

CONCEPT NOTE
ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2024
8-11 October 2024, Landmark Hotel, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
(Draft 6.6 - 22 August 2024)

I. Background

The ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) is an annual event that brings together world leaders, CEOs, and senior executives from multinational and regional corporations. Organized by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), the summit serves as a strategic platform to amplify the private sector's voice in driving policy reforms and positioning ASEAN at the center of global economic interconnectedness.

In October 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR, will host the ABIS, coinciding with its Chairmanship of ASEAN. The summit will reflect the Chairmanship's theme, "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience", focusing on the priorities set by ASEAN and Lao PDR for the year.

Lao PDR's Chairmanship will continue to strengthen the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Centrality under three strategic thrusts:

- (i) Enhancing economic integration by integrating and connecting economies, building stronger connections between ASEAN and its partners to foster resilience for economic growth and stability;
- (ii) Forging an inclusive and sustainable future, recognizing the importance of sustainable development, and connecting environmental and social objectives to build a more resilient ASEAN region; and
- (iii) Enhancing digital transformation for the future, propelling ASEAN to become a leading digital economy and creating new opportunities while building resilience to modern global challenges.

ASEAN-BAC Lao PDR will pursue these priorities with a strong emphasis on economic connectivity and resilience. Lao PDR's ASEAN BAC Chairmanship Priorities are:

- 1. Digital Transformation:** Digital Transformation can boost ASEAN growth, empower MSMEs, and encourages responsible ethical tech use;
- 2. Sustainable Development:** Equitable access to clean energy, financial incentives, and renewables are key for Net Zero in Southeast Asia;
- 3. Health Care Resilience:** Prioritize on One ASEAN Healthcare Market, VTD R&D Manufacturing and de-risking private sector investment in healthcare;
- 4. Food Security:** Strengthen food security, promote sustainable production, enhance information systems, and identify nutrition-enhancing agricultural mechanisms for sustainable ASEAN food system;
- 5. Trade and Investment Facilitation:** Address intra-regional trade disparity by reducing Non-Tariff Barriers, balancing trade with partners, and exploring Free Trade Agreement upgrades; and
- 6. Connectivity and Supply Chain:** Crucial role of connectivity in supporting an integrated ASEAN community building process and transforming from a land-locked to a land-linked country and connectivity hub.

II. Program Ideas

The ABIS 2024 program is designed to address the Chairmanship's priorities through a series of sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. The program will include:

8 October 2024 – Day 1: Opening Session and ASEAN Positioning in Global Geopolitics

Time	Sessions
15:00 – 15:45	Opening Session • Welcoming remarks by Oudet Souvannavong, ASEAN-BAC Chair • Opening remarks by H.E. Malaithong Kommasith, ASEAN Economic Minister (AEM) Chair • Opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN • Keynote address by H.E. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR
16:00 – 17:30	Plenary Session 1: ASEAN's path into the Intelligent Age The Plenary Session will explore how emerging technologies are shaping the transition from the industrial era to the intelligent age and their transformative impact on ASEAN. Panellists will discuss how Southeast Asian Nations need to adapt to these innovations to remain competitive, to ensure interoperability, and to avoid fragmentation. Furthermore, the session will explore strategies for harnessing these new technologies to boost economic growth, foster innovation, and ensure a sustainable and inclusive digital economy in ASEAN. • Keynote Address by H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Lao PDR Expected Speakers: - H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lao PDR (Confirmed) - H.E. Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) (Confirmed) - Tetsuya Watanabe, President of the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (Confirmed) Expected Moderator:

	Prof. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of World Economic Forum (WEF) (Confirmed) Strategic Partner of the Session: World Economic Forum (WEF)
18:00 – 19:30	Dinner Reception by WEF: Empowering ASEAN's Digital Future – Insights from the Private Sector (by invitation) Further details to be confirmed.

