



# 96<sup>th</sup> CACCI Council Meeting

4:45 pm - 05:45 pm, November 29, 2022, Melbourne, Australia



## 96TH CACCI COUNCIL MEETING



4:45 - 5:45PM,  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
NOVEMBER 29, 2022

## MINUTES

1. The 96<sup>th</sup> CACCI Council Meeting was held virtually on November 29, 2022, from 04:45PM to 05:45PM Taipei Time.
2. Attended by CACCI officers and representatives from 17 CACCI Primary Members constituting a quorum, the meeting was chaired by newly elected CACCI President Mr. Peter McMullin from Australia

### I. OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

3. In his Opening Remarks, Mr. McMullin conveyed his gratitude to the Council members and their respective Chambers for their support of his election as CACCI President for 2023-2024 term. He said that he and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) are honored with the trust they have bestowed upon him, adding that he considered it a privilege to be heading the Confederation for the next two years.
4. Mr. McMullin noted that the other newly elected CACCI officers are distinguished emissaries not only of their respective chambers but of their respective countries as well - that is, truly representative of the geographical diversity of the CACCI membership. He said that he therefore looked forward to working closely with them and their Chambers in promoting the interest of the Confederation and the business community of the region as a whole. He thanked them for attending the 96<sup>th</sup> CACCI Council Meeting in Melbourne, and expressed his appreciation to them for their continued commitment to the Confederation and its objectives.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Mr. McMullin invited Mr. Hiroshi Oshima, CACCI Vice President and Special Advisor to Japan CCI, to deliver his Special Statement. The complete text of Mr. Oshima's Special Statement is attached as **Annex 1**.

## **II. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA**

5. Mr. McMullin requested for the approval of the Proposed Agenda of the 96<sup>th</sup> CACCI Council Meeting. With no further comments from the Council, the proposed agenda was approved.

## **III. CONSIDERATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2023-2024 WORK PROGRAM**



6. CACCI Director General Mr. David Hsu reported that the 2023-2024 Work Program, which he said incorporates the suggestions received from members through a survey conducted earlier, outlines activities to be undertaken by CACCI between 2023 and 2024 to achieve the following objectives:

- a. To help promote and raise the profile and importance of CACCI not only among its members but regionally and internationally as well
- b. To further strengthen CACCI's policy advocacy efforts in order to create a business environment conducive to creating better business opportunities for CACCI members
- c. To play a more active role in regional cooperation efforts by capitalizing on its link with the national chambers
- d. To further strengthen relationships with other international organizations
- e. To further strengthen communication links among CACCI member countries, thereby contributing to the promotion of CACCI, its services, and its policy advocacy work
- f. To conduct training and capacity-building activities to help broaden the knowledge and technical skills of businessmen in the region



- g. To develop programs that will make the Product and Service Councils effective vehicles for promoting greater business interaction among CACCI members
- h. To continue to find ways and means of expanding membership in the Confederation
- i. To make CACCI Presidential visits as an effective means for gathering first-hand information on the business situation in member countries
- j. To continue to make the CACCI Council Meetings and Conferences effective fora for exchanging information on issues of concern to members, as well as for exploring business opportunities

7. With no additional inputs or comments from the floor, the Council approved the proposed framework for the CACCI Work Program for 2023-2024, a copy of which is attached as **Annex 5**.

#### IV. REPORT OF THE CACCI BUDGET COMMISSION



8. Newly-elected CACCI Budget Commission Chairman Mr. Morris Li proceeded to submit to the Council the following report:

##### **Draft Budget for 2023**

9. The Budget Commission recommended the approval of the Draft Budget for the year 2023.

Among its highlights are as follows:



contribution from CIECA and improved interest income.

a. Total receipts for 2023 are expected to amount to **US\$341,113** compared with **US\$324,603** estimated for the whole of this year. The increase will be due mainly to the expected higher

b. On the other hand, total disbursements for next year are estimated to amount to **US\$393,795** compared with the **US\$361,004** expected for 2022, due mainly to a higher allocation for travel expenses, office supplies and printing costs, study project expenses, and training costs, which will offset the expected declines in expenses for special projects and the Annual Conference.

c. As a result, the ABA expects to post a budget deficit of **US\$52,682** by the end of 2023, compared with a deficit of **US\$36,400** estimated for 2022.

