

**Draft Agenda**

**OECD FORUM OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA  
REGIONAL PROGRAMME**



**CONNECTING  
SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**Monday 11 March 2019**

OECD Conference Centre

Paris, France

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Southeast Asia has made remarkable progress over the past decade in raising income, reducing poverty and integrating into the world economy. Yet economic disparities remain within and between countries in Southeast Asia. Better policies to enhance connectivity will benefit all citizens of Southeast Asian countries through improved physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages, by promoting greater competitiveness, prosperity, inclusiveness and a sense of Community. This is why policy-makers in Southeast Asia have recognised the growing importance of enhancing connectivity in the region. Instruments aimed at achieving connectivity within ASEAN include the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Equitability Economic Development Framework, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. ASEAN Member States designated the OECD as a strategic partner in 2015 to collaborate towards achieving the connectivity objectives of ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. On the Inter-regional level and involving ASEAN Member States, connectivity initiatives like the Indo-Pacific strategies, the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, Korea's New Southern Policy, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) promote, in part, similar objectives and pose similar challenges. On the ASEAN Sub-regional level, the Mekong initiatives, the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economy Cooperation Strategy or the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area complement the picture.

The OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) has been supporting Southeast Asian countries' economic policy priorities as well as regional economic integration efforts since 2014. A number of its 11 work streams are supporting connectivity enhancing policies, namely regional work on trade, infrastructure, investment, good regulatory practice, competition, and education and skills.

## OBJECTIVES

The 2019 Forum of the Southeast Asia Regional Programme brings together policy-makers from Southeast Asia, international and regional organisations, as well as other stakeholders. Under the umbrella theme of "*Connecting Southeast Asia*," the Forum will address the issue of connectivity on three levels: Regional (ASEAN Connectivity), Sub-regional, and Inter-regional, taking into account the particularities of the various connectivity initiatives. Policy-makers from Southeast Asia and OECD countries are invited to discuss existing connectivity initiatives on all three levels with a focus on identifying synergies, common challenges and potential areas of OECD support.

The outcomes of the Forum will feed into discussions at the second session of the Steering Group Meeting the following day. OECD and Southeast Asian countries' representatives will be invited to discuss in more detail how the connectivity related work streams of SEARP can support the connectivity initiatives in the Southeast Asian region.

DRAFT OF THE AGENDA

## 2019 Forum of the Southeast Asia Programme

*Connecting Southeast Asia*

Monday, 11 March 2019  
OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France

8:00-9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00-9:30 OPENING SESSION

*Opening Remarks:*

- **H.E. Mr. Kang-hyeon YUN**, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Korea** (TBC)
- **Mr. Arthayudh SRISAMOOT**, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Thailand**
- **Ms. Gabriela RAMOS**, Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, **OECD**

9:30-11:00 SESSION 1: ASEAN CONNECTIVITY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 underlines that Connectivity in ASEAN “refers to the physical, institutional, and people-to-people linkages that can contribute towards a more competitive, inclusive and cohesive ASEAN.” The policy objective of connectivity in ASEAN is complementing the regional integration work of ASEAN’s sectoral bodies implementing the ASEAN Economic Community. The ASEAN Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 identifies five strategic areas: sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility. Participants are invited to consider the challenges of implementing seamless ASEAN connectivity in these five areas and the potential support organisations like the OECD can provide.

11:00-11:15 COFFEE BREAK

11:15-12:30 SESSION 2: SOUTHEAST ASIA SUB-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

There are a number of sub-regional initiatives within ASEAN: the Mekong initiatives, the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economy Cooperation Strategy or the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, amongst others. In this session, participants are invited to exchange views on how sub-regional connectivity can complement and contribute towards enhanced ASEAN Connectivity, and identify key issue areas organisations like the OECD can support.

12:30-14:00 LUNCH (Venue: Roger Ockrent)

## 14:00-15:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS/ HIGH LEVEL PANEL

### Keynote Address

- **H.E. Mr. Angel GURRÍA**, Secretary-General, **OECD**

### High Level Panel

### FAMILY PHOTO

## 15:30-15:45 COFFEE BREAK

## 15:45-17:45 SESSION 3: INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY: CONNECTING THE CONNECTIVITIES

A number of inter-regional connectivity initiatives connect all or parts of SEA with third countries, for example the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, the Japan and United States' Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIP), Korea's New Southern Policy, Australia's Indo-Pacific Partnerships, India's Act East Policy, and China's Belt and Road Initiative. Participants are invited to identify the interlinkages and commonalities of these inter-regional connectivity initiatives. The need for a rules-based approach, respecting internationally agreed standards, while implementing the various initiatives will be discussed.

## 17:45-18:00 CLOSING REMARKS

- **Co-Chairs**
- **H.E. Ms. Ivita BURMISTRE**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, Latvia and Chair, **External Relations Committee**

## 18:00-20:30 COCKTAIL RECEPTION (Korean Delegation)

### OECD CONTACT

OECD Southeast Asia Team: [SEAforum@oecd.org](mailto:SEAforum@oecd.org)



GLOBAL RELATIONS

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