

#### Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia

# Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens in ASEAN

**Country Studies** 

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#### **Foreword**

"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.

Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura

President, Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia

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### Contents

List of Figures List of Tables List of Boxes		vi ix xi
Chapter 1	Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens in Selected Sectors in ASEAN Jeremy Gross, Ponciano S. Intal, Jr. and Edo Setyadi	1
Chapter 2	A Comprehensive Horizontal Review on Existing Regulations to Create a Conducive Business Environment Mohd Yazid Abdul Majid, Goh Swee Seang and Lok Lee Lee	48
Chapter 3	Regulatory Reform in the Sewerage Works Approval Process in Malaysia Punita Nook Naidu	70
Chapter 4	Brunei Darussalam: Halal Meat and Meat Products Processing Ahmed Massod Khalid, Masairol bin Haji Masr, Nazdila Muhammad and Pang Wei Loon	89
Chapter 5	A Case Study of Cambodia's Agro-Industry Sothea Oum, Shandre Thangavelu and Monirath Nuth	118
Chapter 6	A Case of the Automotive Industry in Indonesia Haryo Aswicahyono, David Christian and Adinova Faur	144
Chapter 7	Warehousing Services in Malaysia Mohd Yazid Abdul Majid, Goh Swee Seang and Lok Lee Lee	176
Chapter 8	The Philippines' Tuna Industry Gilberto M. Llanto, Maria Kristina P. Ortiz and Cherry Ann D. Madriaga	210
Chapter 9	Road Passenger Services in Thailand Sumet Ongkittikul and Nichamon Thongphat	239
Chapter 10	Value Chain Development: Case Study of Viet Nam's Fishery Export Thanh Tri Vo and Duong Anh Nguyen	265

## List of Figures

Chapter 1		
Figure 1	The RURB Methodology Stages	24
Figure 2	Stages of Stakeholder Engagement	26
Chapter 2		
Figure 1	Comparison Between Staff Cost and Revenue of the Inland Reven	ue
_	Board of Malaysia	53
Figure 2	Process of Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens	55
Chapter 3		
Figure 1	Ideal Flow of Sewerage Works Approvals	72
Figure 2	Redefining the Problem Statement	73
Figure 3	Result of Reflection on Section 45(1) To Discover its Objectives	76
Figure 4	Definition of Approval and the Methodology	77
Figure 5	Types of Sewerage Infrastructure	77
Figure 6	Types of Sewerage Works	78
Figure 7`	Definition of Risk	78
Figure 8	Risk Matrix for Sewerage Works Approval Procedures	79
Figure 9	Number of Sewerage Planning and Design Applications	80
Figure 10	Number of Sewerage Applications for Final Inspections	80
Figure 11	Uptake Rate of the Transformed Procedure in 2014 across States	82
Figure 12	The Sewerage Works Applications Pattern for 2017	85
Chapter 4		
Figure 1	GDP Growth of Brunei, 2010-2015	91
Figure 2	GDP Growth by Sector	92
Figure 3	RURB Study Process	100
Figure 4	Value Chain of Halal Meat and Meat Processing Products	101
Figure 5	Detailed Value Chain for Halal Meat Processing in	
	Brunei Darussalam	103
Figure 6	Sourcing Raw Meats	105

Chapter 5		
Figure 1	Cambodia's Annual Growth of Agricultural Sub-sectors	
	(Constant Prices), 2005-2017	120
Figure 2	Key Indicators of Cambodia's GDP	121
Figure 3	Share of Cambodia's Export in 2015	121
Figure 4	Major Constraints Faced by Firms in Cambodia (% of Responses)	123
Figure 5	Application Process for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificate	132
Figure 6	Application Process for Certificate of Origin	134
Chapter 6		
Figure 1	Total Sales and Production, Automotive Sector, 2003-2016	146
Figure 2	ASEAN Automotive Market and Production	
	by Country, 2007-2014	147
Figure 3	The Regulatory Process of Preparing BMDTP Facility, 2016	153
Figure 4	Process of Applying for BMDTP	154
Figure 5	Comparison Between Budget Ceiling and Realisation of BMDTP	156
Figure 6	Process of Indonesian National Standards Certification	165
Chapter 7		
Figure 1	Logistics and Value-Added Services Along Supply Chain	182
Figure 2	Warehouse Supply Chain	182
Figure 3	Existing Institutional Framework for Warehousing	183
Figure 4	Project Governance	207
Chapter 8		
Figure 1	Supply of Tuna, 2005-2014	213
Figure 2	Major Fishery Export Products, 2014	214
Figure 3	Tuna Value Chain and Regulatory Agencies	216
Figure 4	Map of BFAR and MARINA Central and Regional Offices	227
Figure 5	Food and Drung Administration (FDA) Offices and	
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing Firms, 2012	231