### **Budget for the Proposed CACCI Chamber Model Innovation Project**

10. The Budget Commission also approved to conduct the proposed Chamber Model Innovation (CMI) Project, which aims to assist CACCI in two major ways, namely: (a) Redefine the value of CACCI to its current and prospective members; and (b) Help CACCI member chambers to focus on businesses' needs, to become a data driven and resilient organizations, and a more attractive employer for the best talent in their respective markets.

11. However, the Budget Commission also agreed to: (a) negotiate for a lower cost proposal for the project; and (b) seek possible sources of funding for the project.

### **Membership Fee Payment Status**

12. The Budget Commission also reviewed the status of membership dues payments of Primary Members, Affiliate Members and Lifetime Special Members. Budget Commission Chairman Mr. Li expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by many members to pay their membership fees for 2022 despite the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the adverse impact of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

13. However, Mr. Li added that the Budget Commission also noted there are still a number of members who have not paid their fees for two years or more. He urged those members to make an effort to make their accounts up-to-date, and present their payment proposals to the Secretariat for consideration by the Budget Commission.

14. With no further comments and inputs, the Council noted and endorsed the Report of the CACCI Budget Commission. A copy of the Proposed Budget for 2022 is attached as **Annex 6**.

## V. HOST AND VENUE OF THE 37<sup>TH</sup> CACCI CONFERENCE IN 2023



### Host and Venue



15 CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu reported that the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce had earlier agreed to host the 37<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference in 2023. It will be recalled that the last time a CACCI annual meeting was held in Cambodia was in May 2004 when the 68<sup>th</sup> CACCI Council meeting was hosted by the Cambodia Chamber

of Commerce in Phnom Penh.

16. As more than 18 years have passed since then, Mr. Hsu said it will be a good time to bring back the CACCI Conference to Cambodia. Recognizing the increasingly important role that the country plays in the region's economic development, CACCI members will welcome the opportunity to visit Cambodia once again and take a closer look at the emerging market opportunities in the country. The local business community and industry players, in turn, will be able to personally meet and explore possible areas of cooperation with businessmen from other countries.

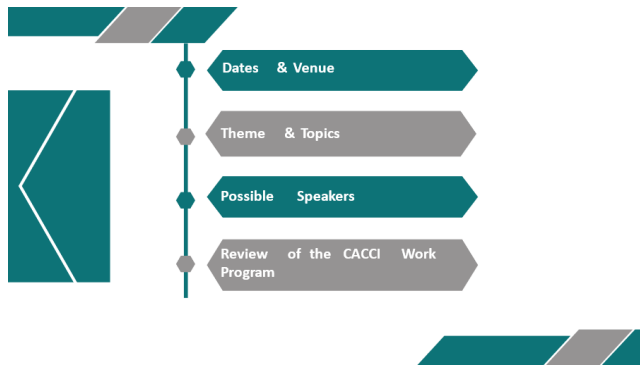
## VI. CREATION OF THE 2023 CACCI PLANNING COMMITTEE

17. CACCI Director-General Mr. David Hsu informed the Council that:



- a. A meeting of the CACCI Planning Committee is usually convened at the start of the year to discuss preparations for the next CACCI Conference.





b. Among the items to be discussed by the Committee are the exact dates and venue of the Conference, the theme and topics, possible line-up of speakers and the proposed format and tentative program. The Committee will also be

requested to review the progress and flesh out the details of the CACCI Work Program for 2022.

c. Members of the Planning Committee usually include the CACCI President, the CACCI Vice Presidents, the Director-General, and Council members who are interested to join the Committee’s deliberations.

18. Mr. Hsu thereby requested the CACCI Council to constitute the 2023 Planning Committee and give it the mandate to discuss preparations for the 37<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference as well as flesh out the details for the 2023 CACCI Work Program. The Council was also requested to authorize the constituted Planning Committee to convene a meeting for this purpose in early 2023, at a venue and date to be agreed by its members and the host organization.

