



**ASEAN NEW ZEALAND  
BUSINESS COUNCIL INC**



## **ABOUT ASEAN**

### **News and Views from ASEAN Markets - March 2016**

#### **Happy Birthday AIAL**

Congratulations to Council member, **Auckland Airport** on its 50th anniversary, recently celebrated.

Those of us who (like your editor) first flew into Mangere Airport in 1966 can only marvel at its transformation into a world class port.

To read the media release please [click here](#)

#### **Substantial stake in primary exports will bring Maori TPP benefits**

Maori are amongst the biggest beneficiaries of TPP argues Export New Zealand's Catherine Beard in this NBR [article](#)

Beard's argument is that it's good for our economy as tariffs fall on primary exports, particularly for Maori, who tend to hold on to their assets for future generations.

NBR adds that Maori are significant owners of our exports. The Maori stake in agriculture, forestry, and fishing amounted to around \$10 billion, a 30% share including a 40% share of the fishing quota, 10% of kiwifruit, 30% of lamb production, 36% of forestry and 10% of dairy production.

#### **Quantifying TPP**

For those who missed it [here](#) is the Government's National Interest Analysis quantifying the benefits.

#### **Jacobi and Jokowi on TPP...**

and [here](#) is expert commentator, Stephen Jacobi's paper to the Latin America NZ Business Council

.... Meantime [Jakarta Post](#) quotes Indonesian President Joko Widodo insisting that Indonesia must seriously consider joining the 12 members of the agreement. The Philippines and Thailand are also expressing interest.

#### **Brexit and ASEAN? Parallels and contrasts**

From the Malaysian Star comes this thoughtful [essay](#) authored by former ASEAN-BAC Chairman and keynote speaker at ANZBC's 2015 Forum, **Tan Sri Dr Munir Majid**. Are there lessons for ASEAN in general and Malaysia in particular?

#### **Laos assumes ASEAN Chair as AEC kicks in**

Meantime as Jakarta Post [reports](#) Laos takes the ASEAN Chair with an early and critical Foreign Minister's retreat amidst hopes that this year will be the coming of age for the lower middle income but fast growing economy.

#### **... and Viet Nam pledges full support**

A later report from the retreat from a Viet Nameese perspective has that country fully behind the ASEAN priorities.

To read the Viet Nam News report please [click here](#)

### **Philippine growth assured**

Business World [Online](#) reports senior economists remaining optimistic that good growth can be sustained post-election if attention is paid to infrastructure, agriculture, mining and attracting FDI.

... though IMF demurs ...

But latest [IMF forecasts](#) reduce anticipated growth rates for the Philippines

### **Philippines looking to develop Halal market**

The Halal sector is anticipated to record growth of 10% p.a. til 2020, reaching a value of USD2.5 billion. The Philippines has passed bills to ensure it participates in this lucrative market says this [report](#) from Cosmetics Design Asia.

### **HCM City's Silicon Valley**

Long time member, Mitchell Pham of Augen Group, has sent us this [BBC article](#) on IT venture capital initiatives in Ho Chi Minh City which are set to rival Silicon Valley.

Contributions to About ASEAN from members are most welcome.

### **Indonesia 2nd most complex business environment**

A TMF study has found Indonesia to be the second most complex to do business in. Malaysia and Thailand also feature in the top 15.

TMF comments Indonesia's legal system ranks behind its regional peers and it suffers from a high level of disjointed bureaucracy.

By the way, NZ at 91 improved 19 places since last year's study and is in effect fifth least complex.

To read the report please [click here](#)

### **Myanmar business round up**

For Irrawaddy's late February round up please [click here](#)

### **Timorbiz - TradeInvest open for business**

International companies looking to do business in Timor-Leste have a new agency to support them. TradeInvest Timor-Leste is charged with helping international companies obtain permits and licences and analysing the local business environment.

To read the latest Timorbiz please [click here](#)

### **AYBLI resumes with ag visit offered to ASEAN young entrepreneurs**

Applications are open until 1 April for entry to a new Government programme for young ASEAN business leaders to study our world renowned agriculture sector. The week long programme is scheduled for June this year.

For details from organiser Asia NZ Foundation and to apply please [click here](#)

### **2015 Dashboard shows 13% growth in student visas**

2015 was a strong year for student visa approvals with a 13% increase on 2014. First time student visas accounted for 45% of this. The number of students renewing their student visas also increased significantly. Growth was driven by

India, China, the Philippines, the USA, and Brazil.

To read full details from Education NZ please [click here](#)

### More GVC and better DVA key to NZ BGA - QED

“The Government’s (BGA) Business Growth Agenda should more explicitly recognise that GVC (Global Value Chain) participation will be the key channel through which export gains and improvements to DVA (Domestic Value Added) and living standards will occur”

That’s NZIER’s key finding in what – if you can get through the acronyms – is a readable and interesting [report](#) commissioned by NZPECC (okay, that’s the NZ Pacific Economic Cooperation Council)

### Instant dates – apps for ASEAN

As ANZBC is a prime networking function for members, it’s appropriate to conclude the first edition of About ASEAN with a run-down of the plethora (13 at last count) of dating apps now available in the region.

Kirsten Han of South East Asia [Globe](#) brings you the very latest on IT matchmaking applications.

