



**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION  
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ  
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**№17-5 /100emb**

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение Министерству иностранных дел Республики Казахстан и посольствам государств-членов СВМДА в Анкаре, Москве, Нур-Султане и Пекине и имеет честь направить прилагаемые концепции, организационную информацию и предварительные программы мероприятий, которые будут проводиться Королевством Таиланд в сферах «Развитие малого и среднего бизнеса» и «Устойчивое развитие» в рамках Плана СВМДА по реализации мер доверия на 2021 г.

*Приложение:  
упомянутое,  
на 11 л.*

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить Министерству иностранных дел Республики Казахстан и посольствам государств-членов СВМДА уверения в своем весьма высоком уважении.

город Нур-Султан, 3 марта 2021 г.



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН**

**И**

**ПОСОЛЬСТВА ГОСУДАРСТВ-ЧЛЕНОВ СВМДА  
города Анкара, Москва, Нур-Султан, Пекин**



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*Enclosure:  
on 11 p.*

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan and Embassies of the CICA Member States in Ankara, Beijing, Moscow and Nur-Sultan; and has the honour to forward the enclosed concept papers, organisational information and tentative programmes of events to be conducted by the Kingdom of Thailand in the areas of *Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)* and *Sustainable Development* within the framework of CICA Plan of CBMs for 2021.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan and Embassies of the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nur-Sultan, 03 March 2021



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
AND  
EMBASSIES OF CICA MEMBER STATES  
Ankara, Beijing, Moscow, Nur-Sultan**



No. 1403.1/369

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and, with reference to the latter's Notes No. 17-5/390emb dated 29 December 2020 requesting CICA Member States to submit proposals on activities to be conducted in the year 2022 and No. 17-5/420emb dated 6 January 2021 requesting Thailand to submit Concept Papers and the dates of planned events for CICA Plan of Confidence Building Measures for 2021, has the honour to inform the latter that Thailand, as coordinator and co-coordinator for implementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in Sustainable Development and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) respectively, will conduct two (2) virtual training courses for CICA Member States in 2021 as follows:

1) Workshop on "COVID-19 and SMEs: sharing experience, best practices and bounce-back strategy" (Fourth week of May 2021 via a virtual platform, date and time to be confirmed); and

2) Sustainable Community Development Applying Sufficiency Economy Philosophy from theory to practice (12 – 19 July 2021)

Concept Papers for both training courses are enclosed herewith.

The Ministry has further the honour to inform the Secretariat that Thailand plans to conduct more training courses for CICA Member States in the year 2022.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) the assurances of its high consideration.



The Secretariat of CICA,  
**NUR-SULTAN.**

**- Draft -**

**Concept Paper**

**Workshop on**

**“COVID-19 and SMEs: sharing experience, best practices and bounce-back strategy” (TBC)**

**Date: Fourth week of May 2021, Time: 09.30-12.00 hrs. (GMT+7) (TBC)**

***(Via Virtual Platform)***

### **Background**

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play an important role in contributing to global employment and economic development. This is particularly so for the developing economies. According to the World Bank<sup>1</sup>, they account for about 90 per cent of businesses and 50 per cent of employment worldwide. Formal SMEs contribute up to 40 per cent of GDP in emerging economies; while, if informal SMEs are included, these numbers are argued to be significantly higher. In addition, their role is increasingly important due to the need of Governments to absorb the growing workforce worldwide. Furthermore, they also possess certain qualities – flexibility and resiliency - including capability to adapt quickly, requirement of less capital to operate with low cost of management resulting in relatively cheap production, which make them advantageous economic enterprises especially during the crises<sup>2</sup>.

In CICA Member States, SMEs represent notable figures. In Central Asia, despite their recent development starting from the 1990s, SMEs are estimated to contribute anywhere between 31 and 45 per cent of the economy, and somewhere between 25 and 60 per cent of employment. By estimates, there are about 11 to 28 SMEs per 1,000 people<sup>3</sup>.

In the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) typically account for 10 to 40 per cent of all private employment representing about 80 to 90 per cent of total businesses in most countries<sup>4</sup>.

For some East Asian countries like China and the Republic of Korea, they constitute a significant share of the manufactured exports of over 40 per cent, wherein China, SMEs are considered one of the main industrial forces for social-economic development. Likewise in India, 95 per cent of the industrial units

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<sup>1</sup> “Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Finance”, World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/sme/finance>

<sup>2</sup> Hidayet Keshin et al., “The Importance of SMEs in Developing Economies”, presented at 2nd International Symposium on Sustainable Development, June 8-9 2010, Sarajevo, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/153446896.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Pasadilla, G.O. 2010, “Financial Crisis, Trade Finance, and SMEs: Case of Central Asia”, ADBI Working Paper 187, Tokyo: Asian Development Bank Institute, <http://www.adbi.org/workingpaper/2010/01/25/3440.financial.crisis.trade.smes.central.asia/>

<sup>4</sup> “Small and Medium Enterprises in the MENA Region: SME sector contribution to wealth generation”, The Middle East Investment Initiative, <https://www.meii.org/small-medium-enterprises>

are in small-scale sector contributing to about 40 per cent of the total employment or the second highest level compared to agriculture<sup>5</sup>.

In a similar vein, SMEs including MSMEs are key sources of livelihoods of the ASEAN region. They make up of over 90 per cent of the region's businesses contributing to overall employment of between 57 to 91 per cent. MSMEs represent between 52 to 97 per cent of the region's total employment<sup>6</sup>. SMEs are considered an essential sector for many ASEAN member countries including Thailand and Vietnam.

The sudden and rapid spread of the COVID-19 worldwide has brought unprecedented challenges to the world economy, which appears to have been experiencing the deepest recession since the 1930s according to OECD<sup>7</sup>, leaving many countries with a GDP decline of over 20 per cent and a rapid unemployment surge. According to *The Enterprise Policy Responses to COVID-19 in ASEAN: measures to boost MSME resilience*<sup>8</sup>, providing that the virus is brought under control, the median debt-to-GDP ratio will rise by only slightly less. These trends are expected to happen worldwide while the situation might be more challenging for emerging economies with particular stress on specific sectors and constituencies. It is also argued that businesses will face extraordinary constraints especially MSMEs due to their fewer informal resources and more limited access to information which are essential to strive through the crisis.

Meanwhile, the role of SMEs and MSMEs is considered an important catalyst for world's economic recovery after the pandemic. "Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers"<sup>9</sup> through economic response and recovery programmes are addressed as one of the five streams of work under the UN framework response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of policy action, *A UN Framework For The Immediate Socio-Economic Response To COVID-19* (2020) suggests supporting workers' incomes and employment be at the core of emergency and recovery effort. These include, for example, active monetary and fiscal policies to stimulate the overall economy and employment, tax relief to enterprises, interest rate waivers, wage subsidies. On the other hand, the Asian Development Bank (2020)<sup>10</sup> emphasises that private sector should play a part in this bound-back strategy while taking into consideration challenges faced by small businesses which will remain once the pandemic is contained and when recovery begins. In this regard, it is recommended that SMEs adopt digital transformation and e-commerce into practice and assist the Governments on how the 'new normal' could take place. Additionally, they should not be dissuaded from engaging in the global supply chain due to the trade induced restrictions temporarily deployed.

Following the pandemic fallout, the ASEAN Summit held virtually on 12 November 2020 has highlighted priority areas for the region to be able to build back better. These include sustainable development, human capital development, digitalisation and digital economy capacity building, poverty eradication, among

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<sup>5</sup> Rajesh K. Singh, Suresh K. Garg and S. G. Deshmukh 2009, "The competitiveness of SMEs in a globalized economy: Observations from China and India", *Management Research Review* 33(1): 54-56, (PDF) [The competitiveness of SMEs in a globalized economy: Observations from China and India \(researchgate.net\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311111111)

<sup>6</sup> *Enterprise Policy Responses to COVID-19 in ASEAN: Measures to boost MSME resilience*, OECD and ASEAN (2020), <https://asean.org/storage/2012/05/Policy-Insight-Enterprise-Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19-in-ASEAN-June-2020.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> "General Assessment of the macro economic situation", *OECD Economic Outlook*, vol. 2020 (1), OECD, [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-outlook-volume-2020-issue-1\\_3b2afabb-en#page1](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-outlook-volume-2020-issue-1_3b2afabb-en#page1)

