The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing Inclusive and Sustainable Development

10-12 December 2019
InterContinental Hotel
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Speaking about ICC Bangladesh

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), The world business organization, with its headquarters in Paris, is having its Centenary Celebration world over in 2019. With its physical presence in more than 100 countries, ICC represents 45 million companies and more than 1 billion workers worldwide. One in every three workers depend on ICC Members for their livelihood.

ICC was founded in 1919 in the aftermath of the First World War when no world system of rules governed trade, investment, finance or commercial relations. ICC’s founders, referred to as “The Merchants of Peace”, acted on their conviction that building stronger trade relations between nations would reduce the risk of war and armed conflict. ICC is the largest and the only private sector non-sovereign organization which was granted Status of a Permanent Observer at the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2016.

ICC works in close cooperation with national governments and multinational institutions such as G-8/G-20, World Bank, WTO, Asian Development Bank, UNCTAD, OECD and several UN agencies for promotion, protection and development of world economy.

Bangladesh National Committee of ICC, founded in 1994, is comprised of trade organizations, national and trans-national corporations, who represent almost 80% of Bangladesh economy.

The activities of ICC Bangladesh include promotion of foreign trade and investment, trade policy reviews, business dialogues, seminars & workshops both at home and abroad on related policy issues, harmonization of trade law & rules, legal reforms, updating businesses with the ICC rules & standards for cross border business transactions. ICC Bangladesh has so far organized following regional & international conferences:

• 10-11 November 2000: ICC Asia Conference on “Investment in Developing Countries: Increasing Opportunities” organized in Dhaka was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and attended by a number of high profile dignitaries including the Thai Deputy Prime Minister & WTO Director General designate, ADB President, UN-ESCAP Executive Secretary and Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation. More than 250 participants from 24 countries participated in this event.

• 17-18 January 2004: International Conference on “Global Economic Governance and Challenges of Multilateralism” was held in Dhaka, coinciding with 10th Anniversary of ICC Bangladesh. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Thai Prime Minister was the keynote speaker. WTO Director General, EU Commissioner for Trade, UNESCAP Executive Secretary, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation, six Ministers from three continents, Bangladesh Ministers, ICC Chairman, ICC Vice Chairman, ICC Secretary General and more than 500 participants from 38 countries attended this event.

• 27-28 September 2005: Regional Seminar on “Capital Market Development: Asian Experience”. The seminar held in Dhaka was inaugurated by the President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and attended by Chairmen/CEOs of securities & exchange commissions, stock exchanges, capital market operators, financial institutions and investors from 15 Asian countries.

• 13 April 2010: Conference on “Energy for Growth” was held in Dhaka coinciding with 15 years of ICC’s presence in Bangladesh. The Conference was inaugurated by the Finance Minister of Bangladesh and attended by ICC Global Chairman, Minister for Commerce of Bangladesh, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark and Adviser for Energy & Mineral Resources to the Bangladesh Prime Minister. Some 800 delegates from home and abroad including energy experts and international financiers from Australia, China, Denmark, India, Germany, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, UK and USA attended the event.

• 25-26 October 2014: International Conference on “Global Economic Recovery: Asian Perspective” was held in Dhaka coinciding with the 20 years of ICC’s presence in Bangladesh. The Conference was inaugurated by the President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Minister for Finance & Minister for Commerce of Bangladesh, UNCTAD Secretary General, Ministers from Myanmar and Nepal; ICC Vice Chairman; ICC Secretary General; ICC Research Foundation Chairman; Director of ICC National Committees and more than 500 participants attended this event.

• 8-9 February 2017: The first ever “UNESCAP Asia Pacific Business Forum: Regional Integration to Achieve Sustainable Development” was organized by ICC Bangladesh jointly with UNESCAP under the patronage of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh. The Forum was inaugurated by the President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Ministers from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, UNESCAP, Under Secretary General, UNCTAD Secretary General, business leaders and some 600 delegates from home and abroad attended the Forum.

As part of its activities, ICC Bangladesh has been organizing Workshops/ Seminars on International Trade Finance, mainly for bankers, within Bangladesh and in various countries. Since 2014, the National Committee has organized workshops in Kuala Lumpur (April 2014); in Colombo (February 2013); in Kumming (August 2013); in Yangon (November 2013); in Hanoi (April 2016); in Bangkok (December 2017) and in Phnom Penh (April 2018).


For professional development of bankers, ICC Bangladesh also organizes Certified Documentary Credit Specialist (CDCS), Certificate for Specialists in Demand Guarantees (CSDG) and Certificate of International Trade Finance (CITF) Examinations in Dhaka, conducted worldwide every year by LIBF (London Institute of Banking and Finance) and endorsed by ICC Paris.

