



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6/Issue 9 - September/October
2020

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The month of September has been an exciting and busy one for the EU-ASEAN Business Council with an exclusive for members only virtual round table meeting with the Vice Minister of Commerce Thailand and similar sessions with the Deputy Minister of Health and Minister of International Trade and Industry in Malaysia. More such meetings are being planned with other Ministers across the region.

On the webinar front, we held four webinars covering areas surrounding electric vehicles in ASEAN, financing of ASEAN's green recovery, EVFTA and investment outlook across the different asset classes.

Moving into October, we have just launched our EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey, the annual flagship publication which surveys the outlook of European businesses in the region with key findings and link to the publication which will be covered in this newsletter.

For the final quarter of the year, the team has a pipeline of exciting webinars and activities planned, including our 8th ASEAN-EU Business Summit on 19 November which is the first event the EU-ABC is holding based on a hybrid model, embracing the capabilities of digital technology to live stream the summit.

EU-ABC WEBINARS & ACTIVITIES

Virtual Round Table Meeting with Vice Minister of Commerce Thailand



**EU-ASEAN Business Council
Presents**

Exclusively for members only

**Round Table Meeting
with Vice Minister of
Commerce Thailand**

Date: Tuesday 15 September 2020
Time: 4pm (SGT)

The EU-ASEAN Business Council had the honour of holding a virtual round table meeting with the Vice Minister of Commerce Thailand on 15 September.

Below is the roundup of the exclusive members only meeting, conducted under Chatham House Rules.



Media articles released:

https://www.khaosod.co.th/economics/news_4920639

<https://www.nationtv.tv/main/content/378795804/>

<https://siamrath.co.th/n/182690>

<https://www.posttoday.com/economy/news/633110>

<https://www.msn.com/th-th/money/news/>

https://www.innnews.co.th/economy/news_773052/

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<https://mgronline.com/news1/detail/9630000094783>

<https://www.tnnthailand.com/content/55134>

<https://mgronline.com/business/detail/9630000094801>

<https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30394630>

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<https://www.msn.com/th-th/money/news/>

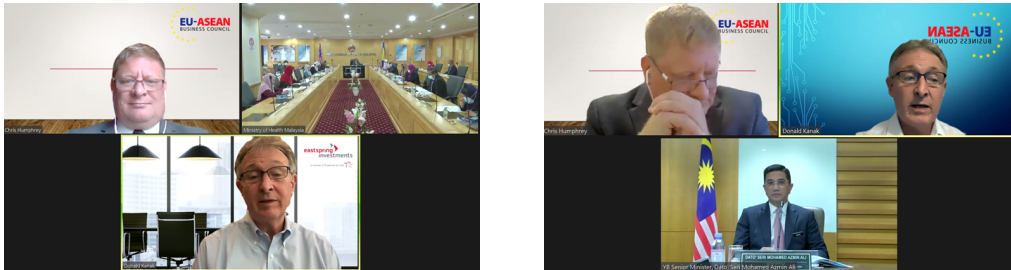
<https://www.ryt9.com/s/beco/3159697>

<https://www.naewna.com/business/518858>

https://www.khaosod.co.th/newspaper/newspaper-inside-pages/news_4926803

http://www.acnews.net/detailnews.php?news_id=N256345116

Malaysia Ministerial Meeting Series



To adapt to the unique and unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic, the EU-ASEAN Business Council is pleased to share about our very first mission trip series (Malaysia) that was conducted virtually:

- 30 September 2020: Dato' Noor Azmi Ghazal, Deputy Minister of Health
- 1 October 2020: Dato' Seri Azmin Ali, Minister of International Trade and Industry

Stay tuned for updates on virtual meetings with the following Ministries:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
- Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs

Members, please indicate your interest to attend at info@eu-asean.eu.