<sup>8</sup> *Enterprise Policy Responses to COVID-19 in ASEAN: Measures to boost MSME resilience*, OECD and ASEAN (2020), <https://asean.org/storage/2012/05/Policy-Insight-Enterprise-Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19-in-ASEAN-June-2020.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> *A UN Framework For The Immediate Socio-Economic Response To COVID-19*, United Nations (2020), <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/UN-framework-for-the-immediate-socio-economic-response-to-COVID-19.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Paul Vandenberg 2020, "How SMEs can bounce back from the COVID-19 Crisis", *Development Asia*, Asian Development Bank, <https://development.asia/policy-brief/how-smes-can-bounce-back-covid-19-crisis>

*Draft as of 21 January 2021*

others. In compliance with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), Thailand urges regional cooperation in the pursuit of the Post-COVID-19 regional recovery with a particular attention to the vulnerable groups hardest hit by the pandemic - SMEs and MSMEs.

Therefore, Thailand, as co-coordinator of the CICA plan on implementation of confidence building measures and activities in economic dimension relating to development of SMEs, is proposing a Workshop entitled “COVID-19 and SMEs: sharing experience, best practices and bounce-back strategy” in the year of 2021. The Workshop primarily aims to share Thailand and Thai SMEs’ experience and best practices in handling the COVID-19 and in preparation for the Post-COVID-19 recovery in the ASEAN region and beyond. It is also aimed to provide a platform for all CICA members – public and private sectors, especially SMEs entrepreneurs - to exchange insights, information technologies and explore business opportunities and collaborations across regions.

It is designed to cover both policy responses and practical case studies in the selected SME sectors of Thailand’s expertise namely, tourism, accommodation and food services.

The programme will be organised by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with its partners including the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP), research institutes, and the private sector.

**Objectives:**

- To share Thailand and Thai SMEs’ experience and best practices in handling the COVID-19 and in preparation for the Post-COVID-19 recovery in the ASEAN region and beyond
- To exchange insights, information technologies, and strategies on building stronger SMEs
- To promote business opportunities and collaborations among SMEs entrepreneurs

**Expected outcomes:**

- Increased understanding of the current and future directions/strategies of SME investment promotion in Thailand and the ASEAN region as a tool to aid a comparative analysis of how to better develop the SME sector in CICA member countries
- Enhanced SME networking and economic cooperation across different regions in the SME sector

**Proposed date of workshop:**

Fourth week of May 2021 via a virtual platform

**Target participants:**

Public and private SMEs and MSMEs agencies/entrepreneurs in the areas of tourism, accommodation and food services from all CICA member and/or those interested in such SME/MSME areas.

**Resource experts (TBC):**

Thailand’s Office of SMEs Promotion (OSMEP)

*Draft as of 21 January 2021*

UN-ESCAP  
Thai academia and researchers  
Thai SMEs and MSMEs entrepreneurs

Note:

*We welcome representatives – public and private sectors - from CICA members who wish to be resource experts. Please kindly contact our coordinator.*

**Coordinator:**

Ms. Orndaporn Pewngern  
Second Secretary  
Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand  
Email: [or.pewngern@mfa.mail.go.th](mailto:or.pewngern@mfa.mail.go.th)  
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**Attachment:** *Draft Tentative Programme as of 21 January 2021*

**Draft**  
**Tentative Programme**  
**Workshop on**  
**“COVID-19 and SMEs: sharing experience, best practices and bounce-back strategy” (TBC)**

**Date: Fourth week of May 2021, Time: 09.30-12.00 hrs. (GMT+7) (TBC)**

*(Via Virtual Platform)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Time	Activity
<b>Opening Session (09.30-9.45 hrs.)</b>	
	Introduction by moderators
	Opening remarks by TICA
	Opening remarks by CICA Secretariat
<b>Session 1</b>	
<b>“COVID-19 impact on SMEs, and response and recovery measures adopted by Governments in ASEAN and other CICA members” (09.45-10.30 hrs.)</b>	
	Moderator: TICA representative (TBC)
	Panelists (TBC)
<b>Session 2</b>	
<b>“Bounce back strategies adopted by SME entrepreneurs” (10.30-11.30 hrs.)</b>	
	Moderator: TICA representative (TBC)
	Panelists (TBC) - Case studies from Thailand (including strategies, SME digitalisation and tools) - Case studies from other CICA members
<b>Session 3</b>	
<b>Q&amp;A and conclusion (11.30-1200 hrs.)</b>	

*Note: Please note that the programme is tentative and subject to change.*





**Sustainable Community Development Applying Sufficiency Economy Philosophy  
from theory to practice**

12-19 July 2021

**TICA : Thailand International Cooperation Agency** is a national focal point for Thailand's international development cooperation. TICA was established in 2004 to realize Thailand's aspiration to be a contributor of development cooperation. Believing that global challenges are best addressed by international cooperation and global partnership, today we continue to strengthen our contribution to achieve global development agenda through various capacity-building and human resources development programmes. In response to the recent changes in the global landscape of development cooperation, especially through the concept of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, TICA continues to realign our focuses in order to deliver Thailand's commitment to be a relevant partner in global agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**AITC : Annual International Training Course**

was initiated in 1991 as a framework in providing short-term training for developing partners. Today, the AITC remains one of TICA's flagship programmes. It offers not only a training experience, but also a platform in exchanging ideas and establishing professional network among participants from across the developing world. Aiming at sharing Thailand's best practices and experience to the world, the AITC training courses focus on development topics of our expertise currently categorized under five themes namely; "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" or SEP, Food Security, Public Health, Climate Change, and Other topics related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Community Development Department, Ministry of Interior**

Founded in 1962, the Community Development Department, Ministry of Interior is tasked to improve rural people's quality of lives by promoting participation and self-improvement. One of the Department's success projects is the introduction of the income generating programs such as the community saving group. It has proved to sustainably generate substantive income for community and enable them to conduct a number of their long-term development projects in response to their particular needs. Moreover, it is also one of the best practices in the application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) in tackling the country's developmental challenges.

**AITC Theme : SEP**

This training course falls under the AITC theme – "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" or SEP. SEP is an approach for sustainable development which espouses moderation, reasonableness and prudence as development framework based on knowledge and virtue. The Philosophy stresses the importance of human development at all levels and also emphasizes the need to strengthen community's capacity to ensure a balanced way of life and resilience, with full respect for the environment. As an approach and mind-setting framework, we believe that SEP can be applied to all 17 SDGs. Therefore, over the recent years, Thailand has shared with international community the application of SEP, our home-grown approach to sustainable development.

## Course Objectives

This training course aims at sharing Thailand's experiences in applying Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) to community sustainable development. At the end of this course, participants are expected to;

- Understand the community development mechanism guiding to self-reliance
- Understand the concepts of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy
- Apply the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy concept to their daily life and community development

## Course Methodology

Training methodologies to be used during this training course include;

- Lecture;
- Group Discussion;
- Study visit.

## Assignment and Evaluation

- In-class participation.
- Advance assignment – All participants are requests to prepare a 10 minutes country report on country back ground and some details focus on community development
- Submission and presentation of “Country Report” which contains information on community development situation in their respective countries.
- Attendance - Participants are required to attend all activities organized during the course. TICA reserves the rights to revoke its fellowship offered or take appropriate action in case a participant is in attendance of less than 90 percent of the training hours.

## Course Outline

This training course focuses on application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) to community-based and economic development. Topics of the training include;

- Learning and understanding SEP

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is a life principle at individual level, household level, and community level, as well as a guideline for business engagement, production, trading, development and national administration via “middle path”.

In this training, participants will learn about SEP and how to implement such philosophy in the daily lives as a way of life of rural population and how to conduct various activities that would enable self-reliant and sustainability.

- Learning on promotion of community empowerment process and tools

Community empowerment is the approach to enable people and community to manage issues effected them. It requires people participation and self-confidence of local people. Therefore, learning process will be promoted through many tools and activities. Community planning is one of the learning tool to encourage people to understand causes and effects of existing problems, look for solution and, then, implement. The interest groups are also encouraging to form and mobilize available resources to solve the problems.

