



Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2005
“Changes, Challenges and Opportunities for Asia and the Pacific”

United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand
13-15 May 2005

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Friday, 13 May 2005

1530 – 1730 Registration

Cocktail Reception hosted by the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) of Thailand

1730 – 1830 **Opening Ceremony**
Venue: UNCC Lobby

- Opening statement by Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP
- Keynote speech by H.E. Mr. Watana Muangsook, Minister of Industry of Thailand
- Special presentation by Mr. Narayana N.R. Murthy, Chairman of the Board and Chief Mentor, Infosys Technologies, India
- Vote of thanks by Mr. Praphad Phodhivorakhun, Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) and Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI)

1830 – 1900 **Signing Ceremony: New Participants – Enterprises and Business Associations in Asia and the Pacific – of the Global Compact**

Group Photograph

Saturday, 14 May 2005

0900 – 1200 **Special Roundtable Session**
Venue: ESCAP Hall

Globalization has brought unprecedented interdependence and economic interactions among countries and cultures. There is as yet no consensus on political and economic frameworks to maximize and equally share the benefits of globalization among nations. Therefore, agreement among all participating nations, including their business community and civil society, on adequate

management of socio-economic development as well as the development of new or changes to existing frameworks is required. Part I of this Special Roundtable Session will discuss relevant strategies and frameworks to cope with the ongoing globalization.

The second part of the Special Roundtable Session will discuss how to cope with the effects of regional natural disasters. The impact of Asia's Tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 on business activities and infrastructure, as well as public-private sector partnership for rebuilding the effected areas and coping with future natural disasters will be discussed.

0900 – 1015

Part I: Getting Asia-Pacific Ready for the New Arena of Globalization

- What are the key dimensions of ongoing globalization?
- What are crucial changes which have important effects for the economies of the Asia-Pacific region?
- What emerging challenges and opportunities do the business community and governments face?
- Where will the growing network of subregional/regional integration agreements, the ongoing negotiations of bilateral/regional trade agreements and the increased mobility of private capital lead us to?
- How can Asia-Pacific maximize the benefits of globalization?
- How can the business community and governments cooperate to create an enabling market environment?
- What are necessary changes in our regional development philosophy and strategy?
- What specific policy measures and tools have been proposed to facilitate investment in development in the region to help countries benefit from globalization and integration into the world economy?

Chairperson: Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP

Facilitator: Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, former Director General, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Discussants:

H.E. Mr. Hamid Yar Hiraj, Minister of State for Commerce, Pakistan;

Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim, Chairman, AmBank Group and Vice Chairman, Pacific Basin Economic Council, Malaysia;

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, President, Chairman and CEO of ETBL Holdings Limited and President ICC Bangladesh, Bangladesh;

Prof. Jean-Christophe Iseux, School of Economics, People's University of China and Adviser on Foreign Economic Cooperation to the CPC Central Committee, China;

Mr. Alex Trepelkov, Chief, Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Branch, Financing for Development Office, United Nations, New York.

1015 – 1045 *Networking Break*

1045 – 1200 **Special Roundtable Session (continued)**

Part II: Coping with Economic Effects of Regional Natural Disasters

- What are impacts of the Tsunami on business activities and infrastructure in the region?
- What are challenges from the Tsunami destruction that the business community and governments face?
- How can the private sector contribute to prepare for regional natural disasters in the future?
- How can the public and private sectors work together to rebuild the economies of the affected areas in the region?
- Should business networking in the region be reshaped to deal with crisis caused by natural disasters?

Chairperson: Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP

Featured presentation: Mr. Erskine Bowles, United Nations Deputy Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery

Facilitator: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India.

Discussants:

H.E. Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Minister, National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia (invited);

H.E. Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India (invited);

Dr. Narhari Rao, Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank;

Dr. Suthad Setboonsarng, Partner, Worldtrade Management Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers Legal & Tax Consultants Ltd.

1200 – 1330 *Lunch hosted by Microsoft / Toshiba*

1330 – 1645 **Breakout Sessions**

Track I:

Venue: ESCAP Hall

How enabling is the Asia-Pacific business environment and what can be done to maximize its opportunities?

