

## Chamber Personalities

### ACCI Elects Richard Holyman National President



Victorian businessman and leading figure in the Chamber of Commerce movement Richard Holyman has been elected President of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry at ACCI's Annual General meeting, held on November 24, 2011 in Canberra.

ACCI members, comprising State and Territory Chambers and 28 national Industry Associations elected Mr. Holyman unopposed.

Richard Holyman has been ACCI's Vice President since 2009, a Board member since 2003 and recently concluded a two year term as Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce Australia. He is a former President of the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) and Chairman of ACCI's Membership, Marketing and Communications Committee.

Richard is Managing Director of Martin & Pleasance Pty Ltd, which manufactures, imports and exports a range of naturopathic products. His areas of expertise include marketing, business analysis and strategic planning. Richard's skills and experience have been acquired over more than 30 years of driving successful business outcomes.

A successful Chief Executive

with a global outlook and perspective, Richard has particular knowledge of the health and wellbeing products industry. As both a local manufacturer and importer, he also understands the challenges that excessive regulation poses for business. He also has first hand experience at opening up export markets for Australian products and the policies required to support Australian business to expand into global markets.

Mr. Holyman has a strong record of service to business through the Chamber of Commerce movement, and was instrumental in supporting the inaugural Australian Chambers Business Congress, successfully held on the Gold Coast in June.

Mr. Holyman succeeds David Michaelis, who remains on the ACCI Board as Immediate Past President.

### PCCI Re-elects Atty. Varela as President



Lawyer and business leader Atty. Miguel B. Varela was unanimously elected to once again serve as President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's biggest and most influential business organization, during the elections on December 2, 2011.

Among the reasons cited by PCCI members for electing Atty. Varela were his track record and international exposure, particularly in the ASEAN where he is an acknowledged business leader; his initiatives in strengthening training and support programs and consultative dialogues in various regions that led to the advancement of

local chambers; and his expertise in the field of labor relations that have been helping them enhance competitiveness.

Varela is no stranger to PCCI's affairs having been continuously involved in PCCI affairs and previously held its presidency in 2000-2001. One of the most respected business leaders, Varela has held various top positions both in private business corporations and business-civic organizations.

Under his watch Atty. Varela vows to strengthen the ties and partnership between PCCI and Government by directing PCCI's more than 100 local chambers nationwide, 130 Industry associations and close to 40 bilateral business councils, their proactive participation in various levels of governance reforms, economic development and enterprise support.

PCCI under Varela's leadership will encapsulate an advocacy thrust that will address gaps in critical drivers that influence the country's ability to attract and expand investment in the Philippines into four broad areas of coordination, advocacy and policy setting. These include; P – for Power and Utilities, C- for competitiveness; C – for Countryside Development and I – for Industrial and Trade Policy Formulation.

Furthermore, Atty. Varela aims to harness the cooperation of the various business organizations, foreign chambers, embassies and donor organizations in support of PCCI's identified "Invest on DOZEN DRIVERS (IDDs) or 12 Sectors that should be beefed up for investment promotions and expansion as well as support for the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). These sectors are: Agribusiness; business process outsourcing; mining; tourism; home decors and life styles; shipbuilding; housing, construction and infrastructure; education, R&D and training; creative industries; electronics; transport equipment; and logistics. ■