

## 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practices Network (GRPN) Digital Meeting 2020: Summary of Session 1 - Reducing burdens to support better regulatory outcomes August 11, 2020

The [sixth Good Regulatory Practices Network \(GRPN\) Meeting](#) was launched on 11 August 2020 with the first of three sessions on the theme of *Better Regulation for Post COVID-19 Recovery*. A record number of over 300 participants via Zoom and in person listening rooms in various countries participated in this first session, held digitally for the first time, and which focused on *Reducing Burdens to Support Better Regulatory Outcomes*.

The meeting was opened by H.E. Mai Tiến Dũng, Minister and Chairman of the Office of the Government of Viet Nam, Jeffrey Schlagenhauf, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD, H.E. Gareth Ward, UK Ambassador to Viet Nam, and Chu Thi Thao, Chief Executive of the Administrative Procedures Control Agency in the Office of Government of Viet Nam. The session further explored experiences by ASEAN and OECD Member States and was co-chaired by Hairil Yahri Yaacob, Deputy Secretary-General of Malaysia's Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Mark Steel, Director Regulatory Systems of the Strategic Policy and Programmes Group in New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

### Key Takeaways

- Governments are **balancing short- and long-term regulatory policy responses** to the COVID-19 pandemic as they face unprecedented challenges to simultaneously **preserve public health** and **stimulate economic recovery** and promote **resilience**.
- **Governments have diverged in strategic approaches responding to the crisis**. For example, some governments enacted emergency powers to centralise decision-making while others prioritised quick response delivery or benefited from existing regulatory flexibility.
- **Administrative burden reduction** and **digitalising regulatory delivery services** can benefit micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that are vital to protecting the economy, while further protecting public health by reducing person-to-person physical contact.
- Governments should and can still effectively pursue **good regulatory practices (GRP)** despite severe time and resource constraints, including by adopting **temporary fast-track measures** supported by **sunset clauses** and **ex post evaluations** requirements that continue to ensure proper evaluation and evidence-based decision are made.
- **Informal stakeholder consultations** and **expert advisory groups** can facilitate more rapid, adaptable and agile regulatory design and delivering during crisis periods. Care has to be taken to be inclusive when utilising such approaches.
- The pandemic has created **opportunities for regulatory reforms** that previously did not exist, such as transitioning towards e-governance models and improving the regulatory environment in targeted sectors like investment and telecommunications to achieve economic growth.  
**International regulatory co-operation** between countries can strengthen coordinated regional and global responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and boost economic recovery.

### Next Steps

The sixth GRPN will have **two additional webinar sessions** in the coming months. Invitations and speaker agendas to the second webinar session are forthcoming.

- **Session 2: Leveraging Digital Tools for More Agile Regulatory Policy Making** (5 October 2020, TBC)
- **Session 3: Reforming Regulatory Systems to Prepare for the Future Crises** (late-November 2020)

The GRPN builds off of the OECD Secretariat's longstanding work with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States, including through country- and regional-level programmes designed to strengthen good regulatory practices and develop more resilient regulatory systems, which can help protect public health and stimulate sustainable economic growth.