform that bridges the gap between global markets and consumers. Now, consumers can purchase international products from their homes without needing to travel, a concept that has become even more relevant amidst

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking advantage of international travel restrictions, Hwang created Croket, an online marketplace that offers 700,000 regional products by 25,000 sellers globally. With three million downloads and a gross value of 155 billion won (\$115 million), the platform capitalizes on the e-commerce demand during these unique times.

Entrepreneurs Rizky Arief Dwi Prakoso and Karina Innadinda Amron Naibaho identified a niche opportunity in the perfume industry in Indonesia.

Their company, HMNS, produces quality perfume at affordable rates using locally sourced ingredients. After selling 800,000 bottles in one year, they plan to expand into Malaysia.

In the luxury watch industry in Singapore, Chia Pei Qi and Kenneth Kuan have earned attention for their high-quality straps and accessories brand, Delugs. Their collection, which attracts celebrities such as Ed Sheeran, stands out in the competitive market thanks to their selection of materials and innovative designs.

Vanshika Kaji expanded her family's textile business in India by launching KNYA Med. The company manufactures medical lab coats and scrubs, catering to demand amidst current health crises. Fellow entrepreneur, Vaibhav Makhija also diversified, capitalizing on the health and wellness trend with What's Up Wellness, a line of supplement-infused gummy sweets.

The adaptability and innovative ideas of these young entrepreneurs are setting high standards in the retail and ecommerce industry. By pursuing niche markets, understanding consumer needs, and challenging norms, they're creating their unique space in the industry. Their success stories emphasize the importance of creativity and adaptability in business growth and highlight the role of digital transformations in retail.

Digital Marketing News

Asian Council on Health & Education

Combating vision loss in Asia Pacific: A roadmap to 2030



Vision is fundamental to how we navigate and interact with the world, yet millions globally lack access to essential eye care. The 2021 UN Vision for Everyone resolution represented a significant milestone in global health, recognizing the substantial benefits that improved eye care can offer for education, poverty alleviation and economic growth. It set a goal of achieving universal access by 2030, challenging member states to develop and implement comprehensive national eye care plans.

This call to action is particularly pressing in the Asia Pacific, where the burden of poor eye health is significant. While the Asia Pacific region accounts for 51% of the global population, nearly two-thirds of those with moderate-to-severe vision impairment live in East, South and Central Asia. This disparity underscores a critical need for targeted action.

Vision loss in Asia Pacific: A preventable crisis

The situation in Asia Pacific is compounded by two critical factors. First, the region has one of the world's fastest-aging populations, with an estimated 1.3 billion people projected to be over 60 by 2050. Vision loss risk increases with age so this demographic shift presents significant challenges. Second, the region is home to around 227 million people living with type 2 diabetes, a major risk factor for vision loss.

Beyond the profound impact on an individ-

ual's quality of life, vision loss has significant economic consequences. An estimated \$410.9 billion in global economic productivity was lost in 2020 due to reduced employment of people with vision loss.

Given the scale and disproportionate burden of vision loss in Asia Pacific and the fact that 90% of vision impairment is either treatable or preventable, the case for prioritizing Vision for Everyone by 2030 goals in the region is clear.

Today, millions lack access to eye care and health systems face profound questions about caring for aging populations — that's why a multi-pronged approach is essential. Here are five priorities for delivering eye care for all by 2030.

Five priorities to deliver Vision for Everyone by 2030

1. Raise awareness: Aging doesn't have to mean vision loss

Vision loss doesn't have to be accepted as a natural part of ageing. It is crucial to raise awareness that vision loss can be preventable and treatable and to educate the public about eye care. With diabetic retinopathy one of the leading causes of visual impairment globally, awareness among people living with diabetes is especially important. Empowering individuals to take charge of their eye health can help protect their vision and ease the burden on our health systems.

2. Prioritize patient-centered care to reduce treatment burden and improve access

Treatments for eye conditions are only effective if they reach the patients who need them. Complex clinic visits and intricate procedures often act as barriers to care, affecting patients and caregivers and especially impacting those from rural areas or with limited resources. By leveraging innovative medicines and technologies that minimize the frequency and complexity of healthcare visits, the strain on patients, caregivers and healthcare systems can be alleviated, ultimately strengthening capacity and enhancing access.

3. Address the workforce gap by training the next generation of eye-care specialists

Health systems are already struggling to meet demand for eye care, and ageing populations will exacerbate this. While innovative treatments can play a role, bolstering the eye care workforce is vital. We must inspire future generations to pursue careers in eye care. One clear opportunity is to en-

gage more women in the management of eye care. Globally, women represent only 25-30% of ophthalmologists, with even fewer in leadership and surgical specialties. Programmes like Malaysia's Women in Ophthalmology Forum serve as a model for fostering a stronger, more gender-inclusive workforce.

4. Invest in comprehensive eye health data collection

Real-world evidence provides crucial insights into how patients live with eye disease and the impact of treatments and care. Asia Pacific's diverse population means data gaps are particularly concerning. We need comprehensive eye health data that reflect the real-life challenges of people from all communities and socioeconomic backgrounds — and that reflects the disproportionate impact of eye disease in women. By investing in comprehensive eye health data collection, we can gain a clearer picture of the region's eye health needs to underpin better policy decisions, improved resource allocation and more equitable access to care.

