


PBEC - Pacific Basin Economic Council
"Looking at the future for the APAC region" - A business perspective.

Given all the major events that have happened in 2021 and the major summits that will have taken place shortly prior to the week of dialogue discussions, PBEC hosts experts, economists and business leaders to provide their latest perspectives.

With the realisation that this pandemic is a multi year problem, there is pressure growing on Governments to open up their borders and economies from business leaders and the general public.

Living with the virus and getting back to normal still seems to be only in its infancy as a coordinated policy. We will hear from sector leaders in the region and explore what the future looks like.

Data is the new gold of asset classes for business and governments alike in order to service their clients and the public better, but also to remain competitive and relevant.

But what sectors stand-out that will affect us the most and also sufficiently tackle the global climate crisis.

With the ongoing US-China rivalry is impacting the international environment for investment and trade in APAC, the current roadmap to achieving the targets being announced seems precarious for business.

Who have been the winners and losers in all this so far and who will be the winners and losers in the future?

All these targets set require funding to achieve them and the institutional international frameworks that are inclusive and work for the majority without stifling innovation and technological advances.

Join us for what promises to be an enlightening series of roundtable dialogues on everything from food security, education, manufacturing, finance, energy, supply chains, logistics & investors to a digitally enabled sustainable society.

PBEC - Taking a glimpse into the future for APAC - a week long review through a series of dialogues

Monday 22nd November 2021

10.00-11.45 Singapore/Hong Kong time

Reviewing announcements made at G20, APECNZ 2021 & COP26 summits - Key takeaways

For multi-jurisdiction business leaders its vitally important to have a good understanding where things or new policies are potentially heading in order to make informed investment decisions.

Has the announcements at these annual summits made any significant mindset changes to how asian based businesses plan to operate or tackle the recovery and climate concerns?

We gather PBEC experts & consultate generals to provide their take and commentary on these recent announcements to decipher what they may mean and provide some predictions.

Monday 22nd November 2021

1700-1830 Singapore/Hong Kong time

Topic: The future of APAC living and powering it

Smart cities, smart airports, smart living, renewable energy, zero carbon, AI, blockchain, drone deliveries, robotics and machine learning. We hear these terms and in many cases they already are a reality for many of us without even realising the chance has occurred.

Bringing leading experts in their field, responsible for cool initiatives and futuristic thinking together around the virtual table to share where this is all heading for humankind especially in APAC and how businesses and the general public are adapting to get on this moving train to the future of living.

The guilty pleasures can still be enjoyed but the movement to responsible and sustainable living has gained significant momentum, and its time we all got on board if we are to save our planet from permanent harm and future generations.

We will hear from oil refinery companies, architects, consultants and engineers at the cutting edge of city and living design concepts, also learn from experts in AI, big data, Machine learning and robotics.

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

10.00-11.30 Singapore/Hong Kong time

The role of family and the Asian family office during and post Covid crisis

Hong Kong has gone its most turbulent and uncertain periods since the handover to China in 1997. Many families at that time decided to leave HK for pastures new like Canada, U.K. and USA. The uncertainty forced them into a decision

We are witnessing a similar exodus of talent and families from HK in 2020-2022 as border restrictions ease, more are expected to leave. But many have decided the grass is not necessarily greener elsewhere. It does face high costs of living

still and housing for the youth is still a major challenge to get on the property ladder without parents helping. This is a similar story playing out in Singapore and other major cities across Asia as wage inflation has not kept pace with house and flat prices.

The role therefore families, family businesses and even family offices play particularly in Asian policies and society is placed so high and is something you need to understand to also live here.

There influence in business and politics is everywhere, dynasties have grown and fallen, come under attack or failed to adapt to a fast changing society. Corruption and cooeration with authorities have long been pointed at the prominent families.

But despite some negative press, overall they make a huge contribution to job creation and social welfare with many examples of generosity shown.

We speak to 1-2 of those big family businesses, we hear from the service providers who serve them, what's hot and what's not for Asian wealthy families, how are they addressing both the demands from within their own ranks from younger

even more passionate members of the family and those pressures from society & keeping on the right side of Government, when the world seems a more dangerous place.

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

17.15-18.30 Singapore/Hong Kong time

Financial services & investment environment - Powering the APAC digital transformation

Asia including China in recent years has leapfrogged many western countries in its ability to adopt fintech related products and services. We are seeing China leading the way on digital currency adoption with the digital Yuan.

Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, Singapore and Shanghai/Shenzhen are all major cities recognised as IFC's that have stolen a lead on the rest of the world with digital payments, e-commerce transactions and digital trading.

All are jockeying for supremacy in the region. Can all survive and thrive, what are the challenges smaller exchanges and IFC's like Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh face to attract more investors and activity?

Can financing be decentralised to accommodate more SME's and cross border trade finance requirements?

