



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Update



EU-ASEAN Business Council 7th Annual General Meeting *(for members only)*

DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES,
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS TAKEN THE
UNANIMOUS DECISION TO POSTPONE THE
AGM SCHEDULED ON 3 JUNE 2020. A
FURTHER COMMUNICATION WILL BE SENT
SHORTLY TO ALL MEMBERS

More details to follow, should you have any queries, do reach out to us at info@eu-asean.eu

Joint Business Council's Statement on COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 AND ASEAN: A CALL FOR ACTION ON DEALING WITH THE CRISIS AND
POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY



1. Business councils stand united with ASEAN

The ASEAN Business Advisory Council and the Joint Business Councils, as the voices for ASEAN and international businesses across the ASEAN region, and their partner institutions stand united with the governments of the region in their fight to eradicate COVID-19 and their resolve to mitigate the significant and adverse economic and social impacts of this pandemic on all of our peoples in ASEAN. Many of our members and partners are proactively working with authorities across ASEAN to assist in tackling COVID-19, and providing relief to customers, employees and the communities in which we work.

2. An opportunity for ASEAN to demonstrate cohesiveness in a pandemic

The pandemic continues to exact a huge toll on the region. The human suffering for those who have contracted the virus, and their families, has been enormous and our thoughts and prayers are with them. The effects of lockdowns and movement restrictions have also been devastating for communities, employees, and employers and could potentially take years to recover from. And yet, as in any crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic also presents an opportunity to ASEAN to demonstrate that its ten-member states can work cohesively and responsively together both to effectively contain the spread of the virus and to aim for the best possible post-pandemic economic recovery and thus ensuring that ASEAN can be greater than the sum of its constituent parts.

3. The immediate action of ASEAN is critical to its long-term prosperity

These are extraordinary and unprecedented times which we believe calls for urgent, extraordinary and unprecedented action from ASEAN. The time for ASEAN to prove its collective strength to mitigate the worst impacts of the on-going pandemic and ensure the long-term prosperity and wellness of its people through fast action is now. Decisiveness and resolve towards swift and effective planning and execution of measures for a post-pandemic economic recovery are of utmost priority. We cannot afford to delay action when competition between countries and regions globally to attract FDI and bolster their own economies will become more fierce, and economic nationalism will most likely be on the rise.

4. A new and transformative normal is needed to fast track ASEAN economic integration

Only through working coherently together, as a single bloc, can ASEAN effectively tackle the virus and ensure the best possible recovery from it. More

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Commission Establishment & Purpose

The AHLSC to be established by instruction from the ASEAN Leaders to make clear, actionable recommendations on three fronts:

- to improve ASEAN's collective response to the current COVID-19 Pandemic by way of facilitating decision-making and execution of immediate, concrete and practicable measures;
- to build capacity at national and regional levels for the comprehensive handling of any future similar events; and
- to make recommendations for a collective medium to long-term ASEAN-wide approach for post-pandemic economic recovery through the development of an Economic Recovery Plan (ERP).

The Commission should consist of one high level representative drawn from the governments of each ASEAN Member State, and should be chaired by the Secretary General of ASEAN.

The Commission will take advice and suggested recommendations from a standing Special Business Advisory Board which will itself include members of the private sector (ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Joint Business Councils, other key private sector bodies such as the ASEAN Tourism Association, and knowledge partners such as CIMB ASEAN Research Institute and others) as well as other key institutions such as the ADB, OECD, WHO, World Bank and IMF. This Advisory Board to join meetings of the Special Commission to provide on the spot advice and suggestions.

The AHLSC should be formed immediately, and instructed to present a report with key recommendations to the ASEAN Leaders monthly for necessary action and implementation, with a full and final report to be submitted, and made public, before the Leaders Summit in November 2020.

Areas of Review

Current Pandemic & Planning for handling future Pandemics

Areas for the AHLSC to consider and make recommendations for enhanced ASEAN co-operation and collaboration include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of essential goods and services
- Ensuring continued operation of the whole of the supply chains to support the flow of essential goods throughout the region, including the temporary suspension of some customs procedures
- Co-ordination and collaboration on the introduction (or removal) of travel restrictions, quarantine periods, or requirements for any form of health declaration.
- Pooling of resources in areas such as medical expertise, medical supplies and devices (including PPE), medicines etc.
- Improved information sharing on the nature and spread of any virus.
- Ensuring continued care for non COVID-19 patients.

