



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6/Issue 3 - March 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



These are stressful and unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic, globally and here in Southeast Asia, is causing disruption and stress for all of our members, their colleagues, and their families. It is at times of crisis that we are all tested both at the organisational level, and as individual leaders. At the EU-ABC, we have great confidence that European businesses throughout the region will rise to the occasion, not only from the perspective of business continuity, but also in service to their stakeholders, and in supporting the governments of ASEAN as they battle to contain the virus, alleviate untold strains on their health systems and seek to protect their citizens. I know that several of our members are heavily involved in supporting authorities and other community initiatives across Southeast Asia.

During this time, the EU-ABC is taking precautions to protect the safety of its staff and members. Our team is working from home except on occasions where individuals must go to the office, and all meetings are currently being conducted by video conference. Last month, before the travel ban, we were able to complete a successful trade and investment mission to Thailand, and to run an ASEAN Safe & Nutritious Food Roundtable with officials from Indonesia in Jakarta. Unfortunately, we have since had to cancel or postpone other meetings, including our meeting in Vietnam with the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, and a planned workshop with ASEAN officials dealing with standards harmonisation in the automotive industry. We hope that these meetings will be reinstated later in the year.

We are proceeding with planning for events later in the year, such as our AGM on 3 June and the associated gala dinner with Guest-of-Honour, Chan Chun Sing (Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry), and also our annual Business Summit in Hanoi in August. However, we are watching developments closely and may have to make other arrangements, especially for the AGM. We will communicate on that further next month, once we know more about the ongoing situation in Singapore.

In the meantime, the Business Council has been and will remain very active, publishing a series of papers and sponsoring webinars such as the recent one on Sustainable Healthcare Financing on 9 March (our special thanks go to KPMG and Sanofi for their support for that!), and the briefing from H.E. Igor Driesmans, the EU Ambassador to ASEAN, that was held on 26 March. We have also just released two papers, one on ASEAN Competitiveness & Trade Facilitation and one on Sustainable Finance in ASEAN. These can be found [here](#). Further publications are planned in the coming weeks on Data Governance and Classification in ASEAN, on developing an Insurance Ecosystem in the region, and on infrastructure finance. With our members, the team at the EU-ABC is using this time to prepare papers on other topics for release later in the year. I hope that our members will be able to support that work so that we are well placed to actively advocate for their interests once a degree of normalcy returns, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Speaking of webinars or programmes, we would welcome suggestions from members on issues or topics that that you believe would be of interest, and whether you or your colleagues may wish to be speakers or presenters. In the meantime, we urge everyone to continue to observe the guidance of the health authorities and stay safe and healthy.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Donald P. Kanak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donald Kanak
Chairman
EU-ASEAN Business Council

EU-ABC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Webinar - "Sustainable Health is Sustainable Wealth: The Time for ASEAN to Act is Now" & Launch of "Sustainable Financing Framework" for ASEAN Healthcare

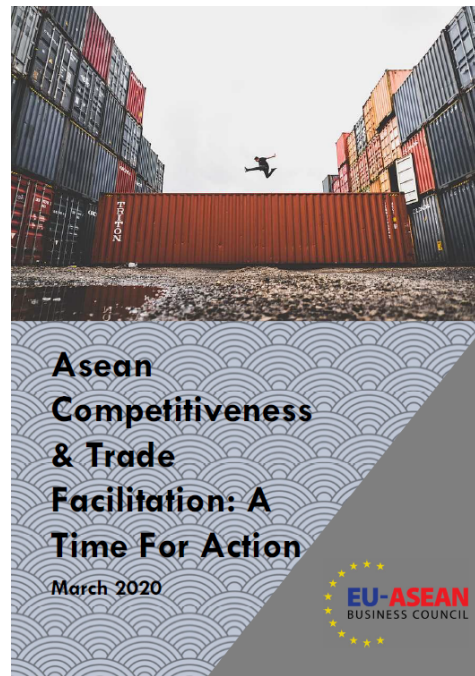
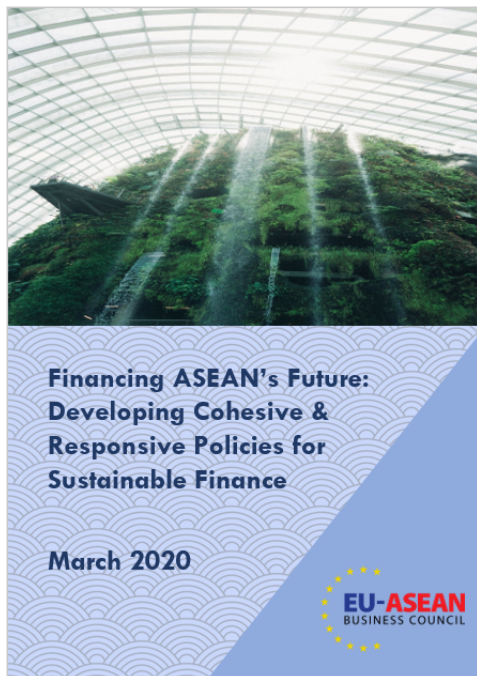