5. Recognize the value of collaboration

Achieving the ambitious goals of Vision for Everyone by 2030 requires breaking down silos and fostering a new era of collaboration across the public and private sectors, academia and NGOs. Public-private partnerships, such as the 10-year collaboration between Roche and the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI) to develop a sight-saving therapy is just one example of how these partnerships are imperative for accelerating innovation in treatment and care.

Commit to eye-care innovation in Asia Pacific

As we approach the third anniversary of the UN's resolution Vision for Everyone by 2030, we celebrate progress but recognize that sight loss remains a threat for millions in Asia Pacific. This is a preventable crisis that demands action.

The pharmaceutical industry holds a vital responsibility for developing sight-saving treatments and building collaborative partnerships to support equitable access to eye care. However, achieving this goal requires a united front and patients, governments and research institutions must be part of this multistakeholder effort. Increased investments in accessible eye care initiatives are critical and this includes using new technologies and prioritizing eye health within national healthcare budgets.

As we move forward, our global community's combined expertise and strengths are vital in

creating an environment where comprehensive eye care and innovative treatments are the norm, not the exception. Each step we take towards the Vision for Everyone by 2030 goals helps us progress towards a future where everyone in our region has access to the eye care they need. By working together, we can enhance the quality of life through improved vision, making significant strides in health-care for today and tomorrow.

World Economic Forum



Asian Textiles & Garments Council

Asia Pacific Rayon boosts sustainable textile production in Bangladesh



Asia Pacific Rayon (APR), the first fully integrated viscose rayon producer in Asia, organized a customer meeting at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on June 06, 2024. With the theme 'Viscose & Lyocell Opportunities for Bangladesh's Textile Industry,' the event provided a platform for industry leaders to exchange insights and discuss innovations and collaborations.

APR's market share has grown steadily, and the company has also seen an increase in Lyocell consumption. Compared to other man-made cellu-

losic fibres, Lyocell is more sustainable. Hence, increased Lyocell utilization in garment production holds promising opportunities to make Bangladesh as a hub for sustainable textiles. Taking that discussion forward, this stakeholder meeting welcomed approximately 120 representatives from spinners, sourcing hubs, and downstream retailers.

Sachin Malik, global sales head of APR, said, "There is a significant projected increase in the demand for fibres, particularly driven by the expected growth in Man-made cellulosic fibre (MMCF). APR is dedicated to becoming the leading MMCF producer and ensuring stability in the supply chain to meet the evolving requirements of brands and customers."

"We believe we can tap into the growing demand in the Bangladesh market with our viscose and Lyocell products. We are very pleased to see the response of our stakeholders attending this event, and we are positive that we can work together with them to transform Bangladesh as a hub for the region's sustainable apparel industry," said Tapan Sannigrahi, vice president, Marketing and Downstream Development, APR. He also added, "the company sells approximately in 15-20 countries globally, including key markets like Turkey, Pakistan and Bangladesh since it began operating in 2019".

With a strong focus on sustainability, APR operates a world-class viscose staple fibre production facility that meets and exceeds multiple safety, quality, and sustainability requirements and guidelines.

Fibre2Fashion News Desk

INVESTMENT & JOINT VENTURES



Seaplane Asia lands investment to expand in Southeast Asia

Seaplane Asia, a seaplane and lifestyle company in Thailand, has closed its latest funding round led by TK & Partners.

Local VC firm and angel investing platform A2D Ventures and several other investors co-invested. The size of the deal remains undisclosed.

The new funds will bolster Seaplane Asia's growth in Thailand and support further expansion across Southeast Asia.

Established in 2019, Seaplane Asia provides air charter and amphibious seaplane services to connect remote islands and coastal areas. Its services aim to enhance accessibility, reduce travel times, and minimise environmental impact.

Besides travel and tourism, Seaplane Asia's seaplanes are equipped for medical evacuations, search and rescue operations, cargo and logistics, monitoring missions, and corporate charters. Its portfolio includes brands like Siam Seaplane and

Siam Scenic in Thailand, Samra Seaplane in Cambodia, and the lifestyle brand Jetboard Asia, which exclusively distributes high-end electric-powered water sports and boats.

Additionally, Siam Aero Services, a distributor for Bose Aviation, provides consultancy services to the region. Preparations are also ongoing to enter the Indonesian and Philippine markets.

TK & Partners is a private VC firm investing in Southeast Asia. Over the last three years, it has invested in 14 startups across the region.

A2D Ventures is an early-stage VC firm, angel syndicate, and angel investing platform. The firm invests in innovative and impactful companies across various sectors, with a focus on supporting entrepreneurs who are building the future of Southeast Asia.

E27

Etihad Airways, China Eastern Airlines sign joint venture

Etihad Airways and China Eastern Airlines have signed a Joint Venture (JV) to cement the strategic partnership between the two airlines, making it the first commercial JV between a Middle Eastern airline and a Chinese airline.

The JV will allow both airlines to jointly develop and grow the routes between the UAE

and China, offering expanded travel options and seamless travel experiences for passengers travelling between major Chinese cities like Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an, and Kunming, and key cities in the UAE and across the Middle East and Africa regions.

