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**MEMORANDUM**

TO : **The OIC Assistant Secretary**, Climate Change  
and **BMB Director**, In Concurrent Capacity

**The Directors**  
EMB, MGB, FMB, LMB, ERDB

**The Directors**  
Climate Change Service  
Strategic Communication & Initiatives Service  
Policy and Planning Service

**The Executive Director**, NWRB

FROM : **The Undersecretary**  
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **VIRTUAL SEMINAR ON CONNECTING THE CONNECTIVITIES:  
SYNERGY THROUGH ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP, 22 JANUARY  
2021**

DATE : 17 December 2020

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May we refer the letter dated 11 December 2020 sent by Assistant Secretary Junever M. Mahilum-West, Office of ASEAN Affairs-Department of Foreign Affairs, forwarding the invitation from Director-General Usana Berananda of ASEAN-Thailand National Secretariat on the Virtual Seminar on Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership which will be held on 22 January 2021.

The seminar, in partnership with the World Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat, intends to identify linkages between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and other connectivity initiatives in the region, discuss issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain connectivity, provide a platform for policy discussion and promote collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders in the region.

The registration form must be accomplished by the participants on or before 10 January 2021 and may be accessed via the QR code provided in the attached tentative program or through this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4SmaOAsMs8\\_7hGYrU7zXjH27KIWyNk0fsPu0XWokw7SvxzA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4SmaOAsMs8_7hGYrU7zXjH27KIWyNk0fsPu0XWokw7SvxzA/viewform)

For your information and appropriate action.

  
ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

cc: The Assistant Secretary  
Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects

MEMO NO. 2020-679

**Let's Go Green!!!**



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

OFFICE OF ASEAN AFFAIRS

Our Ref. No. : DIV3-891-JMW-2020  
Subject : **Virtual Seminar on Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership, 22 January 2021**  
Date : 11 December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Department is pleased to convey the invitation from Director-General Usana Berananda of the ASEAN-Thailand National Secretariat on the Virtual Seminar on Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership, which will be held on 22 January 2021. The seminar is in partnership with the World Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat. A copy of the concept note and tentative program of the seminar is attached for reference.

The seminar intends to identify linkages between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and other connectivity initiatives in the region, gather recommendations in enhancing the implementation of MPAC 2025, discuss issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain connectivity, provide a platform for policy discussion and promote collaboration and concrete cooperation between various stakeholders in the region, and explore how to promote connectivity beyond ASEAN based on the principles contained in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Recommendations arising from the seminar will be presented to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Post Ministerial Conferences.

The registration form must be accomplished by the participants on or before **10 January 2021**, and may be accessed via the QR code provided in the attached tentative program or through this link below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4SmaOAsMs8\\_7hGYrU7zxjH27KIWyNk0fsPu0XWokw7SvxA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4SmaOAsMs8_7hGYrU7zxjH27KIWyNk0fsPu0XWokw7SvxA/viewform)

Agencies who will not be able to attend the conference are requested to submit their inputs on the topics to be covered in the seminar that fall under their respective areas of competence.

The Department appreciates your participation in this event.

Very truly yours,  
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

  
**JUNEVER M. MAHILUM-WEST**  
Assistant Secretary

**ALL AMTB AGENCIES**

No. 1204/ 1224



Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Sri Ayudhya Road,  
Bangkok 10400.

8 December B.E. 2563 (2020)

Excellencies,

I have the honour to inform you that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, in partnership with the World Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat, will organise a Seminar on **“Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership”** on 22 January 2021 via videoconference.

The Seminar will serve as a platform for policy makers, academics and the private sector to discuss and exchange views on how to promote synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and other regional connectivity initiatives. The Seminar will focus on important issues for regional economic recovery from COVID-19, namely, global supply chain connectivity, green and digital connectivity and smart and sustainable connectivity. It is envisaged that a set of policy recommendations from the Seminar will be formulated and submitted to relevant ASEAN bodies for consideration. The concept paper, along with the tentative programme of the Seminar, are enclosed herewith for your reference.

