

High-Level Dialogue on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration for Enhancing Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand, 20-21 April 2017

Tentative Programme

Day 1	20 April 2017
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00 – 10:15	<p>RECI and its synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP <p><i>Keynote addresses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Mr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, Vice-Chairman , National Planning Commission of Nepal ▪ H.E. Lyonpo D N Dhungyel, Minister of Information and Communications, Bhutan ▪ H.E. Mr. Wais Ahmad Barmak, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, Afghanistan ▪ H.E. Mr. Winichai Chaemchaeng, Vice Minister of Commerce, Thailand, and Co-Chair of ESCAP Working Group on the Formation of an Integrated Market in Asia and the Pacific <p><i>Election of meeting officials</i></p>
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Heads of delegations group photo & coffee</i>
10:30 – 12:15	<p>Session 1. Market integration: How to promote it and rationalize it?</p> <p>This session discusses major obstacles to the movement of goods, services, investment and people across the Asia-Pacific region. The traditional approach of furthering integration through trade and investment preferential agreements have been successful to some extent in expanding trade and investment opportunities, but have not been fully effective. High trade and transaction costs are still prevalent. Therefore, more efforts need to be taken to remove restrictions related to trade and trade facilitation, including</p>

	<p>promoting regional initiatives towards simplification of trade procedures and to facilitate the mobility of labour across borders. Furthermore, there is a need to support countries' efforts to develop regional investment regimes, with an appropriate balance between investor rights and host country development needs, to support an efficient expansion of production networks that also contributes to countries' commitments towards sustainable development.</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Mr. Winichai Chaemchaeng, Vice Minister of Commerce, Thailand, and former Co-Chair of ESCAP Working Group on the Formation of an Integrated Market in Asia and the Pacific <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Saman Kelegama, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade, Government of Sri Lanka ▪ Ms. Rupa Dutta, Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce, India ▪ Mr. Dmitry Mylnikov, Deputy Head, Labor Migration Division, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Russian Federation ▪ Mr. Alan Bollard, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat, Singapore ▪ Mr. Jayant Menon, Lead Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank ▪ Mr. David Morris, Chief Representative, Pacific Islands Forum, Trade Commissioner (China)
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:15	<p>Session 2. Seamless connectivity in transport, energy and information and communications technology.</p> <p>A number of new initiatives in the region are expected to boost physical infrastructure investment in transport, energy and ICT throughout the region. They face, however, two important challenges. First, they need to be aligned with each other so that can serve effectively the whole region. And second, they need to be complemented with facilitation agreements and a simplification of regulations, so that goods and services can flow seamlessly through the expanded physical networks. ESCAP has traditionally played an important role in addressing both challenges through initiatives such as the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Asian Energy Highway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway. This session discusses how ESCAP work in these areas can be leveraged to better support the development of the region's connectivity. A specific issue for discussion is about the existing opportunities and challenges for developing regional and sub-regional policies, regulations, project implementation norms and consensus building for cross-border connectivity.</p>

	<p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Lyonpo Dina Nath Dhungyel, Minister of Information and Communications, Bhutan ▪ Mr. Angarag Myagmar, Head, Renewable Energy Division, Ministry of Energy, Mongolia ▪ Mr. Farrukh Nematzoda, Head of Inland Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Tajikistan ▪ Mr. Haroon Sharif, Advisor, Regional Economic Cooperation, South Asia Region, World Bank, Pakistan ▪ Mr. Masahiro Kawai, Representative Director, Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia, Japan
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee</i>
15:30 – 17:15	<p>Session 3. Enhancing financial cooperation</p> <p>The attainment of seamless connectivity requires substantial investments in infrastructure, for which additional resource need to be mobilized. This session discusses the potential for mobilizing new public and private resources, including through (i) cooperation to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tax collection, (ii) the development of capital markets, (iii) and the use of public-private partnerships for infrastructure financing. The session also discusses ways to improve cooperation to ensure macroeconomic and financial stability, which are essential both for the development of financial markets and for the mobilization of public resources.</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Masahiro Kawai, Representative Director, Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia, Japan <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Cyn-Young Park, Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank ▪ Mr. Yasuto Watanabe, Deputy Director, (CMIM, Strategy & Coordination), ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) ▪ Mr. Kenneth Waller, Chair, Financial Services Advisory Board, Australian APEC Study Centre, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia ▪ Mr. Seiwoon Hwang, Head of Capital Markets, Korea Capital Market Institute ▪ Mr. Shubhomoy Ray, Managing Director and CEO of Finnacle Capital Advisors, India ▪ Ms. Kerry McIntosh-Watt, Inland Revenue Department, New Zealand

Day 2	21 April 2017
09:00 – 10:45	<p>Session 4. Increasing economic and technical cooperation to address shared vulnerabilities and risks</p> <p>Major large-scale disasters often have cross border origins as well as impacts. Disaster risks are also transmitted through cross-border economic networks, as trade and investment interdependence increases so do the risks. These shared vulnerabilities have imposed a significant burden on sustainable development of the region. They have also accentuated the need for enhanced regional cooperation for better understanding of disaster risk, through sharing of data, information and knowledge for risk sensitive policy and intervention, and more effective multi-hazard early warning systems. Addressing the region's shared vulnerabilities, and building disaster resilience, is a task that is frequently beyond the capacity of each individual country. The session discusses how the region can cooperate most effectively to address its shared vulnerabilities.</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Mr. Wais Ahmad Barmak, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, Afghanistan <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Suprayoga Hadi, Director General for Special Region, Ministry of Village, Disadvantaged Region and Transmigration, Indonesia ▪ Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Vice Chairman, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority ▪ Ms. Gulnur Rakhmatulina, Adviser at the Secretariat of the Minister for Economy and Financial Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission ▪ Ms. Zenaida Delica-Willison, President, Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines
10:45 - 11:30	Coffee

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