- *EU-ABC MNC Members have free access to virtual mission trips in 2020.*
- *Non-member companies who wish to join the delegation MUST qualify for EU-ABC membership to attend at a charge of SG\$500.*

EU ASEAN Automotive Workshop



The EU-ASEAN Business Council held our EU ASEAN Automotive Workshop on 7 September covering the following areas extensively:

- Unleashing Growth in ASEAN's Automotive Sector: Realities of the 1958 and 1998 Agreement - Adoption and Implications
- The Future of ASEAN's Automotive Sector: Understand EVs

Key takeaways from the workshop:

[Overview of the EU ASEAN Automotive Workshop](#)

Mohd Kamal Hisham bin Abu Bakar, Principal Assistant Director, Logistic & Land Transport Division,

[Ministry of Transport, Malaysia](#)

[UN Regulation: Relevant International Standards in Context of TBT Agreement; UNCE: International Reference](#)

Ivone Kaizeler, Team Leader, Competitiveness and International Matters of the Automotive Unit, [DG GROW](#)

[The New 1958 Agreement: Merits of Joining](#)

Yves Van Der Straaten, Secretary General/Technical Director, [OICA](#)

[Road & Vehicle Safety: An Integrated Approach](#)

Erik Jonnaert, Special Envoy Road Safety, OICA

[Regulations for the Automotive Industry & the Need for a Harmonised Approach](#)

Mohit Tyagi, Technical Affairs Director. European Automobile Manufacturers' Association – [ACEA](#)

[Steps for E-Mobility to Take Off](#)

Jacques Borremans, Director, [CharIN Asia](#)

Media article released:

<https://borneobulletin.com.bn/2020/09/meeting-on-automotive-products/>

Webinar - Where Will the Road to Electric Vehicles Lead in ASEAN



Held in tandem with the inaugural [World EV Day](#), the EU-ASEAN Business Council together with the [European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines](#), held the webinar, **Where will the Road to Electric Vehicles Lead in ASEAN** on 9 September.

The well received webinar, led by an esteemed panel of speakers and moderator brought focus to an important topic for the future, not only for the automotive industry across the region but also for environmental and sustainability reasons. The lively and engaging discussion covered the potential for e-mobility and electric vehicles in ASEAN, the implications for transportation and urbanisation, how electric vehicles will promote economic growth in ASEAN and ways it will help the region achieve long term sustainable growth.

Panelists:

- **Ivone Kaizeler**

Team Leader, Competitiveness & International Matters of the Automotive Unit, [DG Grow](#)

- **Kukuh Kumara**

Secretary General, [Association of Indonesia Automotive Industry \(GAIKINDO\)](#).

- **Kumail Rashid**

EV Charging Solutions Lead, Asia Pacific, [ABB](#)

- **Sam Bontoft**

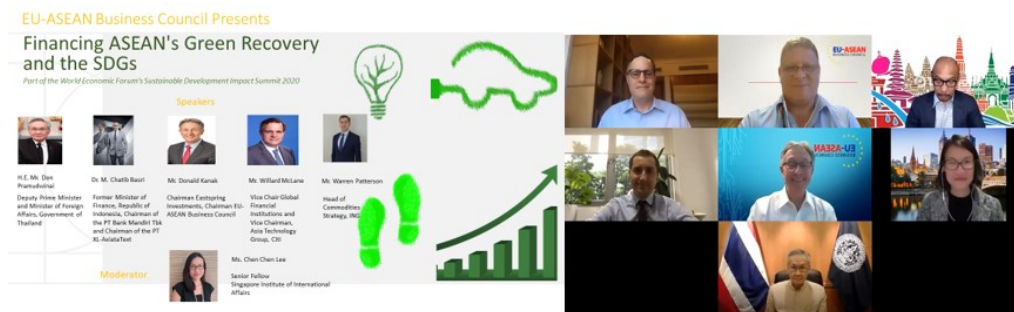
E-Performance Manager, [Porsche, APAC](#)

Moderator:

- **Jacques Borremans**

Director, [CharIN Asia](#)

For more information on the webinar, click [here](#)
To view the webinar, click [here](#)



COVID-19 has undoubtedly brought along an impact on a global basis and offered governments an opportunity to rethink their economies. With that in mind, the EU-ASEAN Business Council held the webinar ***Financing ASEAN's Green Recovery And The SDGs*** on 22 September.

