



Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration Ministerial III:
Building Resilience to Crises through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration
Side Event: Promoting Intra-regional FDI in ASEAN

30 September 2022; 11:00-12:00 (Bangkok Time: UTC +7)
Virtual meeting, Zoom

Introduction

The pandemic has severely impacted economies across the Asia Pacific region. It has drastically changed the business environment and the way people do business. Although global FDI flows had begun to bounce back at the end of 2021, they have steadily been on the decline since the first quarter of 2022 due to growing geo-political tensions. As FDI inflows into the ASEAN region were particularly hit during the pandemic, investment promotion agencies (IPAs) have been trying to adapt and find new ways to keep attracting and retaining investment to recover despite the on-going challenges posed by COVID-19. Focusing promotion efforts on boosting intraregional sustainable FDI within in ASEAN holds much promise for enabling economies within the subregion to build back better and more sustainably.

In line with the objective of the RECI to delve deeper into the specific aspects of regional economic cooperation and integration which can help further our common agenda and attain the SDGs as well as find solutions to challenges arising from recent and ongoing crises, this roundtable will explore the value of intraregional investment flows and how to maximise their potential, including through comprehensive strategies for promoting and attracting investment, towards sustained and inclusive recovery and development.

We will discuss intraregional FDI in the context of ASEAN. Intra-ASEAN FDI inflows stood at 29,924.98 (in million USD) in 2021. While lower than previous years, it is still the second highest source of FDI by ASEAN. This proves that it is in a strategic position to push for intraregional FDI, with its existing platform to create investment opportunities.

Target Audience

Participants will include officials from investment-related agencies of ASEAN countries, private sector, academic institutions, and regional and international organizations.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME	
11:00-11:15	<p>MC: Ms. Madelyn Almazora, Regional Adviser, Sub-Regional Office for South-East Asia, ESCAP</p> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN• H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP



11:15-11:25	<p>ESCAP will present its recent technical assistance work on comprehensive investment attraction and promotion strategies, and how it can be valuable in the context of promoting intraregional ASEAN FDI.</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Heather Taylor-Strauss, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p>
11:25-11:55	<p>Heads of IPAs will share their experiences and success stories in promoting and engaging in intraregional investment, and discuss its benefits and advantages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Ceferino Rodolfo, Vice-Chairman and Managing Head, Board of Investments, Philippines • H.E. Mr. Narit Therdsteerasukdi, Deputy Secretary General, Thailand Board of Investment • H.E. Mr. Sivasuriyamoorthy Sundara Raja, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Investment Promotion and Facilitation), Malaysian Investment Development Authority • H.E. Dr. Riyatno, Deputy Chairman of Investment Cooperation, Ministry of Investment/Coordinating Board of Investment, Indonesia <p>Moderator: Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p>
11:55-12:00	<p>Way Forward and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah, Head, Sub-Regional Office for South-East Asia, ESCAP