ICC Bangladesh participates in most of the World Chambers’ Congress & ICC World Congresses held every two years and WTO Ministerial Meetings as well as ICC Regional Consultative Group Meetings. The National Committee also arranges visits by Bangladesh business delegation to different countries for promotion of trade and investment.
I. Background

Mobilizing sufficient financing remains the major challenge to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although interests in inclusive and sustainable financing are growing from both public and private sectors, the most needed investment for SDGs related projects remain underfunded. Systemic risk is also rising amidst uncertainty about the global economy from increasing debt burdens and trade policies towards protectionism. Under this background, the United Nations has raised the alarm that unless we revamped both national and international financial systems to be in line with inclusive and sustainable development, we will fail to fully accomplish the SDGs.

With the present and clear challenges in Asia and the Pacific, developing countries must mobilize more resources in financing the 2030 Agenda by increasing domestic resources, partnering with the private sector, and enhancing international development cooperation. In this context, it is recommended that the countries undertake innovative approaches in achieving the SDGs through strengthening and diversifying financial flows that may mobilize through taxation and fiscal management, ODA, commercial banking, capital markets, non-bank financial schemes, climate finance, small business and supply chain financing and remittance as well as FinTech solutions and STI finance. The change of investment mindset from short-term to long-term is also crucial to enhance inclusive and sustainable development in the countries.

In the region, ESCAP has estimated that financing SDGs would require an additional investment of $1.5 trillion per year or an average of 5% of GDP. For least developed countries (LDCs) in the region, the challenge is even bigger as it requires 16% of GDP to finance the SDGs. This clearly suggests that in addition to national efforts, the region needs to strengthen its regional cooperation to facilitate the achievement of the SDGs through adequate financial resource mobilization among all countries in the region. Financing SDGs would also need unprecedented coordination and cooperation between the public and private sectors, facilitated by multilateral development banks (MDBs). It may also require significant efforts to reform global financial frameworks eventually, perhaps covering both domestic regulations and international rules as well as the roles of financial institutions, with strong commitment from all stakeholders.

The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development tries to bring together policymakers, private business and financial sectors, MDBs, international organizations, civil society organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to discuss pressing issues on financing for inclusive and sustainable development. The dialogue will not only enhance sharing knowledge and best practices among the participants to facilitate SDG funding but also ignite the discussions on new policy and cooperation frameworks at the regional level to facilitate financial resource mobilization to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
II. Goals and Objectives
The main objective of the conference is to discuss on how to scale up investment and international development cooperation and adequately finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The conference will discuss the following topics:

- New and innovative policy and regulatory options to enhance domestic and external resources to finance SDG projects;
- Financing infrastructure development in a context of efficient governance, breakneck urbanization and public-private partnerships (PPPs);
- Private financing enhancement through developing robust business models with environmental, social and economic impact assessment;
- Awareness raising on climate finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Capital market development to close financing gaps through sovereign/corporate green/blue bonds, infrastructure funds and blended finance instruments;
- Proper policy and regulatory approach for Fintech evolution to protect consumers and avoid financial stability risk;
- Financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs);
- Supply chain financing to enable LDCs’ participation in international trade and investment;
- Financing schemes to spur the development on science, technology and innovation (STI); and
- Scaling up effort for international development cooperation through official development assistance (ODA) and south-south cooperation.

III. Organization and Participants
ESCAP, in partnerships with International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC Bangladesh), Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the patronage of the Government of Bangladesh will hold “Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing Inclusive and Sustainable Development” at InterContinental Hotel in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019. The national chapter of ICC in Bangladesh will also celebrate its 25th anniversary and ICC Centennial at the conference.

The Conference will bring together policymakers, private business and financial sector, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. This meeting will include over 800 participants from throughout Asia and the Pacific and other regions. Other key partners apart from the above co-organizers will include the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), the Alliance of Financial Inclusion (AFI), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Global compact (UNGC), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (UN-OHRLLS), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the World Bank/International Finance Cooperation, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other relevant agencies. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) and its Task Force on Banking and Finance will provide critical inputs to the conference.
Provisional Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 10 December 2019

15:00 – 17:00 Opening Session: Opening Remarks and Keynote Speech
Welcome Address by ICC Bangladesh and UNESCAP
Remarks by Attending Dignitaries
Inaugural Address by Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina M.P., Prime Minister of Bangladesh (tbc)
Keynote Speech by His Excellency Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia (tbc)