Etihad and China Eastern Airlines will

implement the JV cooperation in early 2025 when both teams secure all necessary regulatory clearances. Additionally, both airlines will introduce full reciprocity to their existing frequent flyer programmes in 4Q2024, allowing passengers to seamlessly earn points and redeem rewards when flying with either airline.

Etihad Aviation Group chairman Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa stated: "This partnership is more than the expansion of routes; it is about creating lasting and meaningful connections between our two nations which will stand for decades to come."

"This year marks the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the UAE. Both countries continue to develop and strengthen the high-value, strategic collaboration on the Belt and Road Initiative, and this momentum creates opportunities and motivation for deepening cooperation between China Eastern Airlines and Etihad Airways," said Wang Zhiqing, chairman of China Eastern Airlines.



"Both China Eastern Airlines and Etihad Airways have strong global hubs, and our cooperation is highly complementary, covers a broad scope, and has great potential. We look forward to our collaboration creating more synergies, not only in facilitating passenger travel but also in building deeper economic, trade, and cultural exchanges between China and the UAE."

TTG Asia

Mitsubishi Electric and Aisin to launch EV parts joint venture



Mitsubishi Electric and auto parts supplier Aisin plan to set up a joint venture for electric and hybrid vehicle components, Nikkei has learned, leveraging their combined scale for more efficient research and development as price competition intensifies.

The company, to be majority owned by Mitsubishi Electric, will develop and produce

components such as energy-saving inverters. Mitsubishi Electric and Aisin will concentrate on their respective areas of expertise for more efficient research and development.

Mitsubishi Electric's automotive equipment business, which includes power steering and advanced driver assistance systems, logged 944.1 billion yen (\$6.03 billion) in sales last fiscal year. The company has been moving away from other products such as navigation systems and fuel injectors for gasoline-powered vehicles, concentrating resources into EVs.

The business was spun off in December into Mitsubishi Electric Mobility -- which began operations in April -- in part to facilitate cooperation with outside companies.

Aisin, an affiliate of Toyota Motor, makes powertrains, brakes and body components. It ranked as Japan's second-largest auto parts company last fiscal year with sales of 4.91 trillion

yen, behind only Denso.

Aisin is now the world's top supplier of automatic transmissions, but demand for those will drop if EVs continue to gain ground. The company previously said it intended to ramp up strategic partnerships with other companies as it seeks to establish new growth businesses.

The auto industry faces pressure to adapt to new technologies and trends such as electrification and autonomous driving, pushing companies to spend heavily on R&D. Honda Motor plans to pour 10 trillion yen into in electric vehicles and software by fiscal 2030.

Meanwhile, China, the world's biggest EV market, is dealing with overcapacity issues that are driving down prices, including for parts makers. Nidec is temporarily scaling back its E-Axle traction motor system business in China in a bid to improve profit margins.

In the 2010s, electrical equipment makers began pivoting away from consumer businesses such as home appliances amid intensifying price competition, in favor of commercial-focused fields like autos and IT. But the auto industry in particular places heavy demands for low costs and high quality on suppliers.

With the rise of EVs rapidly changing the industry picture, other players have been restructuring operations as well. Hitachi in 2021 integrated its auto parts unit with three former Honda affiliates to create a new company, Hitachi Astemo.

Nikkei Asia

Radiance Renewables signs JV with InfraCo Asia

Radiance Renewables and InfraCo Asia, part of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), announced a joint venture. The JV, named Radiance InfraCo Renewables, will develop a portfolio of greenfield renewable energy projects for commercial and industrial (C&I) clients in the country, enabling them to reduce carbon emissions in their supply chains and operations to meet their



sustainability goals.

The JV will primarily focus on solar projects and explore opportunities in wind-solar hybrids. It will create a platform managed in compliance with international standards of ESG principles, the firms said.

Radiance Renewables, backed by Ever-source Capital, has a portfolio of more than 1 GW of operating and under-development capacity under its operational expenditure (OPEX) model. The company has 79 C&I customers, including captive and third-party entities, and behind-the-meter (BTM)/rooftop customers across various industries.

"Radiance is committed to advancing the decarbonisation of the C&I sector, aiding Corporate India in its energy transition and combating the adverse impacts of climate change. Through our strategic partnership with PIDG, we're bringing together our strengths to propel the journey towards a greener future," Manikkan Sangameswaran, executive director & CEO at Radiance Renewables said.

Radiance InfraCo Renewables is projected to avoid nearly 165,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) greenhouse gas emissions each year, with an expected operating life of 25 years.

"At PIDG, we have developed a scalable approach to mobilise finance and accelerate sustainable development impact where it is most urgently needed. By partnering with Radiance, we are bringing together our collective experience in structuring bankable renewable energy projects to encourage greater private sector participation in India. Through this scalable portfolio approach, we hope to add momentum to India's transition towards achieving net zero emissions by 2070," said Claudine Lim, InfraCo Asia director.

Financial Express

U.S. investment firm launches unsolicited bid for Japan's Sun Corp.



U.S. investment firm True Wind Capital Management has launched a tender offer for Japanese communications equipment maker Sun Corp., it announced, aiming to acquire up to 19% of shares.