The business environment in the Asia-Pacific region improved dramatically in the last two decades, transforming emerging Asia-Pacific into the world's fastest-growing region. However, the differences among countries in their economic policies and national legal frameworks call for analysis, debate and action. Track I aims to capture the dynamics in the region – focusing on key aspects which influence the regional business environment – and to identify the areas to be improved to

Track II:

Venue: Conference Room 4

The Asia-Pacific agenda for corporate social responsibility

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has attracted massive attention lately. Regional economic, social and environmental goals will only be achieved if enterprises work together with all their stakeholders, including governments, employees and their representatives and the civil society. CSR shows enterprises how to respond to the growing need to manage issues that affect their business reputation and environment – and to the concerns of a range of stakeholders. The key areas to be addressed: (1) which factors are universally recognized and which factors are different among regions,

attain higher region-wide competitiveness. Those aspects may include macroeconomic policy, legal and institutional frameworks, value chain improvement, outsourcing practices and e-governance.

Track I moderator: H.E. Mr. Sok Siphana, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia.

1330 – 1500

Breakout (A):

Business climates in Asia and the Pacific: Excellent, good or so-so?

- What areas need governments' immediate actions?
- What are the relevant phases of policy implementation to improve the business climate?
- What new approaches and collaboration methods between the business community and governments are on the horizon?
- How should the business community communicate today's challenges and opportunities to governments?

Discussants:

Mr. Thamrong Mahajchariyawong, Deputy Secretary General, Thai Board of Investment, Thailand;

Dr. John Hewson, The John Hewson Group, Australia;

Mr. Chea Vuthy, Director, Promotion and Public Relations Department, Cambodian Investment Board;

Mr. Kosala Wickramanayake, Chief Executive Officer, Kosala Limited, Sri Lanka;

Mr. Kazi M. Matin, Lead Economist, South East Asia, World Bank.

1500 – 1515

Networking Break

1515 – 1645

Breakout (C):

Logistics and the global value chain

- Emerging integrated transport networks and logistics development.

nations and cultures, such as ethical tolerance; (2) how can enterprises build CSR in their everyday operations; (3) how do they communicate about CSR with their stakeholders; (4) what is the role of transparency; and (5) how can enterprises contribute to recovery from regional natural disasters.

Track II moderator: Dr. Victor Fung, Group Chairman, Li & Fung, Hong Kong

Breakout (B):

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) for Asia-Pacific enterprises: Opportunities or challenges?

- Why is CSR so important for the socio-economic development in the region?
- What are the top CSR aspects critical to the Asia-Pacific?
- What benefits can enterprises gain from CSR? What are challenges?
- How does civil society view the role of enterprises and governments in CSR?
- What is the best CSR model for Asia-Pacific enterprises?
- What is the CSR agenda to cope with major natural disasters?

Discussants:

Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Head, United Nations Global Compact, New York;

Mr. Mark Daniell, The Cuscaden Group Pte Ltd, Singapore;

Mr. Stephen Loke, President, Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, Singapore;

Ms. Ros Harvey, Chief Technical Advisor, Better Factories Cambodia Project, ILO, Cambodia.

Networking Break

Breakout (D):

How can enterprises implement and benefit from CSR?

- What are successful cases and experiences in the region?

- What is government's role in facilitating the development of logistics?
- How to develop transport and logistics?
- What are the major risks and opportunities of global value chains for the Asia-Pacific?
- How will logistics improve the competitiveness of the global value chains?
- How can Asia-Pacific enterprises increase their participation in global value chains?

Discussants:

Mr. Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP;
Dr. Jac-Huyk Auh, Director, International Logistics Center, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Korea;
Mr. Tariq Rangoonwala, Chairman International Chamber of Commerce, Pakistan;
Mr. Suwit Ratanachinda, Managing Director, Profreight International, Thailand.*

- What ideas and models can be identified for CSR implementation?
- What are appropriate roles in CSR implementation for governments and business associations?
- How can individual enterprises maximize their "triple bottom line" (people, planet and profits) through CSR?

