



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7/Issue 8 - August 2021

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A busy but exciting month for us at the EU-ASEAN Business Council as we conclude our EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series, release two publications, namely our EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey and our Energy Transition paper and a varied mix of events and activities ranging from the EU-ASEAN Country Co-Ordinator handover, an interview with Brian Fernandez of Biztech.asia to ASEAN BAC Malaysia Consultation and more.

In our European Businesses - Empowering ASEAN Recovery series, we are happy to feature the good work of our member, Boehringer Ingelheim in their sustainability efforts, supporting the official launch of Plastics Recycling Association Singapore (PRAS) on 17 August 2021.

We have also been busy with preparation for the highly anticipated ASEAN-EU Health Summit happening on 15 September, which covers a wide ranging and diversified spectrum on health related topics that we are certain will not disappoint.

Aside to the Summit, do keep a lookout for other exciting events and publications coming your way.

EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series

The EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series features essays from key government and business leaders from both Europe and ASEAN providing insight and deeper understanding on the subject. The series also makes up part of our annual Business Sentiment Survey Report this year which was published today ahead of the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting which the EU-ABC will be participating in.

This month, we are thrilled to feature essays from: Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of European Commission & Trade Commissioner; Frederick Chin, Head of Group Wholesale and Global Markets, UOB; Noel Clehane, Global Head of Regulatory & Public Policy at BDO, Chairman, European Services Forum and Member of the EU-ASEAN Business Council Executive Board; Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines; and, Clingendael

Contribution from Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of
European Commission & Trade Commissioner



EU-ASEAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL with the support of **BDO**

presents

EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series:



Valdis Dombrovskis
Executive Vice-President
European Commission &
Trade Commissioner

Concluding our EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series, Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of European Commission & Trade Commissioner provides his insights to the EU and ASEAN being economic partners in a dynamic world.

EVP Dombrovskis further shares on the EU's new strategy for trade and with it the aim to respond to new global challenges and lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis through a focus on openness, sustainability and assertiveness and how, when it comes to trade, investment and economic relations, the EU and ASEAN remain major partners.

“The fundamentals are solid: trade between the EU and ASEAN is largely complementary, and there is good potential to develop our relationship even further. Indeed, this is a priority for the EU.”

Read the full essay [here](#)

Contribution from Frederick Chin, Head of Group Wholesale and Global
Markets, UOB



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presents

EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series:



Frederick Chin

Head of Group Wholesale and Global Markets, UOB

Frederick Chin, Head of Group Wholesale and Global Markets, UOB share his thoughts and views on EU and ASEAN enterprises pursuing growth through connectivity and collaboration.

With the EU being the oldest dialogue partner of ASEAN and as economic ties continue to progress steadily, the strengthening of connectivity between the two regions and new areas for collaboration are areas that Frederick explores in the perceptive contribution to the series.

“Enhancing the connectivity and forging greater collaboration between business communities in the EU and the ASEAN are critical to ensuring a strong recovery from the pandemic.”

Read the full essay [here](#)

Contribution from Noel Clehane, Global Head of Regulatory & Public Policy at BDO, Chairman, European Services Forum and Member of the EU-ASEAN Business Council Executive Board



EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL with the support of **BDO**

presents

EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series:



Noel Clehane

Global Head of Regulatory & Public Policy at BDO, Chairman, European Services Forum and Member of the EU-ASEAN Business Council Executive Board

A comprehensive contribution from Noel Clehane, Global Head of Regulatory & Public Policy at BDO, Chairman, European Services Forum and Member of the EU-ASEAN Business Council Executive Board.

Noel shares his views on the 44-year relationship, now a strategic partnership, between the EU and ASEAN. Of focus is what the future holds for EU-ASEAN relations particularly in trade and investment as the globe and particularly the region, navigate through challenges brought forth by the pandemic.

“It is a truism that the EU and ASEAN and member nations are strong supporters of multilateralism and of rules-based international trade. Even where significant differences arise on other issues, it is essential that both blocs give effect to their common viewpoints by working together and seeking to forge closer trading and economic ties if they are to successfully influence the evolving global trading order.”