19. With no further comments, the CACCI Council approved the creation of the 2023 Planning Committee to discuss preparations for the 37<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference and authorized it to meet in early 2023 at a date and venue to be mutually agreed by CACCI and the host organization. The Council encouraged members to join the meeting.

**VII. REPORT ON THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

20. The Chairman of each of the Breakout Sessions held on November 28 were requested to present summary reports on their respective sessions.

**Food and Agriculture Breakout Session**

21. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha reported that he had the honor of chairing of the most important session, namely the Food and Agriculture breakout session which carried the theme “Recent Trends and Developments in the Food and Agriculture Sector”.

22. He reported that the session had three speakers, one of whom was a last-minute replacement of someone who could not come due to health reasons. The

three speakers – two from Australia and one from New Zealand – shared their in-depth knowledge gained through their long experience and the findings from their research projects.

- a. Dr. Megan Fisher, Pro-Vice Chancellor, La Trobe University, touched on how Australia has grown incredibly, with attention focused on investment and R&D. She touched on global warming and climate change and their impact on agricultural output. She stressed on the need to upscale and develop new technology for both plant and livestock for sustainable development. She also touched on genetic technology, soil, water and green revolution.
  - b. Dr. Jen Taylor, Deputy Director, Science, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Agriculture and Food, touched on the challenges and risk of global hunger problem. She focused on nutritional value and not only on yield, and stressed the necessity of modeling and forecasting the changing diverse climatic conditions. She also talked about the need for proper management of depleting water resources, and for helping to improve supply chain management from farm to the dining table.
  - c. Mr. Justin Lemmens, CEO of Sustainable Foods Ltd., had a pre-recorded video presentation focusing on the products and programs of his company. He said that his company's main concern is health food with proper nourishment and high nutritional value, and that his innovative products have been well recognized and awarded, including his plant-based protein sources which are intended to replace white meat.
23. Mr. Shrestha offered the following comments on the way forwarded as far as the food and agriculture sector is concerned:
- a. The Asian Food and Agriculture Council of CACCI needs serious attention from the CACCI Secretariat. The rapid population growth over the years has brought the number of people globally to nearly 8 billion currently, and this is expected to hit 10 billion by the year 2050. This poses a great challenge in terms of meeting food consumption requirements.
  - b. Approximately 27% of the world's work force are engaged in agriculture, of which about 83% are unorganized small landholders.
  - c. Depleting water resources, rising population, rural migration to urban areas, changing habits in food consumption, loss and wastage in food, natural calamities due to global warming. And political conflicts and war have greatly affected people's lives and livelihood.

- d. There is a need for greater knowledge-sharing and international collaboration for the benefit of all. We should work collectively in order to be interdependent rather than be dependent on one or two countries only, as no country is self-sufficient in everything. Let us make this world free of hunger and worth living with our collective efforts.

### **Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP)**

24. Mr. Rommel Gerodias, Vice Chairman of YEGAP and President of A101 Innovations, Inc., reported that the YEGAP breakout session was well-attended, with the participants showing a lot of interest in the exchange of information during the panel discussion on issues surrounding the session theme of “Promoting Entrepreneurship in the Age of Economic Disruption”

25. A diverse range of panelists from various backgrounds, cultures, and businesses were present. These included Ms Julia Truong, Founder and Director, JT Production Management from Australia); Mr. Michael Lim, Founder and Managing Director of Beyond Value from Australia; Ms. Vani Nades, Founder and CEO of Emstreet Holdings from Papua New Guinea, and Mr. Jay Thian, General Manager, Luxurily Group from Taipei.

25. The panelists discussed the difficulties they encountered as entrepreneurs, particularly during the pandemic. They also shared their experiences and how they restructured their businesses during the lockdowns. The challenges of being young, a woman, and a startup in the business ecosystem were mentioned in each discussion, as well as how these factors affected their journey as entrepreneurs.