The EU-ASEAN Business Council, together with The ASEAN Business Advisory Council and its Joint Business Council partners published a joint statement on 20 May calling for more cohesive and responsive collective action by ASEAN member states in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and in the development of a post-pandemic economic recovery for the ASEAN region.

For more information, click [here](#)

To access the joint statement, click [here](#)

To access the Terms of Reference, click [here](#)

Press articles released on the joint statement:

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/asean-business-councils-call-special-highlevel-commission-coordinate-covid19-response-and>

<https://www.sgsme.sg/news/asean-business-group-calls-coordinated-public-private-response-covid-19>

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/asean-business/asean-business-group-calls-for-coordinated-public-private-response-to-covid-19>

EU-ABC WEBINARS & ACTIVITIES

The unexpected pandemic brought on by COVID-19 has certainly changed the way the way the world functions, with social distancing, lock downs and the integration of technology into our daily lives. It compels one to embrace the notion of new norms as we go through this experience together.

With Circuit Breaker (implemented by the Singapore Government) still in place in the month of May, the team at the EU-ASEAN Business Council has been staying connected with our esteemed members through webinars in our Sustainability series and also introducing our insight series, having a closer look into how COVID-19 has impacted the region and the countries respectively, with weekly country insights.

Going into June, with the lifting of lock downs globally and the circuit breaker in Singapore, we look forward to the continued communication and value add to our members as we gradually ease back into our daily lives.

3 part webinar series to Understanding COVID-19's Impact on Business Strategies: Expert Panel on Capturing Economic Upturns post Covid-19

EU-ASEAN Business Council Presents

Expert Panel on Capturing Economic Upturns post Covid-19

Final webinar of a 3 part series to Understanding COVID-19's Impact on Business Strategies

Speakers		Moderator	
 Cesar V. Purisma Former Secretary of Finance Republic of the Philippines	 Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Rebecca Fatimah Sia Ma... Executive Director APAC Secretariat, Singapore	 Joseph Incalcaterra Chief Economist for ASEAN HSBC	 Donald Kanank Chairman of EU-ASEAN Business Council, Chairman of Eastspring Investments



The EU-ASEAN Business Council concluded our 3 part COVID-19 webinar series with, **Expert Panel on Capturing Economic Upturns Post Covid-19** yesterday evening.

To tie up the series, the webinar featured an outstanding expert panel, sharing their knowledge

and insight on initiatives to strengthen long term recovery and resilience post COVID-19. The informative session was well attended by over 100 attendees.

Panelists:

- **Cesar V. Purisima**

Former Secretary of Finance, Republic of the Philippines

- **Tan Sri Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatimah Sta Maria**

Executive Director, [APEC Secretariat, Singapore](#)

- **Joseph Incalcaterra**

Chief Economist for ASEAN, [HSBC](#)

Moderator:

- **Donald Kanak**

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

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

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



The EU-ASEAN Business Council kicked started our Sustainability Webinar series with, "**Advancing ASEAN's Circular Economy Agenda**" on 15 May.

First in a series of 3 webinars, it saw an overwhelming response of more than 100 attendees participate in an engaging discussion with our exceptional lineup of speakers on the adoption of circular economy and how it can lead to economic growth and an inclusive environment to overcome the challenges brought on by climate change and continue to develop sustainably.

Panelists:

- **Emmanuelle Maire**

Head of Unit Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption, DG Environment [European Commission](#)

- **Kwok Wai Choong**

Deputy Director(Cluster Development), Industry Development and Promotion Department, [National Environment Agency](#)

- **Rachel Fleishman**

Head, Sustainability and Advocacy, [BASF East Asia](#)

- **Olivia Widen**

Associate Director, Corporate Affairs, S & R, [Pernod Ricard](#)

Moderator:

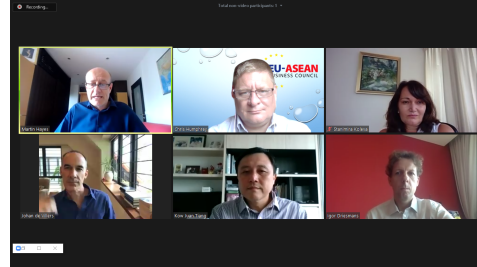
- **Corrado Chr. Lillelund Forcellati**

Director, Sustainability Services, [KPMG](#)

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

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





Following the highly rated first webinar in our Sustainability series, The EU-ASEAN Business Council held another excellent webinar, **"Driving ASEAN's Sustainable Infrastructure Agenda Forward"** on 20 May.

The 2nd in our 3 part series, the distinguished and diverse panel of speakers had a lively discussion with the close to 100 attendees on how sustainable infrastructure meets the demands of urbanisation of ASEAN.