Read the full essay [here](#)

Contribution from Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines



presents

EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series:



Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of the Philippines

In his contribution, Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines provides important insight to what the country hopes to achieve as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations for the next three years and what lies ahead for EU-ASEAN relations.

“The thriving ASEAN-EU partnership is a bright spot in these dark times. The Philippines as country coordinator welcomes the challenge and opportunity to shape the way ahead for these two organizations, so vital to global peace and security, and a sustainable future for all.”

Read the full essay [here](#)

Contribution from Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations



presents

EU-ASEAN Relations Essay Series:



Clingendael
Netherlands Institute of International Relations



Maaïke Okano-Heijmans



Karthik Nachiappan



Brigitte Dekker

Valuable insight to the European Union's distinct strategic approach (EU Indo-Pacific Strategy) and moving forward, beyond the maritime domain; towards open and secure digital connectivity in and with ASEAN from Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, an independent think tank and academy on international affairs. The essay also highlights how the EU can engage on digital matters.

“The EU can contribute to an open, safe and inclusive digital connectivity and engage with the thriving digital economies in the Indo-Pacific. It should act now.”

Read the full essay [here](#)

Publication of EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey



We are delighted to share the release of our 7th Business Sentiment Survey today.

Key highlights of this year's survey include:

- 63% of respondents see ASEAN as the region with the best economic opportunity (2020– 53%).
- 82% of respondents expect to expand current levels of trade and investment in ASEAN in the next 5 years (2020 – 73%).
- 2% of respondents feel that ASEAN Economic Integration is progressing fast enough (2020– 2%)

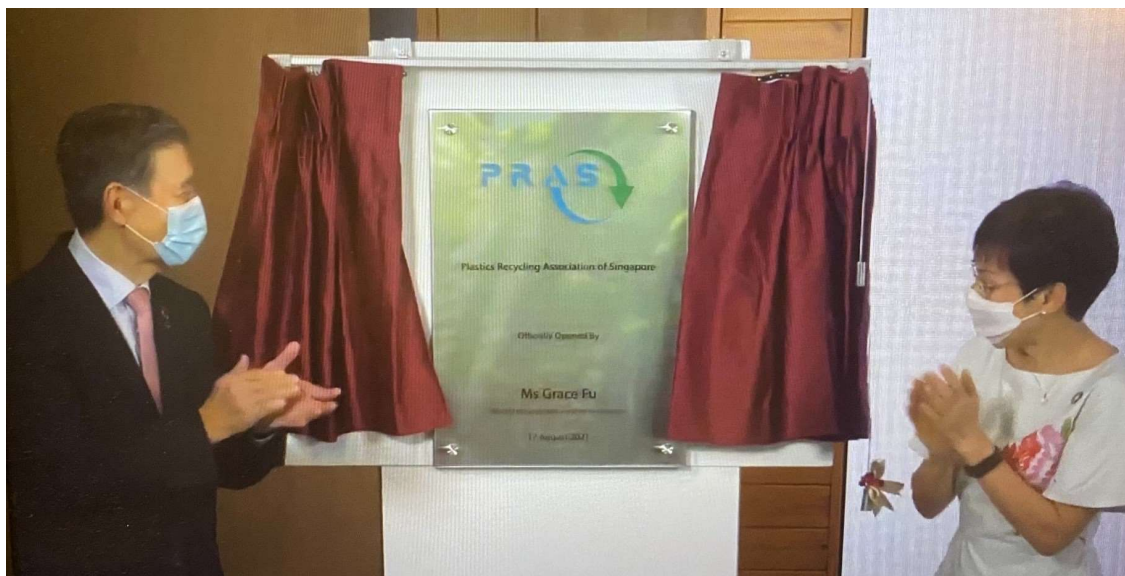
- 3% of respondents believe that non-tariff barriers to trade in ASEAN are decreasing (2020 – 14%), whilst 38% say they are increasing (2020 – 27%)
- 81% of respondents say that there are too many barriers to the efficient use of supply of chains in ASEAN (2020 – 62%)
- 98% of respondents would like the EU to accelerate FTA negotiations with ASEAN and its members (2020 – 98%).
- 60% of respondents believe that the EU should pursue a region-to-region Investment Protection Agreement with ASEAN

