

DRAFT AGENDA

OECD SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL FORUM



OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICY CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Thursday, 24 August 2017

Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The digital age is now a reality in many economies, both developed and emerging. The ongoing digital transformation of economies and societies in Southeast Asia holds much promise to spur innovation, spread knowledge, generate efficiencies and improve services, thereby boosting living standards, and fostering integration into the world economy. For these reasons, innovation and digitalisation are rightly an integral part of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025.

However, the increasing digitalisation of economies and societies also raises important policy questions. Digitalisation is intertwined with many policy areas including investment, regulatory practice, SMEs, skills developments and connectivity that are all key dimensions of the AEC. Governments must therefore forge coherent and comprehensive policy approaches that enable their economies to make the most of an increasingly digital-driven global economy while also addressing possible adverse effects. The window of opportunity for this is now, as technology proceeds apace and pressures mount for pro-active policies that can drive greater growth and societal well-being within an integrated AEC.

Southeast Asia can further harness the benefits of digital transformation by capitalising on mega trends, such as the expansion of cross-border flows, the dematerialisation of economic activities and the computerisation of tasks, which are increasingly defining international production, trade in goods and services as well as investment. The OECD, through the Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP), is supporting Southeast Asian countries' policy reform priorities as well as regional integration efforts. SEARP builds on a broad range of OECD work relevant for addressing the digitalisation challenge by leveraging its Regional Policy Networks on good regulatory practice, investment, education and skills, SMEs, tax policies, sustainable infrastructure, and its Initiatives on trade, innovation and gender.

OBJECTIVES

The 2017 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum will bring together policy makers from Southeast Asia and OECD countries, international and regional organisations, and business representatives to discuss the opportunities and policy challenges of digital transformation in Southeast Asia.

The first session opens with an **overview of the opportunities and challenges of ongoing digital transformation** in Southeast Asia, and the lessons that can be learned from experiences in other regions. Participants will aim to identify policy areas which need to be strengthened for a more digitalised and inclusive ASEAN Economic Community.

In the second session, participants will discuss **policy options for achieving sustainable digital transformation** in Southeast Asian economies. The session will address key focus issues to enhance the business climate and competitiveness in the digital economy with a view to strengthening the contribution of the private sector to growth in the region.

The final session will examine **how digitalisation affects jobs, and discuss policies for skills development and upgrading in a digital era**. Participants will explore ways for SEA countries to make digitalisation more inclusive and effective by building up and deploying human capital.

The Regional Forum will help to identify policies that engage and benefit people, firms and all parts of societies in the region and provide input to the Southeast Asia Regional Programme.

2017 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum

Opportunities and Policy Challenges of Digital Transformation in Southeast Asia

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08:30-09:30 Registration

09:30-10:15 OPENING SESSION

Opening Remarks:

- H.E. Mr. Virasakdi FUTRAKUL, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Thailand**
- H.E. Mr. Angel GURRÍA, Secretary-General, **OECD**
- H.E. Mr. Kazuyuki NAKANE, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Japan**
- H.E. Dr Pichet DURONGKAVEROJ, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, **Thailand**

10:15-10:30 FAMILY PHOTO

10:30-10:45 COFFEE BREAK – Press Conference

10:45-11:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Dr. Surin PITSUWAN, Former Secretary General of ASEAN, Thailand

11:00-12:30 SESSION 1: OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Southeast Asia has made remarkable progress in its regional and global integration. Information is flowing within and across borders with unprecedented pace and volume, with significant impacts on business processes, trade, global value chains and society as a whole. New opportunities are flourishing, but the digital transformation also brings challenges, as it changes the nature and structure of organisations and markets, and raises issues revolving around jobs and skills needs in fast-evolving industries, privacy and digital security frameworks, and labour market inclusiveness.

This session will re-examine the benefits of economic integration through the lens of digitalisation, bringing a better understanding of the drivers, challenges and possible policy responses to digital transformation.

The discussion will provide an opportunity to identify where governments can make a difference in enabling a more digitalised and inclusive ASEAN Economic Community. Issues to discuss will range from inclusive access to digital services, jobs and skills in the digital era, to implications of digitalisation for competition and market structure, as well as for policy design, implementation and reform.

Setting the scene and Moderator : Dr Dirk PILAT, Deputy Director, Science Technology and Innovation Directorate, **OECD**

Video Presentation

Speakers:

- **H.E. Dr Pichet DURONGKAVEROJ**, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, **Thailand**
- **Mr. Jose Miguel R. DE LA ROSA**, Undersecretary, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), **Philippines**
- **Mr. Daniel TUMIWA**, former CEO of OLX Group and Senior Advisory Staff to Minister, Ministry of Communication and Information, **Indonesia**
- **Mr. Peter THORIN**, Director, US-ASEAN Connect, United States Mission to ASEAN, **United States**
- **Mr. NGUYEN Thanh Tuyen**, Deputy Director General, Department of Information and Technology , Ministry of Information and Communication, **Viet Nam**
- **Mr. Wonki MIN**, Chair of OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy, **Korea**

Open Discussions

Issues for discussion:

- What are the forces that are bringing such swift change and unleashing digital transformation?
- What policies can help SEA to close the “digital divide” and ensure access to digital infrastructure and services to all its citizens?
- How can policies be shaped to ensure everyone is equipped with the skills needed to succeed in an increasingly data-driven and digital world?
- In what ways can policy improve the business climate for firms operating in a digital environment?
- What policy approaches can be effective in supporting more broad-based gains from digitalisation?