9 October 2024 – Day 2: Enhancing Economic Connectivity and Resilience

Time	Sessions
07:00 – 08:30	CEO Breakfast by BCG The "CEO Breakfast" is an invitation-only event designed to bring together top business leaders from the ASEAN region for an intimate dialogue. This event would be a component of the ASEAN Business & Investment Summit (ABIS) 2024 and would aim to foster high-level informal discussions and relationship-building in a less formal, more collaborative set-up than during the ABIS 2024 content sessions.
09:00 – 10:30	Plenary Session 2: From ASEAN to ASEAN: Enhancing Intra-Regional Trade and Investment The plenary session will highlight ASEAN economic strength, Investment opportunities, and challenges. Issues covered are: Unlocking Intra-Regional Business Opportunities; Harmonizing Trade and Investment Policies; Promoting Cross-Border MSMEs Cooperation; Policy Incentives for Businesses to Enhance Intra-ASEAN Trade and Investment; and Optimizing the implementation of RCEP. • Launching of the ASEAN Investment Report 2024 by Mr. Richard Bolwijn, UNCTAD and H.E. Satvinder Singh, ASEAN Secretariat (15 mins) Expected Speakers: - H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community (Confirmed) - M. Arsjad Rasjid P.M., President Director of Indika Energy, ASEAN-BAC Indonesia Chair (Confirmed) - Tan Sri Nazir Razak, Chairman and Founding Partner of Ikhlas Capital, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia (Confirmed)

	- Sylvie Betemps Cochin, Chief Asia Pacific, International Trade Centre (Confirmed) - David Harrity, Managing Director, Head of Corporate & Structured Finance, Asia Pacific Commercial Banking, HSBC (Confirmed) Expected Moderator: - Richard Bolwijn, Head of Investment Research, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD (Confirmed) Potential Strategic Partner of the Session: - UNCTAD
10:30 – 10:45	Special Session: People to People Connectivity through Sports and Football Guest of Honor: Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
10:45 – 12:15	Plenary Session 3: Enhancing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience in ASEAN This session will discuss strategies to build resilient supply chains and enhance connectivity across ASEAN. The elements of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC). showcasing successful cross-border infrastructure projects and initiatives. Financing ASEAN connectivity. Private sector's role in supporting ASEAN Connectivity. • Scene-Setting Presentation by Eric Chan, Head of Corporate Development, YCH Group Expected Speakers: - Dr. Ceferino S. Rodolfo, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of the Philippines (ASEAN Connectivity Initiatives) - Prof. Mari Elka Pangestu, Economist, Former Managing Director of Development Policy & Partnership World Bank (Role of Multilateral Institutions in Supporting Connectivity) (Confirmed) - Tony Fernandes, CEO of Capital A, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia (ASEAN aviation market) (Confirmed) - Dr. Robert Yap, Executive Chairman of YCH Group (Supply Chain and Logistics) (Confirmed) - David Boyland, Managing Director, ASEAN and East Asia, Mott MacDonald (Confirmed) Expected Moderator: - Chris Humphrey, Executive Director, EU-ABC (Confirmed) Knowledge Partner of the Session:

	ERIA
12:15 – 13:45	Networking Lunch Session (by invitation) - Introduction to the initiative of “Paving the Path to Seamless ASEAN Logistics” Dialogue and networking lunch to showcase ASEAN BAC legacy projects in supply chain infrastructure and technology development. High-level guests invited are Singapore and Indonesia AEM Ministers. Possible partners are PTL Holding - Vientiane Logistic Park Lao PDR and YCH Singapore.
14:00 – 15:30	Plenary Session 4: ASEAN Digital Transformation The session will explore the potential of digitalization to improve MSME productivity, facilitate seamless trade, and extend financial inclusion, and discuss policies and initiatives to accelerate digital transformation across ASEAN that includes digital trade connectivity, digital payment, and financial connectivity, and connecting MSMEs to the global market. Expected Speakers: - The Rt Hon. the Lord Vaizey of Didcot, Chair of the UK-ABC (Confirmed) - Neeraj Aggarwal, Boston Consulting Group - BCG Asia Pacific Regional Chair (Confirmed) - Matty Lin, General Manager, Global Business Solutions, SEA, TikTok (Confirmed) - Dr. Lovneesh Chanana, Senior Vice President and Head of Government Affairs (Asia Pacific and Japan), SAP (Confirmed) - Roderick Purwana, Managing Partner of East Ventures, ASEAN-BAC Investment Facilitation Working Group (Confirmed) Expected Moderator: - Yohanes Lukiman, ASEAN-BAC Digital Transformation Working Group (Confirmed) Potential Strategic Partner of the Session: - BCG
15:45 – 17:00	Plenary Session 5: ASEAN Energy Transition This session will examine ASEAN's progress in transitioning to clean energy sources and improving energy efficiency, unveiling the carbon market in ASEAN, the regional cooperation for Net-Zero Transition, the ASEAN Taxonomy for sustainable finance, and mainstreaming biodiversity in ASEAN Policies and Business Practices.