Find out more [here](#)

European Businesses – Empowering ASEAN Recovery

Boehringer Ingelheim Singapore's Commitment for a Healthier Planet

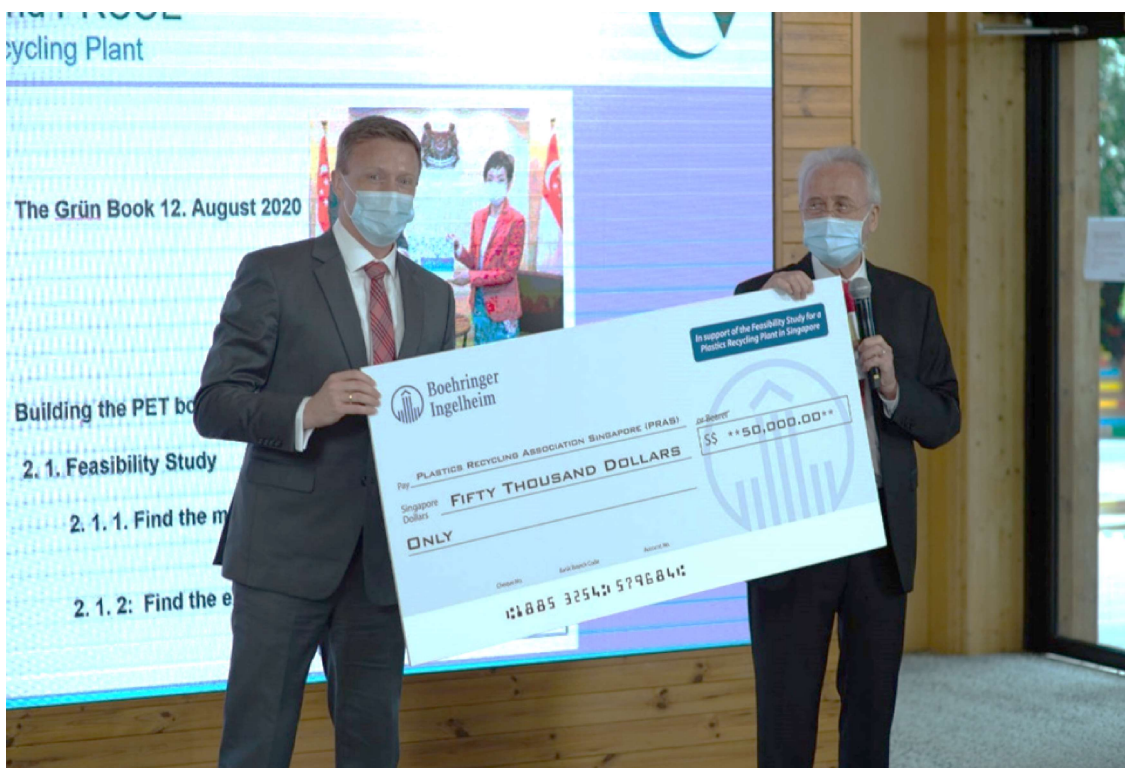
Boehringer Ingelheim Singapore is proud to support and be part of the official launch of Plastics Recycling Association Singapore (PRAS) on 17 August 2021. The Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Grace Fu was the Guest-of-Honor at the inauguration.





PRAS was launched with the aim to enhance Singapore’s capability in plastics recycling by bringing together various stakeholders to exchange knowledge and best practices on plastic waste management and recycling. The Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce is a main partner in PRAS, with the eventual goal of turning Singapore into a regional hub of excellence in plastics recycling.

In support of the newly launched association, Boehringer Ingelheim Singapore donated \$50,000 to assist PRAS in funding their feasibility study for a PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottle recycling plant in Singapore. This contribution was recognized at the inauguration event with Dr. Armin Wiesler, Regional Managing Director, Boehringer Ingelheim (South East Asia and South Korea) presenting a mock cheque to Mr. Joachim Ihrcke, Vice President of PRAS.



