

6th ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practices Network (GRPN) Meeting 2020: Summary of Session 3 - Reforming regulatory systems to prepare for the future crises 1 December 2020

The [sixth ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practices Network \(GRPN\) Meeting](#) on the theme of *Better Regulation for Post COVID-19 Recovery* held the final of three sessions on 1 December 2020. Over 200 participants around the globe joined online as well as in person in Viet Nam to discuss *Reforming regulatory systems to prepare for the future crises*.

The session was opened by His Excellency Mai Tiến Dũng, Minister and Chairman of the Office of the Government, Viet Nam and Marcus Winsley, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Hanoi. The session capped off the webinar series by looking forward into how better regulation can support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and what solutions exist to help prepare for future crises. The session 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

- **Better regulatory policy will play a key role in economic and societal recovery** from the COVID-19 pandemic around the world, including as a fundamental element of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. This includes clarifying the rationale for regulatory proposals, ensuring appropriate ex ante analysis of impacts, encouraging transparency and consistency, and consulting with the whole-of-society.
- **The ASEAN community has a strong basis for better regulatory management** with member countries adopting various reforms such as joint public-private task forces to promote better business environments, embedding good regulatory practices (GRPs) into government reforms, and reducing burdens for businesses.
- **Continuing this trend will be essential to promoting agility and resiliency** across the ASEAN and OECD communities. It will be essential for the foundations and continuously modernising systems to strengthen government's ability to adapt to fast-paced crises in the future. This includes improved inter-agency coordination, applying ex ante evaluations to critical government infrastructure investments, improving transparency, and adopting innovative techniques such as digital technologies and behavioural insights.
- **International regulatory cooperation (IRC) will be essential to pandemic recovery and future preparedness** to ensure that countries are working together to discuss, design, implement and enforce regulation. This allows countries to align regulatory design and delivery to support quick international responses to crises, and supports recovery by lowering barriers to trade and investment and increase regulatory effectiveness for the benefit of all of society.
- **Ex post review will be ever more important moving forward** as countries evaluate what worked and identify policies that provided unnecessary barriers to the pandemic response. Modernising regulatory stocks to be risk-based and compliance-driven will be an essential task for governments as they seek to ensure regulations remain fit for purpose going forward.

Next Steps

The details on the theme and schedule for the **seventh GRPN will be communicated in 2021**. A technical note from the discussion of the sixth GRPN and a survey of ASEAN Members States will be made available in early 2021.

The GRPN builds off 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.