



RCEP SPEED-DATING

Dates:

19 and 26 January 2021

Time:

London, 13:00; Bern, 14:00 CET (GMT+1); Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam 20:00 (GMT+7); China, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, 21:00 (GMT+8); Japan, Korea, 22:00 (GMT+9); Australia (Melbourne), Midnight (GMT+11); New Zealand (Auckland), 2:00, 20 and 27 Jan. 2021 (GMT+13); US, Canada Eastern Time (New York), 8:00 (GMT-5)

Organisers:

1. INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (IKMAS), THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA
2. WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BERN

Supported by the GlobalASEAN Program as part of the ASEAN Economic Integration Forum (AEIF) and the Asia Pacific FDI Forum.

Introduction

The Regional Cooperation Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) was signed on 15 November 2020, after more than 8 years of negotiations which was launched in November 2012 in Cambodia. RCEP is led by ASEAN and involves all 10 ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. RCEP consolidates ASEAN Plus Free Trade Agreements, namely the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand, ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan and ASEAN-Korea. India opted out of the agreement hence the ASEAN-India is not consolidated into the current arrangements. According to Brookings Institute, RCEP will connect to about 30 percent of the world's people and will generate significant gains. Brookings Institute also predicts that RCEP could add USD209 billion annually to world incomes and USD 500 billion to the world trade by 2030. RCEP parties, according to UNCTAD, are also important investment destinations, which accounts to 16 percent of global FDI stock and more than 24 percent of FDI flows.

Objectives of the RCEP Speed-dating

The organisers invite experts to help us gain an understanding about the content of RCEP. The virtual speed-dating of the different parts of the agreement is meant to offer a short and concise take of what the chapters cover, how ambitious they are, what is new and what potential impact are. The speed-dating's main audience are trade and investment officials, students, researchers, business organisations and members of the civil society.

Provisional Program

Day 1: 19 January 2021 (all time is at GMT+1 (Bern, Geneva time zone))		
Time	Activity	Speaker (s)
14:00-14:05	Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the RCEP Speed dating	Professor Manfred Elsig, World Trade Institute, University of Bern Professor Sufian Jusoh, Director IKMAS UKM, Convenor AEIF and Global ASEAN
14:05-14:10	Comparison of texts of agreement between RCEP Agreement and agreements between RCEP Parties	Professor Manfred Elsig, World Trade Institute
14:10-14:30	Introduction to the RCEP Agreement – Objectives of the Agreement and the Role of ASEAN Centrality in the making of RCEP	Ms. Anna Robeniol, Director, Market Integration Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat
14:30-14:40	Chapter 2: Trade in Goods	Dr Deborah Elms, Asian Trade Centre
14:40-14:50	Chapter 3 : Rules of Origin	Mr. Salvador Buban, ERIA
14:50-15:00	Chapter 4: Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation	Mr. Brasukra (Brava) Sudjana, Asia Group Advisors.
15:00-15:10	Chapter 5: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	Professor Sufian Jusoh, IKMAS
15:10-15:20	Chapter 6: Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures	Mr. Devin McDaniels, WTO
15:20-15:30	Chapter 7: Trade Remedies	Dr. Sadeq Bigdeli, Osgoode Hall
15:30-16:00	Discussion	Moderator: Professor Julien Chaisse, City University Hong Kong
Day 2: 26 January 2021 (all time is at GMT+1 (Bern, Geneva time zone))		
Time	Activity	Speaker (s)
14:00-14:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the RCEP Speed dating	Professor Dr. Manfred Elsig, WTI Professor. Dr. Sufian Jusoh, IKMAS, UKM
14:10-14:20	Chapter 8: Trade in Services	Dr Charlotte Sieber, University of Lucerne
14:20-14:30	Chapter 9: Temporary Movement of Natural Persons	Dr Intan Murnira Ramli, ERIA
14:30-14:50	Chapter 10: Investments	Dr Rodrigo Polanco, WTI and Professor Julien Chaisse, City University HK
14:50-15:00	Chapter 11: Intellectual Property	Marta Soprana, Bocconi University
15:00-15:10	Chapter 12: Electronic Commerce	Dr Mira Burri, University of Lucerne
15:10-15:20	Chapter 13: Competition	Assoc. Professor Dr. Haniff Ahamat, UKM
15:20-15:30	Chapter 14: Small and Medium Enterprises	Professor Dr. Sufian Jusoh, IKMAS UKM
15:30-15:40	Chapter 15: Economic and Technical Cooperation	Dr. Stefanie Schacherer, WTI
15:40-15:50	Chapter 16: Government Procurement	Dr Anirudh Shingal, S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR)
15:50-16:00	Chapter 19: Dispute Settlement	Professor Peter v.d.Bossche, WTI
16:00-16:30	Discussion	Moderator: Professor Julien Chaisse
	End of Speed Dating	