Workshop on
“Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks : The Roles of Dialogue Partners”

I. Background

1. The ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Connectivity at the 15th ASEAN Summit in October 2009 in Cha-am//HuaHin and the Declaration on the Adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity at the 16th ASEAN Summit in October 2010 in Ha Noi both articulated the vision to enhance intra-regional connectivity which will complement and support integration within ASEAN as well as within the broader regional framework in East Asia.

2. The Heads of State/Government of the ten ASEAN Member States, and eight Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, namely Australia, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America adopted the Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity on 19 November 2011 in Bali. The Declaration includes ASEAN Connectivity as a key priority area of cooperation in the EAS and aims to support and facilitate further relevant cooperation between ASEAN and its EAS Partners in the ASEAN Connectivity initiative.

3. At the ASEAN+3 Commemorative Summit on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN+3 cooperation held on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, the ASEAN+3 Leaders adopted the Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity. The main objective of the Statement is to support ASEAN’s efforts in implementing the MPACs as well as enhancing connectivity beyond ASEAN in the wider region of East Asia.

4. Thailand hosted the ASEAN Workshop on Cross-border Management: A Key to Efficient ASEAN Connectivity and the Workshop on ASEAN+3 Partnership on Connectivity on 13-14 and 15 June 2012 respectively in Bangkok. The Workshops discussed how ASEAN could accelerate the implementation of the MPAC, especially in the area of institutional connectivity and how the ASEAN+3 process could contribute towards effective and timely implementation of the MPAC and thus the realisation of ASEAN Community by 2015. The Workshop on ASEAN+3 Partnership on Connectivity also explored the way forward in enhancing connectivity beyond ASEAN as part of a long-term East Asian community building process.

5. Dialogue Partners of ASEAN have continued to express their keen interests and begun to increase their involvement in enhancing ASEAN
connectivity through multi-layered ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3 and the East Asia Summit (EAS). The synergies for connectivity within all these frameworks, both intra-ASEAN and between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, have become the priority area for cooperation while duplication of works should be avoided when and where possible.

II. Objectives

1. To follow up on the outcomes of previous workshops held in the region, which identified the obstacles in efforts to enhance regional connectivity, by putting forward some policy recommendations on how to address these obstacles.

2. To review the roles of Dialogue Partners in enhancing connectivity within different frameworks and explore how they may increase their involvement and contributions towards ASEAN connectivity, both in terms of effective and timely implementation of the MPAC and enhancing connectivity with the Dialogue Partners.

3. To analyse the existing mechanisms within different frameworks that could be utilised to enhance ASEAN connectivity as well as ASEAN and Dialogue Partners’ partnership on connectivity through all 3 dimensions of connectivity, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people, and to recommend how to avoid duplication of works and enhance complementarity.

4. To brainstorm on how the future directions of ASEAN Connectivity may take shape with the vision of ASEAN Community in 2015 as well as the ideas of East Asia community.

III. Programme

*Friday 19 July 2013*

08:30-09:30  - Registration
09:30-09:45  - Opening Remarks
09:45-10:00  - Refreshment Break
10:00-12:00  - Session I: *On-going Efforts on Connectivity in Different Regional Frameworks*

(This Session will review and develop a consolidated list of existing mechanisms under different regional frameworks that are related to enhancing regional connectivity and discuss how to avoid duplication of works.)
12:00-13:30 - Lunch
13:30-15:30 - Session II: The Roles of Dialogue Partners in Promoting Connectivity

(This Session will assess the roles of ASEAN’s Dialogue Partners in promoting connectivity including addressing problems as well as obstacles and discussing the potentials for greater roles and contributions of Dialogue Partners.)

15:30-16:00 - Refreshment Break
16:00-18:00 - Session III: Future Directions

(This Session will discuss the prospects of ASEAN working with Dialogue Partners in enhancing regional connectivity in all 3 areas, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, with possible policy recommendations on how to address past and possible future problems and obstacles.)

19:00-20:30 - Dinner

IV. Proceedings

The one-day Workshop will start with Opening Remarks and Keynote Address and will then be divided into 3 sessions. Each session will take 2 hours and start with a panel discussion with 5 panelists and 1 moderator. Each panelist will have 10 minutes to present his/her view on a specific topic under the same general rubric of the panel. At the end of the panel discussion, the floor will be open for exchange of views and brainstorming with all participants.

V. Participants

Participation is open to all ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners. Speakers/representatives from regional and international organisations, including the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, ASEAN University Network (AUN), Mekong Institute, as well as business and academic sectors, will also be invited.

VI. Expenditure
Thailand, as the host country, will be responsible for the cost of organising the Workshop, including the local expenditure for transportation and accommodation for guest speakers, panelists, moderators and one member of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) from each ASEAN Member State. Thailand will also bear the costs of return tickets to Thailand as well as local expenditure for transportation and accommodation for 2 representatives from each CLMV country. Other participants may be responsible for their own expenses.

VII. Date and Venue
The Workshop will be held on Friday 19 July 2013 at DusitThani Hotel, Bangkok.

VIII. Contact Details
Further queries may be directed to the followings:

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**Note:** For all correspondences, please make a reference to “Workshop on Enhancing Connectivity”.

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