

Board Member Meeting

1st session

Jakarta, AITIS 2015, 13-15 May 2015

Communication of the Chair

MB/SA/1/2
Original: English

Thematic discussion: "Bridging SMEs Partnership"

Between local governments of all Indonesia with Africa and ASEAN

In the spirit of the 60th commemoration of ASIA AFRICA Conference & ASEAN Economic Community 2015

I. Introduction

1. The Forum of Small Medium Enterprise AFRICA ASEAN (FORSEAA) was introduced by Seychelles and Indonesia on 26 September 2012 at Jakarta, whereas both countries are thinking and looking forward to bridge the small medium enterprise (SME) & small medium industries (SMI) from Africa and ASEAN countries to link producers and end users to engage direct access, to gain added value, to upswing design and brand image, to build global networking for the Africa and ASEAN SME & SMI businesses, to access funding and to support the national government and local governments with its endeavors of promoting SME & SMI.
2. The FORSEAA charter was entered on 04 March 2014 by Minister of Cooperative & SMEs of Indonesia, Vice Minister of Industry of Indonesia, Special Envoy of President Seychelles for ASEAN together with Ambassadors accredited to Indonesia and/or ASEAN from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Kenya, Lao, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Zimbabwe.
3. FORSEAA was registered in Indonesia, by Decree of Ministry of Cooperative and Small Medium Enterprise of Republic Indonesia No.29/Kep/M.KUKM/IX/2014 dated.29th September 2014

II. Objectives

4. On the 1st session of the FORSEAA Board Members Meeting, the thematic is aimed to bridge the SME & SMI between the local governments:
 - (a) To observe the modalities of SME & SMI from all over Indonesia, being one of the largest country in ASEAN at the AITIS 2015 'APKASI (*Association of Local Government of Indonesia*) *International Trade and Investment Summit 2015*' at Jakarta International Expo.

- (b) Sharing of information among the Board Members on the SME & SMI development
- (c) Define possible areas of action for the Secretariat as well as for increased cooperation between FORSEAA founder members, observer members and the business sectors.

III. Discussion of the Board Member

- 5. For the purposes of a productive and lively participation in the discussion, the Chair invites Board Member and Observer Member to share their brief views in the development of SME & SMI. Particularly focusing on the following:
 - (a) Partnership frameworks between public and private sectors
 - (b) Capacity building and Training in product development
 - (c) Market development, promotion, design, brand image and added value
 - (d) Financial assistance for SME & SMI and introducing foster parent – foster children program between big company and SME & SMI.
 - (e) Supportive policy and regulations from the government towards the resilience of SME & SMI.

IV. Actions taken by the Board Member

- 6. The Board Member having heard the communication of the Chair of the Board Member meeting:
 - (a) Shares the view of FORSEAA and support the introduction of FORSEAA to the national government, local government and the private sectors from Africa and Asean.
 - (b) Extends its gratitude and appreciation to Seychelles and Indonesia for the initiative undertaken to launch FORSEAA to accelerate Africa and Asean SME & SMI partnership integration and global networking.
 - (c) Endorses the Secretariat to keep working on development of FORSEAA on the issue of balancing the active involvement of Africa and Asean countries and to invite more participation of business sectors.