	• Keynote Speech by Mr. Katsunori Nakazawa, JETRO (15 mins) (Confirmed) Expected Speakers: - Yuki Yasui, Managing Director Asia Pacific Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) - Eugene Wong, CEO of ASEAN Taxonomy Board (ATB) - Yuichiro Yoi, Lead for ADB Energy Transition Mechanism Project - Yoon Sheng Wong, Head of Innovation Management, ThyssenKrupp - Fleur Parkinson, Regional ESG Manager for Asia, Climate Fund Managers Expected Moderator: - Dr. K. Chris Hirabayashi, Secretary General of ASEAN Japan Center (Confirmed) Potential Strategic Partner of the Session: - Pricewaterhouse Cooper (PwC) (TBC)
18:30 – 22:00	ASEAN Business Awards 2024 Ceremony and Gala Dinner (by invitation) Gala dinner and award ceremony recognizing outstanding companies in the region and the world.

10 October 2024 – Day 3: ASEAN's Role in the Global Economy

Time	Sessions
07:00 – 08:30	Networking Breakfast Session with Prime Ministers of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia (by invitation) Partner: LNCCI and ASEAN-BAC Topic in trade and investment within the region to be defined later.
09:00 – 10:15	Plenary Session 6: ASEAN Food Security This session will be discussing strategies to ensure food security and resilience in the face of global challenges, examining the role of technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence, in enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability. Expected Speakers:

	- H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia B2B Connect Initiative (BCI) - Agriculture - Prasit Boondoungprasert, CEO of Charoen Pokphand Foods (CFP) - Thai Huong, Chairwomen and Founder of TH Group Vietnam (Confirmed) - Wayne Farmer, President of Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) (Confirmed) - Christian Eyde Moeller, Founder and CEO, Lionheart Farms Philippines, Inc. (Confirmed) Expected Moderator: - Karen Davila, News Anchor & Broadcast Journalist, ABS-CBN (Confirmed) Strategic Partner of the Session: Go Negosyo the Philippines
10:30 – 11:45	Plenary Session 7: Advancing ASEAN-China Connectivity Through Technology This session will explore how technological advancements can enhance cooperation and integration between ASEAN and China. The session will delve into the potential of digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, and innovation to bridge gaps, facilitate trade, and promote sustainable development within the region. By examining successful case studies and identifying key challenges, participants will discuss strategies to harness technology as a catalyst for stronger ASEAN-China relations. • Keynote Speech by Dr. Xu Jinli, Director-General, Department of Bilateral Cooperation, China Chamber of International Commerce (Confirmed) Expected Speakers: - Bernardino Vega, ASEAN-BAC Indonesia Alternate Chair (Confirmed) - Executive President of China ASEAN Business Council (CABC) - Simon Lin, President of Huawei Asia Pacific - Wang Chuanfu, CEO of BYD Company - Neak Oknha Kith Meng, Chairman and CEO of Royal Group Cambodia - Anne Patricia Sutanto, ASEAN-BAC Trade Facilitation Working Group (Confirmed) - Lena Ng, CIO of AMATA Corporation PCL (Confirmed)