The much anticipated and well received webinar, that is a part of the [World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2020](#), explored how South East Asian governments and the private sector can make the most of the opportunity to build a more sustainable future, with South East Asia giving more than USD 220 billion stimulus to date.

The webinar started off with a keynote speech by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai followed by discussions led by an esteemed panel of speakers on:

- the special challenges the pandemic has created for SDGs
- whether Southeast Asia's current recovery initiatives are pointing to a green recovery
- how stimulus and relief efforts could be targeted for greater impact and more sustainable results
- new ways stimulus and relief measures could be combined to raise public and private finance to accelerate energy transition
- how greener approaches could create jobs, improve health and position ASEAN for more inclusive growth

Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of [Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand](#)

- **Dr. M. Chatib Basri**

Former Minister of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Chairman of the [PT Bank Mandiri Tbk](#) and Chairman of the PT XL-AxiataText

- **Donald Kanak**

Chairman [Eastspring Investments](#), Chairman EU-ASEAN Business Council

- **Willard McLane**

Vice Chair Global Financial Institutions and Vice Chairman, Asia Technology Group, [Citi](#)

- **Warren Patterson**

Head of Commodities Strategy, [ING](#)

Moderator:

- **Chen Chen Lee**

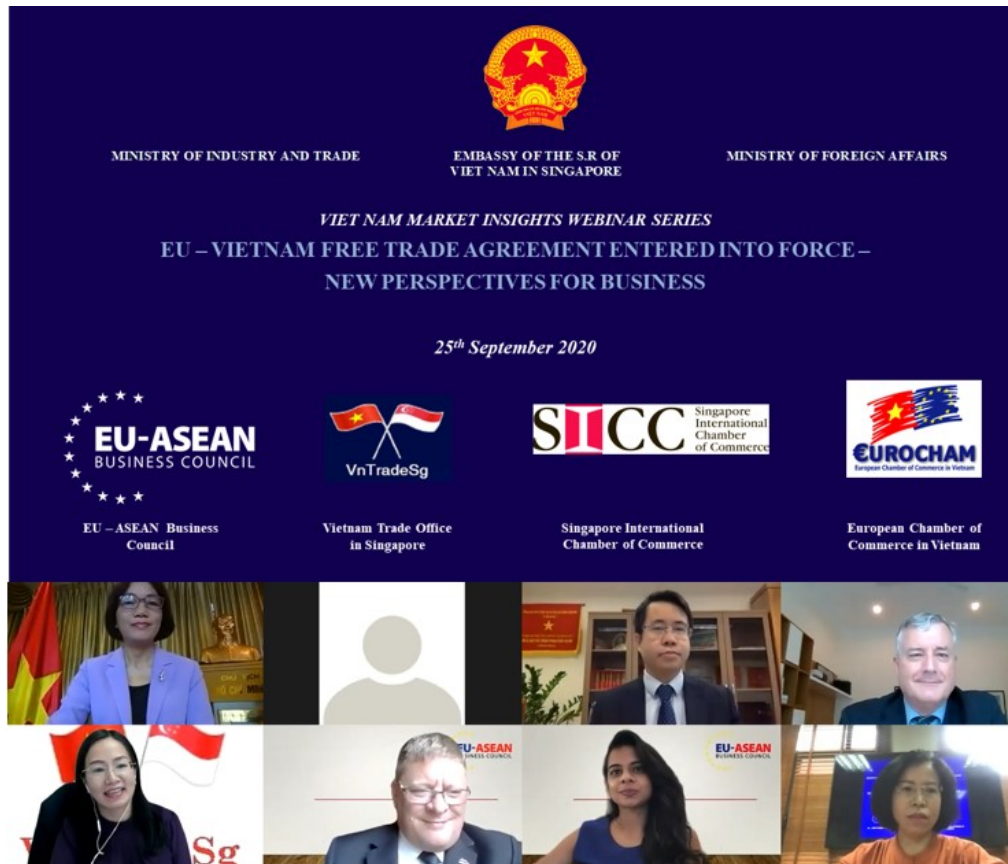
Senior Fellow, [Singapore Institute of International Affairs](#)

