

**Regional Multi Stakeholders Forum on**  
**AEC and Regional Agreements: Opportunities and Challenges for SMEs**  
*10 October 2014*  
Meeting Room H  
*UN Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand*

## Agenda

Time	Activities
8.30- 9.00	<i>Registration</i>
9.00 -9.15	Welcome Remarks: Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Director - Mekong Institute
9.15 - 9.30	Keynote Address: Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director - Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP
<b>Panel I</b>	<b>National Impact of AEC on CLMV SMEs</b>
9.30-10.30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Do the SMEs fully understand the implications of AEC? Are they prepared for AEC?</li> <li>ii. What are the key challenges and opportunities CLMV SMEs with the formation of AEC? Are the Governments and other entities in CLMV countries doing enough to support SMEs? What is the role of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Business Association's (ABA)?</li> <li>iii. What is needed to increase the understanding of the SMEs on opportunities and challenges emanating from AEC?</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Rattanatay Luangladbandith, Regional Economist, ADB TRM</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic i: Ms. Pham Thi Que Anh (Alice Pham) , Director, CUTS International - Hanoi Resource Centre</li> <li>• Topic ii: Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Honorary Chairman - GMS Business Forum</li> <li>• Topic iii: Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Director - Mekong Institute</li> </ul>
10.30-10.40	Group Photo
10.40-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>Panel II</b>	<b>Strategies for CLMV SMEs' Development for AEC</b>
11.00-12.15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How the SMEs can integrate into regional and global value chains?</li> <li>ii. What are the non-tariff issues confronting the SMEs?</li> <li>iii. What is the status of FTA utilization in the CLMV countries?</li> </ol>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Director of Mekong Institute</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic i: Dr. Rattanatay Luanglatbandith, Regional Economist - ADB TRM</li> <li>• Topic ii Dr. Mia Mikic, Chief, Trade Policy and Analysis Section, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• Topic iii: Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer - Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</li> </ul>
12.15-13.30	<i>Networking Lunch (by invitation), Public Foyer</i>
13.30-15.00	<p><b>Discussions on identifying capacity building needs for enhancing SME competitiveness and utilization of FTA</b></p> <p><b>Brainstorming session I:</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Pham Thi Que Anh (Alice Pham) , Director, CUTS International - Hanoi Resource Centre</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> on on-going technical assistance for capacity building of SMEs in CLMV- MI initiatives- Mr. Madhurjya K Dutta, Program Manager, Mekong Institute</p> <p>Followed by discussion on prioritization of capacity building needs for enhancing SMEs participation in AEC and FTAs</p>
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.30-16.30	<p><b>Brainstorming session II:</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer - Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Discussions on role the governments, and chambers of commerce and industry, and researchers for enabling in enhancing the utilization of trade concessions under FTAs/AEC for SMEs to increase utilization of trade concessions under FTAs</p>
16.30-17.00	<p>- Summary and way forward</p> <p>- Closing</p> <p>Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Director of Mekong Institute</p>

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