The EU-ASEAN Business Council was proud to organise our very first webinar on Monday, 9 March, together with KPMG and Sanofi.

As part of the "Driving comprehensive healthcare in ASEAN" initiative, and the launch of the first sub-paper, "Sustainable Healthcare Investment as an Economic Driver: The Time for ASEAN to Act is Now!", the webinar saw a vibrant discussion and a fantastic turnout, with a distinguished and diversified panel of speakers and leaders from the Healthcare & Finance Industry.

To find out more about the launch and webinar, click [here](#)

In light of the COVID-19 situation, which has affected everyone on a global level, we look forward to staying connected and bringing you more exciting webinars in the near future.



On 26 March, The EU-ASEAN Business Council published 2 papers; “**Financing ASEAN’s Future**” and “**ASEAN Competitiveness and Trade Facilitation**” in support of Vietnam’s Chairmanship theme of a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN.

Released in tandem with the 6th ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Vietnam, the papers seek to encourage concrete actions to help ASEAN improve its resilience to economic shock waves, and achieve its objectives for trade and investment.

“**Financing ASEAN’s Future**” explores ways in which sustainable finance can support ASEAN’s ability to meet its Sustainable Development Goals.

“**ASEAN Competitiveness and Trade Facilitation**” discusses how intra-ASEAN trade is crucial in promoting a cohesive and integrated region and better positioning the region as a trade and investment destination going forward.

For more details, click [here](#)

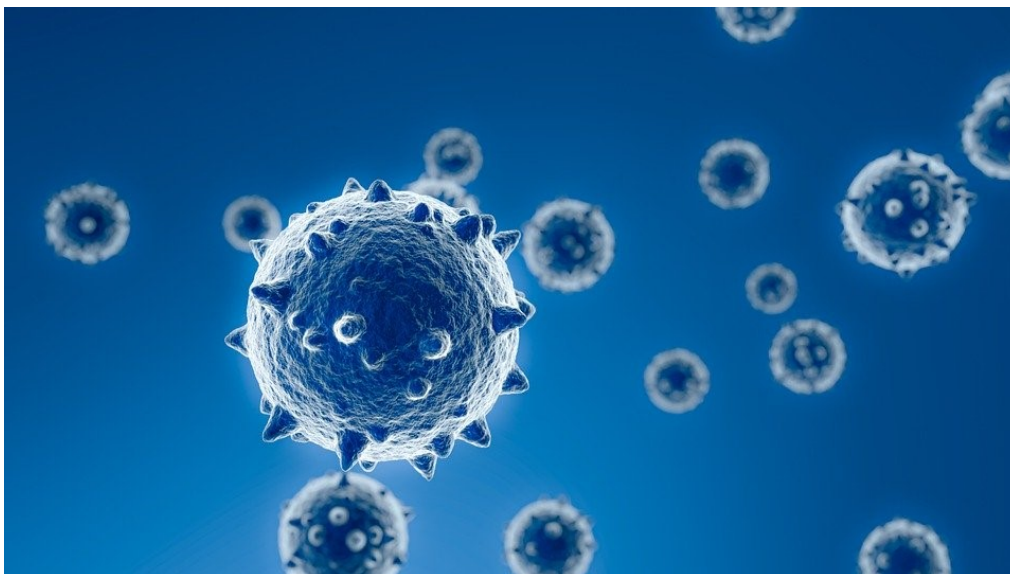
To access the papers and full listing of our publications, click [here](#)