The bid is 4,400 yen (\$28.04) per share. The

purchase period will run until July 22. True Wind said the purpose of the purchase is to help boost Sun Corp.'s corporate value over the long term.

True Wind manages private equity funds, and is a sponsor of an Israeli company dealing in digital forensics for mobile devices that is an equity method affiliate of Sun Corp.

Regarding the tender offer, Sun Corp. stated that True Wind did not make any prior contact and gave no conditions or requests. It will announce its opinion on the offer at a later date.

Hong Kong fund Oasis Management owns a total of 19% of Sun Corp.'s outstanding shares. True Wind commented that the tender offer is being made independently of Oasis.

Nikkei Asia

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Uruguay eager to deepen collaboration with Malaysia in halal meat, dairy market

The Uruguayan government, represented by The Institute of National Meat of Uruguay (INAC), has expressed a keen interest in furthering its collaboration with Malaysia in the halal meat and dairy market.

The focus will be on expanding efforts to export beef to other nations, particularly aiming to penetrate the South-east Asian market, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said.

Ahmad Zahid said this was conveyed during



his meeting with Uruguay's Minister for Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries, Fernando Mattos, to discuss advancing trade relations between Malaysia and Uruguay in the global halal meat market.

"The livestock sector in Uruguay produces approximately 600,000 tonnes of beef per year, of which 150,000 tonnes are used in the domestic market, and 450,000 tonnes are exported.

"Additionally, Uruguay exports 75 per cent of its beef abroad, mostly to China, while only 25 per cent is produced for domestic use. These products

are exported to over 100 countries, contributing 25 per cent of Uruguay's exports.

"Therefore, I see great potential for Malaysia to explore this Uruguayan meat and dairy market to ensure a stable supply of halal meat and further drive the country's food security agenda," he said in a statement today.

Ahmad Zahid added that Malaysia could also become a major hub for processing, storage, handling, and transportation activities, with a focus on Malaysia before penetrating the halal meat market abroad, especially in the Asean region.

He said that the Malaysian government, through the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM), Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti), Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim), and Halal Development Corporation (HDC), has outlined several approaches to achieve this.

"The Department of Veterinary Services and Jakim themselves have conducted visits and halal audits to 21 ruminant abattoirs in Uruguay since last April and are in the final phase before these slaughterhouses are officially granted halal status.

"Furthermore, the Uruguayan government has provided assurance through legislation that compliance with Malaysian halal standards will be adhered to by The Uruguay Islamic Centre (UIC), which is the halal certification body in that country," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said these steps were believed to open up a broader market for Uruguay in Malaysia, where he believed opportunities for cooperation with major global meat suppliers like Uruguay would diversify the halal meat sources in the country and avoid dependence on any one country.

In addition, he said Malaysia would consider sending Malaysian trainees from Jakim and HDC to become Halal Process Assurance Supervisors and slaughter experts to recognised abattoirs abroad endorsed by Jakim.

"This step can enhance confidence in Halal Malaysia certified slaughter products without any religious concerns," he said. — Bernama

Malay Mail

U.S. and Central Asia Further Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation



The 15th meeting of the U.S.-Central Asia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council was held in Astana on 13 June.

TIFA was signed in Washington in June 2004 by the United States, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to expand international trade, attract foreign investment, and establish trade relations between Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. The US-Central Asian Trade and Investment Council was established within its framework.

Reporting from Astana, the Kazakh Ministry of Trade and Integration, said that the agenda had covered prospects for diversifying trade and expanding investment cooperation. Representatives of the six countries also discussed the development of new trade routes to improve supply chain resilience and diversify the economy.

During the event, Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Serik Zhumangarin remarked, "As one of the major economies in the region and a WTO member, Kazakhstan recognizes the high potential offered by TIFA to strengthen not only bilateral but also regional trade relations. This year's meeting of the TIFA Central Asia Regional Council is further proof of the progressive development of regional cooperation and sustainability, which in turn, plays an important role in stabilizing world economy by connecting the global markets of both the West and the East."

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, emphasizing the need to coordinate joint efforts

to ensure sustainable growth of TIFA economies, stated:

“Central Asia remains a very important economic and strategic partner for the United States. We are also experiencing climate change and facing the consequences of technological and industrial progress. It is necessary to jointly develop traditional supply chains, the stability of which will ensure sustainable economic growth. The US is interested in improving the quality of trade, supplying critical metals for the production of cars and semiconductors.”

The Times of Central Asia



Yoon focuses on critical minerals during Central Asia trip

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's Central Asia tour focused on boosting economic ties with resource-rich countries as part of his diplomatic push to secure critical minerals and energy supplies amid global supply chain uncertainties.

Yoon wrapped up a weeklong trip to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, June 15, as Korea seeks deeper engagement with the strategically significant region rich in vital resources essential for cutting-edge chip and battery industries.

The state visits followed the first-ever Korea-Africa summit, which focused on forging critical mineral partnerships in the region.

During his first trip to Central Asia since taking office in May 2022, Yoon introduced the “K-Silk Road” initiative, centered on creating a new cooperation model by linking Korea's innovative capabilities with Central Asia's abundant resources and development potential.