26. Following the panelists' presentations, there was a lively Q&A session. The panelists have asked the chamber leaders for three major forms of assistance, namely:

- Access to financial assistance, grants, and investments
- Access to the CACCI Chamber's network for business opportunities
- A seat at the table to provide the Young Entrepreneurs (specifically YEGAP) the opportunity to actively participate and collaborate with CACCI member chambers.

### **Asian Council on Tourism**

27. Mr. Anura Lokuhetty, Chairman of the Asian Council on Tourism and Chairman Red Apple Travels & Holidays Lanka (Pvt) Ltd reported on the discussions made during the Breakout Session on Tourism, which focused on the topic “Post Covid Trends and Challenges in Tourism”. In his summary report, Mr. Anura highlighted the following:



- a. The session commenced with his presentation which covered a comparison of global tourism from 2019 – 2022. He noted the following
- Tourism being the largest civil industry in the world and the global impact on tourism due to COVID outbreak.
  - The impact on Asia Pacific was compared for the same period. The fact that tourism provided employment opportunities to over 380 million people in the world mostly for the most vulnerable sector which is women and youth and 57% of this from the industry are females was highlighted.
  - Taking the above into consideration, he also presented the recovery process taken in the continents and the main factors weighing on the recovery of international tourism.
  - The emerging trends due to covid, how to overcome the impact and be back to the pre-COVID period prior to 2019 was also discussed during the presentation.
  - The presentation was concluded after explaining the way forward from the global impact created by covid 19.

28. Mr. Anura's presentation was followed up by a panel discussion that featured three panelists consisting of:

- Ms. Shae Keenan, Chief Marketing Officer, Visit Victoria
- Mr. Syed Habib Ali, Chairman, Tourism Developers Association of Bangladesh
- Mr. Gerelsaikhan Tzolmon, Head of Foreign Relations and Cooperation Department, Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

29. Ms Shae Keenan highlighted the impacts created to the global MICE segment. Mr Syed Habib Ali emphasized on the sustainability of the industry in Bangladesh and Mr Gerelsaikhan Tzolmon explained the way forward in Mongolia after covid 19.

30. During the panel discussion, it was proposed that webinars on issues of concern to the tourism sector be organized prior to the annual Conference, and that tourism be given more prominence in CACCI Conferences as most of the countries depend on tourism.

**Asian ICT Council**

31. Asian ICT Council Chairman Mr. James Chou presented the following summary report on his breakout session:

- a. The Asian ICT Council breakout session was held at 9:00 am, Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Chairman James Chiao welcomed the audience and introduced the other two speakers, Ms. Natasha Bunshaw, General Manager of National Delivery at DB Results and Mr. Magnus Ohlson, Head of Advisory at NTT.
- b. Mr. Chiao continued with his presentation on “Digital Twin: Smart Solutions for Better Future, Reimagine Our Business in Post Pandemic.” After 2 ½ years into this century’s pandemic, we have all settled into what can only be called an uncomfortable uncertainty. What are business and city leaders to do? Mr. Chiao stated that there are choices about the way forward. He pointed out that Pandemics is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.
- c. Responding to Coronavirus's impact on the "contactless economy" demanding for tangible smart solutions, Mr. Chiao stated that Taiwan has a solid IoT foundation, can provide a range of key components, has excellent engineers, and has the ability to innovate and develop all kinds of intelligent applications, from smart chips, sensors, and servers with AI and big data analysis to build customized smart solutions.
- d. Mr. Chiao showed examples of smart mobility and smart streetlights using AI and machine vision. Mr. Chiao also introduced a new concept of Digital Twin that provides a model that effectively combines digital technology innovation and operating mechanism for future sustainable business or urban planning and development.
- e. Ms. Natasha Bunshaw presented what’s changed post-pandemic. Ms. Bunshaw presented digital smart solutions using low-code and no-code platforms with digital operations, digital experiences, and digital core. Ms. Bunshaw also described that no longer just large organizations being targeted with cybersecurity threats. Attacks are now predominantly driven by money. Ms. Bunshaw ended her presentation with examples on talent retention and acquisition that plays critical role in building smart solutions.
- f. Mr. Magnus Ohlson presented “Promoting Smart Solutions in the Post-Pandemic Era” He started with a question: ”Are we architecting for a better future?” He said that industry and planet are facing tremendous challenges around effective utilization of environmental, financial and human resources. Mr. Ohlson stated that traditional ways of operating may no longer be fit for purpose. He introduced NTT’s mission that is to use technology to help clients

to create a better, more sustainable world, followed by a list of initiatives on environment, diversity and inclusion, SDGs, and ESG investment indexes.

