Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens in ASEAN
Country Studies

By
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“Why is RURB important?” is the question asked right at the beginning of this book. The answers can be found in the chapters that follow, showing how RURB can be used to identify and review regulations as well as develop solutions through a process of dialogue and discussion between regulators and business.

Now is the time for governments to support the business community by reducing the cost of doing business. This will help free-up resources for businesses and make them more competitive. In turn, this can help stimulate investment, create new jobs, and support a more vibrant and dynamic business sector. However, an absence of systems and procedures to review and assess regulations is holding this back in many ASEAN Member States, resulting in burdensome regulations continuing to be on the statute books.

Pressure for establishing mechanisms for regulatory review is coming not just from the business sector but ASEAN Member States’ commitment to the ASEAN Economic Community 2025 Blueprint. This Blueprint emphases good regulatory practice and good governance: a commitment to review existing regulatory procedures and establish regulatory conversations between stakeholders.

In view of these developments, this study of seven ASEAN Member States was undertaken to identify the findings of applying a RURB approach to priority development sectors in each country. This involved a mapping of all regulations and the regulators in the specific sector, their rationale and objective. It necessitated input from both business and regulators to identify the problems and understand the difficulties in revoking regulations. As a consensus-building approach to regulatory review, options for problematic regulations were proposed by the researchers – although implementation of solutions was beyond the remit of this study.

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I sincerely believe that Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens in ASEAN: Country Studies makes an important contribution to our understanding of the benefits of better regulatory review, and that this book will help focus our attention on this issue in our joint pursuit of better regulatory management to support a stronger, more competitive businesses sector.

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