

RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD SECURITY POLICIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Implications for Trade, Investment, Regional Integration & Sustainable Development

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TRADE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (TKN) SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Trade Knowledge Network (TKN) is a global collaboration of research institutions that aims to assess and address the impacts of trade and investment policies on sustainable development. The TKN is coordinated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), a Canada-based not-for-profit organization promoting change towards sustainable development (<http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net> or <http://www.iisd.org>)

INTRODUCTION

The Trade Knowledge Network (TKN) is a global collaboration of research institutions that aims to assess and address the impacts of trade and investment policies on sustainable development. The Network is coordinated by a Canada-based not-for-profit think-tank, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), which works to promote change towards sustainable development.

The TKN Southeast Asia is currently managing two major research projects in the areas of 'Trade and Environment' and 'Food Security'. On the Trade and Environment research project, the TKN has identified four sub-thematic studies to be pursued at the regional level, which include: (1) Environmental Consideration in Trade Policy-Making in ASEAN; (2) Trade and Climate Change in ASEAN; (3) Illegal Timber and Wildlife Trade in ASEAN; and (4) Trade, Standards and Labelling in ASEAN.

Meanwhile, for its Food Security research project, the TKN has commissioned three research studies to be carried out by independent research consultants in the region, which include: (1) ASEAN and Its Food Security Policies; (2) Food Security Policies in the Mainland Southeast Asia; and (3) Food Security in the Maritime Southeast Asia.

As part of these research projects, the TKN will organize a one day Research Workshop, which is intended to serve as a discussion forum to enable our research consultants gathers inputs from relevant policy-makers and stakeholders in the region. The Research Workshop is expected to bring about forty to fifty participants coming from the ASEAN Secretariat and other relevant ASEAN-related bodies, academic and professional experts, the business community, some ASEAN's dialogue partners, international organization and donor community, and non-governmental organizations. Inputs from this Research Workshop will be used to inform better the analysis, conclusion and policy recommendations of the aforementioned studies.

BRIEF BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

The TKN's research project on the Trade and Environment was launched in October 2009. Balancing trade and investment liberalization and environmental protection is one of the key challenges confronting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). For some time now the member countries of the Association have seen trade and investment liberalization as a way of realizing their economic prosperity and development. Apart from embarking upon unilateral economic liberalization, the member countries of the grouping are also pursuing different tracks of trade and investment liberalization at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Although Southeast Asia has seen the benefits of liberalization over the last decade, it has also witnessed growing pressure on the region's environment.

This project is targeted to identify emerging opportunities and gaps in existing efforts to improve the linkages between trade and investment liberalization and environment. Given the increasing threat of climate change and other environmental degradation, the region could certainly benefit from an initiative to reverse its current paradigm that often prioritizes economic goals at the expense of the environment.

BRIEF BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT ON FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The TKN's research project on Food Security was also launched at the end of 2009. Apart from providing analysis on the impacts of the food price increases, particularly on national trade balances and on the prevailing levels of poverty, the study is also expected to devise a new set of policies and initiatives geared at increasing the level of food security in the region that takes into account the objectives of: (1) fostering trade and cooperation at the regional level; (2) keeping economies open to international trade; and (3) integrating climate change and sustainability criteria to the objective of food security.

Food is a matter of importance to the population of Southeast Asia. The increase in food prices in the period of 2006-2008 and the increased volatility of the markets have raised concerns in the region, particularly among the food-importing countries. These problems also created adverse effects on poverty and income distribution. While, the 2008/2009 economic crisis reduced international prices of agricultural commodities the experience of the price spike exposed many problems in the current system.

The concern with food security generated by the increase of agricultural prices has converged with a multilateral effort for the substantive diminution of world hunger until the year 2015. This is at the moment not only one of the main objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but has been included in the most recent declarations of the G8 and the G20 meetings, in which commitments of additional financing at the international level were made. It is along these areas of concerns that the TKN's research study on the Food Security is currently being undertaken.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

The key objectives of this research workshop are threefold:

- (1) To gather inputs for the studies that the TKN are currently carrying out on the themes of 'Trade and Environment' and 'Food Security' in Southeast Asia;
- (2) To provide a forum for information exchanges on trade, environment and food security policies amongst relevant state and non-state actors in the region;
- (3) To introduce the TKN and its works to relevant policy-makers, the academic circle and sustainable development observers, and other potential partners and stakeholders in the region.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKSHOP

The participants of this workshop are selected based on their professional expertise and experience in dealing with trade, environment and food security policies and issues in the ASEAN region. The workshop will involve no more than fifty officials and individual professionals representing: (1) ASEAN-related bodies (e.g. ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, etc.); (2) relevant Indonesian government ministries; (3) business associations; (4) academia and professional experts; and (5) non-governmental organizations.

Prior to the Workshop, the participants will be provided with a set of questions that will be raised by each research consultant following his or her presentation. We also encourage discussion to take place on issues related to the research projects, but which are not reflected in the set of questions provided.

VENUE AND TIME

The workshop will be held in:

Venue:
Hotel Aryaduta,
Jl. Prapatan 44-48
Jakarta Pusat

Date:
25 February 2010

Time:
9:00 – 16:00

(A letter of confirmation and / or electronic message will be sent to participants to confirm the venue of the Research Workshop at later date)

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

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| 9:00 – 9:10 | Welcoming remarks
(Dr. Alexander C. Chandra – TKN Southeast Asia Coordinator) |
| 9:10 – 9:30 | Opening remarks
(Oli Brown – TKN Global Coordinator) |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Food Security Policies in the Mainland Southeast
(Antonio Schiavonne – Independent Consultant) |
| 9:45 - 10:15 | Q &A |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Coffee break |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Food Security Policies in the Maritime Southeast Asia
(Dr. Zamroni Salim – Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) & the Habibie Center) |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Q&A |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Food Security Policies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
(Lucky A. Lontoh, Independent Public Policy Analyst) |

- 11:30 – 12:00 Q &A
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 – 13:15 Trade and Climate Change in ASEAN
(Jessica Dator-Bercilla – Christian Aid)
- 13:15 – 13:45 Q&A
- 13:45 – 14:00 Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trade in ASEAN
(Lai-Lynn Barcenas – IDEALS)
- 14:00 - 14:30 Q&A
- 14:30 - 14:45 Coffee break
- 14:45 - 15:00 Trade, Standard and Labelling in ASEAN
(Syviengxay Oraboune – National Economic Research Institute (NERI) of Lao PDR, via satellite or Oli Brown, TKN Global Coordinator)
- 15:00 – 15:30 Q&A
- 15:30 – 15:45 Environmental Consideration in Trade Policy-Making of ASEAN
(Prof. Dr. Joern Dosch – Centre for East Asian Studies, Leeds University, via satellite or Dr. Alexander C. Chandra, TKN Southeast Asia Coordinator)
- 15:45 – 16:15 Q&A
- 16:15 – 16:30 Closing session