Korea, home to Samsung Electronics, SK hynix and major battery makers, aims to diversify its import portfolio of key industrial materials to reduce its reliance on a limited set of countries, including China.

Korea, the world's fourth-largest buyer of

crude oil and natural gas, has also been seeking to enhance energy security amid growing geopolitical risks that weigh on the global supply chain.

At the top of the agenda was forging partnerships on the critical mineral supply chain.

Korea signed a bilateral critical minerals supply chain partnership each with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, paving the way for comprehensive cooperation, from joint exploration to the final use of these minerals.

Kazakhstan is the largest oil producer in Central Asia and a major gas producer, with the largest proven oil reserves in the Caspian Sea region. Turkmenistan's natural gas reserve ranks fourth in the world, while Uzbekistan's subsoil is rich in oil, natural gas, coal and uranium.

During the trip, Korean companies finalized major infrastructure deals.

Korean railway manufacturer Hyundai Rotem inked a \$200 million deal to supply six high-speed trains to Uzbekistan Railways, the first export of high-speed trains developed using Korean technology.

In Turkmenistan, Hyundai Engineering signed two agreements with state-run companies to build a desulfurization facility and resume operations at a chemical plant. Daewoo Engineering & Construction is bidding for a contract to build two fertilizer plants.

These contracts are estimated to be worth approximately \$6 billion, according to Park Chun-sup, senior secretary for economic affairs.

Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Kim Tae-hyo said the summit diplomacy laid the groundwork for building mid- and long-term relationships by broadening the scope of cooperation.

Lao, Russian presidents hold talks on bilateral ties



Visiting President Thongloun Sisoulith and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have hailed the growing healthy Lao-Russian relations, agreeing to work together to further enhance their partnership.

During talks held at the Kremlin on May 9, the Lao leader reminded his host about the successful implementation of many provisions under the Treaty on Amity, which Laos and Russia signed 30 years ago.

“We have now reached a period favouring the further development of our bilateral relations and friendship,” President Thongloun said in a translated statement posted on the Kremlin’s website.

“In this connection, I would like to propose that we continue our cooperation and [implement] various proposals in this sphere.”

As the two nations marked the 30th anniversary of the treaty, President Putin noted that Russia and Laos last year witnessed an increase in two-way trade and economic relations, even if this has been quite modest so far, with a 12 percent increase. Cooperation in other areas is also growing.

“We have been expanding our defence and security cooperation too,” President Putin said.

“Our two countries have been maintaining scientific and humanitarian ties. We are grateful to you, Mr President, and all of your colleagues for supporting Russian language studies,” he added.

President Thongloun and his delegation, in response to an invitation from President Putin, paid

“While Korea has mainly focused on energy and mineral development as well as infrastructure construction, efforts have been made recently to integrate resource, energy and infrastructure cooperation with green initiatives and atomic energy to address climate change,” Kim said in a briefing.

With Russia’s influence waning and China’s clout rising in recent years, Seoul officials emphasize Korea’s commitment to practical cooperation free from political motives and its economic success story as a model for the former Soviet Union states that gained independence in 1992.

“When we engage in economic cooperation in Central Asia, there are no hidden agendas, only pure development cooperation such as with the Economic Development Cooperation Fund, talent development and technological collaboration. They seriously seek solutions that promote mutual prosperity from an economic perspective,” a presidential official said.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said Yoon’s Central Asia trip is “a strategic summit diplomacy focused on broadening economic territory” and called for related ministries to implement the support measures.

“To ensure that the achievements of summit diplomacy help revitalize the economy, the public and private sectors should closely work together to swiftly take follow-up actions,” Han said in a Cabinet meeting.

Although the summits culminated in signing memoranda of agreements on the mineral supply chain, such as joint lithium mine exploration, and the development and commercialization of rare metals, it is expected to take a long time to produce tangible results.

The process of developing a mining project can take five to 25 years to become operational and generate revenue, with many projects failing despite substantial efforts and investments. Mineral refinement also poses challenges due to its energy intensity and the toxic by-products produced.

The Korea Times

a working trip to Russia on May 8-10, during which the Lao leader attended the Victory Day parade in Moscow.

Calling the Lao leader a dear friend, President Putin said “We are delighted to see you in Moscow, especially on the occasion of Victory Day, marking the victory by the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War.”

The Russian leader expressed gratitude to Laos for handing over T-34 tanks to Russia, saying they were symbols of victory for Russia.

“Of course, this is instrumental in terms of being able to show them to the public and raising awareness among young people. Thank you very much,” President Putin said.

In addition, President Putin noted that both countries have been effective and proactive in working together on the international stage, including within the framework of the United Nations.

He added that fostering a strategic partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations “is a major foreign policy priority for us. ASEAN has substantially expanded the agenda in dealing with our joint efforts after Laos assumed the chairmanship.”

Referring to President Putin as a comrade, the Lao president thanked his host for inviting him to attend the 79th anniversary of the Great Victory.

“The parade today was very nice. I liked attending this parade very much,” President Thongloun said.

He also congratulated his Russian counterpart on winning the presidential election with the majority of votes, as well as on the successful inauguration ceremony held on May 7.

Mr. Thongloun told President Putin that he would visit St Petersburg and his alma mater, the Russian State Teachers’ Training University, where he had studied.

