

2016 Canada-ASEAN Business Forum supports strengthened trade relationship in Southeast Asia

September 8, Jakarta, Indonesia

The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) today concluded the 2016 Canada-ASEAN Business Forum (CABF) which was conducted from September 7 to 8 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The two-day forum successfully drew over 260 participants and brought together global business leaders and senior government officials from Canada and Southeast Asia to explore opportunities to accelerate multilateral trade and cooperation.

Themed “Partnering for Growth in ASEAN”, the forum featured industry breakout sessions as well as keynote addresses and remarks by a number of eminent figures. Participants had ample opportunities for business networking and for discussing their priorities with government representatives. They left energized by the opportunities in the region and plans for closer Canada-ASEAN ties.

“The Canada-ASEAN Business Council is an important part of the Canada-ASEAN relationship, and we are working in partnership with the CABC to grow Canada-ASEAN business” said Marie-Louise Hannan, Canada’s Ambassador to ASEAN, who participated in the Forum.

During the forum, the CABC also released the 2016 [Canada-ASEAN Business Outlook Survey](#) results which provide insight on the Canada-ASEAN business relationship. The CABC also announced the plan to release their study on impact and prospective opportunities of a possible [Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement](#) in the first quarter of 2017.

According to CABC President Wayne Farmer, “The potential for Canadian companies in ASEAN is substantial, but Canadian presence in the region lags global peers. With a Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in the works, there is no better time to focus on the Canada-ASEAN business partnership development,”

Quick Facts

- Being Canada’s sixth largest trading partner, ASEAN plays an important role in Canada’s international trade development. The region has some of the most dynamic markets in the world. However, Canada only represents 0.5% of ASEAN trade.
- In 2015, ASEAN had a collective GDP estimated at over \$3.1 trillion and the value of Canada-ASEAN trade totaled \$21.4 billion.
- Beyond the impressive volume, the trade development also expands into diverse sectors, including oil and gas, high tech, telecommunications, agri-food, financial services, aviation and consumer goods.



Background Information: About the Canada-ASEAN Business Council

Founded in 2012 at the first ASEAN-Canada Economic Ministers Meeting in Cambodia, the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) supports Canadians doing business in ASEAN. It is the preeminent Canadian organization with an ASEAN region-wide mandate to promote trade and increase trade relations between Canadian and ASEAN businesses.

CABC provides high-level networking opportunities, region-specific market intelligence and research, and targeted events to help its members grow their business in ASEAN.

The CABC organizes the Canada-ASEAN Business Forum in line with its mandate to promote and increase trade relations between Canada and ASEAN and to help members build business opportunities in the region.

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