

# 2018 Asian Regional Public Debt Management Forum



The Public Debt Management Office (PDMO), Ministry of Finance together with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held the “2018 Asian Regional Public Debt Management Forum” from June 13-15, 2018 at the Nora Buri Resort & Spa, Koh Samui, Suratthani. The international meeting was held under the theme of “Prudent Debt Management for Sustainable Growth in the Age of Digital Transformation” with **Mr. Apisak Tantivorawong, Minister of Finance**, presiding over the opening of the meeting. Participants from 48 countries in the Asia Pacific region, representing finance ministries, public debt management offices, central banks, international organizations and international financial institutions attended the meeting.

At the opening of the Forum, the Minister of Finance said that the Asian economy as a whole was showing signs of recovery, resulting in a need for more capital to use in national development. Governments therefore need to increase their funding options to meet demand



and foster more international cooperation. In this regard, Thailand has instituted reforms of tax policies and increased investment incentives to support the opening of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), which will attract investment and create mechanisms to drive the economy. The Forum represented a great opportunity for all the countries involved



to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of public debt management, which would ultimately lead to improved policies, strengthened national finances and support transformations brought about by changing technology.

Mr. Poomsak Aranyakasemsuk, Director General of the Public Debt Management Office,

said Thailand was honored to host the second Asian Regional Public Debt Management Forum in the space of 10 years, reinforcing Thailand’s reputation as a host for international meetings, promoting tourism and stimulating the regional economy.

Participants at the Forum spent three days sharing experiences and building a network of relationships in public debt management as well as in preparing for the transition to the digital age that would help facilitate sustainable national financial and fiscal development and support the rapid technological changes taking place at present. Representatives of the different countries agreed that public debt management in the future and in the face of technological change is imperative in formulating debt management strategies to address these changes, such as the fund-raising approach, development of the debt market as well as development of risk management tools. Participants at the Forum presented various ideas, assisting ADB members in the ASEAN region to drive their debt management strategies effectively.

The Public Debt Management Office emphasizes academic content and all aspects of regional economic promotion. In organizing the Forum, PDMO received strong support from various related government agencies as well as the people of Koh Samui, helping promote tourism and distribute income in the region, and supporting the image of the country.

Ministry of Finance’s Vision:

“Being Fiscal and Economic Pillar for Sustainable Development”

By Division of Information, Office of the Permanent Secretary



Ministry of Finance News Station