Press articles released:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/asean-business/urgency-for-asean-to-realise-the-vision-of-the-aec-and-trade-more-with-itself-is>

<https://www.vietnamplus.vn/hoi-dong-kinh-doanh-eu-asean-cong-bo-2-bao-cau-ung-ho-vai-tro-chu-tich-asean-cua-viet-nam/630935.vnp>

EU-ASEAN Relations & COVID-19: Webinar Briefing by EU Ambassador to ASEAN



The EU-ASEAN Business Council was honoured to have **H.E. Igor Driesmans, EU Ambassador to**

ASEAN, give our members an exclusive briefing on the meetings and understandings reached between the EU and ASEAN and also the COVID-19 situation.

Held on 26 March evening, the webinar was well received and saw attendees walking away with new insights to the subject matter and also the chance to get their queries addressed.

The team at EU-ASEAN Business Council extends our appreciation to the Ambassador for making the video conference possible.

EU-ABC UPCOMING EVENTS



7th Annual General Meeting & Gala Dinner

Date: 3 June, Wednesday

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore

Guest-of-Honour: *H.E. Chan Chun Sing*
Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Trade & Industry

Programme

4.00pm - Annual General Meeting (Members)

6.00pm - Cocktail Reception

7.00pm - Gala Dinner

9.00pm - End

Individual Tickets

Members: \$300

Guests: \$325

Tables of 10

Members - \$2500 for 10 pax

Guests - \$3000 for 10 pax

Sponsorship Packages

For more details on our attractive sponsorship packages, click [here](#) or contact angeline.kwek@eu-asean.eu

For more information on the AGM & Gala Dinner, click [here](#)



MISSION TRIP TO MYANMAR

Date: 8-9 June 2020

The EU-ASEAN Business Council is organising a mission trip to Myanmar to meet with the following Ministries and organisations:

- Office of the State Counsellor
- Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
- Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
- Ministry of International Cooperation
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
- Ministry of Transport and Communications
- Ministry of Electricity and Energy
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

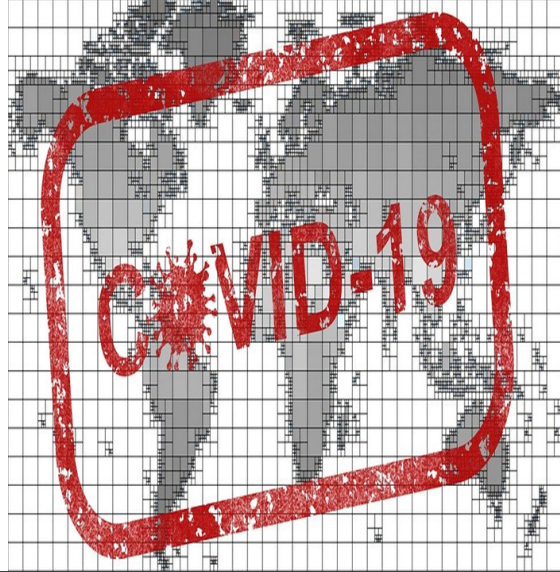
****Please note that this Mission Trip is scheduled for immediately before the planned ASEAN Customs Directors General Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw which is currently scheduled to take place from 9 to 11 June, and which the EU-ABC will also be attending.***

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

- EU-ABC MNC Members have free access to three trips per annum.
- It will be chargeable from the fourth mission trip of the year onwards at SG\$2,500.
- Associate members will be charged SG\$1,250 per mission trip.
- Non-member companies who wish to join the delegation MUST qualify for EU-ABC membership to attend at a charge of SG\$2,500.
- Number of delegates per company will be limited to 3 persons (individual meeting capacity subject to availability based on respective ministries).

3 Part Webinar Series

Understanding COVID-19's Impact on
Business Strategies



To address the evolving and dynamic nature of COVID-19, the EU-ASEAN Business Council is excited to present a 3 part webinar series on how businesses in the region can adapt to the new economic risks introduced by COVID-19.

Coming to you this April! More details to follow!



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