

Notes from the ED (August 2022)



The Council celebrated many things in August, key amongst them being our physical Mission Trip to Indonesia – the first one since 2019. We also saw a number of publications made by the Council and I am very excited to share them with you through the *Notes from the ED* series for the month of August.

What Went Down in August

We travelled to Indonesia at the beginning of August to hold our **Future of Mobility** forum. This event was a platform which brought together industry experts, thought leaders and policy shapers to discuss the key trends, challenges and opportunities on mobility and movement-related topics.

As usual, we held our monthly members-only briefing with Bower Group Asia and discussed the political landscape in Malaysia. Among other things, the Council also organised a mental health and team-bonding day this month to energise and rejuvenate ourselves for what is very busy remainder of the year. Speaking of health, we published our paper on ***Transforming Diagnostic Access: A Roadmap for ASEAN***, and held a launch webinar alongside, discussing the value and importance of diagnostics in strengthening health systems for all stakeholders within the healthcare continuum. You can get your hands on the report [here](#). For those who missed the webinar, you can catch the recording [here](#).

August came back full circle when the Council returned to Indonesia for our Mission Trip at the end of the month. It has been 2 years since our last visit to Indonesia and it was gratifying to hear first-hand how the various Ministries – from the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Finance, Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Ministries of Trade, Investment, Tourism and Creative Economy, as well as Ministry of Health – are committed to working together with our members to find ways to recover together and recover stronger. During the Mission, the Council did not forget to give back and we visited a local orphanage to send supplies and spread joy to the young ones who will one day grow to lead the country. We commemorated the last day of our meaningful Mission Trip with a networking session jointly organised with **EuroCham Indonesia** where we launched our **8th Business Sentiment Survey** and shared the result with the attendees. A copy of it can be obtained [here](#). In the survey, Indonesia remained the destination where European business sought to expand their operations. We look forward to a strong finish to their G20 leadership and await what's in store as the Republic takes on the baton from Cambodia in assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023.

Before we left, we managed to host one final workshop with CropLife Asia, together with the Canada-ASEAN Business Council, and the US-ASEAN Business Council, to discuss how safe and nutritious food can be delivered across ASEAN even in the midst of food security issues and growing climate crisis.



Welcome Neste

This month, we also welcomed Neste as our new member. On a journey to reach net-zero, we remain enthusiastic in partnering with Neste to achieve this goal and leave behind a more sustainable and liveable planet for our future generations.

Cue September

Our closed-door members-only briefing will be covering Cambodia this month, to be held on 14th September. Thereafter, I will be adventuring across continents for the rest of the month, starting with travel to Cambodia in preparation for the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting which will be held in Siem Reap this year. We will be organising [a joint networking event on the 17th](#). On the 18th, along with EuroCham Cambodia, the Council will be having our Siem Reap Policy Dialogue discussing about the importance of financial inclusion and promoting fair trade. You can register for both events via the link [here](#).

Continuing the story of the value of diagnostics, the first workshop will be covering Singapore. We will host the workshop physically and invite various health stakeholders for the sharing. More details will be shared in the coming weeks so please do look out for those.

I will also be speaking on EU-ASEAN relations at the Eurasia Forum in Budapest, before visiting Brussels for meetings in relation with our events in Brussels on 13th December. You can find out more about those [here](#).

Looking Ahead

Our Mission Trip to Thailand is coming up in the end of November and we will be reaching out to members soon for registration. We are also expecting confirmation on a number of ASEAN-related meetings, namely the 17th Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and the ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting.

Preparations are well under way for the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit which will be held in Brussels in December. Confirmation for speakers and panellists will be coming so do continue to watch this space!

Our schedules in the coming months will be packed but feel free to reach out to us should you have areas of collaboration you wish to explore. Myself or my team will reach out to you so don't hesitate to contact us.