As a non-government and not-for-profit business association, PRAS represents the interest of companies

involved in the plastics (recycling) supply chain to discuss and collaborate viable projects together with government agencies such as the National Environment Agency (NEA) and Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). It also aims to identify suitable plastics recycling projects starting with a PET bottle-to-bottle recycling plant, potentially followed by other mechanical and chemical recycling projects in the future and to clarify details of each project such as stakeholders, investors, priority, timeline, and other parameters.

The mission and vision of PRAS are aligned with Boehringer Ingelheim's global direction for sustainability and their commitment to contributing to a healthier planet for people and animals. As part of the 'Be Green' sustainability efforts at Boehringer Ingelheim Singapore, single-use plastics in the office have been eliminated, as a step towards reduction of global footprint. In addition, when embarking on office design projects across the region, Boehringer Ingelheim works with vendors who use sustainable building materials, to ensure that natural resources are utilized wisely.

EU-ABC Upcoming Events

ASEAN-EU Health Summit

**Health Solutions Post-Pandemic:
Innovation, Inclusion & Immunisations
in ASEAN and Beyond**

**15 September,
2021**

**Raffles City
Convention Centre/
Zoom**



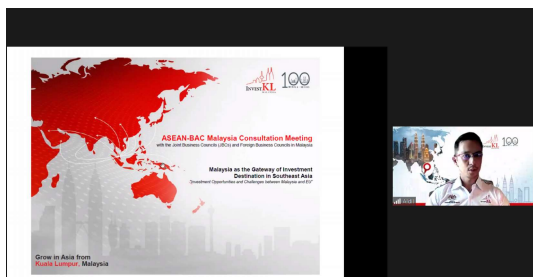
Sponsors:



For more details, click [here](#)
To register, click [here](#)

Events & Activities

**ASEAN BAC Malaysia Consultation on Boosting Economic Ties between the
EU and Malaysia**



Our Executive Director, Chris Humphrey, joined the CEO of EuroCham Malaysia, Sven Schneider, and the EU Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Michailis Rokas in a wide ranging discussion with ASEAN BAC Malaysia on the development of closer economic ties between the EU and Malaysia and what Malaysia needs to do boost its attractiveness for FDI going forward.

Consultation with ASEAN Customs Enforcement & Compliance Working Group





The EU-ABC presented on workshops on a range of anti-illicit trade issues which its is proposing to ASEAN. All three workshops were accepted and will be taking place before the end of the year.

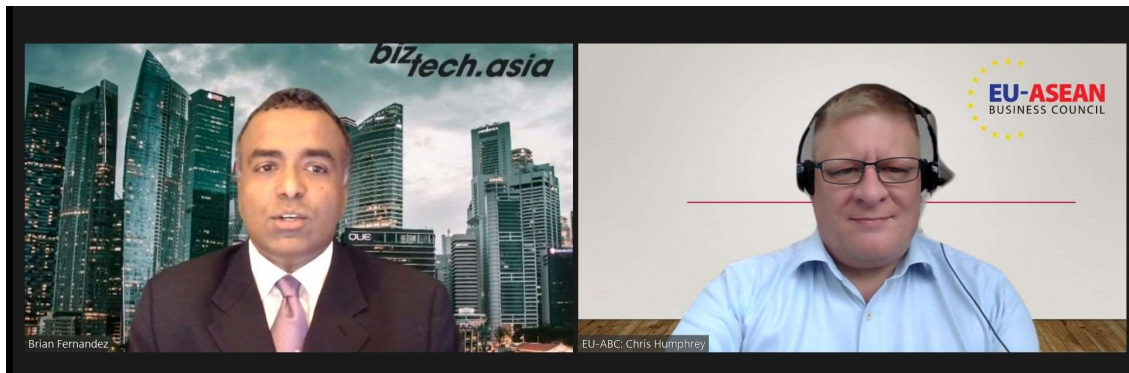
EU-ASEAN Country Co-ordinator Handover



The EU-ABC is honoured to be part of the excellent discussion on EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership on 12 August, as Philippines takes over the coordination role.

