DRAFT AGENDA

ASEAN SME POLICY INDEX 2014:
KEY FINDINGS AND WAYS FORWARD FOR MYANMAR

Thursday, 27th November 2014
Park Royal Hotel
Yangon, Myanmar
OVERVIEW

The SME Development Center, Ministry of Industry, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) are pleased to hold an SME policy roundtable titled ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014: Key findings and ways forward for Myanmar on Thursday 27 November 2014. The roundtable is organised in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE?

The purpose of the roundtable is to present key findings of ASEAN SME Policy Index on Myanmar and to discuss SME development reform priorities with national stakeholders. The roundtable aims at setting priorities to further enhance small enterprise performance and sharing recommendations within each policy dimension, based on international good practices.

WHAT IS THE ASEAN SME POLICY INDEX?

The ASEAN SME Policy Index presents the SME development policies and actions implemented by the ASEAN countries and helps identify strengths and weaknesses in policy design and implementation. It compares the experiences and performance of the 10 ASEAN member countries, measures convergence towards the policy guidelines of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for SME Development (2010-15), and recommends priority reforms.

The report recommends government action to create a level playing field for all SMEs, through regulatory reform and administrative simplification, as well as investment in human resources, provision of business development services, better access to finance, and the fostering of technological transfer.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

The ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014 is the result of the joint effort between ERIA and the OECD through its Southeast Asia Regional Programme, supported by the ASEAN Secretariat and the members of the ASEAN SME Working Group. The assessment was conducted by country research teams and the regional report prepared by ERIA in consultation with the OECD in 2013. The report was launched at the OECD-Southeast Asia Regional Forum: Regional Competitiveness for Sustained Growth in Bali, 25 March 2014 and officially endorsed by the ASEAN SME Working Group in Manila, 11 June 2014.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

The workshop will bring together policy makers representing the eight policy areas of the ASEAN SME Policy Index (i.e. ministries of economy, industry, technology, education, labour; government agencies such as export promotion agencies) and representatives from the business sector (chamber of commerce, banking associations, incubators), academia (universities, research institutions), and the donor community interested in supporting further SME projects.
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<th>Time</th>
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| 09.00-09.15 | Opening Remarks                               | Ms. Ei Shwesin Htun, SME Development Department, Ministry of Industry, Myanmar  
Mr. Antonio Fanelli, OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme  
Dr. Dionisius Narjoko, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia |
| 09.30-10.00 | Key Findings of ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014  | The main results of the cross-country SME policy assessment in the ASEAN member states will be presented, in particular Myanmar’s SME policy performance in relation to its peers in the region.  
Dr. Dionisius Narjoko, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia  
Mr. Antonio Fanelli and Mrs. Anita Richter, OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme |
| 10.00-10.45 | Policy Recommendations and Ways Forward for Myanmar | Policy recommendations deriving from the ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014 and reform priorities to support Myanmar government’s efforts in moving closer to the ASEAN Economic Community will be presented.  
Dr. Nu Nu Lwin, Monywa Institute of Economics, lead country researcher for the ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014  
Ms. Ei Shwesin Htun, SME Development Department, Ministry of Industry, Myanmar  
Questions and Answers |
| 10.45-11.00 | Coffee Break                                    |                                                                         |
| 11.00-12.00 | Reform Priorities of Myanmar                   | National stakeholders share their views related to SME policy priorities and post 2015 vision.  
Tour de table: exchange of views related to short and mid-term reform priorities  
Comments and inputs on international good practices by OECD experts |
| 12.00-12.30 | SME Sector Data in Myanmar                     | Business statistics and surveys are valuable resources to understand the size, characteristics, and needs of firms, creating the basis for efficient SME policy reforms and measures.  
Overview of planned OECD project “Strengthening SME Policy Development through Data Enhancement in Myanmar”  
Tour de table |
| 12.30-12.45 | Conclusion and Closing remarks                 | Ms. Ei Shwesin Htun, SME Development Department, Ministry of Industry, Myanmar  
Mr. Antonio Fanelli, OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme  
Dr. Dionisius Narjoko, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia |
| 12.45-14.00 | Lunch buffet                                    |                                                                         |