- Study visit to SEP village and sustainable community development village

Field visit is one of the activities that enriches the skill and experience of the participants, encourages discussions and exchanging of ideas with villagers who implement SEP in their daily lives and in the development of the village. Villages selected for field visit are successful villages with proper learning centers for sharing/teaching visitors in both academic and non-academic approaches.

The participants shall learn and exchange ideas on SEP and village empowerment with village leaders who have direct experience

## Application

- Candidates must be nominated/ endorsed by their respective governments of the eligible countries/territories.
- Complete nomination documents must be submitted to TICA through the Royal Thai Embassy/ Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/Royal Thai Consulate-General accredited to eligible countries/ territories.

*(See "List of Eligible Countries" for more information)*

## Number of Participants

20 persons

## Training Institution and Venue

Community Development Department,  
Ministry of Interior,  
Bangkok.

## Participant Criteria

Candidates must possess qualifications as specified in "Guideline for Thailand's Annual International Training Course Programme" No. 2 "Qualifications" and currently working with at least five-year experience in community/rural development or relevant fields.

## Selection and Confirmation

- Selection of participants will be given priority to applicants from the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) member countries.
- Particular attention shall be paid to the candidates' background, their current position, and practical use they expect to make of the knowledge and experience gained from training on the return to their positions.
- Selection of participants is also based on geographical distribution and gender balance.
- Successful applicants will be informed approximately 4 weeks before the beginning of training course.

Successful applicants must return duly completed and signed acceptance form by the deadline to confirm their participation in the programme

## Terms of Awards

AITC Training Fellowship\* include training fee, return economy-class, airfare, accommodation, allowance, insurance, airport transfer and social programme.

\* Subject to rates and conditions established by TICA

## Contact

Bureau of International Cooperation on Human Resource  
Development

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)

Government Complex, Building B, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chaengwattana Rd.  
Laksi District, Bangkok 10210 THAILAND.



Tentative Schedule Online Training on  
Sustainable Community Development  
Applying Sufficiency Economy Philosophy from theory to practice  
12 - 19 July 2021

Time	Item	Remark
Thailand Time GMT + 7		
Monday, 12		
09.00 - 09.15	Orientation	
09.15 - 09.30	Opening remark	
09.30 - 10.00	Getting to know each other Exploring expectation and setting norms	
10.00 - 12.00	Community-Based Rural Development in Thailand - Background - People - centered development - Promotion of Community-Based Rural Development/ Community Empowerment	
	Study visit filming : Study visit on community management and occupational group	Filed visit 1 (VDO)
Tuesday, 13		
09.00 - 12.00	Community - Driven Development : An approach of giving control over planning decisions and investment resources to community groups - Concept of CDD - Promotion of CDD - CDD and poverty reduction Group discussion	
	Study visit filming : best practice of community development village	Filed visit 2 (VDO)
Wednesday, 14		
09.00 - 12.00	Sufficiency Economy Philosophy : Theory and Practice - Concept of SEP - Promotion of SEP in Thailand (what, why , when, who, and how) - Applying/practicing of SEP in daily living (way of life promotion) - Applying/practicing of SEP in (community) development (Model village) Group discussion	
	Study visit filming : Model village applying SEP in development	Filed visit 3 (VDO)
Thursday, 15		
	Agricultural New Theory : Application of SEP in Practice - Concept of ANT	

Time	Item	Remark
09.00 - 12.00	- Benefit of ANT - Applying of ANT i.e. Kok Nong Na Model - Group discussion	
	Study visit filming : Kok Nong Na Model	Filed visit 4 (VDO)
<b>Friday, 16</b>		
09.00 - 12.00	Community - Based Microcredit - Saving group for production - Village Fund	
	Study visit filming: Saving and rural credit group village	Filed visit 5 (VDO)
<b>Monday, 19</b>		
09.00 - 12.00	- Conclusion - Course Evaluation - Closing Ceremony	

Note: Training time may be changed as appropriate.

Tentative