

Side Event

“Shaping the Future of Regional South-South Cooperation: Sharing the ASEAN Experiences and Nurturing Synergies across Regions”

**19 March 2019, 15h00-18h00
Sala de Prensa, Palacio San Martín
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Co-organised by:

***UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
The Royal Thai Government and the Government of Viet Nam
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat
The Asia Foundation***

Background

As the international community prepares for the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference) that will take place on 20-22 March 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Member States have called for an enhanced role of regional and sub-regional organisations in South-South cooperation (SSC). This important element is also reflected in the draft outcome document of the BAPA+40 Conference. The foundations and practice in these regional institutions are based on SSC.

In the lead-up to the BAPA+40 Conference, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the Government of Thailand organized a Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, which, among others, reiterated the enhanced role of regional and sub-regional organisations in South-South cooperation.

Among the success stories of regionalisation, ASEAN has played a central role in shaping regional cooperation and integration through the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and ASEAN Economic Community (2015). SSC continues to play a pivotal role in the achievement of this vision, providing regional platforms for cooperation among ASEAN members, and between ASEAN and other governments.

Against this backdrop, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC-Asia-Pacific), Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat compiled a joint publication, “Mapping South-South Cooperation in ASEAN”, showcasing SSC initiatives and arrangements in ASEAN Member States designed to attain sustainable development within the context of regional integration, trade and investment, capacity-building, sustainability and resilience. The publication was launched in September 2018. It reaffirmed the commonly held view that South-South and regional cooperation are almost synonymous in cases of developing country cooperation. The elements underpinning the cooperation within ASEAN are based on the South-South cooperation principles of solidarity, equality and flexibility.

Over the years, the ASEAN Member States have accumulated a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience through regional integration and community-building processes. The publication thus recommends that these lessons learnt be shared with other regional organisations and the world at the BAPA+40 Conference. Such sharing will leverage ASEAN leadership in regional cooperation which could benefit other regions. There were instances identified in the document where ASEAN could benefit from collaboration with other regions. An example was drought mitigation.

A recently released study by The Asia Foundation entitled, “ASEAN as architect of regional development cooperation,” argues that ASEAN has the scope and mandate to set the terms and standards of international development cooperation. Based on the principles of ASEAN centrality, the regional organisation has become the predominant platform for international engagement in the region, particularly on political-security issues. Furthermore, the Joint Report by ASEAN and ESCAP on the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development unlocks the potential of regional groupings in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the SDGs to contribute to regional integration and development.

The event on “Shaping the Future of Regional South-South Cooperation: Sharing the ASEAN Experiences and Nurturing Synergies across Regions” aims to discuss and debate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly competitive development cooperation environment and how regional organizations can support development cooperation that maximizes the benefits through public goods. The first Panel will focus on sharing the best lessons from and reflection on ASEAN experience, while the second Panel will discuss development leadership by other regional organisations and analyse synergies that could be built in working together and sharing information on managing and practicing SSC.

Proposed Activity

The BAPA+40 Conference provides a timely opportunity to “bring the world to ASEAN and bring ASEAN to the World”. The first panel will share ASEAN’s coordination and development experiences in the context of regional South-South cooperation. The second panel will focus on interregional knowledge sharing and dialogue through contributions by other regional organisations and associations.

Provisional Agenda/Structure of the side event (15:00-18:00 hours)

15:00-15.15 hrs	<u>High-Level Opening</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remarks by Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and Envoy of the Secretary General on South-South Cooperation; 2. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu – United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Undersecretary General of UN-OHRLLS; 3. Remarks by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP (VDO Message)
15:15-16:15 hrs	<u>Session 1 : ASEAN’s Role as the Catalyst of South-South Cooperation in Southeast Asia: Sharing the ASEAN Experience</u> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Anthea Mulakala, Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand (as current Chair of ASEAN); 2. Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam (as incoming Chair of ASEAN); 3. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP; 4. Mr. Nguyen Ky Anh, Director of Sustainable Development Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat;
16:15-16:25 hrs	Launch of Regional South-South Cooperation Publications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping South-South Cooperation in ASEAN; 2. South-South and Triangular in Action: the Pacific Islands Development Forum
16:25-17:50 hrs	<u>Session 2</u> : Regionalisation and South-South Cooperation: Sharing best practices and nurturing synergies across regions <u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Carlos Correa, the Executive Director of the South Centre <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Albert Muchanga, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union (AU); 2. H.E. Ambassador Oscar Hernandez, Senior Advisor, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); 3. Mr. François Martel, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF); 4. Mr. Henrique Alberto Banze, Assistant Secretary-General for Macro-Economics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming (MDFIP), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP); 5. Mr. S M Nazmul Hasan, Director of the Secretariat, The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC); 6. Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD);
17:50-18:00 hrs	Concluding Session

Objectives

1. Support the strengthening regional cooperation as called for in the draft Outcome document, build on work undertaken by UNESCAP, UNOSSC and the Asia Foundation to share ASEAN's regional coordination and development experience;
2. Promote interregional knowledge sharing through contributions by other regional organisations and associations;
3. Identify opportunities for inter-regional technical exchanges.

Participants

This event is open to all participants of the BAPA+40 Conference. Accredited delegates with BAPA+40 Conference badges will be able to enter side event venues without having to register in advance. Interested participants without the accredited passes are requested to register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/wdSBnHx7Yu64iHBF2> or scan this QR code by 13 March 2019 in order to access Palacio San Martin in accordance with the Host Country guidelines. Due to limited capacity of the venue, participation is on first-come-first serve basis.



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