



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5/Issue 3 - March 2019

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EU-ABC EVENTS ROUND-UP

2019 Mission Trip to Malaysia



The EU-ASEAN Business Council, the only regional body for European Businesses in Southeast Asia, today begun a trade and investment trip to Malaysia, bringing 50 delegates from more than 20 European companies for meetings with the Malaysian Government and leading politicians. The delegation had meetings with the following ministries and organisations:

- Ministry of International Trade & Industry
- EU Delegation to Malaysia
- InvestKL
- Royal Malaysian Customs
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Tuan Fahmi Fadzil, Member of Parliament for Lembah Pantai, Communications Director, People's Justice Party
- Ministry of Communications and Multimedia
- Ministry of Finance



Commenting on the mission, EU-ABC Chairman Mr Donald Kanak, said:

“Malaysia is one of the leading economies in Southeast Asia and a key trading and investment partner in ASEAN for Europe. We are here to promote further improvements in that trade and investment relationship and to have discussions with the Malaysian government on a wide range of topics to enhance the understanding between government and industry”.

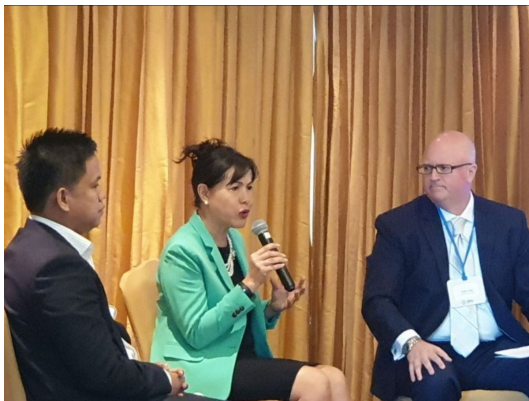


Companies that attended included: BASF, Bayer, BMW, Booking.com, Bosch, DHL Express, Eastspring Malaysia, EUMCCI, EABC Thailand, GSK, HERE Technologies, HSBC Bank, Luther, NXP Semiconductors, Pernod Ricard Asia, Prudential Corporation Asia, Sanofi, SAP, Shell Malaysia, SWIFT, Swiss Re, and Zuellig Pharma.

*This mission trip was supported by Vriens & Partners.
Read the full press release and find more photos [here](#).*



ASEAN Safe, Nutritious Food PPP Initiative Workshop



The EU-ABC had a very valuable and productive workshop in Thailand on ASEAN Safe and Nutritious Food, in collaboration with CropLife Asia and the US-ASEAN Business Council. The workshop involved Thai government Officials and other key stakeholders, looking at how the private sector and public sector can better collaborate to ensure consumers get food that is both safe and nutritious whilst helping farmers.

LEADERS IN EU-ASEAN: An Interview Series

NABIL FRANCIS

President of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), CEO of Republic Cement Services Inc, a CRH-Aboitiz Company

Hi Nabil, could you share with us what sparked your interest in coming on board as



President in ECCP? How have previous experiences in your career affected this decision?

As one of the leading foreign chambers in the Philippines, I am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the good work that the chamber has done for the past 41 years. The ECCP has an established reputation, not only within the Philippines, but also around the region and the world. So, it was an easy decision to accept the nomination and election as President and to want to contribute my part in the success of EU-Philippines business relations.

As the CEO of Republic Cement, are there any industry topics or committee areas you would be focusing on specifically during the early stages of your presidency?

In line with the current administration's thrust, ECCP will be focusing on its advocacies in infrastructure and transportation especially with the ongoing "Build, Build, Build" program. Moreover, the proposed tax reform is an area that we will be closely monitoring and working on given the gravity of its impact on current and potential foreign direct investments. Environmental sustainability and agricultural development are also definitely on top of mind.

Are there any CSR or sustainable projects you are especially passionate about in your work?

One advocacy I am particularly passionate about is road safety in the Philippines. In particular, road safety including occupational safety, training and knowledge transfer for drivers and all those involved in the land transport logistics aspect of the supply chain, building safer and more connected road infrastructure, improving commuter safety, and promoting safer vehicles on the road. It is my hope that we can highlight this very important issue, especially in the Philippines where not a lot of attention is given to potentially life-saving safety solutions.