Rapporteur: H.E. Ms. Annika MARKOVIC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, **Sweden**

12:30-14:00 LUNCH BREAK (Venue: Spice Market and Madison)

14:00-15:30 SESSION 2: ENHANCING BUSINESS CLIMATE AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Addressing the digitalisation challenge also requires continuous improvement of the factors which are enabling companies to trade and invest. A modern and competitive business climate is therefore important for economies to fully benefit from the opportunities provided by the digital transformation.

This session will explore how digitalisation affects the private sector in the region and highlight key policy areas needed to improve the business climate. After a brief overview on the recent economic trends in the region, the discussion will address major drivers of business climate improvement, such as investment, regulatory reform, innovation, trade and policies to boost entrepreneurship, drawing on the good practices from the region and OECD countries. The session will also receive a report-back from the *OECD-SEA Business Network Meeting* from the day before.

Moderator: Ms. Eksiri PINTARICHI, Deputy Director General for International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Thailand (TBC)**

Supplement of the Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India:

- **H.E. Mr. Jong-Won YOON**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative To The OECD, **Korea**

Speakers:

- **Ms. Souphaphone SAIGNALEUTH**, Deputy Head of International Investment Cooperation Division, Investment Promotion Department, **Lao PDR**
- **Mr. Mohd Rafizal RAHIM**, Assistant Director, E-Commerce Unit, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, **Malaysia**
- **H.E. Ms. Michelle D'AURAY**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, **Canada**
- **Ms. Aye Aye WIN**, Director-General, Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, Ministry of Industry **Myanmar**
- **Dr. Joanne LOUNDES**, Foreign Affairs and Trade Chief Economist, Office of Economic Analysis, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, **Australia**

Presentation of the Business Statement

- **Mr. Gil GONZALES**, Executive Director, **ASEAN-BAC**
- **Mr. Phil O'REILLY**, Chairman, Business And Industry Advisory Committee To The OECD (**BIAC**)

Open Discussions

Issues for discussion:

- How could digitalisation change the way in which private sector operates in and interacts with the region?
- What policies can effectively and efficiently help strengthen the private sector to thrive in a digital and globalised economy? How can governments best address the challenges?
- What policies can enable smes and women entrepreneurs to reap the benefits of digital transformations?

Rapporteur: Dr Ahmad ZAFARULLAH, Assistant Director for ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate, **ASEAN Secretariat**

15:30-15:45 COFFEE BREAK

15:45-17:15 SESSION 3: SEIZING NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE DIGITAL ECONOMY THROUGH RESPONSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS SYSTEMS

The implications of the digital economy will be vast. While digitalisation is likely to make some occupations redundant, it will also create a number of new jobs in sectors ranging from manufacturing, retail, telecommunications, and transport. Digitalisation could also exacerbate skills shortages. Southeast Asian countries, however, can turn this challenge into an opportunity by effectively building and deploying human capital.

This session will examine how to prepare in particular the youth for work in emerging jobs, how to expand the productive capacity of existing occupations and local economies, and how to make use of work-based learning to better link people (in both the formal and informal economy) to quality jobs in the digital economy.

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Stephanie LEE, Ambassador to ASEAN, New Zealand

Speakers:

- **Mr. Alex V. AVILA**, Assistant Secretary, Department of Labour and Employment, **Philippines**
- **Dr. Amalia Adininggar WIDYASANTI**, Director for Macroeconomic Planning and Statistics Analysis, BAPPENAS, **Indonesia**
- **Ms. Norlela SUHAILEE**, Acting Head of Business Advisory & Services, Darussalam Enterprise (DARE)/Chair of ASEAN Co-ordinating Committee on MSMEs, **Brunei Darussalam**
- **Ms. Siriporn PARVIKAM**, Senior Programme Officer, GIZ-RECOTVET, **Thailand**
- **Mr. Matthieu COGNAC**, Regional Coordinator for youth employment, **International Labour Organization (ILO)**
- **Ms. Lay Cheng TAN**, Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development, **UNESCO**

Open Discussions

Issues for discussion:

- How are ASEAN countries:
- Fostering strong partnerships with employers to create more skills development opportunities at the local level?
- Professionalising the capacity of employment services to assist youth and adults link to better jobs?
- Creating frameworks for skill recognition to improve productivity and reduce inequality?

17:15-17:45 CLOSING REMARKS

- **H.E. Mr. Hotmangaradja PANDJAITAN**, Ambassador of Indonesia to France, **Indonesia**
- **Mr. Andreas SCHAAL**, Director, Global Relations, **OECD**

18:30-21:30 REGIONAL FORUM DINNER (Venue: Pimarnman Room, Second Floor)

OECD CONTACTS

OECD Southeast Asia Team: SEAforum@oecd.org



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