For more information on the webinar, click [here](#)
To view the webinar, click [here](#)

Media Coverage:

<https://www.ryt9.com/s/mfa/3161591>

<https://thailandtribune.com/thailand-highlights-public-private-partnership-in-aseans-green-recovery/>



On 25 September, the EU-ASEAN Business Council together with [Vietnam Trade Office in Singapore](#), [Singapore International Chamber of Commerce](#) and [European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam](#), held the webinar ***EU – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement Entered Into Force – New Perspective for Business***

Opened by Ambassador H.E. Tao Thi Huong, [Vietnam Embassy in Singapore](#), the well received webinar saw more than 100 participants connecting virtually to join the discussion on the current business environment in Vietnam after the successful implementation of the European Union - Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA).

The distinguished panel of speakers provided in-depth insight not only on opportunities for European businesses, Vietnam e-commerce development status and supporting policies for digital economy but also covered the perspectives of EuroCham members on EVFTA and the requirements for a successful implementation.

For more information on the webinar, click [here](#)
To view the webinar, click [here](#)

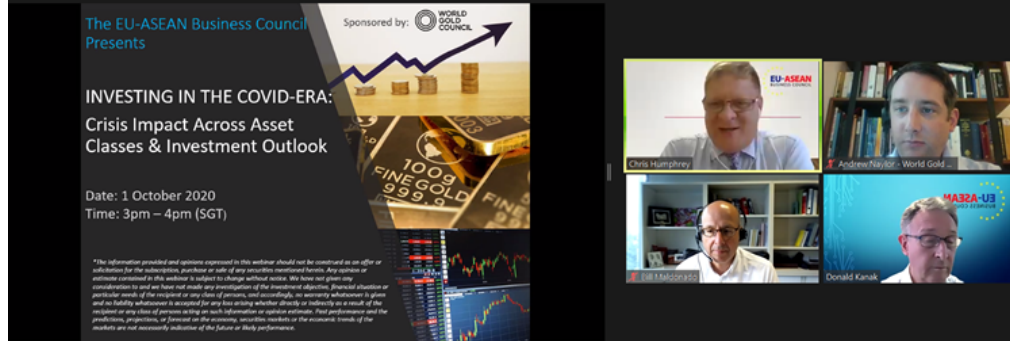
Media Coverage:

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<http://en.dangcongsan.vn/economics/conference-discusses-business-investment-opportunities-for-eu-firms-561388.html>

<https://www.intellasia.net/vietnam-calls-for-investment-from-eu-businesses-headquartered-in-singapore-815712>



The EU-ASEAN Business Council started the month of October with our **INVESTING IN THE COVID-ERA: Crisis Impact Across Asset Classes & Investment Outlook** webinar on an area that is no doubt of concern to everyone, with economies deteriorating at an almost unprecedented rate and interest rates falling to record lows.

The informative webinar covered the various opportunities to invest in a time of crisis, with an acclaimed panel of speakers leading discussions on strategies for financial and physical assets, how market fluctuations have impacted on returns of the different asset classes and how non-currency assets are expected to perform against the backdrop of aggressive money easing to fight the pandemic.

