

OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme
Ministerial Forum



A HUMAN-CENTRED FUTURE

Partnership for a smarter, greener
and more inclusive ASEAN

Wednesday 9 February 2022

Seoul, Korea

14.30 – 18.50 (Seoul)

6.30 – 10.50 (Paris)

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BACKGROUND

The OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) has evolved during its second phase (2018-2022), which was overseen by the Co-chairs Korea and Thailand. Today, it is a visible platform for OECD and Southeast Asian countries to foster mutual learning and the exchange of good practices. Despite challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Programme has achieved solid outcomes in its promotion of regional integration and support for domestic reform processes in Southeast Asia.

The Programme delivered high-level events on connectivity and human capital development, as well as a number of reports and meetings that brought together policy makers and experts from the OECD and Southeast Asia to share standards, policies and good practices. Two new work streams on green recovery and tourism were added in May 2021 to reflect demands from Southeast Asian countries and OECD Members. The Programme has deepened its engagement with ASEAN by supporting the priorities of consecutive ASEAN Chairs through reports and by providing drafting suggestions for standards and capacity building activities. Recently, the Programme has focused on supporting the implementation of the [ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework \(ACRF\)](#) to facilitate the region's resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery and advancing the OECD-ASEAN MoU. The Programme's outputs and achievements during its second phase culminate in the second SEARP Ministerial Conference, hosted in Seoul, Korea on 9-10 February 2022.

OBJECTIVES

Under the theme **“A human-centred future: Partnership for a smarter, greener and more inclusive ASEAN”**, the Seoul Ministerial Conference will serve as an opportunity for Ministers and high-level representatives from Southeast Asian countries and OECD Members to identify the digital, environmental and social challenges faced by the region in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and discuss how to transform them into opportunities.

The Ministerial Conference will present the achievements of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) during its second phase (2018-2022), under the Co-chairmanship of Korea and Thailand. The first high-level policy dialogue session will consider how OECD and Southeast Asian countries can co-operate in adapting to the rapid transition to a digital economy and in harnessing the digital transformation to build a “smarter ASEAN”. The second session will be an opportunity to discuss how OECD and Southeast Asian countries can work together to enhance environmental sustainability and to address climate change, actions that are key to building a “greener ASEAN” and a resilient and inclusive future. A handover ceremony of the SEARP Co-chairs, from Korea and Thailand to Viet Nam and Australia, will follow.

The outcomes of the Ministerial Forum on the first day will feed into discussions on the future works of SEARP at its ninth Steering Group Meeting to be held on the following day. The Steering Group will acknowledge the Programme's key achievements during its second phase and explore the “way forward”, identifying the priorities under the new Co-chairs, Viet Nam and Australia.

Draft Agenda

SOUTHEAST ASIA MINISTERIAL FORUM

A human-centred future: Partnership for a smarter, greener and more inclusive ASEAN

Wednesday, 9 February 2022
Lotte Hotel Seoul (2F Crystal Ballroom)

14:00-14:30
(Seoul time)

REGISTRATION

14:30-14:55
(Seoul time)

OPENING CEREMONY

06:30-06:55
(Paris time)

Opening Remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. CHUNG Eui-yong**, Foreign Minister, **Korea**
- **Mrs. Pornpimol Kanchanalak**, Special Envoy of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Thailand**
- **H.E. Mr. Mathias CORMANN**, Secretary General, **OECD**

14:55-15:00
(Seoul time)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SECOND PHASE OF SEARP

06:55-07:00
(Paris time)

15:00-15:20
(Seoul time)

SIGNING CEREMONY OF OECD-ASEAN MOU (TBC)

07:00-07:20
(Paris time)

15:20-15:25
(Seoul time)

GROUP PHOTO

07:20-07:25
(Paris time)

15:25-15:40
(Seoul time)

COFFEE BREAK

07:25-07:40
(Paris time)

15:40-17:05
(Seoul time)

FIRST MINISTERIAL/HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE:

07:40-09:05
(Paris time)

BUILDING A SMARTER ASEAN FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

COVID-19 has accelerated the transition to a digital economy, embracing 4IR technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, 5G networks, blockchains and Internet of Things. Given ongoing and rapid digital transformations, addressing gaps in digital infrastructure, access, inclusion, skills, governance and policy is essential to ensure inclusive recovery and growth.

