



Press Release

EU-ASEAN Business Council in Strong Support of Building a Healthier Asia

Singapore – 27 March 2023: The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) is pleased to support the recent publication of a report “[Building a Healthier Asia: Empowering More Equitable Access to Healthcare Innovation](#)”, by Zuellig Pharma, one of the largest healthcare services groups in Asia, in partnership with PRMA Consulting, a leading global market access consultancy. This report is a summary of the key topics that were discussed at the second [Zuellig Pharma Healthcare Access Summit](#) in 2022, and emphasises the importance of a whole-of-society approach to overcoming barriers to equitable care across private and public stakeholders.

The report features vital recommendations on how industry stakeholders can apply learnings from the pandemic response to increase access to healthcare across various geographical localities. It also discusses recent major developments in healthcare technologies – from therapeutics, to diagnostics, vaccines, and other interventions – which have greatly transformed healthcare, especially in elevating the quality and expediting the delivery of care amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The report also highlights the importance of addressing the widening gap in access to healthcare – from healthcare financing, availability of healthcare services, supply, and distribution of products, down to the trust in stakeholders within the healthcare systems – to minimise the disparity in healthcare access and equity.

Commenting on the report, **Chris Humphrey, Executive Director at the EU-ASEAN Business Council** said “As we have witnessed throughout the pandemic, stakeholders – be it public or private sectors – cannot resolve health problems alone. Collaboration is key to developing healthcare infrastructures across the region.”

“All of government, and in particular health and finance ministries, along with those from the private sector – pharmaceutical companies, those working in medical devices and diagnostics, distribution and those involved in delivery of care, must work together to ensure that healthcare as a universal good can be made accessible for all with no patient groups left behind,” he added.

Jean-Gaetan Guillemaud, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Zuellig Pharma mirrored the same sentiments, highlighting that the report’s main themes of equal resource allocation, accessibility and sustainability are critical to improving healthcare access.

“Putting patients at the centre of creating value-based care, while ensuring that private and public stakeholders work steadfastly to enhance accessibility are two main ways the industry can continue to increase access to healthcare. At Zuellig Pharma, we are committed to enhancing care for patients in the region, while ensuring that we double down on making our efforts sustainable by decarbonising operations and playing our part in caring for the environment,” said Guillemaud.

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About the EU-ASEAN Business Council

The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) is the primary and sole voice for European business covering all of the ASEAN region.

It is recognised by the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat and is an accredited entity under Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter. Independent of both bodies, the Council has been established to help promote the interests of European businesses operating within ASEAN and to advocate for changes in policies and regulations which would help promote trade and investment between Europe and the ASEAN region. The Council works on a sectorial and cross-industry basis to help improve the investment and trading conditions for European Businesses in the ASEAN region through influencing policy and decision makers throughout the region and in the EU, as well as acting as a platform for the exchange of information and ideas amongst its members and regional players within the ASEAN region.

The EU-ABC's membership consists of large European Multi-National Corporations and the nine European Chambers of Commerce from around Southeast Asia. The EU-ABC represents a diverse range of European industries cutting across almost every commercial sphere from car manufacturing through to financial services and including Fast Moving Consumer Goods and high-end electronics and communications. Our members all have a common interest in enhancing trade, commerce and investment between Europe and ASEAN.

The Executive Director of the EU-ASEAN Business Council is Mr Chris Humphrey, and its Chairman is Mr Martin Hayes. The Council is led by an elected Board consisting of corporate leaders representing a range of important industry sectors and representatives of the European Chambers of Commerce.

About Zuellig Pharma

Zuellig Pharma is one of the largest healthcare services groups in Asia, and our mission is to make healthcare more accessible to the communities we serve.

We provide world-class distribution, digital and commercial services to support the growing healthcare needs in this region. The company was started a hundred years ago and has grown to become an over US\$15 billion business covering 16 markets with over 13,000 employees.

Our people serve over 350,000 medical facilities and work with over 500 clients, including the top 20 pharmaceutical companies in the world.

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