What role if any can cryptocurrency exchanges play in the wider context of financial freedom in APAC?

Hear from leading experts, regulators and academics on these areas. What are IFC's doing to engage the digital sector and supprt clients carbon-neutral future in trading?

Wednesday 24th November 2021

10.00-11.30 Singapore/Hong Kong time

Are global governing bodies namely, UN, APEC, WTO, WHO, G20, ASEAN & the Pacific Alliance lacking initiative and innovation

PBEC thought we would put this talk into the mix, playing devils advocate in some ways to have an open discussion on the question of global governance or perhaps incompetence.

The term the "World Order" is frequently used by journalists and correspondants to describe the post WW2 rule of law and the institutions that were formed to in the main prevent us from falling into a World War 3.

Over the decades since USA has always been recognised and referred to as the global super power alongside the former Soviet Union. However China can safely claim to be the latest super power economically.

The term 'nation building' is likely to have come from what the US would deem was a success of the post war era of these two poster child countries. US influence however with its allies

and in global institutions named above has waned in the past 10+ years, firstly under the then President Obama administration, then Trump and now Biden's as an America first sentiment grew.

There has been lot of talk about reforming these institutions, they have allowed to become extremely political even more so than before, when their purpose was meant to be aligned multilateralism and the collective benefit for all.

We invite advocates for these institutions to make their case on why we should continue to support them as there are little alternatives v those opposing them in their current form and share ideas on such alternative ways for global governance & security.

Wednesday 24th November 2021

17.15-18.30 Singapore/Hong Kong time

Technology & Innovation in Education - Access & Affordability

China Government earlier this year brought out measures that halted the expansion of privately run online education service providers, mainly as part of its strategy in tackling a diminishing birthrate that has been a direct consequence

of its multi-decade one child policy. The cost of bringing up children with a quality education and the pressures on parents to enrol their children into multiple extra private tuition has gotten to an unsustainable level in many countries.

We will hear about the opportunities and challenges in delivering this digitally and the transition that is taking place on a global scale. The niche but growing digital badge market segment within education is one such area.

We will hear from business schools, educational related business service providers, Government officials and academics on how the education sector is shaping up for its own future.

<p>Thursday 25th November 2021 10.00-11.30 Singapore/Hong Kong time Resilient supply chains in APAC - Why digital trade platform enablers are focused on promoting transparency for success Despite the pandemic - goods and services still have to move around from A to B. However with the tight border restrictions and movement restrictions imposed by certain countries, evidence of free trade has been hard to find. Governments were slow to react and support infrastructure required to move and store the vaccines for instance in 2020 in the aviation and road haulage sectors globally. Likewise the increase of e-commerce and demand for online shopping was affected. Due in part to the cost of a container by sea freight or a pallet by air freight tripled at its peak and continues to fluctuate depending on timing, port and country. This cost typically gets passed onto the end customer with several brokers in the supply/demand chain. Its understandable that manufacturers going online should result in more direct sales and increase efficiencies in the supply chain. However the larger brokers/integrators have not been waiting for the inevitable. They like many others including financial institutions have moved online with the resources at their disposal to retain their grip on the movement and availability of goods and services. So is it as transparent as we are made to believe? Experts sourcing in APAC, to logistics providers to transport Government ministers discuss the geopolitical challenges and the grey lines of crossing national security laws or trade tariffs as a more complex digital trading world emerges from this pandemic.</p>
<p>Thursday 25th November 2021 17.15-18.30 Singapore/Hong Kong time Looking to a new frontier - when the earth is not enough Given all the bad headlines of global events in the past 18 months you could be forgiven for wanting to get off this planet we call earth and look for pastures new. Well during Covid, unless you have been completely cut-off to social media and newspapers you will have heard about the latest space exploration and space tourism efforts globally by Governments and private/public partnerships with entrepreneurs like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos & Richard Branson. Well in Asia Pacific there are also many entrepreneurs involved in not just exploration but the low and high gravity orbit for the latest satellite communications deployment. We will take a look at where we are and what we can expect over the coming years in this whole exciting area that has rediscovered its mojo. Some of the challenges it now poses including space waste and the liability factors for when things go wrong. How does all this affect or benefit the average joe on the street who in some shape or form end up contributing towards it through their taxes.</p>
<p>Horasis Asia Meeting Virtual Summit 2021 Friday 26th November 2021 10.30-11.15 Singapore/Hong Kong time Asian Centric Sustainable Finance in Mitigating Climate Change The UN says greater emphasis should be placed on de-carbonizing heavy industry and incentivising SME's to follow suit. Rapidly developing Asian nations must meet their UN commitments while allocating funding to reboot their economies post COVID. How will Asian governments, investors and the banking sector approach the novelty of 'green investment'? How will they support innovation for a green transformation? What are the stumbling blocks?</p>