	Expected Moderator: - Suwei Jiang, Partner, UK - Asia Business Group, Strategic International Markets, PwC (Confirmed) Potential Strategic Partner of the Session: - CCPIT
12:00 – 13:30	CEO Lunch on Technology in Energy Transition (by invitation) (TBC) Partner: TBC
14:00 – 15:15	Plenary Session 8: ASEAN Potential Market and Economic Integration with the Eurasia Region This session will examine the potential for increased economic cooperation between ASEAN and the Eurasia region and identify key sectors and opportunities for trade and investment. • Keynote Speech by Mr. Alexei Overchuk, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation (Confirmed) Expected Speakers: - Oudet Souvannavong, Chair of ASEAN-BAC (Confirmed) - Mr. Sergei Glazyev, Member of the Board - Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission (Confirmed) - Ms. Gohar Barseghyan, Member of the Board – Minister in charge of Industry and Agroindustrial Complex, Eurasian Economic Commission (Confirmed) - Kobsak Duangdee, Secretary General of Thai Bankers' Association (Confirmed) Expected Moderator: - Ivan Polyakov, CEO of the Interstate Corporation of Development, Chairman of Russia-ASEAN Business Council (Confirmed) Strategic Partner of the Session: Russia-ASEAN Business Council
15:30 - 16:45	Plenary Session 9: ASEAN Potential Market and Economic Integration with India and the South Asia Region

	This session will explore the potential for enhanced economic ties between ASEAN and the South Asian region and discuss strategies to overcome barriers to trade and investment and foster greater cooperation. • Keynote Speech by Minister of India (TBC) Expected Speakers: - Industry Leaders from FICCI - Datuk Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC) - Srinivas Pallia, CEO of Wipro India Expected Moderator: - ASEAN India Business Council Strategic Partner of the Session: - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
(TBC)	Dinner Reception Further details to be confirmed.

11 October 2024 – Day 4: ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific

The Special ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) 2024: Strategic Implementation for Sustainable Trade and Investment on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) The Special ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) 2024 is dedicated to advancing strategic pathways for sustainable trade and investment in alignment with the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). This forum will serve as a platform for high-level dialogue, bringing together government officials, business leaders and experts from across the Indo-Pacific region to address critical economic and sustainability challenges.

The primary objective of the forum is to facilitate a comprehensive understanding and implementation of strategies that support sustainable development goals (SDGs) through enhanced trade and investment frameworks. Participants will engage in discussions on how to leverage regional cooperation, innovation, and policy alignment to achieve economic growth that is both inclusive and sustainable.

Time	Sessions
07:00	Breakfast (Supported by Australia Embassy)
Opening Session	
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival

09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming Speech “ <i>Embracing Collaboration: Forging Pathways to Sustainable Trade and Investment: A Warm Welcome</i> ”
09:10 – 09:20	Keynote Address from Country Leader
09:20 – 09:25	Special Ceremony
Plenary Session: ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum 2024: Implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific through Innovation and Strategic Cooperation	
09:25 – 09:35	Opening Brief (setting the scene) - ASEAN-BAC Indonesia
09:35 – 11:05	Speakers (From Government/Business Council/Private sector) • Lord Ed Vaizey, Chair of UK-ASEAN Business Council (UKABC) • Victor Gao, Vice President of the Center for China and Globalization • Prof. Gordon Flake, Chief Executive Officer of the Perth USAsia Centre • Gita Wirjawan, Former Minister of Trade of Indonesia • Muhammad Taufik Tengku Aziz, President and CEO of Petronas • Paul Thoppil, Canada's Indo-Pacific Trade Representative • Mr Nicholas Moore, Special Envoy for Southeast Asia Moderator: Prof. Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Chair of the Board of Directors The Habibie Center*
11:05 – 11:35	Q and A
11:35 – 11:45	Closing

Closing Ceremony ABIS

Time	Sessions
11:45 – 11:50	Closing Remarks – Leaders LA / MY
11:50 – 12:05	Handover Ceremony ABIS LA to Incoming Chair ASEAN-BAC MY
12:05 – Finish	Networking Lunch Session (by invitation), possible host/sponsor by Indonesia MOFA & ASEAN-BAC Indonesia Partner: ASEAN-BAC Indonesia & KADIN Indonesia

ASEAN/World Leaders Interventions: Insights on the importance of ASEAN towards the global economy. Featuring keynote addresses and panel discussions with ASEAN and global leaders and highlighting ASEAN's growing economic and political weight and its role in shaping the global order. Invited ASEAN Head of States and Governments and World Leaders to address at the ASEAN BIS 2024 during Day 1, 2 and 3.

ASEAN Head of States and Governments: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Timor Leste (observer).

