DRAFT AGENDA

OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme

THEMATIC WEBINARS:

“How to Drive the Post-Pandemic Recovery in Southeast Asia”

Tuesday, 6 October 2020
(Paris time)

@OECDGlobal
#OECDSEA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KINGDOM OF THAILAND
Draft Agenda

Thematic Webinars

“How to Drive the Post-Pandemic Recovery in Southeast Asia”

Tuesday, 6 October 2020
Virtual Meeting

09:30-09:45 INTRODUCTION

Recognising the severity of the pandemic and its adverse socio-economic impacts on the region, these webinars will offer an in-depth discussion on the four priority areas that are crucial for preparing more inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 era in Southeast Asia: Resilient Infrastructure, Global Supply Chains and Protectionism, SMEs Support and Skills Development. Experts, policy-makers, Steering Group members and high-level participants will be invited to exchange views on the policy challenges and good practices to support the post-pandemic recovery of the region in these issue areas.

Moderator

- Mr. Alexander BÖHMER, Head of South and Southeast Asia Division, Global Relations, OECD

Welcoming remarks

- Mr. Cherdchai CHAIIVAIVID, Director-General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- H.E. Mr. Hyoung-Kwon KO, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, Korea

09:45-11:15 PART 1. ENSURING SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY THROUGH RESILIENT AND EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Southeast Asia is home to some of the world’s most open economies, and many ASEAN economies have pursued a path of export-oriented growth. Despite this, essential connectivity infrastructure – such as road, rail, air and waterway links, power generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems, and pan-regional terrestrial fibre optic networks – faced underinvestment even prior to the onset of COVID-19. The pandemic has also been accompanied by disruptions to global and regional supply chains, and, in some cases, the implementation of protectionist measures. This could be problematic in a region where 40% of exports rely on global value chains, concentrated around a handful of nodes (UNESCAP, 2020).

ASEAN has been collaborating to boost connectivity for a number of years, most notably through its Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. The OECD has been supporting this work through its RPN on Sustainable Infrastructure. In 2019, the SEARP organised its Regional Forum on the topic of Connectivity, in order to support Southeast Asian countries’ efforts for an integrated ASEAN Community.
Through these channels, the OECD aims to promote quality infrastructure and the maintenance of an open, rules-based economic order, through its expertise and tools – for instance its Compendium of Good Practices for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Recommendation on Governance of Infrastructure.

During this session, policy experts and practitioners from both Southeast Asian and OECD Member countries will present ongoing policy discussion in ensuring that resilient infrastructure can contribute to sustainable recovery, including in helping develop more robust GVCs. The OECD Secretariat will then present recent and ongoing work that would contribute to advancing this policy discussion.

**Moderator**

- **Mr. Andreas SCHAAAL**, Director, Global Relations, OECD

**Southeast Asian Perspective**

- **Mr. LIM Chze Cheen**, Director, Connectivity Division, ASEAN
- **Ms. Mia Mary G. Sebastian**, Deputy Executive Director, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center, The Philippines
- **Dr. Anita PRAKASH**, Director, Policy Relations, Office of the President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia

**OECD Member Perspective**

- **Mr. LEE Dae Joong**, Director, Development Finance Division, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Korea

**Recent and upcoming OECD work on Infrastructure and GVCs**

- OECD Compendium of Policy Good Practices For Quality Infrastructure Investment
  - **Mr. Juan Garin**, Policy Analyst, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- OECD draft Recommendation on Infrastructure Governance
  - **Ms. Ana Maria RUIZ RIVADENEIRA**, Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Procurement Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Sustainable Infrastructure for Low-carbon Development
  - **Ms. Virginie MARSHAL**, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD
- Transport Connectivity in ASEAN
  - **Dr. Wei-Shiuen NG**, Advisor, Sustainable Transport and Global Outreach, International Transport Forum, OECD
- Role of Infrastructure for a resilient GVC
  - **Mr. Jakob TANGE**, Senior Policy Analyst, Emerging Policy Issues Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

**Open Discussion and Conclusion**
Many SMEs and workers have been hard-hit by the COVID-19 crisis, with women and those operating in the informal economy particularly affected. There are concerns of long-term “scarring,” particularly in lower income countries. The pandemic and its economic fallout threaten to worsen health and education outcomes, deplete assets, cause irrevocable supply chain disruptions and debt overhang (IMF, 2020). This could undo impressive poverty reduction efforts over recent years, stymie growth and exacerbate inequality, particularly gender inequality.

In order to counter this risk, ASEAN policymakers have taken swift action to empower MSMEs and workers. Many actions have sought to pursue longer-term structural objectives whilst providing immediate support – for instance by accelerating digitalisation. The SEARP has been working with ASEAN bodies to track these efforts, for instance through its report *Enterprise Policy Responses to COVID-19 in ASEAN*. They have also been working to create a more conducive ecosystem for startups, which may be critical in identifying innovative pathways out of the crisis. To facilitate more targeted skills strategies, the OECD has published a note on *Towards a Skills Strategy for SEA: Skills for Post-COVID Recovery and Growth*, which considers skill gaps in the context of global megatrends and the impact of COVID-19. This builds on ASEAN initiatives such as the *ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work*.

During this session, policy experts and practitioners will discuss how the SEARP and ASEAN can collaborate to mitigate the risk of long-term economic and social scarring, in order to sustain livelihoods and growth across the region.

**Moderator**
- **Ms. Sharon ARMSTRONG**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the OECD, Canada

**Keynote Speech**
- **H.E. Mr. Kung PHOAK**, Deputy Secretary-General for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

**Southeast Asian Perspective**
- Private sector perspective: **Ms. Phi Van NGUYEN**, Chairwoman, Vietnam Angel Network and Open Innovation Vietnam
- Third sector perspective: **Ms. Primar JARDELEZA**, Vice-President of PATAMABA, The Philippines and Executive Board Member and Chairperson for Education and Training at HomeNet Southeast Asia
- Public sector perspective: **Dr. Wimonkan KOSUMAS**, Deputy Director General, Office of SMEs Promotion, Thailand

**OECD Perspective: Challenges faced by workers and MSMEs in the wake of COVID-19**
- **Mr. Andrew BELL**, Acting Head, Centre for Skills, OECD
• Mr. Stephan RAES, Policy Analyst, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Recent work of the RPNs on SMEs and Skills Development

• Mr. Jonathan BARR, Deputy Head, Local Employment, Skills and Social Innovation Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
• Ms. Annie NORFOLK BEADLE, Policy Analyst, Global Relations, OECD

Open Discussion and Conclusion

12:40-13:00 CONCLUSION

Conclusion

• H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van Thao, Assistant-Minister, Director-General of Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam