



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7/Issue 1 - January 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear EU-ABC members, partners and colleagues,

First, allow me to wish each of you a Healthy and Fruitful 2021. I think most of us have never been as ready as we were in late 2020 to usher in a new year, and for many, 2020 was a “year to forget”—managing the challenges that COVID-19 presented to our businesses, plus the additional stress of working from home (or “living at work”?), being quarantined, and mourning the tragic loss of friends or colleagues. There is much we would like to leave behind from 2020 and re-boot to “normal”. But alas, we will need to be resilient again, perhaps for most of this year, and find ways to adapt, seize opportunities and bring our best efforts to the customers, employees, partners and communities in which we work.

Like our members, the EU-ABC adapted quickly to a COVID-restricted world in 2020. Thanks to the creativity and hard work of our ED Chris Humphrey and his key teammates Shangari Kiruppalini and Angeline Kwek, the Business Council shifted to virtual format — webinar meetings with ASEAN Ministers and working groups, virtual trade and investment missions, an expanded slate of webinars and programmes (26 from March) and position papers (11 in the year). All of that was capped off in November by our successful first “hybrid” ASEAN-BU Business Summit in Singapore and virtually. Thanks to the enthusiastic support from our members, those initiatives allowed us to maintain momentum on the key themes of economic integration, digital commerce and trade, sustainability (finance, investment and health), and reducing barriers to trade and investment. We were also able to finish the year in good financial shape, which allowed us to offer discounted dues to our members for renewals.

The year will undoubtedly hold some surprises as the world navigates vaccinations and re-openings, as the US and China deal with trade tension, and as governments face rising fiscal burdens. I am optimistic, however, that the opportunities for European business to thrive and help ASEAN achieve its vision are as great as ever. Our 2020 Business Sentiment Survey again confirmed that over half of European businesses see ASEAN as the region with the best economic opportunity.

I urge all members to be active and be heard as we reach out to ASEAN bodies, ASEAN member states, the European Commission, and other key organisations. The Business Council's most important objective is to work with members, other Business Councils, and governments to foster an environment for trade and investment, for delivering talent and innovation, for creating and protecting IP and jobs, and for doing all that in a way that is environmentally and socially sustainable. We invite all of our members to play an active role in developing positions on those topics, and in proposing new ones, and in helping to deliver the message coherently and with commitment. We have already had meetings this month with Indonesia's Director-General for Customs (6 Jan), Ramon Lopez, Philippine's Secretary for Trade and Industry (19 Jan), Malaysia's Minister for Finance (25 Jan) and held a roundtable with the EU Ambassador to ASEAN (18 Jan). Please look for other scheduled meetings/programmes and opportunities to engage, including a range of meetings with various ministers from Indonesia in early February.

Work is also underway on the development of a position papers on Trade Facilitation and Customs issues, Emission and Fuel Standards for the Automotive Sector, and on Healthy Aging in ASEAN. In addition, we are exploring how to further engage on financing sustainable development — which could involve many sectors in which our members engage, and looking into developing positions in other sustainability related areas such as Energy Transition and Efficiency, and Plastic waste.

To get involved if you are not already, or to share ideas on how to further strengthen your sector or the EU-ABC itself, please reach out to Executive Director Chris Humphrey or myself, anytime.

Best wishes for the New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald P. Kanak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Donald Kanak
Chairman
EU-ASEAN Business Council

Ministerial Roundtables

Meeting with Indonesia Customs

The image is a composite of three parts related to a meeting with Indonesia Customs:

- Top Left:** A presentation slide titled "2. TAX ID AS REQUIREMENTS/ MANDATORY TO BE WRITTEN IN BILL OF LADING OR MANIFEST". It includes diagrams for "MAIN PURPOSE" (Compliance and Improving public service) and a list of "Countries that already using tax id in import document or bill" (Mexico (2010), China (2018), Turk (2012), USA (2008), Brazil (2017), Japan (2014)).
- Top Right:** A large grid of approximately 25 small video windows showing participants from various countries, including Indonesia, China, and others.
- Bottom Left:** A smaller video window showing two men, Heru Pambudi and another official, seated at a table with microphones during the meeting.
- Bottom Right:** A presentation slide titled "6. IMPACTS OF OMNIBUS LAW AND RCEP". It lists impacts under three categories: OMNIBUS LAW (improving management of the Special Economic Zone), ONLINE SINGLE SUBMISSION (becoming a feature in the National Logistic Ecosystem), and RCEP (expediting verification process and preparing legal basis for advance ruling).

