



Myanmar-ERIA-Harvard Symposium 'Maximizing AEC Benefits towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Community: Achievements and Prospects'

Venue: Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Date: October 29, 2015

Background Note and Program

Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN for 2014 has set the theme: **"Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community"**. One of the deliverables is to set the priority areas for acceleration in implementation of the ASEAN Community, to review the status of community building, to set future initiatives to vitalize ASEAN, and to formulate programmes in promoting ASEAN external relations.

As ASEAN moves into 2015, it is worth reviewing ASEAN achievements and success stories as much as the challenges into 2015 and beyond. At the same time, the success of economic community buildings depends to some extent on how ASEAN SMEs are impacted, benefit from, and adjust to deeper economic integration under AEC. SMEs benefit from deeper regional integration efforts by their active participation directly and indirectly in regional trade, high value-adding production networks, and investment. They also benefit from the more robustly growing domestic markets arising from the success of AEC in attracting higher investment from within the countries and abroad, and the corresponding more robust economic growth. The success of ASEAN economic community building into 2015 and beyond also depends on the success of ASEAN socio-community building, and of ASEAN community building overall, and thereby bring out the inherent complementarity among the three communities under ASEAN.

This one-day Symposium is organized to discuss and articulate to the public a number of key issues on **"Maximizing AEC Benefits towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Community: Achievements and Prospects"**, addressing the following key elements:

- (1) Visualizing ASEAN Economic Community 2015 – Achievements and Prospects
- (2) Maximizing AEC Benefits through a more Dynamic and Competitive ASEAN SMEs
- (3) Toward a United and Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN beyond 2015

It is hoped that ideas, insights, recommendations, and the deliberation of the Symposium could be presented formally to the ASEAN Heads of State by the Executive Director of ERIA during the ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw in November 2014.

- 07:30 – 08:00 Registration
- 08:00 – 08:10 **Welcoming Remarks:** H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- 08:10 – 08:20 **Opening Remarks:** Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
- 08:20 – 08:40 **Keynote Speech: “Building ASEAN Communities by 2015 – A Milestone”** H.E. **Le Luong Minh**, the Secretary-General of ASEAN
- 08:40 – 09:10 Photo Session followed by Coffee Break

Session 1: “Visualizing AEC 2015 – Achievements and Prospects”

- 09:10 – 10:10 Presentation/Panel Discussion

Moderator: Dr. Than Tun, Myanmar Development Resource Institute (MDRI), Centre for Economic and Social Development

Main issues for Panelists:

- *AEC 2015 – Insights and Recommendations from ERIA’s AEC Scorecard Phase IV*, Mr. Yoshifumi Fukunaga, Senior Policy Coordinator, ERIA
- *Highlighting AEC Achievements and Success Stories and Perspectives on the Remaining Challenges* - Dr. Jayant Menon, Lead Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- *AEC Preparedness– Experiences from Indonesia*, Dr. Titik Anas, Managing Director, Presisi Indonesia Research, Indonesia

- 10:10 – 10:40 Open Forum

- 10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

Session 2: Maximizing AEC Benefits through a more Dynamic and Competitive ASEAN SMEs

- 11:00 – 12:00 Presentation/Panel Discussion

Moderator: Dr. Sothea Oum, Economist, ERIA

- *Maximizing AEC Benefits for SMEs: Insights from Malaysia’s PEMUDAH Experience* - Dato` Abdul Latif bin Haji Abu Seman, Deputy Director General, Malaysia Productivity Commission
- *How to Promote More SMEs’ Active Participation in AEC*, Prof. George Abonyi, Advisor to National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
- *Regional Policy for SMEs’ Innovation and Technology Transfers* – Prof. Shandre Thangavalu, University of Adelaide, Australia

- 12:00 – 12:30 Open Forum

- 12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

Session 3: Toward a United and Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN beyond 2015

13:30 – 14:30 Presentation/Panel Discussion

Moderator: Dr. Rahimah Abdulrahim, Executive Director, Habibie Center, Jakarta

Main issues for Panelists:

- *ASEAN Rising – Agenda Beyond 2015*, Dr. Ponciano S. Intal, Senior Researcher, ERIA
- *ASEAN in the Long-term Global Scenario*, Ms. Yumiko Murakami, Director of OECD Tokyo Centre, Japan
- *Perspective from Myanmar*, Director General, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar

14:30 – 15:00 Open Forum

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 – 15:45 **Special Presentation:** “*Myanmar and ASEAN – Deep or Shallow Integration: Myanmar’s Struggle to Move out of the Bottom Billion*”, Prof. Thomas Vallely and Bo Bo Nge, Ash Center, Harvard University

15:45 – 16:00 Open Forum

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 – 16:30 **Presentation of the Summary of Symposium Conclusions and Recommendations**, Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director, ERIA

16:30 – 16:45 **Closing Speech:** H.E. Daw Lei Lei Thein, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

16:45 – 17:00 **Concluding Remarks:** Prof. Thomas Vallely, Ash Center, Harvard University

18:00 – 20:00 Dinner Reception for Invited Speakers and Panelists