Panelists:

- **Andrew Naylor**

Head of ASEAN and Public Policy, [World Gold Council](#)

- **Dr Bill Maldonado**

CIO Asia-Pacific & Global CIO, Equities, [HSBC Global Asset Management](#)

Moderator:

- **Donald Kanak**

Chairman [Eastspring Investments](#), Chairman [EU-ASEAN Business Council](#)

For more information on the webinar, click [here](#)

To view the webinar, click [here](#)

ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting



The EU-ASEAN Business Council is pleased to have participated in the **ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting**, together with [US-ASEAN Business Council](#) and [ASEAN Business Advisory Council](#) on 2 October.

Sustainable Finance (for healthcare and infrastructure), Insurance, Digital Financial Inclusion and ASEAN's post pandemic economic recovery were amongst the areas presented to the chairs of the meeting, **Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam, Le Minh Hung** and the **Minister of Finance of Vietnam Dinh Tien Dung**

Media Coverage:

<https://thoibaokinhdoanh.vn/ngan-hang/chuyen-doi-so-trong-nganh-ngan-hang-khu-vuc-asean-da-tro-thanh-mot-xu-huong-tat-yeu-1073738.html>

<https://www.tin247.com/asean-day-manh-hop-tac-tai-chinh-trong-boi-canhh-covid-19-1->

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<https://fr.vietnamplus.vn/asean-le-secteur-financier-et-bancaire-travaille-les-conseils-des-entreprises/149592.vnp>

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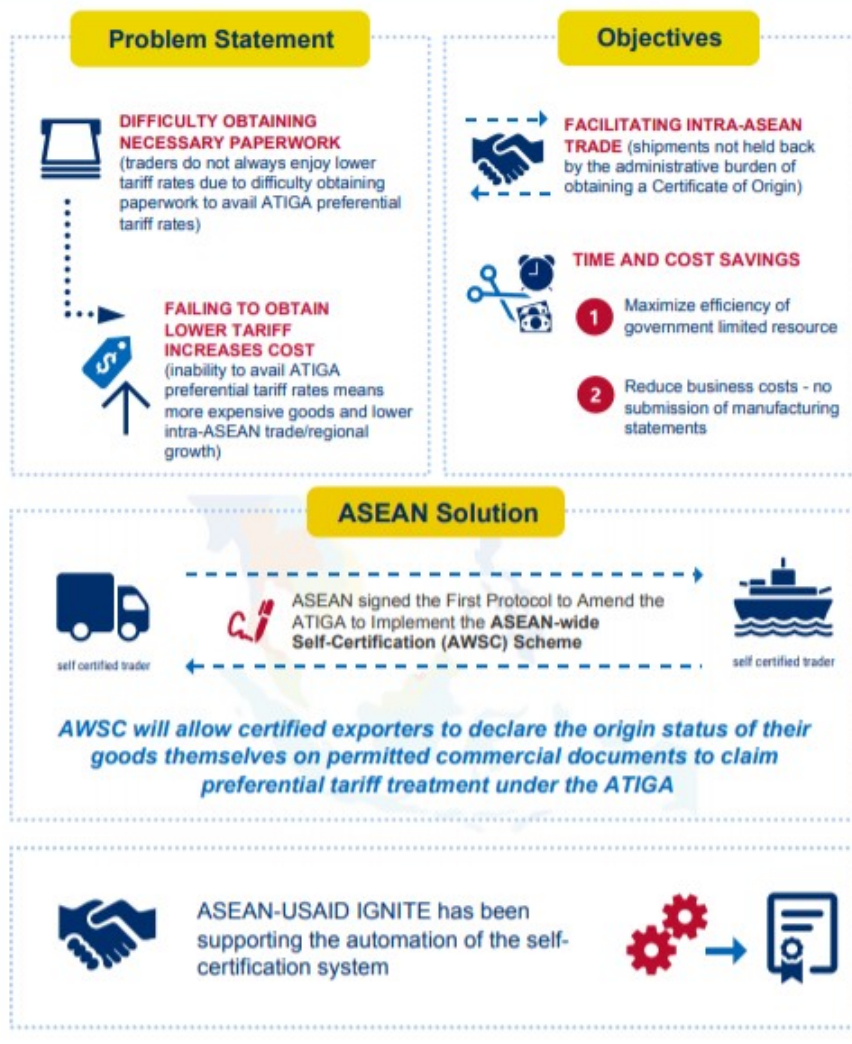
<https://allrelease.id/2020/10/05/indonesia-dorong-kerjasama-pembiayaan-infrastruktur-dan-pembiayaan-berkelanjutan-dalam-pertemuan-menteri-keuangan-dan-gubernur-bank-sentral-asean/>