What projects or partnerships of the ECCP can we look forward to in 2019?

This 2019, the ECCP hopes to foster a stronger sense of partnership and cooperation among all European business organizations present in the Philippines. The goal is to move forward together as one "Team Europe" in the Philippines and to create or solidify synergies between existing European business organizations. Given the challenges of doing business in the Philippines, it is crucial for European businesses to collectively speak as one voice in order to be heard loud and clear: European business is here to stay and European and Filipino business along with the Philippine government must work closely together so that the economic benefits will be inclusive.

Thank you for your time, Nabil! Read Nabil's full biography [here](#).

EU-ABC UPCOMING EVENTS



Seminar Series: Thailand - A New Era in Thai Politics

Date: 12 April, 12-2pm (Venue TBC)

After years of delay, Thailand is scheduled to hold elections on March 24. Assuming the results are not contested, a new government is expected to be sworn in by May. Vriens & Partners will provide an update on the election outcome and its implications for Thailand in the months ahead.

Register [here](#).

VRIENS & PARTNERS
Navigating the Politics of Business





6th Annual General Meeting & Gala Dinner

Date: 28 June, Friday | Venue: To be confirmed

Guest-of-Honour: H.E. S. Iswaran,

Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations and Minister for Communications and Information

Programme

4.00pm - Annual General Meeting (Members)

6.00pm - Cocktail Reception

7.00pm - Gala Dinner

9.00pm - End

Members: SGD150 (Table of 10: SGD1,380)

Guests: SGD180 (Table of 10: SGD1,680)

[Reserve your seats](#)



Cambodia Mission Trip

Date: 29-30 May 2019

Fees

Full Members: Free-of-Charge*

Associate Members: SG\$1,250

Non-Member Companies^: SG\$2,500

**EU-ABC Full Members can attend up to 3 mission trips per year for free; 4th mission trip onwards will be charged at S\$2,500 per organisation.*

^European companies that would ordinarily qualify for EU-ABC membership.

Please indicate your interest at info@eu-asean.eu

PARTNER EVENTS



Details: 2nd April 2019, Tuesday, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm
 Venue: 50 Nanyang Avenue. Block S4, Level B5. Seminar Room 1. Singapore

The challenges to remove Non-Tariff-Barriers (NTBs) in ASEAN are both technical and political. Despite having committed to full removal of NTBs by 2015, ASEAN had totally missed the target and is still struggling to tackle the various trade barriers which are on the rise.

Register to hear our Executive Director Chris Humphrey on the panel discussion:
[Future of ASEAN Trade: Tackling Non-Tariff Barriers in the new trade order.](#)

2ND INTAKE
INDUSTRY PRACTITIONER MASTERCLASS

USING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS TO ACHIEVE IMPORT DUTY SAVINGS

"It has been very useful to hear the actual situations/experiences from the ground both from importer's and exporter's perspective."
 Sharon Chew, Planning & Administration Manager
 Sumitomo Chemical Asia Pte Ltd

"This masterclass has deepened my knowledge of FTAs. I also got to network with trade and tax compliance practitioners from various businesses where we shared real trade scenarios as well."
 Patrick Ngai, Regional Sales Manager
 Phoon Huat Pte Ltd

Angelva
 AC TRADE ADVISORY

Details: 24 - 25 April, 9.00am - 5.00pm
 Venue: Suntec City Convention Centre

For executives and professionals who are interested to make sense of the technical jargon of free trade agreements and actually use free trade agreements in their business contexts to achieve import customs duty savings. Download the registration form [here](#) and sign up using EUABC for partner discount.



2019 Refinitiv ASEAN Regulatory Summit

Join over 800 risk and compliance professionals at the 2019 Refinitiv ASEAN Regulatory Summit on 8 May 2019, at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore to hear about the latest regulatory trends and developments that are impacting the financial sector across ASEAN. Find out more details [here](#).

Infrastructure Investors Forum

Co-host:  **AVCJ**
An Acuria company  **Inframation**
An Acuria company



Infrastructure Investors Forum: Asia 2019

Join over 180 leading infrastructure investors and professionals for a one-day executive briefing focusing on M&A, deal sourcing, financing, fundraising and asset valuations on 16 July at the Westin Singapore. Find out more [here](#).



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