“I am certain that your visit to Russia will yield tangible results, and will be useful,” President Putin said.

During his visit to Russia, President Thongloun, who is Secretary General of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party’s Central Committee, also held talks with the Chairman of the United Russia Political Party, Dmitry Medvedev, the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release.

Asia News

Belarus, Mongolia sign 14 documents on expanding bilateral cooperation



Belarus and Mongolia signed 14 documents to expand bilateral cooperation during Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko’s official visit to the Mongolian capital.

Following narrow and expanded talks, Lukashenko and his Mongolian counterpart Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh attended a signing ceremony during which the documents were signed, notably including a roadmap for cooperation between the two countries until 2026, said a statement by the Belarusian presidency.

“Today we have identified strategic directions for bilateral cooperation. And not only strategic ones. Specific economic and cooperation projects were discussed in detail,” Lukashenko was quoted as saying during a press conference following the ceremony.

Expressing that Belarus intends to develop cooperation with Mongolia in a wide range of areas, Lukashenko said his country is committed to long-term mutually beneficial cooperation, and is ready to use preferential financing mechanisms for projects among other things.

The statement further touched on the narrow and expanded talks held between Lukashenko and Khurelsukh, stating that the two heads of state discussed promising areas of cooperation.

It said that they discussed the possibilities of expanding cooperation in the trade and economic sphere, as well as supplying the Mongolian market with in-demand food and industrial products from domestic enterprises and joint work in agro-industry.

The report said that Belarusian Industry Minister Alexander Rogozhnik and Mongolia's Food, Agriculture and Light Industry Minister Bolorchuluun Khayangaa signed an action plan for implementing the economic part of the road map for

developing cooperation between the two countries for 2024-2026.

Lukashenko was in Ulaanbaatar on an official visit until June 4.

Anadolu Agency



TECHNOLOGY



Japan Sells 'Electric Salt Spoon' To Promote Umami Flavours, Healthy Eating Habits

Japanese drinks giant Kirin Holdings will start selling an electrified spoon that researchers claim can promote healthier eating by enhancing salty tastes without extra sodium.

The product launch marks the first commercialisation of technology that last year won an Ig Nobel Prize, which honours unusual and whimsical research.

Kirin will sell just 200 of its Electric Salt Spoons online for 19,800 yen (\$127) this month and a limited run at a Japanese retailer in June, but is hoping for 1 million users globally within five years. Sales overseas will start next year.

The spoon, made of plastic and metal, was co-developed with Meiji University professor Homei Miyashita, who previously demonstrated the taste-enhancing effect in prototype electric chopsticks. The effect works by passing a weak electric field from the spoon to concentrate sodium ion molecules on the tongue to enhance the perceived saltiness of the food.

Kirin, which is pivoting towards healthcare from its traditional beer business, said the technology has particular significance in Japan, where the average adult consumes about 10 grams of salt per day, double the amount recommended

by the World Health Organization.

Excess sodium intake is related to increased incidence of high blood pressure, strokes and other ailments.

"Japan has a food culture that tends to favour salty flavours," said Kirin researcher Ai Sato. "Japanese people as a whole need to reduce the amount of salt intake but it can be difficult to move away from what we're used to eating.

"That's what led us to develop this electric spoon."

Weighing 60 grams, the spoon runs on a rechargeable lithium battery.

Miyashita and his co-creator, Hiromi Nakamura, were presented with the Ig Nobel Nutrition Prize by immunologist and Nobel Prize laureate Peter Doherty in an online ceremony, opens new tab last year.

The Verge

POLICY UPDATES

Australia

Australia's new rules 'facilitate' Japan investment, envoy says



Impending changes to Australia's foreign investment framework will "facilitate and enable" Japanese investment in sectors such as critical minerals, Canberra's ambassador to Japan told Nikkei Asia in an interview.

In May, Australia unveiled reforms to its foreign investment laws. Under the new framework, the government will increase scrutiny of projects affecting the national interest, while simplifying the process for known investors in less sensitive areas.

"This process is designed to streamline investments into these strategic sectors like critical minerals. So I can reassure investors that this is a very good story for Japan and for Australia," said Ambassador Justin Hayhurst.

Hayhurst described Japan as a "close, trusted, special strategic partner" of Australia, and said Japan has "a tremendous track record of investing successfully" in his resource-rich country. He said the

Australian Embassy would soon meet with representatives from 120 Japanese companies to explain the critical minerals elements of the Future Made in Australia strategy. The goal of the strategy is to establish a supply chain for renewable energy in the country.

Canberra hopes to increase the domestic supply of critical minerals and build an upstream-to-downstream supply chain by attracting investment from like-minded countries that have demonstrable commitments to principles such as democracy and the rule of law.

Hydrogen is another key area where Australia is looking for investment. In May, Canberra announced a Hydrogen Production Tax Incentive, which offers developers 2 Australian dollars (\$1.32) per kilo of green hydrogen over 10 years, starting in 2027. Green hydrogen is produced from water, using renewable energy. Hayhurst believes the tax credit will promote investment in the sector.