Day 2: Wednesday, 11 December 2019

09:30 – 12:00 Ministerial Plenary Session: Inclusive Financing for SDGs in Asia-Pacific
Policy statements by the countries and international agencies in mobilizing financial resource to achieve the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its ambition to leave no one behind.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch (Host: ADB) and Networking Breaks

13:00 – 15:00 First Parallel Sessions

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<td>Building Financial Inclusivity: Financing for micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) through technology and innovation development</td>
<td>Supply Chain Finance: Enhancing momentum in international trade and tackling fraud and trade-based money laundering (TBML)</td>
<td>Scale-up Climate Finance: The urgencies to increase public and private sources for climate-resilient development</td>
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15:00 – 15:30 Refreshments

15:30 – 17:00 Plenary Session I: Sustainable Finance and the Risks & Opportunities for the Banking Sector
Sustainable Development Goals require active actions of the banking sector to play important role in delivering growth of living standards which are consistent with the SDG. In the same manner, central banks and the banking regulators need to take up the challenge arise in aligning banking sector operations to meet the SDG. In particular, the banking sector needs to answer the question on how they will deal with the immediate challenges arising from climate change and environmental degradation. How do we develop green finance? And what might be the role for FinTech?

19:00 Gala Dinner
Day 3: Thursday, 12 December 2019

09:30 – 12:00 Plenary Session II: Cyber Security and 5G for Sustainable Growth

Technology and social innovation have transformed the society and people connection in the last decades. Since the development of the 2G in 1990s to 5G just recently, the technological advancement of cyber industry delivers significant contribution for inclusive and sustainable development. In the same time, this new development also raise alarm on cyber security which is now becoming a challenge for both policymakers and businesses, especially on protecting computer system and data. The rapid growth of cyber technology brings new risks in both size and number which impact individuals, organizations and governments. Nevertheless, the continuous innovation and development of the new technology should outweigh the risk to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch and Networking Breaks

13:00 – 14:00 Parallel Sessions

13:00 – 14:00 Second Parallel Session: Topic I
Finding the Right Balance: Innovation and regulatory approach in Fintech to support sustainable financing

Development of Fintech, technological innovation in financial services, bring both opportunities and challenges for policymakers and regulators. The innovative financial services are being transformed by digital technologies, cloud computing and artificial intelligence, which include financial services for under served population, such as MSMEs; in rural and agricultural areas. However, innovative financial services are also raising the potential risks for both micro-financial, including credit risk, maturity mismatch and operational risks for cyber and legal, and macro-financial, such as consumer and investor protection; the clarity and consistency of legal frameworks; and the threats to financial integrity. Enhancing the public-private cooperation for facilitating the innovative financial services could help to maintain clear and effective conduct of the Fintech while ensuring consumer protection and continuous support to sustainable financing.

13:00 – 14:00 Second Parallel Session: Topic II
Public-Private Cooperation: Innovative financing through infrastructure financing, new PPP modalities, capital market development and blended finance.

Public-Private Cooperation can facilitate cross-border infrastructure development and policy and regulatory harmonization among neighboring countries that are needed for inclusive and sustainable business and investment. Public Private Partnership (PPP) can also enhance technology transfer and adaptation through innovative financing mechanism among development players. In this context, proper policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to link the expertise of both public and private sectors. Moreover, this session will present a critical overview and exploration of selected innovative financing schemes to fund the Asia Pacific financing needs in achieving the SDG. These include the development of capital markets, infrastructure financing, New PPP Modalities, and blended finance.

15:00 – 15:30 Plenary Session III: Public-Private Cooperation through Global Initiatives: “Belt and Road Initiative” to achieve inclusive and sustainable business and investment

Global development programmes, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), have provided new opportunities to public-private partnerships (PPPs) for inclusive and sustainable development. Under such global initiatives, PPPs can facilitate cross-border infrastructure development and policy and regulatory harmonization among neighbouring countries that are needed for inclusive and sustainable business and investment. PPPs can also enhance technology transfer and adaptation through innovative financing mechanism among development players. In this context, proper policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to link the expertise of both public and private sectors. Moreover, the global initiatives also require both parties’ close collaboration for project selection, designing, preparation and implementation. This session will examine those issues taking the BRI as a regional example.

15:30 – 16:00 Refreshments

16:00 – 17:00 Closing Session and Press Briefing

International Trade Finance Course Recognition
Recognition Statement:
The conference is recognized by The London Institute of Banking & Finance as meeting the standards for ongoing 18 CPD/PDU towards recertification of our International Trade Finance Qualifications of CDCS®, CSDG®, CSCF® and CTFC®
DATE
10 – 12 December 2019

VENUE
InterContinental Hotel
1 Minto Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel: +88-02-55663030

WELCOME DINNER & CULTURAL PROGRAMME
The Welcome Dinner will be preceded by a Cultural Show depicting culture, music & dances of Bangladesh.