In this regard, it is my pleasure to invite you to join this Seminar and to seek your kind assistance in extending the invitation to MPAC 2025 National Coordinators, National Focal Points, and relevant national agencies to participate in this virtual Seminar and register through the attached link (via QR code) by 10 January 2021.

Accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



(Usana Berananda)  
Director-General  
ASEAN-Thailand

ALL ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) Representatives



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-draft-

**Concept paper**  
**A Virtual Seminar on**  
**“Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership”**

**Date and Time:** 22 January 2021

**Venue:** Virtual

**Background:**

For ASEAN Member States, enhanced connectivity in the region has been considered a key driver in achieving competitive growth, facilitating economies of scale and integrated production networks, enhancing intra-regional trade, attracting investments and promoting deeper ties among ASEAN peoples.

At the 28<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 6 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. It remains the key strategic document meant to guide and build a seamlessly and comprehensively integrated ASEAN which will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a sense of community, in five strategic areas: (1) sustainable infrastructure (2) digital innovation (3) seamless logistics (4) regulatory excellence and (5) people mobility.

MPAC 2025 is a strategy envisioned to lead to enhanced intra-ASEAN connectivity; but there are notable challenges and constraints, particularly a lack of required resources. At the same time, ASEAN’s connectivity must also link-up beyond the region, for ASEAN to truly benefit from enhanced connectivity. This objective in itself becomes an even more complicated endeavor.

At present, there are a number of connectivity strategies within and outside of the region. Some are meant to promote intra-ASEAN connectivity and others are meant to connect ASEAN more effectively with regions beyond ASEAN. In either scenario, the case for looking into how these different strategies can link up for a reinforced and even more impactful outcome seems only logical. But how to do that requires further study.

During the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summit in Bangkok in November 2019, ASEAN and the World Bank shared the results of a preliminary study paper on **“Connecting the Connectivities: ASEAN and the Regions”**. The study revealed sixteen regional connectivity initiatives that have activities, directly and indirectly, involving ASEAN Member States such as the Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI), the Better Utilization of Investment Leading to Development (BUILD) Act, Partnership for Quality Infrastructure and its expanded version, the Republic of Korea’s New Southern Policy as well as India’s “Act East” Initiative. Despite different aims, these regional connectivity initiatives share common priorities where synergies can be harnessed in the following areas: (a) infrastructure investment, (b) strengthening of rules, policies, regulations and practices, and (c) knowledge and capacity building.

This is a solid starting point. Now, we must move beyond and figure out the “how”.

Another foundation we can build upon are the three joint statements adopted last year by the ASEAN Leaders and the Leaders of China, Japan and South Korea: namely (1) the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative, (2) the ASEAN-China Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative, and (3) the Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity.

Another important document to guide our efforts on connectivity is the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) adopted by ASEAN Leaders during the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in June 2019. It serves as "ASEAN's Vista for Peace and Prosperity," on how to promote regional stability and prosperity in partnership with external partners, based on the ASEAN-centred regional architecture and the principles long-recognised in the region, such as inclusiveness and the 3Ms, namely, mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit, a rules-based framework, and on the principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The AOIP has identified priority areas of cooperation with strategic partners both in and outside the region, which include connectivity, among others.

**Objectives:**

The seminar on "Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership" aims to:

1. Identify linkages and synergies between MPAC 2025 and other connectivity initiatives, especially through the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative, the ASEAN-China Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity;
2. Gather recommendations in enhancing the implementation of MPAC 2025 through the "Connecting the Connectivities" approach;
3. Update the current dynamics on the global supply chain productions and future development directions;
4. Provide a platform for policy discussion and promote further collaboration and concrete cooperation between stakeholders on connectivity in the region; and
5. To explore how to promote connectivity beyond ASEAN based on the principles contained in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

**Participants:**

- ASEAN Secretariat;
- ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee;
- ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/ MPAC 2025 Implementing Bodies;
- MPAC 2025 National Focal Points;
- Dialogue Partners/ Sectoral Dialogue Partners/ Development Partners;
- International Organisations and Multilateral/ Regional Development Banks;
- Representatives from the private sector; and
- Think-tanks and the academia

**Expected outcomes:**

This seminar is a platform for policy discussion and promotion of collaboration bringing together experts, scholars, and participants who have worked on relevant and related issues on connectivity.

