



# Summary of Day One

(26 August 2013)

*From defining good governance to identifying the challenges for individual countries*

By

Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC)

THAILAND



# Morning Session Summary (1)

## (26 August 2013)

### Key issues relating to the ASEAN Executive Governance Program

- Governance and government definitions
- Effective government depends on good governance
- Scope of good governance, including interpretations and implications
- Good governance and economic development- sustainability and continuity
- Spending the budget alone is not sufficient to ensure the sustainability of economic development
- Transparency can help improve the service delivery of the public sector
- Public sector harmonization and convergence needs political driver to ensure regulatory, judicial, and political convergences
- ASEAN Blueprint: extensive description of what-to-do but need more on “how-to-do-it”
- Experiences on European Unions- what to do VS what not to do
- EU- Good governance is essential to the integration of countries with diverse background



# **Morning Session Summary (2)**

## **(26 August 2013)**

### **1) Scope of Good Governance in ASEAN**

Workshop participants (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand) exchanged the opinions on the key common issues of good governance as follows:

- a) How the service is delivered?- quality, responsiveness, equity, etc.
- b) How does a public agency perform ?- efficiency, performance measurement, accountability, etc.

### **2) Sharing Thoughts and Experiences on Good Governance**

According to workshop participants, due to the broad scope of good governance, the focus on a particular agenda or feature within the term is needed in order to derive a clear action plan. Otherwise, it is difficult not only to implement good governance scheme but also to measure the results & to construct the direction in good governance direction

Despite the decade long of public-sector reforms, the impacts and the benefits to the general public may not be tangible and immediately quantifiable. As a result, execution and implementation are the important aspect to ensure good governance.



# Afternoon Session Summary

## (26 August 2013)

### 1) Governance and the ASEAN Blueprint

Mr. Shabih Ali Mohib, Senior Economist (World Bank), explained his thought on governance and different aspects of its scope and definitions. Due to its practicality and simplicity, UNDP's five principles of good governance: 1) Legitimacy; 2) Direction; 3) Performance; 4) Accountability and 5) Fairness were presented as the common framework in the term good governance. Several countries and regions such as EU have adapted and extended good governance based on these principles as a foundation for the roles of the public sector. To move forwards with good governance among ASEAN, addressing a common problem which requires the involvement of the public sectors from multiple countries (e.g., emergency management such as natural and industrial disasters) can be the first step for this workshop.

### 2) Comments from participants

Many participants shared their observation on the difficulty in specifically defining good governance to fit with ASEAN due to diverse background and needs. For some countries, the responsibility aspect is critical. For some, the anti-corruption effort is the prevailing concern. For some, the quality of service delivery and the participation of citizens in public-sector affairs should be the priority. For some, measuring the performance of public agencies to ensure the sense of accountability should be given high consideration.

Nevertheless, all participants agreed that good governance should be a good building block for ASEAN Economic Community. Since every country has different set of problems, challenges, environments and circumstances. It is quite difficult to identify common functional area in which match the priority of all ASEAN members to start working together. As a result, all participants by each country will present each country challenges in governance on Tuesday morning session.

# **Additional Information**