SECRETARIAT
A Secretariat to assist the Delegates will be set up at InterContinental Hotel, Dhaka.

VISA / IMMIGRATION
Delegates are requested to check visa requirements with Bangladesh Diplomatic Mission /travel agents/ airlines/ in the respective country. Bangladesh Embassies have been requested to issue visas to the intending Delegates.

For delegates coming from countries where there is no Bangladesh Mission, ICC Bangladesh may also arrange visa on arrival; provided registration and passport details are received on or before 10 November 2019.

RESERVATION
ICC Bangladesh has already made BLOCK BOOKING with selected hotels at a very specially negotiated rate. Upon receipt of Registration Form and choice of hotel, ICC Bangladesh will confirm reservation. Reservations will be processed on a “first come first serve” basis. Hotels require one night’s deposit for confirmed reservation.

CURRENCY REGULATIONS
The current exchange rate of Bangladesh Taka (BDT) to US$1 is Tk. 85.00. Foreign currency can be converted easily into TK from any money changers/hotels and commercial banks.

Foreign Delegates can bring in up to US$5,000 or equivalent amount without declaration. Amount exceeding US$5,000 or equivalent should be declared at the time of arrival.

CREDIT CARDS
Visa, MasterCard and Amex cards are easily accepted by Hotels, Restaurants, Diners’ Club, Shopping Malls etc.
REGISTRATION FORM

Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development
Exploring a New Financial Landscape for Asia and the Pacific

Dhaka, Bangladesh | 10 – 12 December 2019

Delegate
Title: (Mr. / Dr. / Mrs. / Ms.)

Family Name ........................................................................................................
First/given Name ....................................................................................................
Position ....................................................................................................................
Company ...................................................................................................................
Address ....................................................................................................................

Phone Office ........................................................................................................ Mobile ....................................................................................................................
E-mail ....................................................................................................................

Token contribution to cost
US$ 250.00 or BDT 20,000.00

Mode of Payment
Payment to be made by T.T/Account Payee Cheque / Pay Order / Bank Draft in favour of INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANGLADESH. Online payment can also be made thro’ Bank Transfer to A/C No.: STD 1048000662897 with National Bank Limited, Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tel/Fax: +880-2-8125876, 9132665 SWIFT: NBLBBDDH048.

Company/Organization Profile*∗

Personal Profile

Date ......................................................................................................................... Signature ....................................................................................................................

☆ Please return this Registration Form duly filled in along with registration fee to:
The Secretary General, ICC Bangladesh, Suvastu Tower (6th Floor), 69/1 Panthapath, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh. Fax +880-2-9641287, e-mail: info@iccbangladesh.org.bd

☆ Photocopy of Registration Form is acceptable.

** You may add additional page(s) for Company / Personal profile, if needed.

The London Institute of Banking & Finance

International Trade Finance Course Recognition

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The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), located in Bangkok, Thailand, is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1947 to encourage economic cooperation among its member states and is one of five regional commissions under the administrative direction of United Nations headquarters. Made up of 53 Member States plus 9 Associate Members, the region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two-thirds of the world's population. This makes ESCAP the most comprehensive of the United Nations five regional commissions, and the largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region.

ESCAP provides a forum for its member States that promotes regional cooperation and collective action, assisting countries in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity. Overall, ESCAP's norm setting and policy work ultimately impacts people's lives in a positive way by helping countries shape and implement a more balanced and inclusive development agenda for the region.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

ADB's Trade Finance Program has established itself as a key player in the international trade community, providing fast and reliable trade finance support to fill market gaps for trade finance.

The TFP provides guarantees and loans to 240+ partner banks to support trade, enabling more companies throughout Asia to engage in import and export activities. Since 2009, ADB’s TFP has supported more than 15,000 SMEs across developing Asia—through over 21,000 transactions valued at over $36 billion—in sectors ranging from commodities and capital goods, to medical supplies and consumer goods.

In 2017, TFP supported $4.48 billion in transactions, $2.81 billion in cofinancing, and supported 2,822 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The six most active TFP countries are Armenia, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

In 2018, TFP grew almost 40% to support $6.2 billion in trade through 4,470 transactions, $3.75 billion in cofinancing, and supported 3,475 SMEs.

