

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016

AEC Monitoring and Evaluation

A strong monitoring and evaluation capacity is essential for ASEC and member countries to be able to accurately track ASEAN's progress in establishing the AEC and to use results to inform future actions.

The ASEAN Services Integration Report (ASIR) was launched in December 2015. It provides a comprehensive analysis of ASEAN's achievements in services integration and sets down the potential gains from further integration as well as the remaining challenges. The report provides guidance on the future steps required to realise the AEC's goal for services integration.

As part of the effort to support the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO), AADCP II helped develop the **Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)** in 2013. The STRI identifies which policy measures restrict trade. It provides policy makers and negotiators with information and measurement tools to open up international trade in services and negotiate international trade agreements. It can also help governments identify best practice and then focus their domestic reform efforts on priority sectors and measures. The STRI provided an important statistical input for the ASIR and complements AIMO's set of trade monitoring tools.

Services & Tourism

AADCP II continues to support implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for services professionals, with the development of additional practical tools to promote integration in services and tourism.

Handbooks on core competencies, domestic regulations and best practices in four sectors (Engineering, Architectural, Accountancy and Surveying Services) will promote greater understanding of the opportunities and requirements of trade liberalization in these sectors. Detailed roadmaps to enhance mobility of professionals in Accountancy and Surveying services will be available by the second quarter of 2016.

177 Master Assessors and Trainers were trained to assess and develop Front Office, Food and Beverage Services and Food Production skills in 2015. Toolboxes for Travel Agencies and Tour Operation divisions are being finalised, completing the set of 242 toolboxes required by the Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum.

The **ASEAN Tourism Professional Registration System (ATPRS)** is also currently being developed and will be launched in the third quarter of 2016. The system will facilitate job-matching between ASEAN-certified tourism professionals and the tourism industry.



Director of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO) Julia Puspadewi Tijaja opened the dissemination seminar of the ASEAN Services Integration Report (ASIR) at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta



Travel agencies and tour operators in Vietnam participated at the national workshop to develop toolboxes for Travel Agencies and Tour Operations Labour Divisions on 3 December 2015.

Investment

AADCP II's support for Investment in ASEAN is focused on strengthening knowledge and understanding of investment trends and best practices in the region.

The **ASEAN Investment Report 2015: Infrastructure Investment and Connectivity** was launched at the ASEAN Business Summit 2015, in the sideline of the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015. In addition, a report on **Best Practices for Investment Promotion and Facilitation in ASEAN**; and the **Outsourcing Report: Strategic and Tactical Positioning of ASEAN to be More Competitive in Outsourcing Industries** were completed in 2015. These reports help the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) plan its future activities. Meanwhile, to continue to promote the ASEAN-wide Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), two regional seminars and forums were held in Indonesia and Brunei in the first half of 2015.



Consumer Protection

AADCP II continued to strengthen the capacity of AMS to establish effective consumer protection measures. To build government capacity in consumer protection, six comprehensive training modules were developed and 49 AMS government officials completed train-the-trainer courses in 2015. This cadre of trainers is expected to help promote compliance with national consumer protection laws and regulations in the region.

The **Consumer Protection Digests and Case Studies: A Policy Guide Volume 2** was published and the second **ASEAN Consumer Protection Conference** was held in December 2015. These outputs facilitated ASEAN consumer protection agencies to share views and experiences in consumer legislation and new emerging trends such as sustainable consumption and protection for e-commerce transactions.

In addition, **The ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for Consumer Protection (2016-2025) (ASAPCP)** was endorsed by the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) in October 2015 and will guide ASEAN's work in further strengthening consumer protection in ASEAN.



Participants at the second ASEAN Consumer Protection Conference on 14-15 December 2015, Bangkok, Thailand.

ASEAN Connectivity

AADCP II continued to support ASEAN to advance the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) implementation through evidence-based policy making.

A set of improved indicators for the ASEAN Connectivity scorecard and a monitoring and evaluation report for ASEAN Connectivity were drafted, which provided input for development of the successor document to MPAC: ASEAN's post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity. The new document will be launched in the second half of 2016.

A report titled - **Development Prospects of the ASEAN Power Sector – Towards an Integrated Electricity Market** was published in October 2015, providing practical policy recommendations on the enhancement of physical cross-border development and trading. A study on ASEAN Public-Private Partnership framework is also underway, to guide AMS in leveraging private capital for financing connectivity projects.

Continuing AADCP II support to promote common understanding of ASEAN Connectivity, a set of video clips and online digital content is currently being developed, to be completed in the last quarter of 2016.

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