Thailand to host “EAS Regulatory Roundtable” and Workshop on “Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks: The Role of Dialogue Partners”, on 18-19 July 2013, at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok

On 18-19 July 2013, Thailand will host an EAS Regulatory Roundtable and a Workshop on “Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks: The Role of Dialogue Partners” at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok.

The East Asia Summit (EAS) Regulatory Roundtable, which will be held on 18 July 2013, will be jointly co-hosted by Thailand and New Zealand. The main objective in hosting the Roundtable is to concretize the goals of the EAS Declaration on ASEAN Connectivity, adopted by the EAS Leaders at the 6th EAS in November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, by launching a dialogue on regulatory issues among EAS participants.

The Roundtable will complement and build upon existing ASEAN discussions on regulatory issues. It will be attended by experts and representatives from related economic agencies from all 18 EAS Participating Countries, namely ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and the United States of America.

The programme of the Roundtable will be divided into four main topics: (1) the role of regulation in regional connectivity; (2) regulatory management systems; (3) regulatory cooperation; and (4) the way forward.

The Workshop on “Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks: The Role of Dialogue Partners” will be held on 19 July 2013. The objectives of the Workshop are to review the role of ASEAN’s Dialogue Partners in promoting connectivity within different regional frameworks, explore possible ways on how to enhance their involvement and contribution as well as address obstacles in enhancing regional connectivity by submitting policy recommendations on how to tackle such obstacles.

The Workshop will be divided into three sessions: (1) On-going efforts on connectivity in different regional frameworks; (2) The roles of Dialogue Partners in Promoting Connectivity, and (3) Future directions. Invited speakers include experts and academicians from ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners as well as representatives from regional and international organisations, including the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN University Network (AUN), and Mekong Institute (MI).
The Workshop is open to the public particularly those interested from the government, business, and academic sectors in all ASEAN Member States and the ten ASEAN’s Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and the United States of America.

The Roundtable and the Workshop are part of a series to follow-up on the successful Workshop on “Cross-border Management: A Key to Efficient ASEAN Connectivity” and the Workshop on “ASEAN+3 Partnership on Connectivity, held on 13-14 and 15 June last year in Bangkok.

Enhancing regional connectivity has become a priority area of cooperation in various ASEAN-led regional frameworks. ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Connectivity at the 15th ASEAN Summit in October 2009 in Cha-am/Hua Hin and the Declaration on the Adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity at the 16th ASEAN Summit in October 2010 in Ha Noi. In November 2011, Leaders of the eighteen EAS participating countries adopted the EAS Declaration on ASEAN Connectivity in Bali, whereby ASEAN Connectivity was included as a key priority area of cooperation in the EAS. Most recently, the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Leaders adopted the Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity at the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.

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