



Media Release

Business Priorities for Regional Integration in Southeast Asia: Five Steps for Economic Integration

Paris, 25 March 2015 – “**Moving towards competitive markets is a prerequisite for investor confidence, job creation, and economic growth**”, said BIAC Chairman Phil O’Reilly at the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum in Jakarta, commenting on a joint Business Statement by BIAC, the Indonesian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC).

The joint Business Statement sets out **five important steps for economic integration** in Southeast Asia in the run-up to the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community later this year and in preparation for its post-2015 agenda:

- Business calls on policymakers to reduce the remaining barriers to trade and investment across a number of sectors. At the same time, it recognizes the need to strengthen the competitiveness of domestic industries to participate in regional and global value chains. The Statement also proposes a review of the ASEAN Priority Integration Sector list, an investment boost into critical infrastructures, and further efforts to enhance skills, entrepreneurship and the movement of skilled labor in the region.

Mr. O’Reilly underlined that “**global cooperation is absolutely key**” for Southeast Asia’s sustainable growth, and added that the OECD is at the “**cutting-edge of good practices, internationally-agreed tools, and fact-based policy advice to governments**”. The Business Statement encourages closer cooperation between Southeast Asian countries and the OECD.

The joint Business Statement is accessible [on the BIAC website](#). More information about the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program is available on the [OECD website](#).

About BIAC:

The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD advocates for open markets, investment, and private sector-led growth. BIAC is the officially recognized voice of the international business community at the OECD. BIAC's members are the major business organizations in the OECD member countries and a number of OECD observer countries.

For more information, contact [Maud Garnier Bourrelly](#), BIAC Communications Director.