



2021 Forum on Competition in Developing Countries (F-CDC)

*"Enabling Resilient Supply Chains and Innovation Spaces in Southeast Asia's New Normal:
The Role of Competition Policy"*

22-23 February 2021 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM GMT+8 | Virtual

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the weaknesses and fragility of regional supply chains, as nations resorted to containment measures and sudden trade controls. The pandemic-induced disruptions in the supply chains necessitated an accelerated shift to digital platforms and new technologies for businesses to stay afloat and for consumers to maintain access to commodities. Post-pandemic, the imminent threat posed by trade protectionism and future health and disaster risks can easily undermine the transformation of many industry supply chains.

Several months into the pandemic, ASEAN Member States have reaffirmed their commitment to the ASEAN's economic and regional objectives. The Hanoi Plan of Action in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic aims to restore supply chains and ensure its resiliency for the long haul, especially for economies that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as the Philippines. As ASEAN economies reconfigure their supply chains and innovation spaces, they must simultaneously strengthen their disaster risk management and climate response to safeguard the sustainability and inclusiveness of economic recovery from the pandemic.

The 2021 F-CDC, the PCC's flagship advocacy event, aims to tackle the many challenges facing regional supply chains in the new normal and to determine the role of dynamic competition policy in designing resilient supply chains in the long run. The Forum shall provide a platform for sharing of country experiences in transforming their supply chains, and for an exchange of ideas on innovative responses to reinvigorate businesses and rebuild economies. Proceedings of the Forum aim to inform antitrust authorities and other government agencies on how to incorporate supply chains resiliency in the implementation of the national competition policy.

22 Feb 2020 (DAY 1)

PROGRAM

1:00 – 2:00 (60 mins)	Media briefing and participants' registration
2:00 – 2:10 (10 mins)	Opening Remarks Arsenio Balisacan , Chairman, Philippine Competition Commission (PCC)
2:10 – 2:20 (10 mins)	Message from the Philippine Government Ramon Lopez , Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry

2:20 – 2:45 (25 mins)

Keynote Presentation: *Rebuilding and Rethinking Supply Chains in the Post-COVID-19 Era for the ASEAN Region*

Speaker: Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and Chief Executive Officer, Asian Development Bank Institute

- In comparison to high-income economies in Asia, in what ways has the pandemic affected supply chains, output, and employment in developing ASEAN member states?
- How have the ASEAN economies responded to the disruptions in the various supply chains?
- What will be the long-lasting impact(s) of the pandemic on trade, industry, and innovation in the region?
- What lessons from the pandemic would be relevant in climate-proofing our supply chains?

2:45 – 2:55 (10 mins)

Q&A

2:55 – 3:45 (50 mins)

Panel 1: *Pro-Competition Policy in the Face of Slowing Globalization and Creeping Protectionism*

(20 mins)

Speaker: Prema-chandra Athukorala, Professor of Economics, Australian National University - Crawford School of Public Policy

(30 mins)

Moderator: Emmanuel Esguerra, Professor, University of the Philippines School of Economics

Panelists:

- **Kodrat Wibowo**, Chairperson, Indonesia Competition Commission
- **Suthad Setboonsarng**, Board Member, Banpu (Thailand) Plc. and Trustee, International Rice Research Institute
- **Stella Quimbo**, Member, House of Representatives
- **Corazon PB Claudio**, Convenor/Coordinator, Climate Crisis & Sustainable Development Network
- **Nipon Poapongsakorn**, Distinguished Fellow, Thailand Development Research Institute Foundation (TBC)

With lockdowns in place, economies everywhere were shut down abruptly, disrupting supply chains. Trade controls were also put into place as health concerns mounted and to limit the

outflow of food supply. Although these were eventually lifted in most ASEAN countries, the permanent legacies to be left behind by the coronavirus remain uncertain even with vaccines and therapeutic medicines available. Experts have pointed out the slowing of regional integration, as well as the possible return of protectionist policies, which were already creeping in prior to the pandemic.

As such, how has the pandemic changed growth strategies in the region? How will these changes affect the region's current competitive landscape?

- How have ASEAN economies been affected by slowing globalization and rising protectionism? How have they responded/been responding?
- How will slowed down trade and ongoing trade tensions influence the future of supply chain structures in the region?
- How have local firms, especially MSMEs, responded to COVID-19 related shocks as well as climate change-related supply chain disruptions, and what transformations can be expected in their usual business operations (e.g. logistics management, business expansion)?
- What are governments doing to facilitate the transformation of the supply chains and innovation spaces to enhance participation and growth among local players while also promoting market entry and foreign capital inflows?
- How can we ensure that solutions to supply chain disruptions are pro-competition?

