



**Closing Remarks by H.E. Mario Amano
Deputy Secretary-General of OECD**

**ASEAN-OECD INVESTMENT POLICY CONFERENCE
18-19 November 2010
ASEAN Hall, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta**

His excellency Deputy Secretary-General Pushpanathan,
Distinguished guests,

This conference has been rich in insights. We have seen the position of ASEAN in global FDI flows, the importance of OECD investors and the challenges posed by other emerging markets such as China. And we have discussed how ASEAN member states have responded individually and collectively to these challenges.

ASEAN has embarked on an ambitious plan to create the ASEAN Economic Community and we strongly support these efforts. We also welcome the fact that this regional integration is not coming at the expense of exchanges with the rest of the world. ASEAN has always been a crossroads for global investors, much as it was for European, Arab and Asian traders in previous centuries.

We have looked at how the OECD can help ASEAN in its endeavours, such as through the policy framework for investment and the PFI toolkit. Indonesia and Vietnam have already undertaken PFI assessments in cooperation with the OECD. And Malaysia has now requested a similar exercise. We thank our Indonesian friends for their glowing presentation of their own experience with the PFI, and we invite other ASEAN member states to consider cooperating with the OECD on a PFI assessment as well. We also thank OECD member countries for their financial support for this work and hope they will continue to support us in the future.

Openness is key to attracting FDI, as we saw yesterday, but successful host countries combine openness with promotion and facilitation. We have looked at best practices in investment promotion in OECD countries and also within ASEAN and had a lively discussion about the extent to which one country's experience can be replicated elsewhere.

Today we have looked at international investment agreements and the perspective of OECD member countries and regions on how ASEAN can benefit most from these agreements. We

have heard from legal experts of the different approaches to international investment agreements and looked in detail at the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement.

The interesting final discussion was a salutary reminder that attracting international investment should not be an end in itself. The ultimate aim is higher growth and sustainable development and the panellists exchanged ideas on how governments can get the most out of FDI and the role of instruments of corporate social responsibility such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Ladies and gentlemen. I take away from this conference a better appreciation of the dynamism of the ASEAN region and of your concerted and ongoing efforts to deepen economic integration amongst yourselves and with the rest of the world. ASEAN is emerging from the present global crisis in relatively good shape. But as the OECD Secretary-General said in Jakarta a few weeks ago, we need to avoid complacency. Post-crisis competition for global investment is going to be intense as governments seek to stimulate their economies and create jobs. Reforms undertaken during the present crisis will also make the most affected countries more attractive to investors.

So if ASEAN member states are going to continue to attract international companies in this new global environment, they need to ensure that they do not put any obstacles in the way of investors. One of the lessons of the PFI is that investment climate improvements are a continuous process. Countries cannot rest on their laurels and expect that because investors have come in the past, they will continue to do so in the future.

I hope that on your side, you take away from this conference a better appreciation of what the OECD can offer and how it can help you in the process of policy reform. The strength of the OECD is its emphasis on best practices based on empirical evidence rather than economic dogma. The OECD provides a unique international platform for peer learning and benchmarking, and we would be happy to share our experience with you.

To conclude, let me thank Deputy Secretary-General Pushpanathan for wishing the OECD a happy 50th anniversary and I look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of ASEAN with you in 2017.

Terima Kasih