TFP complements its financial support with knowledge products, including a study that quantifies market gaps for trade finance, initiatives to increase the role of women in banking, efforts to enhance environmental and social safeguards, and initiatives to fight financial crime through greater transparency in the global financial system. TFP also provides workshops and seminars to increase knowledge and expertise in matters related to finance, trade, risk management and fraud prevention.
Career Success in International Trade Finance

Industry-leading qualifications in trade finance, documentary credits and demand guarantees

Certificate in International Trade and Finance (CITF)
The qualification for trade, export and commodity executives, providing an overview of the key procedures, practices and legislation in international trade finance.

Certificate for Specialists in Demand Guarantees (CSDG)
This qualifications will support you to understand industry rules and the challenges around demand guarantees and standby credits.

Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS)
Created with the International Financial Services Association (IFSA) and managed with the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC) this benchmark qualification understands industry rules and the challenges around demand guarantees and standby credits.

If you have any questions regarding our qualifications, please don't hesitate to contact our customer services team on:
t: +44 (0)1227 818609
e: customerservices@libf.ac.uk

Invest in your trade finance career: visit libf.ac.uk/tradefinance
Centenary Celebration: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

To mark centenary, ICC hosted in May 2019 a half-day summit in Paris featuring leaders from business, government and international organizations. The summit highlighted thought leadership on addressing pressing global challenges through international cooperation and the role of business in the 21st century. Following the May summit, four regional events will be held in Athens (October), Bogota (13 November), Dubai (19 January 2020) and Hong Kong (21 February 2020). A closing event will also be held in March 2020 in Mexico.

Key Messages

1. ICC has been at the forefront of advancing peace and prosperity globally since it was founded in 1919
   - ICC was founded in the aftermath of the First World War when no world system of rules governed trade, investment, finance or commercial relations.
   - ICC’s founders acted on their conviction that building stronger commercial relations between nations would reduce the risk of war and armed conflict.
   - ICC’s founders were referred to as “The merchants of peace.”
   - ICC’s International Court of Arbitration was founded in 1923 and remains the most preferred arbitral institution in the world.
   - In 1927, ICC brought private sector experts together with governments to develop a global pact on lowering tariff barriers—a project that was eventually adopted by governments as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, precursor to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
   - In the 1930s, ICC prepared the first draft of the New York Convention—the UN agreement that founded international arbitration.
   - In 2015, ICC’s strong presence at COP21 helped broker the landmark Paris Agreement—the world’s first comprehensive climate accord.

2. ICC is ensuring the organisation is fit for purpose for the next 100 years
   - ICC’s founding constitution states the organisation’s mission was “to further the development of an open world economy with the firm conviction that international commercial exchanges are conducive to both greater global prosperity and peace among nations.”
   - Building on that foundation, ICC’s renewed mission to “make business work for everyone, everyday, everywhere” is now aligned with our purpose in the context of the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.
   - As part of an internal transformation, ICC is putting digital first, strengthening its own network and culture, and exploring new opportunities to help build more sustainable and inclusive business communities globally.
   - ICC’s guiding vision is to “enable business worldwide to secure peace, prosperity and opportunity for all.”

3. ICC is the world’s largest and most representative business organization.
   - With members in more than 100 countries, ICC represents 45 million companies and more than 1 billion workers worldwide.
   - 1 in 3 workers depend on ICC members for their livelihood.

4. The extensive ICC network enables our global organisation to act locally
   - ICC maintains a network of over 90 national committees.
   - Our first national committees were created in 1920 in Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, UK and the US. The most recent addition is ICC Armenia, created in 2017.
   - ICC is the first non-Asian headquartered dispute resolution institution to establish an office in mainland China.
   - The case management offices provide local service delivery that is vital for the users of our arbitration services, and they contribute to ICC maintaining its market-leading position in a competitive environment for arbitration.
   - Our network of chambers of commerce plays a vital role in connecting ICC to SMEs.

5. ICC continues to adapt to global challenges and disruptions with a focus on advocacy, standards and solutions that collectively enable businesses worldwide
   - In areas from trade finance and international arbitration to climate change and Internet governance, ICC works to bring the expertise of business into global discussions and decision making processes at the international level.
   - The UN decision to grant ICC the status of Permanent Observer in 2017 demonstrates a growing recognition by governments and intergovernmental organisations of the crucial role the private sector can play in developing solutions to current and emerging global issues.
   - ICC’s range of pioneering arbitration and dispute resolution services are of gold standard internationally.
   - ICC’s core role in connecting ICC to SMEs.
   - Jointly led by ICC, the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, which is redefining the way trade facilitation reforms are implemented by working with governments and businesses from the ground up to tackle trade barriers with a business mindset.
   - The ICC Academy, based in Singapore, offers dynamic e-courses and specialized programmes on trade finance and cross-border transactions designed by leading industry experts to meet the educational needs of banks, corporates and other organisations at the forefront of international trade.