Discussants:

Mr. Noke Kiroyan, President, International Chamber of Commerce Indonesia;
Ms. Ambreen Waheed, Founding Executive Director, Responsible Business Initiative, Pakistan;
Mr. Richard Welford, Director, Corporate Environmental Governance Programme, University of Hong Kong;
Mr. Richard Sauer, Associate General Counsel Law and Corporate Affairs, South Asia Pacific Region, Microsoft;
Ms. Shalini Mahtani, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Community Business, Hong Kong.

Sunday, 15 May 2005

0900 – 1215 **Breakout Sessions**

Track I (continued):
Venue: Conference Room 3

0900 – 1030 **Breakout (E):**
Outsourcing: Possibilities, obstacles and joint actions

- How can outsourcing improve corporate competitiveness?
- How can outsourcing support innovation?
- How can governments of developing countries facilitate outsourcing?
- How can the business community and governments partner to facilitate outsourcing?

Track II (continued):
Venue: Conference Room 4

Breakout (F):
How can enterprises engage in a constructive dialogue with stakeholders?

- What are the influences of the emerging multi-stakeholder environment in the Asia-Pacific?
- How can governments and business associations support enterprises to operate in a multi-stakeholder environment?
- How would CSOs like to organize the dialogues with enterprises?

- What impact will outsourcing by enterprises of the region have on the economies of the countries concerned?
- What is future for outsourcing?

Discussants:

Mr. Junichi Inoue, Managing Director, Toshiba Asia Pacific, Singapore;
Dr. Sailendra Narain, Principal Advisor, World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, India;
Ms. Jeannette S. Carrillo, Supervising Investment Specialist, Electronics and ICT Department, Board of Investments, Philippines.

- What are appropriate criteria to measure and report about business performance?

Discussants:

Mr. Djordjija Petkoski, Lead Enterprise Structuring Specialist, World Bank Institute;
Dato' Mohamed Iqbal, Group Executive Director, Farlim Group, Malaysia;
Mr. Sabur Ghayur, Director, Labour Policy Division, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Asian and Pacific Regional Organisation, Singapore;
Mr. Albert Lai, Chairman, Chairman, Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development, Hong Kong, China.

1030 – 1045 *Networking Break*

1045 – 1215 **Breakout (G):**
E-governance: Re-engineering business and government processes

- From the perspective of governments, what are the major benefits of e-governance?
- From the perspective of the business community, what are the major benefits of e-governance?
- How can e-governance improve productivity and competitiveness of enterprises?
- How can governments support the business community through e-governance?
- How should e-governance adapt to the new capabilities and interaction patterns among governments, business associations and individual enterprises?

Discussants:

Mr. Peter Moore, Managing Director for Public Sector, Microsoft Corporation;
Mr. Sangay Wangchuk, Deputy Director, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Information and Communication, Royal Government of Bhutan;

Networking Break

Breakout (H):
Transparency: Free and fair competition

- What is the current situation with regard to transparency in the Asia-Pacific?
- How does transparency, or the lack thereof, influence free and fair competition?
- How do cultural differences affect transparency and competition?
- How can governments and business associations work for more free and fair competition?
- What can stakeholders learn from experiences in the region and elsewhere?

Discussants:

H.E. Mr. Bharat Thapa, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal;
Mr. Hoang Van Dung, Executive Vice President, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Viet Nam;
Ms. Tessa Tennant, Executive Chair, Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia, Hong Kong;
Ms. Sandrine Tesner, President,

6 May 2005

Dr. Wuttipong Pongsuwan, Secretary
General, The Computer Association
of Thailand;
Dr. Somnuk Keretho, Director
Institute for Innovative Information
Technology, Kasetsart University.

Renaissance Strategy;
Pol. Gen. Vasit Dejkunjorn, Vice
Chairman of the Advisory Board,
Transparency Thailand.

1215 – 1400 *Lunch hosted by Microsoft / Toshiba*

1400 – 1600 **Closing Session**
Venue: Conference Room 3

Presentations of Breakout Session Conclusions (Tracks I and II)
Formulation of action-plan

Chairperson: Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP

Discussion on how stakeholders can work jointly to meet the challenges and
grasp the opportunities of globalization. Which concrete actions can be taken
by stakeholders individually and in cooperation with each other between this
APBF and the 2006 APBF?

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