<https://www.msn.com/id-id/berita/nasional/indonesia-dorong-kerja-sama-pembiayaan-infrastruktur-dengan-asean/ar-BB1914of>

<https://pasardana.id/news/2020/10/5/indonesia-dorong-kerjasama-pembiayaan-infrastruktur-dan-pembiayaan-berkelanjutan-dalam-pertemuan-afmgm/>

ASEAN-wide Self Certification for COOs Goes Live

Facilitating Trade in ASEAN through Self-certification of Origin



The ASEAN-wide **Self-certification scheme for Certificates of Origin** went live on 20th September. The EU-ABC and its members took part in an online workshop with the ASEAN Secretariat on 15th September during which businesses and trade associations across the region were briefed on the mechanisms and requirements to use this scheme going forward.

EU-ABC Associate Member, [AC Trade Advisory](#), provided a presentation during the meeting to help ensure better understanding between customs authorities and the private sector. The EU-ABC very much welcomes this initiative. Further information on the AWSC can be found [here](#)

EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series

EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series

Since the launch of our *Interview Series* on 16 June, the EU-ASEAN Business Council is pleased to share that to date, we've featured 16 members and counting providing insights, sharing expert knowledge on a varied number of trending topics, particularly on COVID-19 and a bit more about what they do. Find out more about what they have to say.

<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Don Kanak</p> <p>Chairman, Eastspring Investments, Chairman, Prudence Foundation and Chairman, EU-ASEAN Business Council</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Johan de Villiers</p> <p>Managing Director ABB Singapore</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Sharon Ooi</p> <p>Managing Director and Head of Property & Casualty (P&C) Underwriting, Asia Pacific Swiss Re</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Martin Hayes</p> <p>President Bosch Southeast Asia Vice Chairman EU-ASEAN Business Council</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Stanimira Koleva</p> <p>SVP and General Manager of APAC HERE Technologies</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Rachel Frizberg</p> <p>Area Head APAC Roche Pharma International</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Rachel Barger</p> <p>President and Managing Director SAP Southeast Asia</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Stuart Tait</p> <p>Regional Head of Commercial Banking, Asia Pacific HSBC</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Andrew Naylor</p> <p>Executive Director of ASEAN World Gold Council</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Raymond Yee</p> <p>Vice President - Customs and Regulatory Affairs DHL Express</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Frank Debets</p> <p>Managing Partner, Customs and International Trade at PwC Worldtrade Management Services, PwC Singapore</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Mansi Madan Tripathy</p> <p>Vice President, Commercial Lubricants Asia Pacific & Middle East Shell</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Maarten Kelder</p> <p>Executive Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Development Zuellig Pharma</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Satyanarayan R (Satya)</p> <p>Partner, Head of Infrastructure, Government & Healthcare, Head of Strategy, Advisory KPMG Singapore</p>	
<p>EU-ASEAN Business Council Interview Series</p> <p>Eric Mansion</p> <p>General Manager Sanofi Pasteur Asia</p>	

EU-ASEAN Business Council
Interview Series

Noel Clehane

Global Head of Regulatory &
Public Policy
BDO



Keen to be a part of our 3 minute, 3 question video interview series? Contact us at info@eu-asean.eu to find out more.