Key expected outcomes are:

- (a) recommendations on how to deepen cooperation on connectivity while highlighting the common areas between connectivity strategies through “the Connecting the Connectivities” approach; and
- (b) recommendations on how to implement the three statements that were adopted last year.

These comprehensive recommendations will be presented to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) and the Post Ministerial Conferences (PMCs).



**Tentative Programme**  
**Seminar on “Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnership”**  
**22 January 2021**  
**(via videoconference)**

Time (GMT+7) <i>Bangkok time</i>	Programme
10.00 – 10.15	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand</li> <li>• H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN</li> <li>• Mr. Ranjit Lamech, Regional Director (East Asia &amp; Pacific), Infrastructure Department, World Bank</li> </ul>
10.15 – 11.30	<p><b><u>Session 1: Global Supply Chain Connectivity</u></b>            To discuss the current dynamics of global supply chains in the regional and sub-regional context – the outlook of global trade trends, the potential of sub- and cross-regional collaboration, and ASEAN’s supply chain network that is resilient to pandemic events.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Bank</b> (GVC Team)</li> <li>• <b>U.S.</b> (US Trade and Development Agency - USTDA)</li> <li>• <b>ROK</b> (Dr. Nakgyoon Choi, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy - KIEP)</li> <li>• <b>China</b> (Alibaba Group)</li> <li>• <b>Viet Nam</b> (Ministry of Planning and Investment)</li> <li>• <b>Thailand</b> (Dr. Luxmon Attapich, Deputy Secretary-General, EEC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> H.E. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Special Advisor, EEC</p>
11.30 – 13.00	Lunch break
13.00 – 14.15	<p><b><u>Session 2: Green and Digital Connectivity</u></b>            To identify possible concrete areas of cooperation and synergies between MPAC 2025 and other connectivity initiatives such as BRI, Partnership for Quality Infrastructure and its expanded version, and New Southern Policy in the Green and Digital Connectivity area.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ERIA</b> (Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, Economic Research and Institute for ASEAN and East Asia - ERIA)</li> <li>• <b>China</b> (National Development and Reform Commission)</li> <li>• <b>Japan</b> (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> <li>• <b>ROK</b> (Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Thailand</b> (Thai Bankers' Association)</li><li>• <b>Indonesia</b> (Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs)</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Lim Chze Cheen, Director of ASEAN Connectivity Division, ASEAN Secretariat</p>
14.15 – 14.30	Break
14.30 – 15.45	<p><b>Session 3: Smart and Sustainable Connectivity</b> To discuss how to enhance connectivity through inclusive smart and sustainable cooperation between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners, and to synergize in areas of mutual benefits.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Australia</b> (Dr. Fraser Thompson, Director of AlphaBeta Advisory)</li><li>• <b>EU</b> (Mr. Harvey Rouse, Head of Unit for International Relations, DG MOVE &amp; Mr. Karel Vinck, Former European Coordinator for Railways, European Commission)</li><li>• <b>Singapore</b> (Mr. Seth Tan, Executive Director, Infrastructure Asia)</li><li>• <b>Thailand</b> (H.E. Nikorndej Balankura, Ambassador attached to Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</li><li>• <b>India</b> (Prof. Arpita Mukherjee, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER))</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> World Bank</p>
15.45 – 16.00	<p><b>Key takeaways</b> ASEC to suggest key takeaways</p>
16.00 – 16.05	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> Ms. Usana Berananda, Director General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand</p>



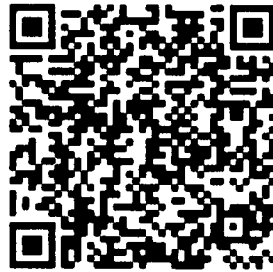


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**Seminar on Connecting the Connectivities:  
Synergy through Enhanced Partnership  
22 January 2021**

**Scan QR Code to Register**



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