

Promoting Services Trade in ASEAN [2nd Seminar]

1. *Duration* February 23 (Th) to 25 (Sa), 2017

2. *Target Services Sector*

- (1) Telecommunication services
- (2) Computer and related services

3. *Outline of the Project*

Twenty nine representatives (mainly government officials) from 10 ASEAN countries and some ASEAN government officials in Tokyo participated in the 2-day seminar, held at ASEAN-Japan Hall on February 23 and 24, 2017.

At the beginning of the seminar, Masataka Fujita, Secretary General of the Centre, and Professor Hikari Ishido of Chiba University, the resource person for this project, explained the content of the two discussion papers prepared especially for the seminar. Then, the participants reported each country's position and situation, including hindering factors to the trade expansion and policy measures taken pertaining to the target services sectors.

A leading Japanese telecommunication company then made a presentation on the experiences of expanding their operations to ASEAN countries. This triggered a vibrant discussion and many questions were raised from the participants, such as what kind of government policies and laws served as barriers in starting up business in ASEAN. The seminar was also pitched in by UNCTAD representatives from International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities Division who briefed the participants on current issues on ICT and telecommunication services trade.

Following the country group discussion, and with the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 in mind, the participants concluded the seminar with presenting policy options which could potentially promote ICT services trade, the result of which will be incorporated into technical papers for respective services sectors to follow.

After the seminar on the second day, the participants were brought to a state-of-the-art data center of the Japanese telecommunication company who made the presentation earlier. At the data center, the representatives explained their

technological efforts and safety measures to deliver its services to their clients at any time, even in the event of unforeseen accidents, such as earthquakes. On the following day, the participants visited TEPIA (Association for Technological Excellence Promoting Innovative Advances). Machinery equipped with cutting-edge technology such as IoT, or *Internet of Things*, made in particular strong impressions with many participants.

4. *Presentation Materials* (click below)

[Brunei Darussalam](#)

[Cambodia](#)

[Indonesia](#)

[Lao P.D.R.](#)

[Malaysia](#)

[Myanmar \(Ministry of Commerce\)](#)

[Myanmar \(Ministry of Transports and Communications\)](#)

[Myanmar \(Computer Industry Association\)](#)

[Philippines](#)

[Singapore](#)

[Thailand](#)

[Vietnam](#)





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