3:45 – 4:05 (20 mins)

Q&A

4:05 – 4:10 (5 mins)

Wrap-Up by Moderator

23 Feb 2020 (DAY 2) | PROGRAM

2:00 – 2:15 (15 mins) | **Recap of Day 1**

2:15 – 3:05 (50 mins) | **Panel 2: *The Health Sector and Competition Amidst the Pandemic***

(20 mins) | **Speaker: Marcus Bezzi**, Executive General Manager, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

(30 mins) | **Moderator: Calla Wiemer**, President, American Committee on Asian Economic Studies

Panelists:

- **Aladdin Rillo**, Deputy Secretary-General, ASEAN Economic Community (TBC)
- **Jaime Montoya**, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (TBC)
- **Risa Hontiveros**, Member, Senate of the Philippines (TBC)
- **Beaver Tamesis**, President, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines
- **Marjorie Pajaron**, Assistant Professor, University of the Philippines

With an unprecedented global pandemic, countries' healthcare systems were at the frontlines. The health and economic impact of COVID-19 has been significant across Southeast Asia. Generally, less developed economies have weaker healthcare systems and significantly lag behind advanced economies. As such, there is much to learn from their strategies despite limited fiscal space and other constraints.

As the pandemic continues to affect millions in the region, what is the role of competition policy in making our healthcare systems more accessible, more robust and more resilient?

- What actions have governments taken to ensure there is a sufficient supply of medical products and adequate access to healthcare services amid the pandemic?

- What is the current state of competition in the health sector and its related sectors (e.g., logistics and manufacturing) and how has it affected the responses to the pandemic?
- How does trade regulations, both tariff and non-tariff, affect timely access to affordable and trustworthy medicinal and related products, and ensure resilient supply chains?
- How do we ensure swift responses to the pandemic while maintaining level-playing fields in these markets?
- How do we sustain/encourage competitive conditions in the medical technologies industry beyond the current focus on developing and rolling out COVID-19 vaccines worldwide?

3:05 – 3:25 (20 mins)

Q&A

3:25 – 4:15 (50 mins)

Panel 3: Big Tech in the Post-Pandemic Era: An Equalizer or Amplifier?

(20 mins)

Speaker: Thomas Cheng, Deputy Director, Asian Institute of International Financial Law, The University of Hong Kong

(30 mins)

Moderator: Johannes Benjamin Bernabe, Commissioner, PCC

Panelists:

- **Amabelle Asuncion**, PCC
- **Rafaelita Aldaba**, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry
- **Nancy Binay**, Member, Senate of the Philippines (TBC)
- **Ana Pascual Balingit**, Vice President for Key Merchant Accounts, Mynt (GCash)
- **Christopher Monterola**, Professor and Executive Director for ACCeSs@AIM, Asian Institute of Management

Technological innovation has proven to be a game-changer for economic growth, especially in the last three decades, leading firms to transform their industrial capabilities and outlays, and empowering consumers to demand better service access and value. Today, the digital shift seems to have been accelerated as companies come up with solutions to the supply chain disruptions and demand shocks caused by the pandemic. However, despite such efficiency gains from 'Big Tech' companies, many have argued that such technologies have deepened prior inequalities based on economies' different

levels of access to other technologies and capital. As firms and households grow dependent on them, 'Big Tech' companies may also increase their current market power, and risk extending such power across different digital spaces, thereby risking anti-competitive behaviors and conditions.

As such, how can competition policy ensure a level playing field while still enabling sufficient innovation spaces in the face of Big Tech's likely greater market power? How do we make sure that innovation-led growth and recovery will be inclusive?

- How has the pandemic accentuated existing inequalities in terms of access to technology and digital resources and in what ways has 'Big Tech' affected these inequalities?
- How has 'Big Tech' shaped public and private responses to supply chain disruptions and demand shocks in the region? How has this affected market competitors, consumers, and workers?
- How can competition authorities detect the abuse of market power by 'Big Tech' companies during and after the pandemic and how can they distinguish these anti-competitive activities from the disruption and destruction wrought specifically by the pandemic?
- What is the role of competition policy in ensuring changes in market power associated with 'Big Tech' companies and digitization at large do not lead to abusive activities and conditions, vis-à-vis other government policies to rebuild economies and revitalize innovation after the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst climate change?

4:15 – 4:35 (20 mins)

Q&A

4:35 – 4:40 (5 mins)

Closing Remarks

Emerson Aquende, Commissioner, PCC