EU-ASEAN BUSINESS SENTIMENT SURVEY



The EU-ASEAN Business Council, the primary business body for European businesses in ASEAN, published its 6th Business Sentiment Survey on 8 October 2020. Key highlights of this year's survey include:

- **53% of respondents see ASEAN as the region with the best economic opportunity (2019– 63%).**

- 47% of respondents are considering reorganising supply chains post-COVID-19, with ASEAN, Europe and China as the top destinations
- 73% of respondents expect to expand current levels of trade and investment in ASEAN in the next 5 years (2019 – 84%).
- Only 2% of respondents feel that ASEAN Economic Integration is progressing fast enough (2019 – 6%)
- Only 4% of respondents find ASEAN customs procedures speedy and efficient (2019 – 8%).
- 62% of respondents that use supply chains reported facing many barriers to the efficient use of supply chains in ASEAN (2019 - 78%).
- 98% of respondents would like the EU to accelerate FTA negotiations with ASEAN and its members (2019 – 96%).

Click [here](#) for a copy of the publication

Media Coverage:

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<https://www.ryt9.com/s/iq29/3165677>

https://klse.i3investor.com/blogs/kianweiaritcles/2020-10-08-story-h1534552384-Asean_still_attractive_for_European_businesses_survey_shows.jsp

<https://www.gatra.com/detail/news/492395/ekonomi/hasil-survei-asean-kawasan-peluang-ekonomi-terbaik>

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/10/08/poll-56-of-eu-investors-may-expand-business-despite-phils-dismal-pandemic-response/>

<http://netnews.vn/EU-ABC-72-doanh-nghiep-EU-tai-Viet-Nam-len-ke-hoach-mo-rong-hoat-dong-kinh-doanh-6-0-2447587.html>

IN THE NEWS

Press articles, opinion pieces and media clips released:

<https://borneobulletin.com.bn/2020/09/meeting-on-automotive-products/>

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<https://www.nationtv.tv/main/content/378795804/>

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<https://www.suara.com/bisnis/2020/10/02/160928/wamenkeu-sebut-pemulihan-ekonomi-bisa-sangat-lama>

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For full listing of media coverage, please click [here](#)

EU-ABC UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

Ministerial Series



Philippines Ministerial Series

Date: Late October/Early November

As part of the EU-ASEAN Business Council's Ministerial Series, we secured a meeting with Alan Silor, the Undersecretary for Philippines' Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on 22 October.

Stay tuned for updates on virtual meetings with the following Ministries:

- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Finance
- Department of Health
- Inter-Agency Taskforce on COVID-19

Members, please indicate your interest to attend at info@eu-asean.eu if you have yet to do so.

- EU-ABC MNC Members have free access to virtual mission trips in 2020.
- Non-member companies who wish to join the delegation MUST qualify for EU-ABC membership to attend at a charge of SG\$500.

ASEAN-EU Business Summit

8th ASEAN-EU Business Summit

Towards an Inclusive, Resilient & Stronger ASEAN



19 November 2020
Fullerton Hotel, Singapore



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Sanofi is a global life sciences company committed to improving access to healthcare and supporting the people we serve throughout the continuum of care. From prevention to treatment, Sanofi transforms scientific innovation into healthcare solutions, in human vaccines, rare diseases, multiple sclerosis, oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, diabetes and cardiovascular solutions and consumer healthcare. More than 110,000 people at Sanofi are dedicated to make a difference on patients' daily life, wherever they live and enable them to enjoy a healthier life.

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Originally known for leadership in enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, SAP has evolved to become a market leader in end-to-end enterprise application software, database, analytics, intelligent technologies, and experience management. A top cloud company with 200 million users worldwide, SAP helps businesses of all sizes and in all industries to operate profitably, adapt continuously, and achieve their purpose.

Save the date! The EU-ASEAN Business Summit is back for its 8th edition with an exciting programme line-up of keynote speeches and panel discussions featuring high-ranking government officials, prominent business leaders and high profile thought leaders, ending with a closing keynote by **H.E. Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore**.

More details to follow, stay tuned!