Exciting times ahead to explore the many areas for collaboration, including tackling climate change, enhancing trade and investment, bolstering security ties and connectivity amongst others.

Interview with Brian Fernandez, Biztech.asia



EU-ABC ED, Chris Humphrey had an interview with Biztech.asia’s Brian Fernandez on 5 August. The lively discussion covered the current economic situation in the region, way out from the pandemic, barriers to overcome for better healthcare access to ensure a healthy ageing population across the region and on sustainable economic development.

ASEAN Single Window Symposium



The EU-ABC participated in the ASEAN Single Window Symposium on 5th August . Implementation of the ASW is a significant development on trade facilitation in ASEAN and we are pleased to have the opportunity to engage in the discussion with a focus on the need to move quicker to paperless customs

declarations and expanding the ASW beyond the documents currently involved.

There was a push for a system of informed compliance to aid with usage and understanding, improve clearance rates and new documents to be added ASEAN-wide, supporting the idea of sunset clauses for stopping the use of paper documents to enable authorities and traders to move faster by the EU-ABC.

Publication of Energy Transition Paper



Powering ASEAN's Energy Transition



The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) published a report titled **Powering ASEAN's Energy Transition** on 24 August. The report calls on ASEAN governments to accelerate energy transition as a means of helping the region deal with climate change challenges and ensure the greening of supply chains whilst meeting its rising energy demands.

The report notes that ASEAN's energy demands continue to increase, but also that the region remains heavily dependent on highly polluting fossil fuels, with around 80% of its current energy mix coming from such sources. With rising concerns about climate change impacts, particularly given the vulnerability of

Southeast Asia to natural catastrophes, and the recent IPCC report highlighting the alarming rise in global temperatures, there is a clear need now for ASEAN to address its over-reliance on fossil fuels, particularly coal, for its energy needs.

For more details click [here](#)

In The News

The EU-ABC's Energy Transition paper, published earlier this month was featured in various news media:

[EUビジネス界、ASEANのエネルギー移行に関するレポートを発表](#)

[EU-ASEAN Business Council calls for faster action on energy transition in Southeast Asia](#)

[EU-ASEAN Business Council calls for faster action on energy transition in Southeast Asia](#)

[EU-ABC urges ASEAN to expedite energy transition](#)

[Hội đồng Kinh doanh EU – ASEAN kêu gọi ASEAN đẩy nhanh chuyển đổi năng lượng](#)

[Tránh thảm họa khí hậu bằng sự kết hợp giữa chính sách, tài chính và công nghệ](#)

[Hội đồng Kinh doanh EU – ASEAN kêu gọi ASEAN đẩy nhanh chuyển đổi năng lượng](#)

[ASEAN cần đẩy mạnh cải tiến về chính sách tài chính để chuyển đổi năng lượng](#)

[EU-ASEAN Business Council calls on faster action on energy transition](#)

[Regional business group urges new policymaking, market tools to wean Asean off fossil fuels](#)

New Member



We are pleased to welcome our newest member, Vestas, the energy industry's global partner on sustainable energy solutions. They design, manufacture, install, and service onshore and offshore wind turbines across the globe, and with more than 140 GW of wind turbines in 85 countries, they have installed more wind power than anyone else. Through their industry-leading smart data capabilities and more than 120 GW of wind turbines under service, they use data to interpret, forecast, and exploit wind resources and deliver best-in-class wind power solutions. Together with their customers, Vestas' more than 29,000 employees are bringing the world sustainable energy solutions to power a bright future.

Partner Event



The 2021 European-Philippine Business Summit is a 2-day virtual event which will be held on September 23 and 30, 2021. With the theme "Amidst the Crisis: A New Decade of Growth Opportunities", the Summit will bring a series of high-level online conversations on how a course for the next decade of stronger European-Philippine economic ties and brighter economic opportunities can be set.

Now on its eighth run, the Summit will feature key government figures, business leaders, and experts who will take a closer look at the country's long-term economic outlook, promising growth sectors, and the next agenda of doing business in the Philippines.

For more details, click [here](#)

EU-ABC MEMBERS



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