

Aid Effectiveness & Regional Economic Integration

Seminar on Challenges in Cooperation and
Communication for Development in Southeast Asia

26-27 April 2010, Hanoi, Viet Nam

CLOSING SPEECH

**DELIVERED BY MR. NGUYEN THE PHUONG
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Mr. Mario Amano, OECD Deputy Secretary General, Distinguished delegates,

As addressed by Mr. Mario Amano in his closing remarks, our Seminar is very successful. Over the past two days we have got common understanding on close relationship between aid effectiveness and regional economic integration, potentialities of implementing Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness at the regional level as well as the opportunities and challenges in global and regional economic integration.

Distinguished delegates,

To maximize aid effectiveness to serve the purpose of regional economic integration, ASEAN should have a clear strategy and policies for ODA mobilization and utilization in which the Paris Declaration's principles of ownership, management for result and mutual accountability should be promoted. To reduce transaction cost and increase "value of money", ASEAN needs to consider the possibility of rationalization of the on-going initiatives in regional economic integration. At the same time the development partners apart from respect the principles of Paris Declaration they should provide their assistance based on the demand of ASEAN in line with their regional development strategies and plan.

Together with investments made by the Governments of ASEAN members, the South-South cooperation support within ASEAN, ODA should be considered as a catalyst element to development and regional economic integration, providing both the software and hardware infrastructure that fuel the investment from other investment resources (FDI, private sector, etc.). Apart from remarkable achievements in economic development, creating close linkages between aid effectiveness and development effectiveness.

To reach agreement and consensus on the contribution of aid to process of regional economic integration and on the benefits that aid can bring to growth and poverty reduction, especially achieving the MDGs, we need to have a coherence policy from the Government, Parliament and the public. In this regard the communication activities should be strengthened.

With these observations I do hope that the challenges in the regional economic integration, especially the development gap and the connectivity among ASEAN members, can be soon overcome based on close cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and its development partners like ADB, EU, OECD, Japan, etc. as well as with other emerging economies in the region such as China and India.

Distinguished delegates,

With the success of this seminar, I am confident that its outcomes and recommendations will be a strong and valuable message to send to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul in 2011.

On this occasion, on the behalf of the Government of Vietnam, I would like to express again our special thanks to OECD, the Governments of Japan and Republic of Korea for co-hosting this event with us.

I hope this seminar will be very successful and wish you all have a good health, happiness and a lot of success.