



2nd Asian Public Governance Forum on Regulatory Reform

Improving Productivity through Regulatory Coherence and Good Practice

29-30 March 2016 | Hilton Kuching Hotel, Sarawak, Malaysia

AIDE MEMOIRE

1. SPONSORSHIP

The Public Governance Programme (PGP) of OECD KOREA Policy Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysia Productivity Corporation, Korea Institute of Public Administration and Korea Legislation Research Institute, is organizing the 2nd Asian Public Governance (APG) Forum on Regulatory Reform, which will be held in Sarawak, Malaysia on 29-30 March 2016.

2. OBJECTIVE

The meeting brings together practitioners, policy makers and researchers with expertise in the field of regulatory policy and enable in-depth discussions in a closer setting; serving as a platform for opportunity to strengthen cross-border networks among the experts and public officials.

The objective of the event is to provide an open and participatory platform for the Asia-Pacific countries to stimulate discussions on how to enhance the quality of regulations for competitiveness and better economic and social outcomes. More specifically, participants will be able to (a) exchange experiences and discuss public governance issues in regulatory reform in their countries for mutual learning among policy makers, (b) deepen understanding of current status and trends of regulatory policies, and (c) develop and strengthen areas for collaboration.

3. BACKGROUND

Globalization has brought about more intense competition. Countries around the world face similar problems that call for better regulatory tools, institutions and policies that help to create the conditions for entrepreneurship, sustainable employment, higher productivity and good governance.

Recognizing that good regulation is essential to help governments to effectively and efficiently advance our societies and economies, the PGP has launched APG Forum on Regulatory Reform to be held on a regular basis for in-depth policy discussions to deepen understanding of regulatory reform as a vector for stimulating economic productivity and growth.

The annual meeting series bring together experts and delegates for in-depth discussions. The 1st APG Forum on Regulatory Reform: *Improving Regulatory Policy for Balanced Economic Growth* held in Korea last year was well received as it has stimulated the discussion of regulatory reform in the issues of governance by looking at the background and significance of regulatory policy, regulatory reform for balanced growth and economic stimulation, stakeholder engagement and the socio-economic impact of regulations.

This year's forum aims to carry on the aforementioned objectives by providing a valuable opportunity to highlight recent relevant researches on regulatory reform as well as shared experiences from economies with high regulatory performance to those that are seeking to implement better regulatory governance where capacity is currently low. Thus, prior to the conference, Government representatives and participants are encouraged to prepare their country experiences and review the recommended readings for a fruitful discussion (See below 6.4).

4. CONTEXT

Regulations are indispensable to the proper functioning of economies and society as they underpin markets, protect the rights and safety of citizens through their integration and ensure the delivery of public goods and services. However, regulations can also have unintended costs if they become outdated or inconsistent with the achievement of policy objectives. Underperforming regulations pose an unnecessary and detrimental burden to business and citizens, and the need for more quality regulations with fewer irrelevant or marginally effective laws has been consistently emphasized.

As laws and regulations are regarded as essential instruments, together with taxes and spending, in attaining policy objectives such as economic growth, social welfare and environmental protection, governments have acknowledged that even small efforts to fix regulatory shortcomings with accountable and evidence-based law-making can have a tangible, positive impact towards achieving such objectives. Hence, many national executive governments have made important progress over the last decade to improve the quality of regulations, and they are more resilient thanks to the reforms introduced in the past, often in direct response to a crisis and in reference to the OECD guidelines and recommendations.

The recently published OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015 features notable regulatory policy cases acted as a lever of economic growth. In Australia, it was estimated that pursuing a wide range of reforms to reduce regulatory costs could increase GDP by 1.3%. The REFIT programme across the EU for reducing regulatory burdens have achieved EUR 41 billion since 2006. Regulatory simplification in the United Kingdom saved business GBP 10 billion over four years and EUR 1.25 billion was saved for citizens and businesses in Belgium. Such results and experiences could surely be more than an unrealized aspiration for many other countries too.

What should countries do to make regulatory policy an effective lever for growth? Some of the conclusions of the Outlook include using the tools of strategic and effective regulatory policy and engaging all levels of stakeholders. Governments should seek to use their inputs and provide feedback in the design of new laws and regulations. Policymakers should assess the expected impact of regulation and consider alternative options in case the costs outweigh the benefits. Business and citizens should be allowed to participate in the guidance, management and evaluation of regulatory reform as part of the necessary institutional mechanism.

Also highlighted is the stronger regulatory governance to move forward which requires institutional leadership and oversight to drive reform priorities and provide early warning to policy makers of regulatory issues that need to be fixed. Parliaments, regulatory agencies, sub-national and international levels of government need to be more engaged in a coherent manner and incorporate regulatory governance into the culture of government administration, including the promotion of behavior change among regulators to encourage flexibility and innovation, and outcome oriented approaches to rule making and enforcement.

5. EXPECTED RESULTS

Taking advantage of the presentations and floor discussions, the meeting is expected to achieve the following outputs:

- Increased understanding of current status and trend of regulatory reform in member and non-member countries, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, and its development direction
- Enhanced knowledge on regulatory reform challenges and opportunities, issues and practices, explored experiences and lessons learned in promoting the implementation of regulatory policy for productivity growth at sub-national level
- Suggestions and recommendations to PGP in the area of regulatory reform to take into consideration for future activities

6. ORGANIZATION

6.1 Participants

The APG Forum will bring together practitioners, policy makers and researchers with expertise in the field of regulatory policy from member and non-member countries at the top decision-making levels or those who hold equivalent within national governments. Distinguished experts from a various organizations and associations concerning regulatory policy will also take part in this event for in-depth discussions in a closer setting and strengthened cross-border network.

6.2 Dates and Venue

The forum will be held on 29-30 March 2016 at Hilton Kuching Hotel, Sarawak, Malaysia.

6.3 Meeting Structure

The APG Forum will be held for two days and will be articulated into 2 plenary and 6 breakout sessions. Each session includes presentations by invited speakers and discussion. After the presentations by invited speakers, the participants are invited to contribute to the discussion drawn from their own country experiences and expertise. For detailed session layout, please refer to the Agenda at a Glance.

6.4 Recommended Readings

To aid the meeting's discussion, participants are encouraged to read and review, prior to the meeting, selected documents on the regulatory reform listed below.

- [OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook](#), OECD Publishing, 2015
- [Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance](#), OECD, 2012
- [Regulatory Policy and Governance: Supporting Economic Growth and Serving the Public Interest](#), OECD Publishing, 2011
- [Indicators of Regulatory Management Systems](#), OECD Publishing, 2009
- [Mind the Gaps: Managing Mutual Dependence in Relations among Levels of Government](#), OECD Working Papers, 2009
- [OECD Reviews of Regulatory Reform, Regulatory Impact Analysis: A Tool for Policy Coherence](#), OECD Publishing, 2009

6.5 Official languages

The official languages of the APG Forum will be English and Korean.

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

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