Panelists:

- **HE Ambassador Igor Driesmans**

EU Ambassador to [ASEAN](#)

- **Kow Juan Tiang**

Deputy Executive Director, [Infrastructure Asia](#)

- **Johan de Villiers**

Managing Director, [ABB Singapore](#) and Head of Industrial Automation South-East Asia

- **Stanimira Koleva**

SVP and General Manager of APAC, [HERE Technologies](#)

Moderator:

- **Martin Hayes**

Vice Chairman, EU-ABC

President, Bosch Southeast Asia /Managing Director, [Bosch Singapore](#)

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

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

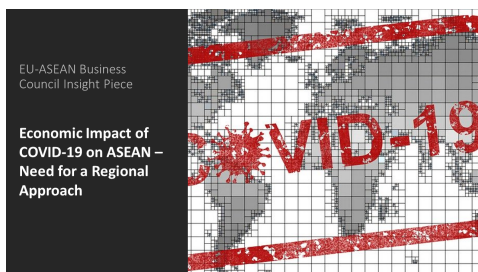
Op-ed on Replacing Coal Power with Renewables in Developing Countries

How to replace coal power with renewables in developing countries



29 May 2020: An op-ed by Don Kanak, Chairman of the EU-ASEAN Business Council was published on the World Economic Forum's website. The piece discusses the need to retire coal-fired power plants and the mechanism to do so, thereby creating more jobs, improvement of public health and changing the trajectory of carbon emissions in a massive way.

Click [here](#) for the full version of the op-ed



The EU-ASEAN Business Council has put together a **Weekly Insight Series**, on a subject matter that is no doubt, of concern to all, **COVID-19!**

The first insight piece offered an overview of COVID-19's impact on a regional basis, followed by country insights, that is being pushed out on a weekly basis. Featuring a country each week, the bite sized insight pieces offers an in-depth look into the impact of COVID-19 into each of the country that makes up ASEAN.

For more information / to read the insight pieces on the various countries we've covered so far:

- 4 May 2020: [Economic Impact of COVID-19 on ASEAN – Need for a Regional Approach](#)
- 11 May 2020: [COVID-19 in Indonesia](#)
- 18 May 2020: [COVID-19 in Thailand](#)
- 27 May 2020: [COVID-19 in Malaysia](#)

Do keep a lookout for more insight pieces, that are in the pipeline, coming your way!

Launch of Business Sentiment Survey



The EU-ASEAN Business Council launched our Business Sentiment Survey on 26 May. On it's 6th run, the annual flagship publication serves as a barometer for current European business sentiment in the ASEAN region, with a focus on key issues such as customs & trade regulations, regional and global developments, COVID-19 responses, and other challenges to European Businesses in ASEAN, amidst an increasingly challenging global trade environment, compounded by the pandemic. It is distributed to, and read by, policymakers and key stakeholders right across the ASEAN region and in Europe.

If you are an Executive in a European firm with a presence in ASEAN, do share with us your outlook and concerns for the region in 2020 and beyond. Results will be compiled and published in September later this year.

Don't miss out on this chance to have your voice heard by government leaders and public policy makers -- respondents will receive preliminary findings of the survey results directly in their inboxes!

Participate in the survey now by clicking [here](#)

Press articles, opinion pieces and media clips released:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/asean-business/asean-economies-should-tackle-structural-issues-during-covid-19-slump>

<https://www.bworldonline.com/incentives-key-to-attracting-investments-from-firms-shifting-work-from-china/>

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/asean-business-councils-call-special-highlevel-commission-coordinate-covid19-response-and>

<https://www.sgsme.sg/news/asean-business-group-calls-coordinated-public-private-response-covid-19>

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/asean-business/asean-business-group-calls-for-coordinated-public-private-response-to-covid-19>

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

EU-ABC UPCOMING WEBINARS & ACTIVITIES

ASEAN's Fight Against COVID-19: A European Perspective

Our first Inter-Chamber Webinar where the Executive Directors from the various European Chamber of Commerce in ASEAN will provide an update on the latest developments and share insights on how to navigate future trends in a post COVID-19 world!

Jointly brought to you by



Date: 11 June 2020

Time: 16.00 - 17.00 (SGT)

More details to follow, stay tuned!

EU-ASEAN Business Council
Presents

Understanding Europe's Green Deal and its Implications on ASEAN Business

Final webinar of a 3 part series to Unlocking
Asean's Sustainability Agenda- What Can
Businesses Do?



More details to follow, stay tuned!

EU-ABC MEMBERS



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