Nikkei Asia

Bangladesh

Bangladesh launches national guidelines to combat heat-related health risks

In a significant step forward in Bangladesh's health sector, the Directorate General of Health Services



(DGHS) in Bangladesh, with Unicef's support, has launched a national guideline to protect children and vulnerable populations, including pregnant women from heat-related health risks.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Samanta Lal Sen announced the launch of this guideline, emphasizing its crucial timing amidst changing weather patterns attributed to climate change.

Unicef has provided full support for the development of this policy, recognizing its importance in addressing the rising temperatures and associated health risks.

The national guidelines, jointly developed by DGHS with Unicef support, stress the importance of a primary healthcare approach in protecting vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of climate change.

Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general (Planning and Development) of DGHS, outlined the key aspects of the guidelines during the launch event.

At the event, Dr Samanta Lal Sen highlighted the timeliness of the guideline, saying that people across the country are facing multitude of problems due to ongoing heatwave across the country.

Since April 19, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) issued heat alert six times.

The health minister said proactive measures, including online training for healthcare professionals, will effectively implement the guideline nationwide.

"When the heat reached its peak, I gave only one instruction to everyone. Keep the hospitals empty.

All diseases that can be operated on and treated later are closed for the time being and our hospitals are ready," he said.

"While we may not have control over natural disasters, our ministry's main responsibility lies in safeguarding public health amidst rising temperatures. Emphasizing urbanization, we must prioritize tree planting initiatives to mitigate heat-related health risks," Dr Samantha Lal added.

The national guidelines, developed in collaboration with experts from health and other sectors, provide a comprehensive framework for responding effectively to heat-related health risks.

In addition, the guidelines include Unicef's B.E.A.T. the Heat framework, based on the English acronym: 1) BE AWARE of heat stress and protect yourself; 2) EASILY IDENTIFY the symptoms of heat stress; 3) ACT IMMEDIATELY to protect yourself and others; and 4) TAKE the person to a health facility if an individual is showing serious symptoms.

These directives are aimed at raising public awareness and fostering mass participation in heat-related health initiatives.

These guidelines will be disseminated widely through various government ministries, mass media channels, and grassroots organizations to ensure broader community and public engagement.

Dhaka Tribune

Cambodia

Government issues new guidelines for anti-money laundering

The Cambodian government has issued new guidelines on anti-money laundering (AML). The



government recently issued a sub-decree, regarding the National Facilitation Committee on Anti-Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and Proliferation Financing, to improve the reporting of financial frauds in the country

Prime Minister Hun Manet revised articles pertaining to a January 2022 order on AML. One of the guidelines states that the committee will be administered by the Cambodia Financial Intelligence Unit (CAFIU). The functions of the committee will be decided by the committee chair. The position of committee chair is currently held by the Minister of Justice Ko Eut Rith.

As per a revised article, the committee now has the power to call relevant ministries and institutions for meetings. It also allows the committee to form a sub-committee to support its work.

The committee will be funded by the National Bank of Cambodia, but it can also receive and manage funds, donations and resources from other sources. These can be used to incentivise financial participants into reporting frauds. One of the articles of the sub-decree gives the committee the right to use the stamp of the Ministry of Justice for its work.

As per media reports, Government spokesperson Pen Bona said that committee articles were revised to increase its effectiveness in combating money laundering and preventing the financing of terrorism.

Cambodia and Morocco were part of the 'Money Laundering Grey List' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – an intergovernmental

body founded in 1989 to devise policies to tackle money laundering. Cambodia has been on and off that list in the last decade. In 2015 it was removed from the grey list. In 2019 it was added back. And last year it was removed from the list again. The spokesperson attributed this to the Kingdom's renewed efforts to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and weapons proliferation financing.

Khmer Times

Japan

Japan toughens rules on products sold online by foreign sellers

The Japanese parliament enacted a revised law to strengthen rules on products sold online by foreign sellers to consumers in the country in response to a recent surge in accidents involving such items.

Under the new rules, Japan will now require overseas businesses to appoint a domestic supervisor responsible for safety management. Concerns have been raised that some overseas companies did not have a representative in Japan that was legally accountable for products sold via the internet.

Accidents involving foreign-made items sold for consumers in Japan in recent years have included fires caused by mobile batteries.

According to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, there were 103 serious accidents involving products purchased online in 2022, about six times the figure from 2013.

If the government determines that a product poses a potential danger to consumers or the distributor fails to properly respond to an accident, such as issuing a recall, online mall operators will be requested to remove their

substandard products from their listings and make the action public.

The law targets businesses that handle electrical appliances, gas-related products and other items that may be dangerous depending on their use, requiring them to display the “PS mark” to certify compliance with safety standards.

In the case of a violation, the name of the person responsible in Japan for the product will also be made public.

The revised law also includes regulations for children’s toys, requiring businesses to ensure their products meet Japan’s technical standards before sale. Substandard products will be banned from being sold.

The Mainichi

Korea

South Korea to ban Chinese online products without KC certification



South Korea will ban products purchased online through overseas shopping platforms but without the KC certification amid growing concerns about product safety, particularly goods on Chinese online shopping malls such as AliExpress, Temu and Shein.

Following a ministers’ meeting presided over by Prime Minister Han Duck-soo at the Incheon Airport Regional Customs office, the government announced a series of measures to strengthen

regulatory scrutiny on people’s direct purchase of goods from overseas online shopping malls.