Chapter 9		
Figure 1	Number of Licence Holders, Categorised by Size of Firms, 2014	244
Figure 2	Proportion of Licence Holders, Categorised by Size of Firms, 2014	244
Figure 3	Number of Joint Operators, Categorised by Size of Firms, 2014	244
Figure 4	Proportion of Joint Operators Categorised by Size of Firms, 2014	244
Figure 5	Employees in Licence-Holding Bus Operating Firms, 2014	245
Figure 6	Employees in Joint Bus Operating Firms, 2014	245
Figure 7	Number of Licences and Operators of	
	For-Hire Services, 2011-2015	247
Figure 8	Value Chains of Road Passenger Transport Services	248
Figure 9	Vehicle Registration Procedures	250
Figure 10	Conceptual Framework	254
Chapter 10		
Figure 1	Issued Documents, 2010-2014	271
Figure 2	Exports of Fishery Products, 1995-2015	272
Figure 3	Output Fishery Explotation and Aquaculture Activities,	
	1995-2015	273
Figure 4	Import of Fishery Products, 2011-2015	273
Figure 5	Supply Chain of Fishery Products	274
Figure 6	Minimum Wage in Different Zones, 2010-2016	275

### List of Tables

Chapter 1 Table 1	Changing Ramnking for Ease of Doing Business	16
Table 2	Study Sectors and Participating Research Organisations	28
Chapter 2		
Table 1	Benchmarking on Dealing with Construction Permits in 16 Capital Cities in Malaysia, 2012 and 2015	l 52
Table 2	Projects to Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens, 2014-2016	68
Chapter 3		
Table 1	Results of Sewerage Works Approval Transformation	81
Chapter 4		
Table 1	Brunei GDP by Economic Activity, 2016	93
Table 2	Import of Meat and Export of Processed Meat in Brunei	93
Table 3	Value Chain Activities and Identified Regulatory Barries	102
Table 4	Government Agencies Involved in Halal Meat and	
	Meat Products Processing	104
Table 5	Regulations and Their Respective Regulators for Halal Meat and	
	Meat Products Processing	104
Table 6	Summary of Responses (Halal Certification)	109
Chapter 5		
Table 1	Cost Breakdown of a Typical Agro-processing Export	137
Table 2	Time Breakdown of a Typical Agro-processing Export	138
Chapter 6		
Table 1	Current Condition of Overlapping Central and	
	Local Government Inspection	162
Table 2	Timeline of Conflicting Environmental Regulations	
	Within Industrial Zone	164

Chapter 7		
Table 1	Industries Included in the Review	179
Table 2	Acts, Regulations, and Policies by Approval of Agency or Minis	stry for
	Warehousing Activities	185
Table 3	Local Authorities Parking by State	19
Table 4	Assessment Tax Rates of Local Authorities (%)	198
Table 5	Multiple Export and Import Permit Approval	200
Table 6	Cargo Clearance Procedures at Border Checkpoint (Johor)	202
Chapter 8		
Table 1	Comparative GDP Growth Rates, East and Souteast Asia	
	(2006-2015)	212
Table 2	Per Capita Fish Consumption, 2014	215
Table 3	Regulations and Regulatory Instruments	218
Table 4	Starting a Business, Ranking of Selected Philippine Cities	224
Table 5	MARINA and BFAR Regional Offices	226
Table 6	Municipal Fishing Vessel Licence Process	230
Table 7	Document Inspection Checklist, Bureau of Fishery and	
	Aquatics Resources, and Food and Drug Administration	233
Chapter 9		
Table 1	Routes of Public Bus Services	241
Table 2	Different Between Fixed-Route and	
	Non-fixed-Route Licencing	242
Table 3	Number of Operating Licences and Licence Holders for	
	Scheduled Bus Services, 2011-2015	243
Table 4	Costs for Bus Operating Firms, 2014	246
Table 5	Value Chain of Starting a Business Process	249
Table 6	Activities on the Value Chain's Service Provision Process	252
Table 7	Data Collection and Analysis Process	255
Table 8	Comparative Working Experience of	
	Passenger Bus Operators	259

#### Chapter 10 Table 1 Indicators of Exports in Viet Nam, 2005-2016 268 Table 2 Indicators of Imports in Viet Nam, 2005-2016 269 Table 3 Starting-a-Business Indicators, Viet Nam, 2003-2016 270 Table 4 Regulatory Agencies and Stakeholders 276 Table 5 Law and Ordinance with Potential Implications for Fishery Value Chain 277

### List of Boxes

_hapt	er l	
3ox 1	Key Definitions	16
	,	
Chapt	er 2	
Box 1	Role of Malaysia Productivity Corporation in Modernising Business Regulations	50
Box 2	Types of Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens	51
Вох 3	Misinterpretation of Regulations Leads to Inefficient Government Delivery	52
Вох 4	How the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia Lowered Internal Operational Costs	53
Box 5	Business Life Cycle of Professionals in Construction Industries in Malaysia	60
Вох б	Regulatory Mapping for Development Process Flow in Malaysia	61
Вох 7	Categories of Compliance Costs	64
Box 8	Six Core Principles for Assessing Regulations and Their Administration	65
Box 9	Spectrum of Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Options	67