



ASEAN Business Advisory Council



Press Release on ASEAN-BAC Dialogue with ASEAN Economic Ministers

March 16, 2022, 9.30 – 10.30AM (GMT +8)

(Media Release)

Bandar Seri Begawan: On March 16, 2022 ASEAN BAC members had a dialogue with ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) via virtual platform on March 16, 2022. The dialogue was chaired by **H.E Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia and AEM Chair** with the participation of AEM of 10 ASEAN countries, senior officials, ASEAN BAC members and representatives from relevant organizations.

ASEAN BAC members provided interventions, progress reports and recommendations by the private sectors such as: ABA and ABIS to be held on November 2022 in Phnom Penh, updates on ASEAN Digital Gateway, Travel Wallet, Digital Trade Connect, H.I.R.E.D, Smart Growth Connect, Plea to Act to Revive the ASEAN Tourism Industry, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Empowerment, Green and sustainable Economy Working Group, Recommendation on NTB and NTM and other issues related to Trade Facilitation, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Business Sentiment from Myanmar.

At the dialogue, **Yang Berhormat FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty DSLJ Haji Abd Rahman**, ASEAN BAC Co-chair 2022 shared updates on H.I.R.E.D. legacy project and the Chairmanship 2021 report. The H.I.R.E.D legacy project was launched last year during Brunei's chairmanship and aims to provide 2 key areas on the digital skills training and mentorship. Yang Berhormat highlighted 3 main initiatives currently in the pipeline as follows: Data Analytics pilot programme working bilaterally with UK-Department for International trade, Launching of a private sector page on the SEA-VET.net in collaboration with GIZ RECOTVET and SEAMEO VOCTECH as well as seeking endorsement support from the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs (ACCMSME) in expanding the project across the region. Furthermore, the ASEAN BAC



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Chairmanship Annual report 2021 is in the finalization process and Yang Berhormat concluded “I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to ASEAN Economic Ministers for the support during Brunei’s chairmanship last year which we greatly valued and truly grateful for your trust and belief in our chairmanship”.

*[Quote from **Yang Berhormat FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty DSLJ Haji Abd Rahman** of Brunei, Chair of ASEAN BAC 2021 and Director cum Principal Architect of Eco Bumi Arkitek]*

Ms **Haslina Taib** updated the ASEAN Economic Ministers on ASEAN Digital Gateway, an initiative launched during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2021 to ensure as much as possible, safer travels, seamless process, and provide standardised, integrated platform, protocols, and ecosystem across ASEAN, supporting the ASEAN Travel Corridor Framework and ASEANTA’s ATEX initiative.

“Since the launch, the legacy project has further called for the standardisation of vaccination certificate, clarity and harmonisation of quarantine period and swabs across the region. Essential data required for travel are encrypted and exchanged on private permissioned blockchain, while ensuring national data sovereignty.”

*[Quote from **Haslina Taib**, ASEAN BAC Brunei Member and CEO of Dynamik Technologies]*

“I am delighted that ASEAN Economic Ministers have publicly affirmed their willingness to cooperate closely and ensure that the momentum toward the mandate to public sector will be maintained”

*[Quote from **Mr Musa Adnin**, ASEAN BAC Brunei Member and Managing Director of Adinin Group of Companies]*

Neak Oknha Kith Meng, ASEAN BAC Chair expressed the support to Cambodia Chairmanship Theme: ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together and fully endorsed the Priority Economic Deliverables. ASEAN BAC are mobilizing the Joint Business Councils and Sector Champions to provide technical and advocacy support in building the agenda and in realizing the PEDs for this year. In the capacity as



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ASEAN BAC Chair, he urged AEM to take concrete actions on trade facilitation, connectivity, digital transformation, green and sustainable economic recovery, the push for full RCEP participation of 10 ASEAN members and other equally critical reforms which are crucial for the realization of: 2025 AEC Strategic Blueprint, the 5-6% annual trajectory growth of ASEAN, ASEAN being the fourth largest economy in the world by 2030, and the reduction of economic development gap among ASEAN Member States. He emphasized that private and public sector will work closely, act and address challenges together to realize ASEAN aspiration.

AEM and ASEAN Secretary General commended the achievements by ASEAN BAC and took note of recommendations by ASEAN BAC for consideration and further actions. They also urged relevant stakeholders to work closely with ASEAN BAC.

About the ASEAN Business Advisory Council

The ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) was established by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government (HOSGs) at the 7th ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Launched in April 2003, ASEAN-BAC was set up with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration. Aside from providing private sector feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic cooperation, the Council also identifies priority areas for consideration of the ASEAN Leaders. Accordingly, ASEAN BAC's activities are primarily focused on reviewing and identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration and undertaking programs and projects in support of the AEC Strategic Blueprint 2025.

Further information, please contact Ms. Rabi'atul Halim from ASEAN BAC Brunei secretariat team, via email: secretariat@aseanbacbrunei.com.bn.



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Pictured: ASEAN Economic Ministers; H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN; and ASEAN BAC Members at the AEM-ASEAN BAC Consultation during the 28th AEM Retreat on 16 March 2022 (Source: ASEAN Secretariat website)