

**7th ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practices Network (GRPN) Meeting 2021:
Summary of Session 3 - Supporting Businesses through Partnerships for Economic Recovery
14 October 2021**

The seventh ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practices Network (GRPN) meeting on the theme of *Innovative Recovery: Responsive Regulatory Systems for Economic Recovery and Prosperity* held the final of three sessions on 14 October 2021. Over 150 participants from ASEAN and OECD economies joined online to address the session's sub-theme of *Supporting regional recovery with innovative approaches to better regulation*.

Opened by OECD's Director for Public Governance, Elsa Pilichowski, Siti Norlailasari Abdul Rahman, Senior Director, Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, and Mark Steel, Director Regulatory Systems, Strategic Policy and Programmes Group, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, New Zealand, this final session explored good practices in ASEAN and OECD member states regarding the implementation of International Regulatory Cooperation (IRC) at the national level to support regional recovery.

Key Takeaways

- **A focus on IRC is key for governments to promote efficient and balanced regulation** in the context of interconnected economies and global crises that do not respect borders, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. IRC can help governments develop policies that consider the international context while supporting domestic agendas. This helps to ensure regulations enable markets to function both within and across borders, as well as remain agile and responsive in the event of a crisis or new challenges, such as technological change.
- **IRC can help ease regulatory burdens and facilitate trade** by building coherence between regulatory frameworks, through transparency and predictability of regulatory requirements applicable to traders, mutual recognition of standards or conformity assessment processes, reliance on international standards, or the development of joint standards. This can facilitate trade by reducing direct and indirect costs faced by producers and traders.
- **Good regulatory practices play a vital role in public engagement and promotion of transparency and trust**, a role that can be enhanced by use of IRC. Speakers highlighted the role of IRC in the regulatory cycle. This included including analyses of international standards in the design and review of policies, as well as forming bilateral, multilateral and international platforms to promote information experience sharing aimed at building trust and ensuring that the regulation process remains coherent and accessible to the public.
- **IRC will continue to be an important tool to support regulatory delivery** by promoting agile regulatory approaches. The rapid development of technology is enhancing the role of IRC in promoting coordinated action by facilitating the ability of regulators to pool resources and share research. Regional and country presentations both highlighted the use of digital tools in IRC to ensure delivery of agile, flexible, and holistic regulatory processes.
- **The ASEAN community has developed a strong basis for developing IRC initiatives**, which can help it prepare for a sustainable recovery from the pandemic. Delegates shared various perspectives and reforms from ASEAN and OECD countries and the private sector on promoting IRC initiatives to support better regulation, providing good practice examples to support IRC for regional integration.

Next Steps

The OECD will provide an update on the date and time of the 8th GRPN in 2022.

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 stimulate sustainable economic growth.