Responding to demands to stimulate all areas of the economy encompassing digital development, ASEAN has launched the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#) and is accelerating inclusive digital transformation as an integral part of its recovery strategies within the [ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework](#). The OECD has taken active steps to harness digital transformation and to address relevant challenges through the [OECD Going Digital project](#) and the [OECD AI Policy Observatory](#).

Against this backdrop, this session is designed for Ministers and high-level representatives to discuss how OECD and Southeast Asian countries can leverage digital transformation to build a “smarter ASEAN” and accomplish a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ministers and representatives will be invited to discuss how their countries are adapting to digital transformation in the areas of skills development, smart cities development, finance, trade and investment, consumer protection and empowerment in e-commerce, taxation, SMEs, competition, tourism and digital governance.

The session will draw on the existing work streams of SEARP, with a focus on Innovation, SMEs, Education and Skills, Sustainable Infrastructure, Tax and Good Regulatory Practice.

In particular, Ministers are invited to address questions such as:

1. What government measures could be implemented to support post-COVID recovery in Southeast Asia, including the digital transition?
2. How can international co-operation, including between governments and the private sector, support Southeast Asia in achieving a resilient recovery?
3. How can the OECD SEARP support Southeast Asian countries in achieving an inclusive digital transition and a sustainable socio-economic recovery?

Moderator

- **Dr. NAM Young-sook**, Economic Advisor to the President and Chairperson of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy, **Korea**

Interventions by Ministers and high-level representatives of OECD Members and Southeast Asian countries

17:05-18:30

(Seoul time)

SECOND MINISTERIAL/HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE:

09:05-10:30

(Paris time)

ENSURING GREEN RECOVERY TOWARDS A MORE RESILIENT ASEAN

The [ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025](#) acknowledges the region’s vulnerability to natural and human-induced disasters, which often disproportionately affect poor and low-income populations. It highlights the importance of finding solutions to adapt to climate change in order to build a resilient ASEAN. The COVID-19 pandemic has further underscored the interrelationships between environmental risks and human well-being, leading to calls for the design and implementation of measures that facilitate a just and inclusive transition towards a net-zero future and low-carbon societies.

In this respect, the [ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework](#) has renewed ASEAN’s commitment to developing recovery strategies that are durable, long-lasting, inclusive and capable of safeguarding the region’s natural resources, social fabric, and the prosperity of its people. The OECD is actively supporting countries in developing more resilient economies and achieving net-zero greenhouse gas

emissions within critical industries, taking into account different national circumstances and respective capabilities in line with the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In this context, Ministers and high-level representatives will be invited to discuss how OECD and Southeast Asian countries can contribute to building a “greener ASEAN”. Ministers and representatives will discuss how their countries are fostering green recovery through sustainable infrastructure, environmentally sound technologies, climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable tourism, responsible investment mechanisms, sustainable financing and skills development.

The session will draw on the existing work streams of SEARP, with a focus on Green Recovery, Investment, Competition, Trade, Gender, Tourism and the Economic Outlook for the region.

In their interventions, Ministers are invited to address questions such as:

1. How can policy makers better support green recovery efforts in Southeast Asia?
2. Considering that achieving a resilient recovery requires international co-operation on a global scale, what kind of co-operation measures and frameworks can be developed and implemented to foster green and resilient recovery in Southeast Asia?
3. How can the SEARP support Southeast Asian countries in achieving an inclusive green transition without exacerbating inequalities?

Moderator

- **Mr. Andreas SCHAAL**, Global Relations Director and OECD Sherpa to the G7, the G20 and APEC, **OECD**

Interventions by Ministers and high-level representatives of OECD Members and Southeast Asian countries

18:30-18:50

(Seoul time)

10:30-10:50

(Paris time)

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing remarks

Handover ceremony of the SEARP Co-chairs

- **Remarks by OECD Secretary General and Representatives** from current and next Co-chair countries: **Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam and Australia**

19:00-20:30

(Seoul time)

MINISTERIAL DINNER

Venue: Lotte Hotel Seoul (3F Athene Garden)

- Welcome remarks by **H.E. Mr. CHUNG Eui-yong**, Foreign Minister, **Korea**

OECD CONTACTS

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