From June 1, some 80 items, including children’s goods, electrical products and disinfectants that have not received the KC safety certification will be banned from selling online.

Currently, all products imported through Korea’s customs clearance services must go through the KC certification confirmation process. However, goods people buy directly on overseas online shopping malls are exempt from such processes.

The government said it will soon revise related laws to ensure products sold and purchased online have the KC safety certification.

Subject to the new rules are 34 items controlled under the Children’s Products Act, including strollers, walkers, bicycles, textile products and toys; 34 electrical and household goods such as wires, cords, switches and batteries; and 12 household chemical products, including sterilizers, disinfectants and pesticides.

Consumers can check the list of banned products at the state-run Consumer24 website.

The Korea Economic Daily

Pakistan

New rules for drones in Pakistan’s skies

The federal government has imposed a mandatory requirement for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, to be registered under the new “Civil Unmanned Aircraft Rules, 2024”.

As per the new rules issued on the Ministry of Aviation’s website, all drones will have to be registered with the Civil Aviation Authority

(CAA).

Individuals already possessing UAVs will have to apply for registration of their drones within four months after the new rules come into effect. Whereas those who will acquire the drones after the new regulations are in place will get 15 days to apply for the registration of their property. With registration applications required to mention the intended use, registered unmanned aircraft shall be given a unique number consisting of alphabets and numerals.

Also, a person will not be allowed to register more than three unmanned aircraft of a category during one calendar year. Furthermore, drones have been divided into four categories on the basis of their maximum take-off weight namely category-I (maximum take-off weight less than or equal to 250 grammes), category-II (more than 250g but less than or equal to 10 kilogrammes), category-III (more than 10kg but less than or equal to 25kg) and category-IV (more than 25kg but less than or equal to 100kg).

Once the new rules come into effect, people will need CAA’s “Remote Pilot Licence” to operate drones which fall within categories II, III and IV.

The minimum requirement for the aforesaid licence is that the applicant needs to be at least 18 years of age, has a qualified secondary school certificate or equivalent examination, has received training from an approved organisation in relation to the type of licence applied and has passed a test prescribed by the authority to determine his knowledge and skills in the operation of an unmanned aircraft.

With regards to the import and export of UAVs, a person will be required to first get themselves registered. Also, those intending to import category-III and IV drones

will need clearance from the Ministry of Defence. Moreover, violators of the new rules might face action, which also includes imposition of a fine up to Rs100,000 with the possibility of additional monetary penalty which may extend to Rs10,000 for every day during which such contravention continues.

Meanwhile, a coordination committee has been made responsible for overseeing effective implementation of the new rules. The body will also advise the Centre on the promotion of the use of unmanned aircraft in the country and any changes to the rules will be subjected to the approval of the prime minister.

Daily Times

Singapore

Singapore's new cat licensing rules will weed out backyard breeders

Founder of Animal & Avian



Veterinary Clinic Kenneth Tong said backyard or unlicensed breeders – often carrying out breeding in their own homes – tend not to abide by standards of responsible breeding or animal welfare. The dam, or mother cat, is often made to produce litters “whenever (she) comes into oestrus (in heat), and for the sole purpose of making financial gains”, said Dr Tong.

They are often not given sufficient rest and recovery after delivery, he said.

But new registration rules for cat ownership when they come into force in September could reduce the amount of illegal breeding.

Under the new Cat Management Framework, which seeks to improve the welfare of feline pets, a maximum of two cats will be allowed in each Housing Board flat, and up to three cats in

a private residence, with owners required to license and microchip all their pet cats.

Dr. Tong said vets will have to report suspected unlicensed breeders to the authorities, or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (Acres).

Other concerns of unlicensed breeding are inbreeding and lack of care for the litter, including getting the animals vaccinated. Kittens that cannot be sold may be euthanised or left to fend for themselves.

Animals suffering severe birth defects may have to be put down.

“If the birth defect is so severe that the quality of life is greatly affected, for example, a severe cleft palate where food gets aspirated into the lungs leading to pneumonia, or a condition where death is likely within a few days, then euthanasia would be considered to relieve the suffering of both the newborn and the owners,” he said.

Homes may be found for the other animals.

Straits Times



About CACCI

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) is a regional grouping of apex national chambers of commerce and industry, business associations and business enterprises in Asia and the Western Pacific.

It is a non-governmental organization serving as a forum for promoting the vital role of businessmen in the region, increasing regional business interaction, and enhancing regional economic growth. Since its establishment in 1966, CACCI has grown into a network of national chamber of commerce with a total now of 29 primary Members from 27 Asian countries and independent economies. It cuts across national boundaries to link businessmen and promote economic growth throughout the Asia-Pacific region. CACCI is a non-governmental organization (NGO) granted consultative status, Roster category, under the United Nations. It is a member of the Conference on NGOs (CoNGO), an association of NGOs with UN consultative status.

Membership in CACCI provides businessmen the opportunity for networking with their counterparts in other countries in the region and globally, participation in CACCI annual conferences and training programs, interaction in product and service councils on various industry and service sectors, access to CACCI publications, and participation in policy advocacy work to create a policy environment conducive to private sector growth.