



CANADA-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL NAMES JEAN CHAREST AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2015

The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) is pleased to announce that the Honourable Jean Charest, PC will assume the role of Honorary Chairman of the Council. Mr. Charest replaces Mr. David Sevigny, former Canadian Ambassador to Singapore, who has led the CABC as Honorary Chairman (a three-year term) since its inception in 2012.

Mr. Charest served as the 29th Premier of Quebec from 2003-2012 and as Deputy Prime Minister of Canada in 1993. He is best known for his *Plan Nord* sustainable development initiative for Northern Quebec, the implementation of the Quebec-France labour mobility agreement, and his initiative to establish the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Mr. Charest's appointment as Honorary Chairman was announced October 27 at the CABC's 2015 Annual General Meeting. "Timing is everything in life," Charest commented at the event, "and with the recent signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), it is critical for Canada to have organizations like the CABC in place to make the most of this opportunity for increased trade ties between Canada and ASEAN."

Currently a Partner at CABC member firm McCarthy-Tétrault, one of Canada's most prominent law firms, Mr. Charest brings a wealth of business and political experience to guide the Council's efforts to strengthen trade between Canada and ASEAN.

"With the implementation ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, and the signing of the TPP, this is a period of immense opportunity for Canadians doing business in the ASEAN region", remarked CABC President Wayne Farmer, "As Chairman of the Council, Jean will provide invaluable guidance and support during this critical moment for the development of Canada-ASEAN trade".

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.



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