



**ASEAN**  
VIET NAM 2020

DIGITAL ASEAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## **ASEAN Business Advisory Council**

*in partnership with the  
Joint Business Councils and Sector Champions  
respectfully submits this*

## **Presentation to the ASEAN Economic Ministers**

*On the occasion of AEM's Special Meeting  
on COVID 19 issues and Economic Recovery Plan Development  
June 4, 2020*

## **Introduction by ASEAN BAC Chair**

**Dr. Doan Duy Khuong**

**Presentation by**

**Tan Sri Dr. Munir Majid,  
Chair, ASEAN BAC Malaysia**

**Why are we here today?**

**To get out of the Covid 19 pandemic and economic slump –  
TOGETHER, SAFER, FASTER, STRONGER!**

We know the issues.

But how can we best address the myriad of urgent and pressing issues both short and medium term that confront all of us in ASEAN?

We must set up a **High Level Special Commission with a Special Business Advisory Board.**

## **Need for an efficient and effective decision-making platform:** **High Level Special Commission on Covid 19 Pandemic**

Highlights of recommended TOR:

- to improve ASEAN's collective response to the current COVID-19 Pandemic by way of facilitating decision-making and execution of immediate, concrete and practicable measures;
- to build capacity at national and regional levels for the comprehensive handling of any future similar events; and
- to make recommendations to the Leaders for a collective medium to long-term ASEAN-wide approach for post-pandemic economic recovery through the development of an Economic Recovery Plan (ERP).
  
- Given urgency, to present to the Leaders by the time they meet in late June 2020.

## **Need for an efficient and effective decision-making platform: Proposing a High Level Special Commission on Covid 19 Pandemic**

- The Commission will take advice and suggested recommendations from a standing Special Business Advisory Board (SBAB). The SBAB will be invited to join meetings of the HLSC to provide on the spot advice and suggestions.
  
- The SBAB will include members of the private sector (ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Joint Business Councils, other key private sector bodies (e.g. ASEANTA, AWEN, etc.), and knowledge partners such as CIMB ASEAN Research Institute and others).

## Where are we?

1. ASEAN is at the most dangerous point in its entire economic history.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused tragic loss of lives.
3. Measures to contain it have decimated both supply and demand in the national, regional and global economy.
4. Two-thirds of global demand have been destroyed.
5. Unemployment has soared worldwide.



## Where are we?

6. We are staring certainly at deep recession and a depression unless:
  - economies restart,
  - people get back to work and
  - there is international cooperation to revive the world economy.
7. Unfortunately protectionist measures are increasing, supply chains are being shortened and near-shoring is becoming the trend.
8. Worse, there is the danger of a second wave of the pandemic.

## Where are we?

9. ASEAN must stand out as the beacon of economic cooperation if demand and activity are to be sustained.

10. It must anticipate and prepare cooperatively for a second wave of Covid-19.

11. If ASEAN does not hang on together it will hang separately!

**Call to Action on 6 Short Term Priority Measures**  
**to send the strongest signal that ASEAN is Cohesive and**  
**Responsive at this most trying times.**

**Extra-ordinary times call for**  
**extra-ordinary measures and resolve!**

## Under the banner of Vietnam Chairmanship – a defining set of 6 actions:

1. Need exponential increase in **affordable, reliable and accessible mass testing capacity** (*and preparing immediately for 2<sup>nd</sup> wave*).
2. **Removal and Minimising Non-Tariff Barriers** (*no further delay to show genuine political will and leadership*)
3. **Customs Automation and Streamlining** (*game changer*)
4. **Finalization and launch of RCEP** (*with or without INDIA*)
5. **Essential Goods and Services** (*unhampered flow, identify the choke points and establish green zones*)

## **6. Private Sector Consultation (all hands on deck)**

*ASEAN BAC, JBCs and Sector Champions under the ASEAN Special Business Advisory Board platform is ready to work with the High Level Special Commission and help on the above 6 key strategies and action points.*

*Our Knowledge Partner – CIMB ASEAN Research Institute (CARI) – has put together in a data base all the specific and underlying actionable recommendations coming from ASEAN BAC and partners which can be processed and rolled out with ASEAN under a mutually agreed timing and approach.*

## Input and Recommendations Endorsed by:

### Lead Partners: Joint Business Councils



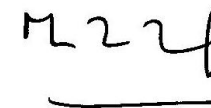

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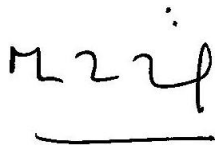



Ross Hunter  
Executive Director

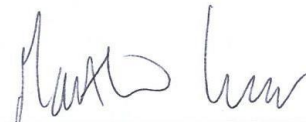
### Knowledge Partner

## Input and Recommendations Endorsed by:

### Associate Partners & Associations



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