



**ASEAN NEW ZEALAND
BUSINESS COUNCIL INC**



ABOUT ASEAN

News and Views from ASEAN Markets - May 2016

ANZBC to chair ASEAN NTB steering committee

Further strengthening its links with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, ANZBC was elected Chair of its important NTB steering committee at a series of joint meetings in Singapore at the end of April.

ANZBC's delegate to ASEAN-BAC, David Catty said ASEAN-BAC is strongly advocating the removal of NTBs in ASEAN to ASEAN Economic Ministers and has recently received from them a clear mandate to work closely with their Trade Partners.

ANZBC's second exclusive meeting with ASEAN-BAC will be in Vientiane, probably in August. Anyone interested in either attending the meeting or suggesting a partner in ASEAN who might wish to attend is asked to contact dcatty@asean.org.nz

Catching the ASEAN bus....

Arguing that to make effective progress, ASEAN must work from bottom up as well as top down, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Chair, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Munir, cites the NTB steering committee task as an example of how ASEAN-BAC and all associated private sector groups can achieve better outcomes to address AEC shortcomings and imperfections.

To read the full article please [click here](#)

In depth Australian report signals ASEAN focus intensifying

Meantime we continue to see signals that Australia is intensifying its efforts in ASEAN. For instance, there are moves to co-ordinate Australian Chambers in ASEAN and Government funding is being increased.

This Australian report [Why ASEAN and why now?](#) sets out some of the initiatives and is an interesting update for anyone interested in the region.

OBOR the modern silk road to facilitate growing trade

China's One Belt One Road (OBOR), involving 60 percent of the world's population and half its GDP, is an ambitious initiative with the potential to create a new model of growth from Asia to the Middle East and Europe.

Launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013, it is the subject of active discussion and planning in ASEAN.

We're indebted to strategic partner, [ANZ's Blue Notes](#) for this article, outlining the concept and identifying opportunities.

RCEP flies into the radar again

Whilst TPP took the limelight and has become a political football in USA, RCEP is quietly moving on with some further progress being reported at the Perth negotiations last month. It all moves to Auckland for the next round in June.

Participants seek to conclude by the end of the year. That's going some if it's to be a good quality outcome.

For Trade Minister McClay's announcement please [click here](#)

Vietnamese Young Leaders on benefits of TPP

Two Young ASEAN Business Leaders from Viet Nam give their views on TPP in this [Asia New Zealand Foundation article](#)

A history of our ASEAN relationship

In this history of the 40 years of our diplomatic relations with ASEAN, Dr Malcolm McKinnon plots the advancement of the relationship through the tensions of the Cold War era to its modern dynamic trading and diplomatic focus.

To read the report commissioned by Asia NZ Foundation please [click here](#)

Duterte wins Philippine Presidential Election

Davao Mayor, Rodrigo Duterte has been elected the next Philippine President.

Just prior to the election Finance Asia published a [useful summary](#) of the candidates and main issues

And for a local Manila Times perspective just after the election [please click here](#)

New Philippine Ambassador credentials presented

We welcome His Excellency Jesus S Domingo, who has taken up his position as Ambassador in New Zealand for the Republic of the Philippines. He replaces Virginia Benavidez, who was a good friend of the Council throughout her tenure.

For more detail please [click here](#)

Gareth Pidgeon to take up diplomatic role in KL

MFAT's Gareth Pidgeon will be leaving his role in the Asia Pacific Regional Integration Division to become Deputy High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur in August.

Myanmar business update

For the May monthly Myanmar business update from Irrawaddy please [click here](#)

.... And Pizza Hut and KFC rule ok in Myanmar

SEA Globe reports on the rapid uptake of branded consumer goods and opportunities for the F&B sector in Myanmar in [this article](#)

NZ techcos head to Singapore

New Zealand's cloud video production company, 90 Seconds, has moved to Singapore to take up an \$11 million investment led by global venture capital firm, Sequoia Capital.

For details from Law Fuel [please click here](#)

New bill eases business procedures in Malaysia

The Companies Bill 2015 was passed by the House of Representatives last month. 2016. It will bring major reforms to Malaysia's corporate landscape in line with international trends, aiming to ease doing business in Malaysia.

To read Zico Law's commentary please [click here](#)

Timorbiz – April 2016

The ADB forecasts GDP growth in Timor-Leste to reach 4.5% in 2016 and 5.5% in 2017. That's off a figure of 4.1% for 2015. ADB notes that "while the economic outlook for Timor-Leste remains bright, the country is facing declining oil royalties and this highlights the need to diversify the economy."

For this and other news from our post in Dili please [click here](#)

SIA to partner Indonesians to boost tourism

Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism are partnering to boost foreign tourist arrivals into Indonesia. The parties are now finalising details in a memorandum of co-operation.

Under the three-year partnership, SIA will support the Ministry's tourism campaign "Wonderful Indonesia" that has set out to achieve a target of 20 million annual foreign tourist arrivals by 2019.

For more details contact RachaelJ@botica.co.nz

Manila direct service

Air New Zealand has announced a direct thrice weekly service to Manila. Due to commence in December and flying direct, it will add to the four times weekly Philippine Airlines service through Cairns.

For more detail please [click here](#)

The rise and rise of LCCs in ASEAN

Meantime, as ASEAN pursues an open skies policy, SEA Globe reports on the rise and rise of South East Asian low cost carriers (LCCs).

SE Asia's LCCs ended 2015 with 610 aircraft, with 1,100-plus planes on order. To read the article [click here](#)

Will Chinese replace English in Singapore?

The Straits Times Editor at large, Han Fook Kwan, asks, as Chinese influence ever increases, if English may eventually be replaced by Chinese as the official language.

Which may give cause for reflection to anyone still doubting that we should place more emphasis on Asian languages and awareness in schools in New Zealand.

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