The EU-ASEAN Business Council had the honour of hosting a meeting with the Indonesian DG of Customs and Excise, Heru Pambudi, on 6 January to discuss questions related to customs in Indonesia. Topics covered in the meeting include:

- Origin-related issues with foreign customs
- Anti-Illicit Trade Activity
- Impact of Omnibus Law on Customs
- Innovation in the Customs Process
- ASEAN Issues
- Classification & Decision Issues

Meeting with Minister of Finance, Brunei



The EU-ASEAN Business Council had the honour of hosting a meeting with Brunei's Minister of Finance on 14 January to discuss Brunei's 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship Agenda and how the EU-ABC can provide support. Topics covered in the meeting include:

- Brunei's Chairmanship Priorities
- Overall Notional Calendar Updates
- ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting
- ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting
- Digital Ecosystem/Tourism Priorities

Closed Door Roundtable with Ambassador Igor Driesmans



The EU-ASEAN Business Council had the honour of meeting H.E. Igor Driesmans, Ambassador-Designate of the EU to ASEAN, on 18 January to discuss the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. Topics covered in the meeting include:

- Practical implications of the Strategic Partnership
- EU's role in ASEAN regarding sustainability
- Managing irritants in EU-ASEAN relations
- Tourism and Culture

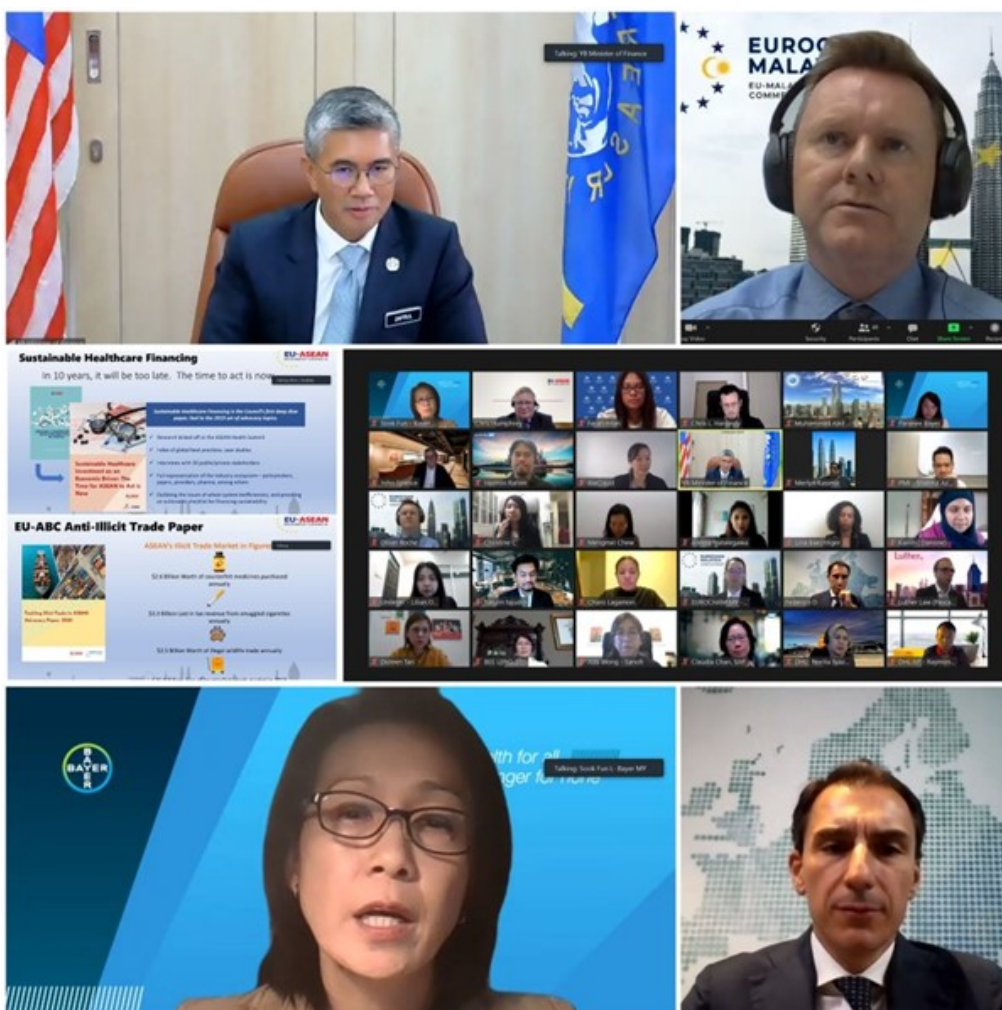
Meeting with Secretary Ramon Lopez, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines



The EU-ASEAN Business Council had the honour of meeting DTI Sec. Ramon Lopez on 19 January to discuss the Philippine's economic outlook in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and its future plans for recovery. Topics discussed include:

- Economic Recovery Plans for COVID-19
- Upcoming bills
- Digital Plans
- ECOZONE issues
- Milk Code issues
- Updates on Travel Restrictions
- Make It Happen in the Philippines Campaign

Meeting with Minister of Finance, Malaysia



The EU-ASEAN Business Council had the honour of meeting with YB Senator Tengku Dato' Sri Zafrul

Tengku Abdul Aziz on 25 January to discuss Malaysia's economic outlook in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and future plans for recovery. High-level topics discussed include:

- MCO 2.0
- Economic Recovery Plans for COVID-19
- 2021 Budget
- MY-EU FTA

Ambassadorial Lunch Series: German Ambassador



The EU-ASEAN Business Council and its members organized and enjoyed a luncheon with the German Ambassador, Dr Norbert Riedel (centre right), on 25 January.

Webinar – ASEAN in 2021: Prospects and Challenges



The webinar discussed the key prospects and challenges for ASEAN in 2021 within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The key takeaways are:

- There is optimism for ASEAN's strong economic recovery and competitiveness as a production base in 2021 because of RCEP's potential, the China +1 supply chain strategy, boom in semiconductor demand due to WFH requirements, investment opportunities for electric vehicle production, and a concerted effort by ASEAN governments to attract FDI through domestic institutional reforms.
- However, challenges include fiscal deficits due to COVID-19 stimulus packages, labour shortages due to COVID-19 cases, delayed economic recovery caused by new COVID-19 outbreaks, with herd immunity expected to be achieved in 2022 via vaccination.
- The ASEAN Member States must understand that promoting regional vaccination is of each members' national interests and vaccine-nationalism must be avoided.

To find out more in detail, listen to the webinar [here](#).

Panellists:

- **Professor Tommy Koh**

Ambassador-At-Large Singapore, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

- **The Hon. Ar. Yanty Rahman**

- **Adam Schwarz**

Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Asia Group Advisors

- **Joseph Incalcaterra**

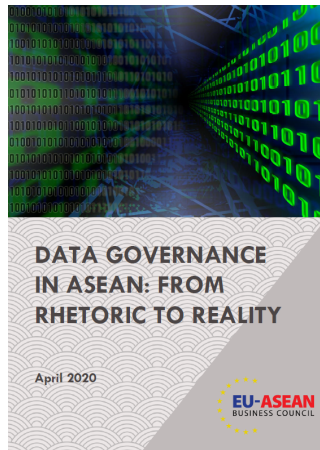
Chief Economist for ASEAN, HSBC

Moderator:

- **Chris Humphrey**

Executive Director, EU-ASEAN Business Council

UPDATE: DATA GOVERNANCE REPORT



As background, the EU-ASEAN Business Council supported Vietnam's Chairmanship by publishing a [Data Governance Report](#) to help lay the groundwork for ASEAN's data governance work last year. The report outlines how ASEAN leaders can approach the issue of data governance at a time when cross border data flows are becoming key economic drivers.

We are pleased to share that the ASEAN Data Management Framework (DMF), which was approved on 22 January, accepted the Council's recommendations listed in the Data Governance Report. The accepted recommendations are: (1) to use EU-ABC proposed ISO standards; and (2) to adopt a whole of data lifecycle approach.

We will continue to work closely with ASEAN leaders on Data Governance, especially on how they can adapt and adopt GDPR elements into their laws. The EU-ASEAN Business Council is pleased that the ASEAN leaders share our view that the DMF is an important tool that stresses a full data lifecycle framework to uphold data accountability.

