

Post-Event Report: “Fintech and Financial Literacy- ASEAN Business and Investment Roundtable 2021” (30th August 2021)



I. KEY TAKEAWAYS

A. REINFORCING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FINTECH THROUGH EDUCATION AND STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

1. Re-emphasized the need for greater access to education in knowledge and skills on fintech and deeper literacy on digital financial services and products, including safety and risks involved, as adoption of 4IR solutions are accelerated towards the region's post pandemic recovery efforts. After all, financial literacy is financial inclusion.
2. The cost of financial illiteracy is enormous. Digital financial literacy must be measured in the development of guidelines for inclusion of education by fintech companies for their customers. The gold standard for financial education is incorporation into the school curriculum as this can reach the entire youth population and set the stage for future financial education development. It is essential to have all three, financial literacy, digital literacy and digital financial literacy.
3. Stressed the importance of PPP platforms that contribute to more effective collaboration and the sharing of innovative ideas that can help provide sustainable and inclusive solutions to today's challenges.
4. Need to engage more women and the underserved informal sector to achieve inclusiveness in the digital era.

5. On older members of society who are less likely to use online information and transactions, there should be a call to engage qualified NGOs to actively go out and work with local government units to reach out to the elderly.
6. Wider opportunities and platforms to promote and learn Islamic Banking is also essential for ASEAN and for the rest of the world.

B. AREAS OF CONCERN AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

7. Fintech will impact on current work on e-Commerce, Cyber Security, and the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services that focuses on Financial Services Liberalization and specifically on Financial Literacy
8. To build confidence and trust in Fintech, given lack of transparency, security breaches and certain customers behaviors, an effective governance structure standards must be in place and strongly enforced that protects digital IDs, other data being exchanged and access protocols, among others.
9. In addressing security risks, there is need for
 - 1) Robust preemptive cyber security capability.
 - 2) Effective response from a larger pool of effective and well-trained team.
 - 3) Better continuing education for all stakeholders.
10. Need to develop and sustain the growth in ESG investment and put in place policies to further accelerate financial inclusiveness in support of MSMEs.
11. The 3 challenges facing Fintech are the areas of distribution opportunity, instrument opportunity and manufacturing opportunity.
12. There are four-infrastructure solutions framework to address the challenges:
 - 1) every country must have a trusted Digital ID infrastructure.
 - 2) Regionally, there is need for a structure to exchange data in a trusted way.
 - 3) the cost of international payment transfer must come down.
 - 4) data privacy and consumers rights must be duly protected.
13. Narrowing the digital divide will need to ensure that the less developed countries can keep up by working with the foundational stack in Digital ID, consent, interoperability of payment system and data exchange to have a common understanding of where we stand and where we want to go. This should also apply between cities and rural areas at national levels.
14. On the Interoperability issue in pursuit of economic integration: Regulators at national levels must approve a fintech architecture that is customized to its technical infrastructure that allows for interoperability on a regional platform that addresses the attendant risks in the use of cloud computing or using APIs, among other related interoperable issues on the ground.

PROMOTE REGULATORY SANDBOXES

15. Interim platforms or “regulatory sandboxes” with strong participation from private sector was highly encouraged for more effective understanding of the most effective policy environment needed to ensure successful execution in the processing of policy regulations and legislations.
16. The importance of prudence by developing a clear code of conduct that would apply to drivers and players of the Fintech industry from the regulatory perspective was deemed critical to ensure consumer protection and also allow for efficient reviews and scrutiny of proposed innovative financial product or services.
17. On the matter of Digital Currency, there was openness from regulatory side to adopt as it would be helpful for developing countries where the financial inclusion level or existing financial infrastructure is not yet efficient other than Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

II. Event Summary

On August 30th, 2021, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC) Brunei hosted the **“ASEAN Roundtable on Fintech and Financial Literacy”** webinar via Webex platform from 08:30 am - 11:45 am (GMT +8). The event gathered over 300 participants from across Southeast Asia and beyond who participated in the virtual discussions that featured senior figures and experts from both the public and private sector

This official event, as part of Brunei’s Chairmanship of ASEAN, discussed issues that are being championed by Brunei for ASEAN’s economic recovery and inclusive sustainable growth.

Distinguished keynote and special guest speakers included:

- Keynote Speech: Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II
- Haslina Taib, CEO Dynamik Technologies and Chair of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2021
- Mubashar H. Khokhar, Managing Director & CEO of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Mr. Nguyen Kim Anh, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam
- Dato Seri Paduka Awang Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman

- Hon. FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty DSLJ Haji Abdul Rahman, Chair of the Brunei Advisory Council 2021

Panel Discussion : Fintech for an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN



KEYNOTE ADDRESS
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 National Bank of Cambodia*



Sopnendu Mohanty
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 Monetary Authority of Singapore*



Adrian Gunadi
*Co-Founder & CEO,
 Investree*



Kelvin Tan
*Global Lead
 nexus*



Panel Discussion : The Role of Financial Literacy in ASEAN's Economic Prosperity



SCENE SETTING

**Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji
Ahmaddin bin Haji Abd Rahman**
*Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy and
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MODERATOR

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