Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

Draft Agenda: 12th OECD-Asian Senior Budget Officials Annual Meeting

AGENDA

15-16 December 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

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The meeting is co-chaired by Ms. Rosemary HUXTABLE, Acting Secretary, Department of Finance, Australia, and Mr. Somsak CHOTRATTANASIRI, Director, Bureau of the Budget, Office of the Prime Minister, Thailand.

The meeting is hosted by the Bureau of Budget, Office of the Prime Minister, Thailand.

The financial support of the Australian government is gratefully acknowledged.

Thursday 15 December 2016

9:30-9:45 - Opening by Co-chairs and OECD Secretariat

9:45-10:00 - Delegates' Introductions

10:00-10:30 - Keynote address by the Minister of Finance of Thailand

10:30-11:00 - Family Photo followed by Coffee Break

Thursday 15 December 2016

11:00-12:30 1. Roundtable on Recent Budgeting Developments in Asia

This session is designed for participants to make presentations on recent budgeting and public expenditure developments in their countries/economies.

This allows participants to exchange information on budgetary practices and current and envisaged reforms in individual countries/economies. It provides a useful opportunity for participants to keep up to date with developments in an informal setting.

Given constraints on time within this roundtable discussion, participants may wish to provide short, written statements to supplement their presentations.

12:30-14:00 Luncheon

14:00-15:30 2. Performance Budgeting: Lessons Learned

Performance budgeting is a deceptively simple idea: Simple because it is easy to express key concepts and objectives; Deceptive because it is often hard to apply these ideas in government.

This session is designed to take stock of reform experiences – successes and challenges – and highlight key lessons learned for the effective implementation of performance budgeting.

The lead presentation will be made by France which is this year marking ten years’ implementation of its landmark public finance act – the LOLF – which fundamentally re-oriented the French budgeting systems towards a focus on performance and results. The floor will then be opened for discussion among Delegates to reflect on their national experiences in this area.
3. Thailand’s "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy"

Thailand will introduce the concept and achievements of the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” of the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Dinner Followed by Visit to Grand Palace to Honour the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej

All Delegates and spouses are invited to a Dinner at the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall overlooking the Chao Phraya River and the Grand Palace. This will be followed by a visit to the Grand Palace to pay respect to the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in front of the Royal Urn. A strict black attire dress code is in force for the visit to the Grand Palace. Please refer to the General Information section of this agenda for further information.

Friday 16 December 2016

4. Practical Toolkit on Budget Transparency: Putting Principles into Practice

Budget transparency is a key element of overall good governance. The various international standards for budgeting and fiscal transparency, however, can themselves at times be rather confusing. The OECD, working together with the global transparency community, has developed a Practical Toolkit on Budget Transparency. Drawing from the various instruments, it aims to provide practical implementation guidance for budget officials and users in order to raise the levels of budget transparency.

Following a lead presentation by the OECD Secretariat, the floor will be opened for general discussion among all Delegates on improving budget transparency and how the Practical Toolkit can be most effective in that regard.

5. Sequencing Public Financial Management Reform: The Case of Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste has been undertaking major reforms to its public financial management systems and processes. It is now keen to consolidate and build on these reforms. In particular, Timor-Leste is aiming to develop its system of Programme Budgeting to ensure that the budget system is fully aligned with strategic and developmental plans.

The OECD has worked closely with Timor-Leste to prepare a medium-term “roadmap” setting out a sequence of steps for continued public financial management development, building on the momentum of national reform that has been underway in recent years.

Following an initial overview by the OECD Secretariat of the draft “roadmap”, Timor-Leste will present its key priorities and challenges. This will set the scene for a practically-focused peer discussion about sequencing public financial management reforms among all Delegates.

Luncheon
6. Enhancing the Finance Function in Line Ministries

The discussion on improving public financial management tends to focus on the role of finance ministries/central budget offices, and too often neglects the key role of line ministries. Recent reform experiences in OECD countries show that strengthening the role of line ministries in the budget process may help to achieve better results in terms of fiscal discipline and budget accountability.

This session will discuss pre-requisites and good practices for enhancing the finance functions in line ministries, including top-down budgeting and devolution of financial controls.

Following a lead presentation by the OECD Secretariat, the floor will be opened to general discussion among all Delegates on the role of line ministries in the budget process.

7. Report by the OECD and Future Work Programme

This session is designed to update participants on current and future projects by the OECD in the field of budgeting and public expenditures. It is also an opportunity for participants to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

Closing by Co-Chairs and OECD Secretariat
Annex: GENERAL INFORMATION

DISCUSSION FORMAT

Each substantive session will open with a brief overview of the topic by the OECD Secretariat or resource person. The floor will then be opened to all participants for general discussion.

CONFERENCE LOCATION & HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The meeting will take place at The Oriental Hotel, which is located by the Chao Phraya River at 48 Oriental Avenue. http://www.mandarinoriental.com/bangkok/

Special room rates have been negotiated for conference participants at The Oriental Hotel. Please make reservations directly with the hotel. Please see the Online Booking Instructions note for further details.

REGISTRATION

All participants are requested to complete the registration form and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

The meeting will commence promptly at 9:30 am. Participants are kindly asked to arrive 15-30 minutes in advance in order to complete registration formalities.

DOCUMENTATION

Background documents and/or PowerPoint presentations will be available for each of the main substantive sessions. The documents will be distributed electronically to all registered participants prior to the meeting.

LANGUAGE

The meeting will be conducted in English.

DINNER FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO THE GRAND PALACE TO HONOUR THE LATE KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

All Delegates and spouses are invited to a Dinner at the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall overlooking the Chao Phraya River and the Grand Palace. This will be followed by a visit to the Grand Palace to pay respect to the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in front of the Royal Urn. River transportation to and from the Oriental Hotel Pier will be provided by the Royal Thai Navy throughout. For Delegates who do not wish to visit the Grand Palace, ground transportation will also be provided directly back to the Oriental Hotel.

A strict black attire dress code is in force for the visit to the Grand Palace:

DRESS CODE FOR VISITING THE GRAND PALACE

**Gentleman:**

1. Black suit (White or black shirt with collar, black neck tie (will be provided to Delegates as requested) and black covered shoes – closed toe and heel); or
2. National Dress in Mourning
3. Dark suits as substitutes for black suits are not permitted.

**Ladies:**
1. Long black dress or polite black blouses and black below – knee skirts or sarongs, black covered shoes (closed toe and heel); or
2. National Dress in Mourning
3. Pants and trousers are not permitted.