OP-ED: HOW TO ACCELERATE THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

How to accelerate the energy transition in developing economies



Wind turbines produce renewable energy outside Caledon, South Africa, May 20, 2020. Image: REUTERS/Mike Hutchings

25 Jan 2021

Donald Perry Kanak

Chairman, Prudential Insurance Growth Markets,
Prudential



This article is part of the [The Davos Agenda](#)

- The transition from coal to renewables must be a priority if we are to achieve the emission reductions we need.

In collaboration with the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership (SDIP), the EU-ASEAN Business Council has established a Sustainable Investment Innovation Roundtable bringing together leading practitioners in the field of sustainable finance. The aim of this roundtable is to feature and share innovative financing mechanisms with the potential to scale for impact and receive feedback and suggestions from industry peers. HSBC, AXA, and Prudential are members and others are welcome to participate and contribute.

One of the ideas presented in the roundtable was by Don Kanak on Energy Transition Mechanisms. You can read more [here](#)

EU-ABC UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministerial Roundtables

2 Feb - Meeting with Co-ordinating Minister for Economic Affairs for Indonesia (*members only*)

3 Feb - Meeting with Ministry of Tourism, Indonesia (*members only*)

4 Feb - Meeting with Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia (*members only*)

5 Feb - Meeting with Ministry of Transport, Indonesia (*members only*)

8 Feb - Meeting with Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (*members only*)

9 Feb - Meeting with Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia (*members only*)

25 Feb - Closed Door Luncheon with Thai Ambassador (*members only*)

Webinars

23 Feb - EU & ASEAN: Working Together for a Green Recovery

22 Mar - The Economist: Ageing Well Summit Asia 2021

30 Mar - The Economist: Indonesia Summit Series

NEW EU-ABC MEMBERS



landmark
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Who We Are:

An independent international Public Affairs, Government Relations Trade Advisory and Strategic Communications agency. Landmark unites a diverse, dynamic, motivated team of experienced consultants able to deliver a highly professional service at all times.

What We Do:

Landmark offers a full suite of Public Affairs services, tailored on the specific needs of our client organisations. We help our clients to engage effectively with decision-makers, stakeholders, opinion formers and the media to achieve strategic business objectives.

Our Sector Expertise and Practice Areas:

Our work spans a wide range of policy areas and activities, reflecting the broad needs of international companies and organisations. This includes Food & Beverage, Agriculture, Health & Biotech, FMCG, Digital Economy, Transport & Logistics, Travel & Tourism and Energy.

Where We Are:

Offices in Singapore (since 2011), Brussels (since 2007), London (since 2010) and New York (since 2018) with a global network of independent partners.

Our Values:

Integrity . Diversity . Creativity . Responsibility . Mutuality

PARTNER NEWS

The Economist EVENTS

**Ageing Well Summit
Asia 2021**

**Rethinking ageing and
longevity in Asia**

 **Register free**
March 22th-25th 2021

Generations born today and tomorrow can look forward to 100 years of life. Yet we are ill-prepared both for the opportunities such longevity brings and for the challenges it poses to our societies.

Join The Economist Events for the **Ageing Well Summit Asia** from March 22nd - 25th 2021, a free to attend online event bringing together 750+ leaders in government; healthcare; finance; insurance; innovation; urban planning and technology.

Across the week, more than 80 expert speakers will examine how we should reorganise ourselves for this changed world and prepare for healthy lives that last 90 years or longer.

Register today: <https://bit.ly/2KcmJKw>

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/3bwp8Ld>



Following lively discussions in 2018 on Indonesia's innovation economy, we are pleased to be returning this year to discuss Indonesia's plans to balance both business and environmental imperatives in its post-pandemic recovery. This year's event will be held virtually with an outstanding speaker line-up featuring notable industry professionals and government officials.

COVID-19 has ravaged Indonesia. The world's fourth most populous country has recorded more than 22,000 fatalities as of early January, the highest in Asia-Pacific outside of India. The government has deployed stringent measures to get the pandemic under control, as well as unprecedented stimulus packages to minimise the economic damage. The health system is overwhelmed, while major economic indicators such as FDI, exports, imports, and retail sales, all show a downward trend.

Why Attend

Join The Economist Events for the Indonesia Summit 2021, a free-to-attend online event bringing together policymakers, business leaders and experts to:

- Assess the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on Indonesia's economy and society
- Discuss ways to rebuild the economy
- Analyse the risks and opportunities for businesses investing in Indonesia
- Network and connect with industry stakeholders

Register today: <https://bit.ly/3btjl3M>

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/3i23TIC>

EU-ABC MEMBERS



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