A Three Part Digital Webinar Series

Sponsored by:

EU-ASEAN Business Council Presents

COVID-19 and ASEAN's Digital Transformation

a three-part webinar series on ASEAN economies and digitalisation in a post-pandemic world

Date: 28 October 2020
Time: 4.30pm – 5.30pm (SGT)

COVID-19 has accelerated ASEAN's to pivot towards the digital economy, forcing companies to rethink how they operate. Cutting across all sectors, the pandemic has

allowed the rare opportunity for companies to reset. Business in ASEAN are not putting a relentless focus on the customer centric, data enabled, digital technology to drive productivity and innovation. However, despite best efforts, the region's infamous digital divide continues to act as roadblocks.

- What digital trends have been triggered by COVID-19?
- Which sectors have been forced to digitise during the pandemic?
- How can governments aid businesses with their digital transformation in a post-pandemic world?

Keep a lookout for more details!

REGISTER



More details to follow

ASEAN - EU Partnership: The Untold Storey






BOOK E-LAUNCH

GUEST OF HONOUR



Mr CHEE Hong Tat is Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Transport. He was Senior Minister at the Ministry of Health, Information & Communication, Education and Trade & Industry respectively in his first elected term in office from 2014 to 2020. Mr Chee joined the Singapore Civil Service in 1998 and has served in numerous senior roles in government, including as Principal Private Secretary to then Minister Mentor Mr. Lee Kuan Yew in 2008, Chief Executive of the Energy Market Authority in 2011, Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry in 2014.

PANELLISTS



Professor Tommy KOH is currently Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rector of the Tembusu College at NUS, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Special Adviser to IPS, amongst other senior positions. Professor Koh was formerly Dean of the NUS's Faculty of Law, had served as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador to the US, Canada and Mexico; UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



Ambassador Barbara PLINKERT began her term as the EU Ambassador to Singapore in 2017. Prior to that, Ambassador Plinkert was Head of Division responsible for Headquarters Security and IEAS Security Policy at the European External Action Service in Brussels. Before that, she had served as Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia from 2011-2015. Having held key positions within the EU, Ambassador Plinkert's previous postings were in Zimbabwe, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. She also worked for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Afghanistan from 1998-2003.



Dr YEO Lay Hwee is Director of the European Union Centre in Singapore. She is also Council Secretary at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, Adjunct Fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and Adjunct Faculty at the Singapore Management University. Her research interests revolve around comparative regionalism, multilateralism and governance networks. She has written extensively on issues pertaining to Asia-Europe relations, specifically on the ASEAN process and EU-ASEAN relations.



Mr Chris HUMPHREY is Executive Director of the EU-ASEAN Business Council in Singapore - the foremost business body for European industry in ASEAN. Mr. Humphrey is a Business Development and Government Relations professional with more than a decade of experience running business units throughout Asia, and over 20 years of experience in working for or dealing with Governments and regulatory authorities.

PROGRAMME

<p>10.00 am – 10.05 am</p> <p>10.05 am – 10.20 am</p> <p>10.20 am – 10.25 am</p> <p>10.25 am – 11.00 am</p> <p>11.00 am – 11.30 am</p> <p>11.30 am</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Mr CHOI Shing Kwok Director, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute</p> <p>Keynote Address by Guest of Honour</p> <p>Mr CHEE Hong Tat Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Transport</p> <p>E-Launch of the "ASEAN and EU Partnership: The Untold Story"</p> <p>Panel Discussion on "The Future of the ASEAN-EU Partnership"</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Sharon SEAH Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute</p> <p>Speakers: Professor Tommy KOH Ambassador-at-Large Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>H.E Barbara PLINKERT Ambassador Delegation of the European Union to Singapore</p> <p>Dr YEO Lay Hwee Director The European Union Centre in Singapore</p> <p>Mr Chris HUMPHREY Executive Director EU-ASEAN Business Council in Singapore</p> <p>Q&A Discussion</p> <p>End of Programme</p>
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For more information/to register click [here](#)

The Economist EVENTS

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