

European innovative solutions to support South East Asian building and construction companies

European solutions contribute to make the construction sector more competitive, resource efficient and sustainable.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

MEDIA CONTACT

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SINGAPORE, 15 October 2020 – The Construction and Building Technologies business mission, under the EU Business Avenues in South East Asia programme, brings nearly 50 companies to share their latest products and technologies to the region.

These companies will be in Singapore and the Philippines by participating virtually in PhilConstruct 2020, one of the key tradeshows for the sector in the region.

Says Barbara Plinkert, European Union Ambassador to Singapore: “The construction and building sector in the EU provides 18 million direct jobs and contributes to about 9% of the EU's GDP. It creates new jobs, drives economic growth, and provides solutions for social, climate and energy challenges, which are of high priority on the EU’s recovery agenda to tackle the social and economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“We are pleased to welcome this virtual business mission to South East Asia, which will showcase European solutions in automation and robotisation techniques, energy efficiency solutions, quality monitoring and control, smart and green building materials, installation systems and products, and many more”, adds Ambassador Plinkert.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily affected the building and construction industry, the second EU Business Avenues Mission to South East Asia in this particular sector comes at a timely moment as Singapore is set to recover from 2021 onwards with a number of large-scale construction projects and initiatives.

Public residential developments and upgrading works, developments at the Jurong Lake District, construction of new healthcare facilities and several infrastructure projects such as the construction of the Cross Island MRT Line, provide a great number of opportunities for innovative European technologies and business partnerships between European and local stakeholders.¹

To support a further recovery of the industry, Singapore announced two new initiatives last month². Firstly, the Built Environment Living

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Lab Framework (BE LLF) which aims to facilitate test-bedding of innovative proposals in urban spaces and living environment. This initiative hopes to drive industry-led innovation and commercialisation of technology solutions and provide opportunities for companies to increase their competitive advantage by translating their technology and innovation investments into enterprise-level capabilities.

The second initiative is the Skills Framework for Built Environment (BE) to ensure that our workers are equipped with the right skills and training to harness these new technologies in their work.

In other encouraging news for the sector, International property group, Lendlease recently announced that it will set up a S\$40 million product development centre in Singapore to accelerate the digital transformation of this sector. The aim is to position Singapore as a global innovation hub that leads the market in automating the creation of tomorrow's smart buildings.

In Philippines, the government has announced a cut in the Department of Public Works and Highway budget in April this year. However, the government has also announced a PHP1.1 trillion (USD20.8 billion) budget for public infrastructure. This is expected to support the completion of a number of major flagship projects under the "Build, Build, Build" programme over the next two years. GlobalData forecasts the construction industry to shrink by 9.2% in 2020. The industry will recover, however, posting an average annual growth of 8.3% between 2021-2024, supported by investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education and renewable energy projects.³

The construction of the Malolos-Clark Railway Project, a flagship Philippine project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is expected to begin soon, following the signing of three civil works contracts worth more than \$1.7 billion. The project will not only create 24,000 jobs and drive the country's economic revival, but it will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost economic activity in regional growth centers like Clark.⁴

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South East Asia construction and building companies, contractors, suppliers, property developers and architects can schedule video meetings with the European companies from 1pm to 6pm between 5 to 8 November 2020 to establish new partnerships.

¹<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/projected-construction-demand-revised-downwards-by-10-billion-for-this-year-some-pickup>

²<http://seac.tradelinkmedia.biz/publications/7/news/2459>

³<https://www.giiresearch.com/report/time237680-construction-philippines-key-trends-opportunities.html>

⁴<https://www.marketscreener.com/news/latest/ADB-Asian-Development-Bank-Contracts-Worth-1-7-Billion-Awarded-for-ADB-Funded-Malolos-ndash-Clark--31502299/>

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About EU Business Avenues in South East Asia

The EU Business Avenues in South East Asia programme provides a comprehensive suite of dedicated services covering business, cultural and legal needs - Market Studies, Business Culture Awareness Training and Business Meetings. All of these are expected to facilitate collaboration with local players, in the form of joint ventures, distributorships or licensing agreements, and to smoothen and speed up the process of entry into local markets.

This EU-funded initiative was launched in June 2016 and aims to bring up to 1,000 European SMEs on targeted business missions to South East Asia over the next five years to help them to develop their businesses outside of Europe. Built upon a concept of matchmaking and business support services, the Business Avenues programme helps European companies to forge long-lasting business collaborations in several markets, including Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

During 2016-2020, the business missions under this programme will cover the following sectors: Contemporary European Design, Construction & Building Technologies, Environment & Water Technologies, Organic Food & Beverage, Green Energy Technologies, Healthcare & Medical Technologies, and Information & Communication Technologies. For more information, visit www.eubusinessavenues.com.

The full list of companies participating in this business mission and a description of their companies/products can be found in <https://www.eubusinessavenues.com/business-missions/construction-building-technologies-2020/exhibitor-directory>