ASEAN Dialogue Partners: Australia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

ASEAN Comprehensible Partners: Brazil, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

Keynote Address Sessions by ASEAN and ASEAN Partners Head of States and Governments would be inserted between the sessions during day 2, 3 and 4.

Side Events

Several side events could be planned to be organized alongside the ABIS 2024, including:

1. **The ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival on 3 October 2024:** Bringing together young entrepreneurs from across ASEAN to discuss challenges, opportunities, and innovative solutions for the future.
2. **The ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Forum on 4 October 2024:** Providing a platform for women entrepreneurs to network, share experiences, and discuss strategies for empowerment and success.
3. **ASEAN Investment Forum on 7 October 2024:** Bringing together policymakers, investors, and development partners to discuss strategies for promoting sustainable investment in ASEAN. The strategic partner for this event is the UNESCAP.
4. **The ASEAN Business Awards (ABA) on 9 October 2024:** Recognizing and celebrating outstanding ASEAN businesses that have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields.
5. **International Symposium on ASEAN Logistics Connectivity (by Thanaleng Dry Port) on 10-11 October 2024:** Given the recent developments such as the Lao-China Railway and Thanaleng Dry Port, the Symposium aims to explore and understand the unique perspectives and contributions of Lao PDR to ASEAN logistics connectivity.

III. Expected Outcomes and Conclusion:

The ABIS 2024 is expected to result in:

- Strengthened economic ties and increased intra-ASEAN trade and investment.
- Enhanced public-private partnerships to address regional economic challenges.
- Actionable insights for sustainable development and digital transformation within ASEAN.
- Greater emphasis on the role of MSMEs, green economy, women and youth, and technological innovation in driving inclusive growth.
- Commitments to bolster food security, health resilience, and safeguard against health threats in ASEAN.

The summit will culminate in a declaration that encapsulates the collective aspirations and commitments of ASEAN businesses and leaders to drive forward the region's economic agenda under the theme of "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience."

Conclusion: The ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, presents a unique opportunity for the private sector to engage with policymakers and shape the future of ASEAN's economic landscape. By focusing on the priorities set by the Lao PDR Chairmanship and building upon the successes of previous summits, ABIS 2024 aims to strengthen ASEAN's economic integration, promote sustainable development, and foster an inclusive and resilient community.

Through a comprehensive program of sessions, panel discussions, and side events, the summit will facilitate meaningful dialogues and collaborations between businesses, governments, and other stakeholders. The expected outcomes of ABIS 2024 will contribute to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community's goals and reinforce ASEAN's position as a key driver of global economic growth and stability.

As the preparations for ABIS 2024 move forward, Lao PDR will continue to work closely with its partners, sponsors, and member states to ensure the summit's success and deliver lasting value to the ASEAN community. By harnessing the collective strengths and aspirations of its diverse stakeholders, ABIS 2024 will serve as a catalyst for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic growth in ASEAN and beyond.

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity



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Date: 31st May 2024

H.E. Mr. Rifat HİSARCIKLIOĞLU

President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB)

Yours Honored Excellency,

Greetings from Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) established in 1989 is an independent body which represents the business community in Lao PDR. It is the nexus between state and private enterprises and represents employers, group and joint ventures across all agencies that have been established under the laws of Lao PDR. It currently has more than 4000 members represented through Chambers of Commerce in 18 provinces and business associations and groups. That makes LNCCI the largest and most representative business community in Lao PDR.

Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, the President of LNCCI and members will visit Minsk, Belarus, on 6th July 2024. On the way back to Laos, our delegation will cover the cost with their own budget for a working visit to Istanbul on 7-8th July 2024 to meet Turkish business associations and chambers, especially the potential cooperation in the strengthening economic and trade cooperation between Laos and Turkey. In response to the latest correspondence regarding the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LNCCI and TOBB, LNCCI side would like to submit final draft of the said MoU which could be signed during the said visit.

In addition, the ASEAN Business and Investment summit (ABIS) 2024, which is the ASEAN's premier annual business and investment event, will be organized on 8th-11th October 2024 in Vientiane and will be chaired by Laos. Therefore, we would like to extend the invitation to TOBB to participate this event.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours sincerely,



Oudet SOUVANNAVONG
President of LNCCI