- g. Mr. Ohlson showed a chart illustrating the business pressures and the technology evolution with a list of challenges. He then presented the smart cities in Liège region, Belgium, and the connected city project with the City of Las Vegas. He also illustrated the smart applications that shape the future of sport.
- h. Finally, Mr. Ohlson provided a list of thoughts for the future: Technology for good, Always consider sustainability, Think beyond organizational boundaries and consider how “assets” may be leveraged by others, Adopt a Platforms approach and aim for “Smart”, and We are “Better Together”.
- i. The three presentations were followed by warm discussions and engagement from the audience with the three speakers. The meeting ended at 10:30 am.

## **VIII. RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE VICTORIAN CCI**

18. The Council passed a Resolution of Thanks to Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for graciously co-hosting the 36<sup>th</sup> CACCI Conference in Melbourne, and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the various meetings and social functions.

19. It was also agreed that a Plaque of Appreciation would be presented to Victorian CCI during the Gala Dinner on November 28, 2022.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

20. With no other matters to discuss, President McMullin thanked the Council members for their presence and active participation in the meeting discussions, and expressed his hopes to see them again at the next CACCI Conference in 2023.

## Annex 1

### **Special Statement of Mr. Hiroshi Oshima, CACCI Vice President and Special Advisor of Japan CCI**

I am Hiroshi Oshima, Vice President of CACCI and Special Advisor of JCCI. I am pleased to be meet you all in person this year in this face-to-face meeting after three years, together with Mr. Peter McMullin.

If I may I would like to spend a little bit of time to talk about the Japanese economy working towards recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and JCCI's initiatives to support this recovery.

Firstly, with regards to the Japanese economy, while the annualized GDP for the July – September 2022 period was negative at minus 1.2% year on year overall due to the rise in import costs, we are seeing signs of improvement in consumer spending and capital investment. In October we saw significant easing of border restrictions which had been strictly enforced until then; the inbound tourists demand is starting to create positive economic effects. However, at the moment, Japanese people and businesses are hit by complex factors such as the record low value of yen, soaring resource prices, and supply chain disruption due to heightened geopolitical risks.

The current inflation is a negative factor in tackling recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but I feel that it is important to see this as an opportunity and take measures to turn around the Japanese economy which has been sluggish for many years, to achieve economic growth at a similar level to other countries and bring about a virtuous cycle of increased price and wages.

What drives this virtuous cycle of growth and distribution is none other than the enhanced vitality of SMEs which represents 99.7% of the total number of companies in Japan, approximately 70% of employment and approximately 50% of added value amount. At JCCI, we will continue to support SMEs that are bravely taking on the challenge to transform themselves to create innovation, promote diversity, and work towards carbon neutrality.

JCCI commemorated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Japanese economy has faced many hardships over this century, from postwar recovery to bursting of

the bubble economy and the great East Japan earthquake. However, each time we have overcome the societal challenges making full use of JCCI's network capability.

Today the world is facing unprecedented number of difficulties. The theme of this year's conference is "Emerging Powerhouses: How chambers of commerce will define the new economy". One of the important roles that we can play is to make use of CACCI's network and get the chambers of commerce in the Asia Pacific region to cooperate even more closely in order to come up with solutions to the global issues. I sincerely hope that this year's conference will be a forum where the world issues and challenges are shared, and where further collaboration is created.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone at the VCCI who have worked tirelessly to overcome the adversity of the pandemic to host this year's conference and to wish for the further development of CACCI under the new leadership of President McMullin.